

PARADISE COAST

# Whangamata NEWS

ISSUE 22 - 19 JUNE, 2020

Publishing  
TWICE  
a month on  
Fridays!

## Surfers unite against racism

Te Awheroa Gilbert performs with his taiaha as the surfers move out to sea to meet the waka on World Surfers for Solidarity Day.

STORY - PAGE 4

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# Welcome to the second June 2020 edition of *Whangamata NEWS*

- a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals



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## Emergency numbers

For all genuine emergencies requiring Whangamata St John Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Coastguard, Surf Life Saving or Police, **DIAL 111 immediately.**

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## Editorial

# Welcome to our new look *Whangamata NEWS*

We thought that after 18 months of publication it was time for a change, and have revamped our front page to a more modern look - time stands still for no one!

Of course, we are still By Locals, For Locals, About Locals - and we are still (and always will be) encouraging everyone to Shop Local.

By all accounts, our residents and bach owners have been having a great time spending up in our local shops - smiles everywhere are witness to that fact.

Congratulations to Little Latté for their award as one of NZ's top 5 favourite cafés.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Coastal Trends

- a wonderful home accessories shop. Australia calls for owner Gillian. We wish you all the best in the future.

This issue we introduce two of our clubs - Coastal Rockers and Tai Chi. Winter's a great time to think about doing something to improve mind, body and soul as well as just having plain old-fashioned fun.

We have heaps of interesting and fun items planned for our next issue. If you have an event coming up, or a newsworthy item, please let us know at whangamatanews@gmail.com

- Lesley Staniland, Editor



**Lesley Staniland**  
EDITOR



**Jennie Black**  
SALES DIRECTOR

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## Wentworth Valley Road concerns

In a recent edition of Whangamata NEWS I had my photo published, with a group of Wentworth Valley residents, in support of the TCDC's decision to upgrade the Wentworth Valley Road.

Subsequently, we have seen and experienced tree stumps dumped in a huge pile on to paddocks, fences taken down and fields cut into to widen the road.

All this has been done without permission or consultation with the owner of the property.

Until there is evidence of adequate supervision of the contractors and consultation and compliance with Environment Waikato standards, I wish to remove my support from the TCDC in regards to the Wentworth Valley Road.

**Joy Robinson**  
WENTWORTH VALLEY

## Serious delays in ambulance response rate in Whangamata

I am seriously concerned about the lengthy delays in Whangamata ambulance service response times that I have personally experienced.

A couple of weeks ago when an elderly neighbour's blood pressure soared to what his caregiver described as 'dangerously high' and when he appeared to be suffering a heart attack, I called an ambulance.

I clearly stressed the 'heart attack' condition, high blood pressure, etc. I also spelled out the patient's address, differentiating clearly between his Willson Gardens address and driveway, not to be confused with the same street number but different Moana House driveway.

When after half an hour of 'no show' I again telephoned the ambulance

service on 111, and was advised that the ambulance was 'on its way'. 'Where from'? I asked. 'Whangamata if it doesn't get diverted' came the reply.

Some 25 minutes later, an ambulance arrived via the wrong entrance - from Moana House, having got lost.

In fact, this ambulance and crew came from Waihi!

As it transpired, my 91-year-old neighbour, while suffering dangerously high blood pressure, was apparently not having a heart attack, although it appeared so.

After his transfer to Thames Hospital he was finally advised that in fact his heart valve was 'leaking' and would need replacing.

My concern is that despite being told of a serious heart condition, the ambulance took almost ONE hour to respond.

Most unfortunately, I was also involved in an ambulance callout for the same neighbour's wife a year earlier when she fell outside and broke her hip.

Despite our immediate ambulance call, it in fact took two hours to arrive.

Meanwhile a 92-year-old lady lay outside on the ground, in the dusk, in extreme pain.

I am advised that Whangamata does have two ambulances but only one crew?

It is also my understanding that with the centralisation of St John, no amount of fundraising we do locally is guaranteed to go towards increasing funds for our local service.

I understand all donations and St John Shop takings now go into a huge black hole to be allocated at the discretion of the St John Centralisation team.

What I would like to know is, what can we do locally to help our Whangamata ambulance service and be absolutely certain that

our efforts and any money raised, will go towards the Whangamata ambulance service and nowhere else?

Meanwhile I, for one, will stop my St John donations until I receive such assurances.

**Anne Hunter**  
WHANGAMATA

## St John's response

**St John East Coromandel Territory Manager, Mat Delaney replies:**

St John takes patient safety and welfare very seriously. We aim to send the closest appropriate ambulance to the patient in greatest need, as soon as possible.

All ambulances on the Coromandel Peninsula operate as a network, ensuring that when the local ambulance is attending another patient, a nearby ambulance will respond.

Occasionally when all ambulances are committed to urgent incidents or an ambulance is coming from further away, there may be a delay.

St John provides ambulance services to 90 per cent of New Zealanders in 97 per cent of the country's geographical area. Ambulance services provided by St John are 72 per cent funded by Government, with the remainder coming from part charges, fundraising and generous donations from the public.

Demand in some areas has outpaced the supply of ambulance services and we are committed to working with our Government partners on a more sustainable funding model to meet growing demand, while addressing historic shortfalls.

It is important we balance the national funding requirement with community expectations. While some local contributions flow through to the centrally funded ambulance service, the majority of locally raised funds, including profits from St John retail or opportunity stores, stay in the local community and are used to fund community health initiatives such as Health Shuttles.

> MORE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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# Surfers paddle out against racial prejudice



Almost 40 surfers and many onlookers gathered at Whangamata Surf Club on Sunday June 7 in a show of solidarity.

World Surfers for Solidarity Day was marked by a paddle out on the ocean, where a circle was formed by the board riders who welcomed the Whangamata waka ama.

Organiser Jan Shanks said surfing, and other sports, should not discriminate against other classes, colours or creeds.

A Black Girls Surfing organisation was established internationally because the girls and women felt uncomfortable surfing with white people, Jan said.



But in the wake of the riots in the US over the killing by police of black man George Floyd, surfers were joining the growing movement toward unity, peace and solidarity, and speaking out against racial prejudice.

The show of unity and solidarity was marked at more than 60 beaches around the world, uniting

thousands of surfers, Jan said.

The paddle out also meant a time for surfers to show a mark of respect for those who had passed.

'The ocean is where surfers find peace. We stand together against discrimination and injustice.'

- Lesley Staniland



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# A plea from community garden volunteers

The team of volunteers at Whangamata Community Gardens are a hard-working lot and are well into winter planting.

Every Friday morning (and sometimes on other days) the small band of men and women, spear-headed by Kay Baker, are at the Mayfair Ave site, digging, planting, weeding, mulching or applying compost...

And that's where things have started to go wrong.

When the team started to clear weeds from the compost bins recently they found numerous bags of 'doggy-do'.

'First of all, the weeds had been dumped in the bins by someone unknown but to come across the bags of dog poop was just disgusting,' Kay said.

'It would seem it's probably the same person dumping the bags on their daily walk instead of taking them home to dispose of.'

She urges people to respect the work done in the gardens by volunteers.

'Please, people, don't dump weeds or poo bags on our site.'

'The produce grown in the gardens



is for the whole community so please show some respect for the hard work our volunteers do,' Kay said.

- Lesley Staniland

Regular volunteers at the gardens are, from left, Yvonne, Jason, Pam (seated), Davina and Bert with Kay Baker (seated).

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# \$20 million to help grow Coromandel aquaculture

A \$19.95 million investment in the Coromandel's aquaculture industry, from central government's Provincial Growth Fund (PGF), is a welcome and much-needed boost to our local and national economy, says Mayor Sandra Goudie.

The money is being used to grow capacity at Te Ariki Tahī, (Sugarloaf Wharf) in Coromandel Harbour, with the build of an extended, raised wharf platform to account for rising sea levels, along with four new berths for increased commercial mussel activity and a separate facility with launching for recreational boats.

Coromandel Marine Farmers Association chairman Stephen Hand said an extended wharf was a vital ingredient for the future growth of the industry, but was beyond the resources of the local marine farmers.

'The government investment is a vote of confidence in our future,' Mr Hand said.

Mrs Goudie hosted Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters in



**From left: Coromandel Marine Farmers Chair Stephen Hand, David Taipari Independent Maori Statutory Board Chair, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Sandra Goudie, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, Matamata-Piako Mayor Ash Tanner.**

Thames on Tuesday June 9, for the announcement of what she said was a significant investment in the district.

'Now, more than ever, we will be needing our food producers,

particularly in the primary sector, to carry us forward in these uncertain times,' she said.

'This infrastructure build fits well within the government's investment strategy to help our

economic recovery after COVID-19.

'We are extremely grateful to the government for acknowledging the importance of this sector, and the investment into our district.'

The new Sugarloaf wharf would be able to accommodate up to 42,000 tonnes of mussels a year, where historically it has been constrained by lack of capacity.

About 90 per cent of the North Island's Green Shell mussels are loaded over the Sugarloaf wharf each year.

Mrs Goudie said construction would create about 25 new jobs, with mostly local contractors and suppliers used for the project, which would take about 18 months to complete.

'The details of consenting and construction are currently being worked through.

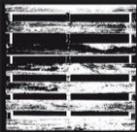
'In the long-term, the expansion of the wharf is forecast to create an additional 170 new jobs, with a further 880 jobs in supporting industries.'

## Sunday ride in the Whangamata sunshine

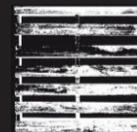
Regular riders from the Sunday bike riders group are Steph Mutton, left, Lis Brunton, and Judy Kenealy, right. They were pictured in front of the surf club watching Whangamata surfers paddle out for peace and solidarity.



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**Our history**

In a further excerpt taken from *True Tales of the Coromandel's Eastern Seaboard*, produced by The Coromandel Heritage Trust, the late Bruce Hawtin tells about the characters he met while his family owned the old Whangamata Hotel.

*There was an elderly gentleman, First World War man, who had come from England and been in the English army and then the English police force.*

*He came to New Zealand and semi-retired in Whangamata. He lived on his own. He loved his shooting in the season. He used to walk across the beach to the hotel, have his few beers and go home.*

*Then there were fishermen, all types of old fellers and people that came out to try and make a living out of fishing... You could buy a sack of crayfish for 10 shillings. They [fishermen] had no sale for them and no way of getting them out of the place so they were just making a bare living.*

*These hard cases were known by their way of life and some of it was a bit primitive. Some of them lived in a tin shed...*

# Recognition for tiny café

Nicky Ball was over the moon when told this month that her café, Little Latté - set in a double shipping container in the centre of Whangamata - had been selected as one of the five most popular in the country.

'Anchor Milk ran a competition, asking people to nominate their favourite café,' Nicky said.

'Someone put us forward - but I don't know who!'

She said the other cafés selected were in Waikato and Auckland.

As well as a cash prize, Anchor provided the ingredients for a "community shout".

'Over two days we gave away more than 600 L'Affare coffees to our customers - it was a very busy time!'

Nicky and husband Tony are up and baking around 5am every day and Tony carries on at home cooking throughout the afternoon, preparing for the next day.

Nicky, who has been in Whangamata more than 40 years after her parents first bought and operated Slipper Superette then



the Scallop Factory - both of which have seen a few changes of ownership since.

For Nicky, Little Latté is her sixth business. She started Blue Fish Takeaways (now Sea and Salt Takeaways), ran the café at the RSA (now Ying's at the RSA), established the Lazy Lizard (now Chill Café) then ventured to Thames for a stint at Hot Chocolate.

After the Covid-19 lockdown rules allowed cafés to reopen, Nicky set out to support essential services that had battled on throughout - New World, the Medical Centre, pharmacies, St John volunteers and others all received free coffees.

Well done Nicky and Tony - and well done to the person who nominated Little Latté!

- Lesley Staniland

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TUESDAY	500 Cards 12.30pm	Mah Jong 9.45am		
Indoor Bowls 9.30am	Euchre 6.30pm	Ukelele - 'Highly Strung' 1.30pm		
Housie 7.00pm	8 Ball 6.30pm	Housie 4.00pm	'First National' Quiz Night 6.30pm	
		Snooker 6.15pm		

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# Volunteering on the ship of hope

When Whangamata residents Sinclair and Kathy Carter raised their hands to volunteer with Mercy Ships in February, no one could have anticipated how the year would unfold.

As planned, the couple arrived to the Mercy Ship in Senegal, West Africa and were immediately immersed in the work of the hospital ship which provides a transportable platform for free surgical and healthcare services for people living in extreme poverty in the region.

'The medical conditions are unbelievable and not something we would be exposed to in New Zealand,' says Kathy.

Their roles as second engineer (Sinclair) and deck administrator (Kathy) are regarded as essential services on the vessel ship as the technical team literally keeps the Mercy Ship afloat - the ship is the hospital, and the ship can't operate without mariners.

'We are the support service and keep things running so that others can treat those in need. We provide the service platform to run the ship,' Sinclair says.

While the shipboard environment is a familiar one for Sinclair after a



**In the midst of a global crisis, Whangamata retirees Sinclair and Kathy Carter extended their volunteer service with Mercy Ships.**

career at sea, it is the hospital that is more familiar to Kathy who was a nurse in her early career.

They, like the hospital on a ship, are a great team. Their commitment to the vision of providing hope and healing to the world's poor saw the couple self-funding their trip, and raising sponsorship to help cover their travel and volunteer costs.

The Carter's three-month volunteer service was only weeks under way when the global COVID-19

outbreak occurred.

The charity paused the Senegal field service to ensure the safety and well-being of their patients and crew.

Mercy Ships sailed out of the Port of Dakar after serving eight of their expected 10 months in the nation, but having achieved their goals for the delivery of services.

During the next several weeks, the Carters were part of a shipboard

'bubble' of 230 as the international crew sailed to the Canary Islands and isolated together in the shipboard safe-zone - having way more fun than most of us had in lockdown.

'We find ways to amuse ourselves and enjoy our time without worrying too much about what's to come,' Kathy says.

While many of the international crew members have returned home after the quarantine was completed, the Carters remarkably put up their hands again - extending their original volunteer service by another three months in order to ensure the engineering and deck departments are fully staffed while the vessel undergoes annual maintenance.

The Carters will bid 'adieu' to Mercy Ships in several weeks, hoping to volunteer again in the future.

The hospital ship will return to West Africa to resume surgical services as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows.

**For more information about Mercy Ships visit [www.mercyships.org.nz](http://www.mercyships.org.nz)**

**See Aliou's story at [vimeo.com/418273244](https://vimeo.com/418273244)**

- Photos: Mercy Ships



**Mercy Ships provides free essential surgeries for people in poverty in West Africa - patients like five-year-old Aliou, whose burns scars were released allowing him to regain use of his arm.**



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## Our Clubs

# Happy feet after lockdown

Coastal Rockers are back in full swing after being forced to hang up their dance shoes during Covid-19 lockdown.

Formed by Kerri Campbell in 1996 the club rocked along - but then came Beach Hop and that put the seal on the club's popularity.

Beach Hop started as a rock 'n' roll festival but has broadened to become a part of Beach Hop.

Regular dance nights are held at the Whangamata Club from 7pm Tuesday nights and as Beach Hop



gets closer, more and more people join in to learn different moves.

They also have regular contact with other clubs - either them visiting or the Whangamata Club having a night out elsewhere - so

interest continues to grow. The club now has close to 50 members - 'not bad for a small town', says Grace Patterson, the current president.

- Lesley Staniland, photos supplied



If you'd like to join the club, enjoy some rock 'n' roll and friendships as well as having fun, contact Grace on 022 176 8020.



## HEAT 2 EAT MEALS

Delivery or pickup still available. Variety of menus. Phone the Club for details or visit our website [www.whangamataclub.co.nz](http://www.whangamataclub.co.nz)

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**SATURDAY 27 June**  
From 6.30pm

# Support for local MS sufferers

The Whangamata RSA is hosting a fundraiser in support of those in the community suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS).

A night of comedy and hypnotism will be held on Saturday, August 15, from 7.30pm - and it promises to be a hilarious night!

Karyn Jones, who has the disease, says there are quite a number of people in Whangamata with the same problem.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which the immune system eats away at the protective covering of nerves.

In MS, resulting nerve damage

disrupts communication between the brain and the body.

Multiple sclerosis causes many different symptoms, including vision loss, pain, fatigue and impaired coordination.

The symptoms, severity and duration can vary from person to person.

Some people may be symptom free for most of their lives, while others can have severe, chronic symptoms that never go away.

Physiotherapy and medication that suppress the immune system can help with symptoms, and slow disease progression.

## *Saving our Planet #8: Living with a better purpose*

# Reduce, re-use and recycle – it's really simple!

Well, the article on conserving water has been shelved. That would've been embarrassing.

Now we're eager for the Kopu recycling centre to open so we can ditch the shocking pile of plastic and cardboard on the deck. Determined to do the right thing, we hoarded - in the best possible sense. But seeing all its accumulated glory, I'm wondering, how did we end up with so much? Again, embarrassing.

Luckily, we have a plan! Do your weekly shop and then lay it on the table. Ok, what's packaged in the numbers China doesn't want? Cardboard's ok, and plastics 1 and 2. Now get thinking.

Can you make oatly bars instead of buying them? Yoghurt, hummus, dips are all easy to make. Buy bulk staples and store in big airtight containers.

Bulk laundry powder, liquid soap or dishwasher are good to refill your small ones at home. Big containers, once empty, are really useful - if the rain keeps up we'll be bailing. Can you resist bottled water?

Yes, the town supply tastes like a swimming pool after a long weekend, but you can make it taste better - try putting a jug of water in the fridge for a few hours.

Get down to the butchers and see if you can buy bulk meat - then divide and freeze. Or maybe hubby could take up hunting? Bit more effort with camo gear, guns and a licence, but worth a shot Nigel, as they say!

If you say it all at once it seems quite do-able. After all, packaging avoidance is the goal. But, yes, sometimes you're tired or in a hurry - life has become too fast. So here are some ideas to reuse



what you've ended up with, despite your best efforts.

Plastic bottles - cut the bottom off and use the top half to protect seedlings from slugs and frost). 2L or 3L bottles work best. Or fill the bottle with those 10yr old mung beans from the back of your cupboard, tape the lid on and you'll have a superb music shaker. Don't worry, when you're sick of it, just add water and you've got sprouts!

Cardboard - compost, compost, compost and great for the garden with mulch on top to stop weeds - poke holes and plant. Don't sweat, the glue will dissolve and you can pick the tape out of the garden later. Or keep the sturdy cardboard for protest signs - you can never have enough these days.

Egg boxes - we donate egg boxes to the free-range egg farm, just out of Waihi. Failing this, they make fabulous sound or thermal insulation. Try it in the dog kennel before moving on to the house. Also good for storing a selection of your finest nail polish or golf balls.

So, wash your hands of packaging, lockdown your shopping list and you will be living with a better purpose.

Oh, and enjoy a glass of bubbles!

- By the Mad Old Girls

## **Whangamata NEWS** welcomes your contributions

Letters, photographs, articles or queries should be sent to **Editor Lesley Staniland: WhangamataNEWS@gmail.com**

Editorial enquiries can also be made by phone to **021 664 784**.

Letters should be no more than 250 words but any length will be considered on merit. Articles should be brief and, where possible, accompanied by a photo or illustration.

# Thames Driver Training

### **I've got my Learner Licence, but how do I...**

- Learn the right skills?
- Apply the Give Way rules?
- Know when it's safe to go?

### **What I need is someone to help me...**

- Avoid Mum & Dad's bad habits!
- Learn how & where to position the car on the road correctly
- Know where to look and how to determine when it's safe to go
- What is expected of me to pass my test!



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# OBITUARY

## Audrey Patricia (Pat) Mortensen

1926 - 2020

Pat Mortensen, well known to many Whangamata people for her involvement in sports died in early June aged 94.

She was farewelled at a celebration of her life at the Titoki Golf Club on Friday, June 12.

Pat was born in Epsom, Auckland, in 1926 and later attended Epsom Girls Grammar.

During World War 2, Pat began work in the office of Milne and Choyce, an Auckland department store, while studying at Auckland Technical College in the evenings.

She was soon promoted to Mr

Milne's personal secretary.

Through her love of tennis, she met and married Frank after he returned from the war.

They settled in Mt Eden before moving to Hamilton in the 1950s to establish a business in partnership with Pat's father.

They discovered Whangamata, bought a section (for about 100 pounds), built a bach and eventually retired here.

Sport played a big part in Pat's life and, as she was able to play racket sports left or right handed, she excelled at games such as tennis and squash.

In mid-life she discovered golf

- and was still golfing at the age of 93.

She battled - and beat - Merkel Cell Carcinoma, a particularly aggressive type of cancer.

Pat had a passion for anything Irish, visiting Ireland several times, loving the people and their music and their superstitions.

She also had a penchant for red wine, socialising and talking but, according to her son Colin, she had a great love for Whangamata and wouldn't have a bad word said about the town or its people.

- Lesley Staniland with thanks to Colin Mortensen



### Letters

> FROM PAGE 3

## Thank you, teachers

On behalf of the Whangamata Area School Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a huge thanks to our teachers who, under the leadership of Principal Alistair Luke, provided an excellent remote learning programme for our students over the lockdown period.

Producing and presenting this content, while at the same time managing their own households must have been challenging at times.

We would also like to acknowledge the significant pastoral care that was involved to ensure the well-being of our tamariki.

As a result we had a much higher level of student engagement than expected over this time.

As a result, our teachers have made some interesting discoveries about the way some of our students learn.

We are excited to see some new initiatives evolving and look forward to providing our support when and where we can.

We are lucky to have you and we appreciate the work you do! Thank you.

Nga mihi,

**Alison Mills**

WHANGAMATA AREA SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES CO-CHAIR

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### Letters

We welcome your letters. Your letters must be no longer than **250 words** and must be signed (no nom de plumes). *Whangamata NEWS* reserves the right to edit, or to not print, submitted letters.



# Meet Whangamata's Red & Whites, Dynamite!

Rugby's back! After a Covid-19 rugby drought, everyone's ready to participate in some way - as players or spectators - in our national game.

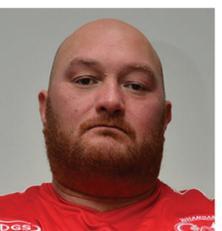
Whangamata's Red & Whites' first game is tomorrow (June 20) against Waihi Athletic at Waihi, with their first home game against the Cobras on Saturday June 27, followed on July 4 by a home game against Mercury Bay.



**Murray Cleland**  
CLUB PRESIDENT  
Principal Whangamata Real Estate.



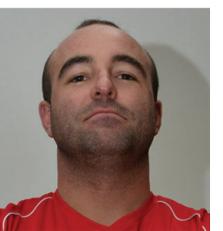
**Gareth Coslett**  
HEAD COACH  
Age: 40. I own the local gym with my awesome partner Gemma, I have an awesome family which support me and I love. I really enjoy rugby and cricket which I have played overseas in Wales.



**Tui Hall**  
PLAYER COACH  
Age: 40  
My third and probably last year playing for this great team.



**Michael Fleming**  
PLAYER COACH  
Age: 39  
Aspiring primary school teacher.



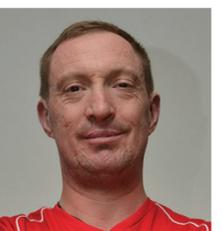
**Brendon Mckeown**  
PLAYER COACH  
Blues fan through and through, I have an amazing family and love all types of music and sport.



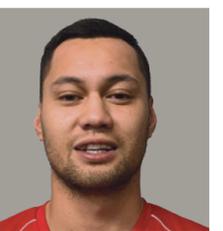
**Lily Robertson**  
TEAM PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
I have been the team's physio since I moved to Whangamata in 2008. I began working with Jodi Milne when she owned The Physio Room and having carried on ever since. I love watching rugby anyway, so it's great.



**Zach Clarke**  
CAPTAIN  
Age: 25  
Favourite food is Dee's Streatery - Mexican. Also does the best coffee.



**Geoff Spargo**  
MANAGER  
Age: 37  
I enjoy rugby, and watching all sports. I believe Whangamata is the greatest town and community in New Zealand due to its people and culture.



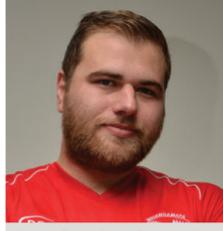
**Takarangi Kerepeti**  
ASSISTANT MANAGER  
I have the best supportive family in the world including my partner. I love rugby from both playing to watching.



**Kirtis McNaughten**  
HALFBACK  
Age: 27  
I like to eat, surf, fish, golf (beating Paki in golf). Dislike: Zane's moustache.



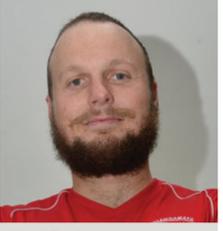
**Kurt Jacobs**  
FRONT ROW  
Age: 36  
I like a good hangi; a 1964 Chev Impala; the rugby family; music. Don't like the backs - LOL.



**Jean-Baptiste Durand**  
LOCK  
Age: 25  
I'm from France and I like to party with my new friends in New Zealand and I like to travel.



**Brad Laurenson**  
PROP  
Age: 30  
I really enjoy working on my many car projects, I really enjoy rugby, especially the feed afterwards.



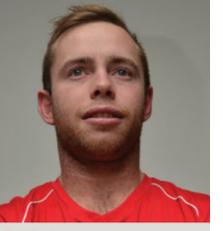
**Joel Taylor**  
WING  
Age: 23  
I enjoy the outdoors, love a good game of footy and getting amongst the boys. I also aspire to be like Zane Heath.



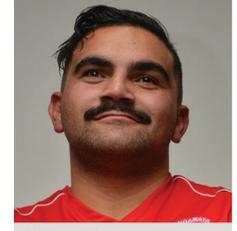
**Chaz Stevenson**  
CENTRE/ WING  
Age: 28  
I am a builder and I really enjoy rugby. I have the best little family that is really supportive.



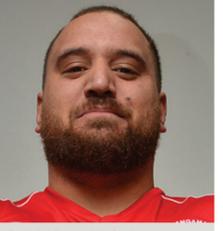
**Connor Emerson**  
UTILITY BACK  
Age: 20  
I am an apprentice builders and bee keeper, I really enjoy rugby. I love all of my family who support me in all I do.



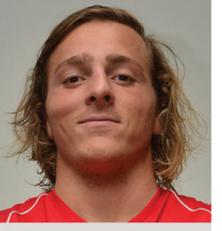
**Eli Byles**  
UTILITY BACK  
Age: 29  
Fave food - chicken; Dream ride - pair of Havaianas; Fave movie - Gladiator; Hobbies - footy and family. Chur Da Buddahs.



**Michael Savage-Wairepo**  
LOCK  
Age: 23  
I am a builder and recently retired from the Navy where I got to go around the world while working. I really enjoy rugby and the family feel of the club.



**Paki Manahi Solomon**  
UTILITY FORWARD  
Age: 31  
Ko te mamae te utu o te aroha. I like turtles.



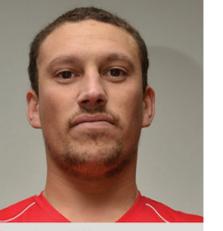
**Pedro Caceres Garzon**  
CENTRE  
Age: 23  
I like surfing, swimming.



**Rei Toroa**  
RUNNING BACK/KICK RETURN  
Age: 33  
Very talkative!



**Scott Day**  
HOOKER  
Age: 22. Love living in the beautiful Whangamata, it has become my new slice of paradise. I enjoy walking the beach, having a hit of tennis & enjoying a few cold ones. Really looking forward to the 2020 Senior A Club Rugby Season. Let's bring home the McClinchy!



**Stephen Wise**  
HALF BACK  
Age: 26. My favourite food is Hangi. Born in a little town on the East Cape called Te Puia Springs. Now I'm in paradise Whangamata. I love to fish and love footy, but I wouldn't be able to do it with out the wonderful support of my awesome family.



**Eli Savage**  
HOOKER  
Age: 32  
I love playing footy, hanging with the boys, having a few beers and a laugh, and spending time with my family.



**Hayden Newman**  
CENTRE  
Age: 32  
I moved to Whanga at the start of the year, after being in the Australian army for 5 years, to take up carpentry again and enjoy the beauties of NZ.



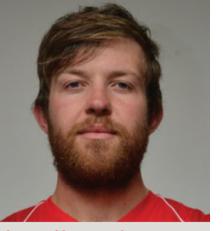
**Hayden Pardoe**  
LOCK/ LOOSE  
Age: 32  
Titirangi te Maunga. Uawanui a Ruamatua te Awa. Te Aitanga a Hauiti te iwi.



**Jacob Chaplin**  
LOOSE FORWARD  
Age: 24  
I am a structural engineer for JCD Engineering, and I really love rugby.



**Jacob Comer**  
UTILITY BACK  
Age: 26  
I enjoy rugby, but I would not be able to do this with out the support of my great family.



**Jason Hayward**  
LOCK  
Age: 24  
I enjoy hunting & fishing and spending time with my friends and family.



**Telly Hemopo**  
BACKS  
Age: 28  
Hometown Taumarunui. Builder, hunter, great guy!



**Tiaontin Raoren**  
MID FIELD BACK  
Age: 23  
I enjoy all sports, love fishing and hanging with friends and family.



**Jordan Downs**  
LOOSE FORWARD  
Age: 19  
I love fishing and my family and I super love rugby.



**Jordan Maurice Cordice**  
TIGHTHEAD PROP  
Age: 19  
I like to fish.



**Zane Heath**  
FLANKER  
Age: 24  
I like long walks along the beach.



**Rhys Middleton**  
LOCK  
I really hate Mondays and I love Fridays as it is the day before rugby day.

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# Our town gets a scrub-up

Photos: Don Mackay



By removing graffiti and cleaning signs in and around town, the Keep Whangamata Beautiful Society (aka Don Mackay) is presenting a clean, green image to visitors and helping deter ratbags who deface public areas.

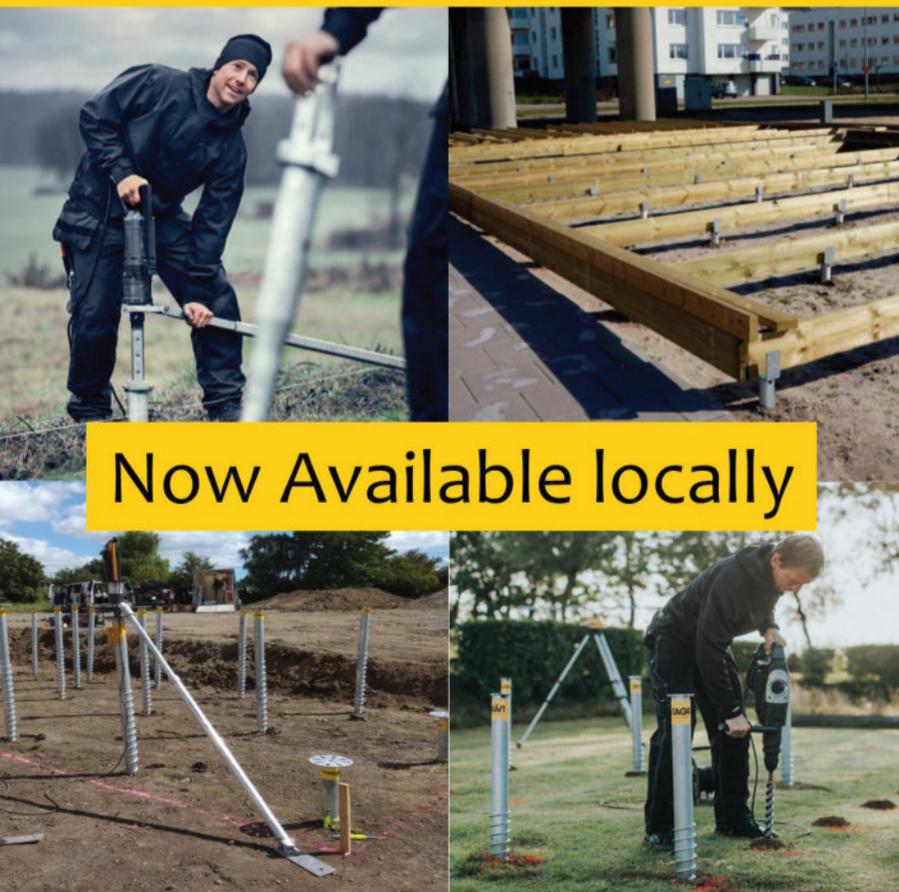
Using mainly elbow grease, Don has scrubbed signs at each entry to town and removed graffiti from the iconic VW Kombi that conceals an ugly power box, as well as the TCDC's water restriction signs.

Well done Don! Let us know if you'd like some help!

- Lesley Staniland

## STOPDIGGING!

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 rodger.jack@stopdigging.co.nz  
 stopdigging.co.nz

## WHANGAMATA TIDES 2020

### June

☾ New Moon: 21st    ● Full Moon: 6th

Date		High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Sun rise	Sun set
		AM		PM	AM		PM		
19	Fri	5:19	1.7	17:55	11:31	0.5	23:54	07:30	17:03
20	Sat	6:05	1.7	18:40		0.6	12:15	07:30	17:04
21	Sun	6:51	1.8	19:25	0:40	0.5	12:59	07:31	17:04
22	Mon	7:37	1.8	20:09	1:26	0.5	13:43	07:31	17:04
23	Tue	8:23	1.8	20:54	2:12	0.5	14:28	07:31	17:04
24	Wed	9:09	1.8	21:39	2:58	0.4	15:13	07:31	17:05
25	Thu	9:57	1.8	22:26	3:46	0.4	16:00	07:31	17:05
26	Fri	10:46	1.8	23:15	4:34	0.4	16:48	07:31	17:05
27	Sat	11:38	1.8		5:25	0.3	17:39	07:31	17:06
28	Sun	0:06	1.9	12:32	6:17	0.3	18:34	07:31	17:06
29	Mon	0:59	1.9	13:30	7:11	0.3	19:31	07:31	17:07
30	Tue	1:54	1.9	14:30	8:07	0.3	20:30	07:31	17:07

### July

☾ New Moon: 21st    ● Full Moon: 5th

Date		High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Sun rise	Sun set
		AM		PM	AM		PM		
1	Wed	2:51	1.9	15:31	9:05	0.3	21:31	07:31	17:07
2	Thu	3:48	1.9	16:32	10:04	0.3	22:32	07:31	17:08
3	Fri	4:46	1.9	17:30	11:01	0.2	23:30	07:31	17:08
4	Sat	5:43	1.9	18:25		0.3	11:57	07:31	17:09
5	Sun	6:39	1.9	19:17	0:26	0.4	12:50	07:31	17:09
6	Mon	7:32	1.9	20:07	1:20	0.3	13:40	07:30	17:10
7	Tue	8:23	1.8	20:56	2:12	0.3	14:28	07:30	17:11
8	Wed	9:11	1.8	21:42	3:01	0.3	15:15	07:30	17:11
9	Thu	9:58	1.8	22:28	3:49	0.4	16:01	07:30	17:12
10	Fri	10:44	1.8	23:12	4:35	0.4	16:45	07:29	17:12
11	Sat	11:29	1.7	23:56	5:20	0.4	17:30	07:29	17:13
12	Sun		1.8	12:15	6:04	0.5	18:15	07:29	17:14
13	Mon	0:40	1.8	13:01	6:49	0.5	19:02	07:28	17:14
14	Tue	1:24	1.7	13:50	7:34	0.5	19:51	07:28	17:15
15	Wed	2:10	1.7	14:42	8:21	0.5	20:42	07:27	17:16
16	Thu	2:57	1.7	15:34	9:10	0.5	21:34	07:27	17:16
17	Fri	3:47	1.7	16:27	10:00	0.5	22:26	07:26	17:17
18	Sat	4:37	1.7	17:18	10:50	0.5	23:18	07:26	17:18
19	Sun	5:29	1.7	18:07	11:40	0.4		07:25	17:19
20	Mon	6:20	1.7	18:55	0:09	0.5	12:28	07:24	17:19
21	Tue	7:10	1.8	19:43	0:58	0.4	13:16	07:24	17:20
22	Wed	8:00	1.8	20:30	1:47	0.4	14:04	07:23	17:21
23	Thu	8:49	1.9	21:18	2:36	0.3	14:52	07:22	17:22
24	Fri	9:39	1.9	22:06	3:25	0.3	15:40	07:22	17:22

# Tell us a (short) story!

Whangamata NEWS invites your entries to our very short story competition!

While we have had a great response to date, there's still time to enter.

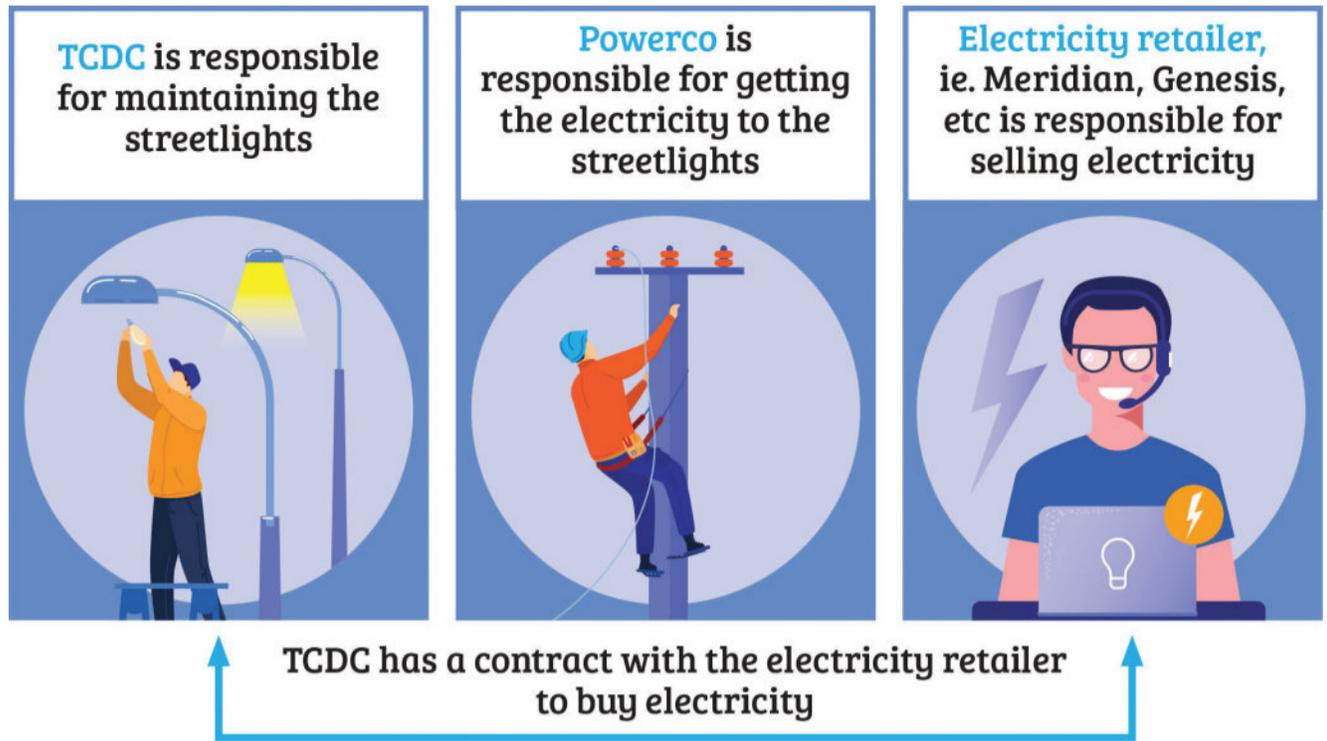
In no more than 75 words, tell us about your Covid-19 experiences, during or after lockdown.

Your entries must be with us by 5pm, Friday July 3.

The winner(s) will receive a lovely prize from Whanga Books.

Whangamata NEWS will print the winning entries in our issue of July 12.

# Street light outages explained



Some Whangamata residents have been troubled by power outages on street lights, deeming it unsafe for them to walk to or from other venues.

Whangamata NEWS asked the Thames-Coromandel District Council for a response. In conjunction with Powerco, they offered the following explanation:

'Streetlights are maintained and serviced by council's maintenance contractor who patrols main roads regularly and repairs streetlight faults. However, we also rely on our residents to report faults to us.

- Our Council is responsible for maintaining streetlights only.
- Where a fault is with the streetlight's power supply

(which must be confirmed by our contractor), then we report these faults to our electricity retailer.

- Our electricity retailer then passes on the fault details to Powerco. Powerco deals with the power lines, poles, transformers, cables and pipes that connect homes and businesses with the electricity and gas they need.

There has been an outage affecting streetlights in Whangamata that Powerco is currently investigating.

Powerco needs to confirm and identify exactly where the fault is occurring on the lighting circuits.

This investigation is more complex as it includes underground cables

and they are working as quickly and safely as possible to identify and rectify the issue.

It is important that if a streetlight near you is not working that you contact us by calling 07 868 0200 as soon as possible.

This will assist our contractor to identify and repair the fault as soon as possible or, if it is confirmed as a circuit fault, we will contact our electricity retailer to report it.

Please give a good description of the location of the light(s), such as a street address, and a description of the problem.

If the streetlight is on a State Highway, please contact the New Zealand Transport Agency.'

## Whangamata NEWS welcomes your contributions

Letters, photographs, articles or queries should be sent to Editor Lesley Staniland: WhangamataNEWS@gmail.com

Editorial enquiries can also be made by phone to 021 664 784.

Letters should be no more than 250 words but any length will be considered on merit.

Articles should be brief and, where possible, accompanied by a photo or illustration.

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# Sports news

## GOLF

### Whangamata Ladies 18 Hole Golf Titoki

**June 9:** Whangamata Titoki Ladies 18 Hole 9th June. Competition; LGU, Mortensen Electric Rd3, Wentworth Putting Rd 2.

**LGU:** Silver: Shelly Leversedge, Bronze 1: Yvonne Barr, Bronze 2: Marion Taylor, Bronze 3: Julie Haak.

**Wentworth Putting Rd2:** Rosemarie Rutherford

**Haggle:** 1st: Shelly Leversedge, 2nd: Julie Haak, 3rd: Marion Taylor, 4th: Susan Drury, 5th: Yvonne Barr, 6th: Lynn Cruickshank, 7th: Diane Barrance, 8th: Jill Agnew, 9th: Chris Davenport

**Twos:** Joanne Somerville, Diane Barrance, Lynn Cruickshank, Rosalie O'Neil, Carolyn Kemp. NTP Hole 2: Carolyn Kemp, LP Hole 4: Diane Barrance, LP Hole 5, Andrea Moore. LP Hole 9, Judy Crawford. NTP Hole 11, Diane Barrance. LP Hole 18, Marion Taylor. Golfer of the Week: Marion Taylor.

## 500 CARD CLUB

**Whangamata RSA - June 10:** Fifteen

players enjoyed the first afternoon of play since Covid 19 shutdown. Winner on the day was Chris Halpin with Colette Slack taking home the chocolate bar and Linda Harris won the raffle. New players always welcome. Phone Chris at 865 9749 or Collette 865 8916.

## SQUASH

Whangamata Squash Club invites everyone to come and check out their fun, friendly group. Member Paula Lucas says the club is holding open nights at 5.15pm every Wednesday at the club on the corner of Bond and Barrowclough Streets. 'We will be organising a four-week tournament for anyone keen to join us.' Contact Paula

## GOLF CROQUET

**Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays:** Draw at 9.15am for play at 9.30am Croquet Grounds, Bond Street. Phone Pat 021 0227 2419. New members welcome.

**Wednesdays:** Draw at 12.45 for play at 1pm Croquet Grounds, Bond Street. Phone Pat 021 0227 2419. New members welcome.

# Essential workers thanked

Whangamata RSA says thank you to essential workers who worked tirelessly throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period.

President Geoff March said the essential workers were heroes and deserved to be recognised for their efforts - so they have organised two afternoons where members of Police, Coastguard, Whangamata Medical Centre, St John Ambulance, Whangamata Community Services Trust, Pharmacies, New World and other food outlets, fuel stations and Aged Carers and others will be invited for afternoon tea and refreshments.

'They have put their own safety on the line to keep our community running and safe,' Geoff says.

The first afternoon will be on Saturday June 27 with the second on July 11. Both will be held from 2pm to 4pm.

RSA members and guests are also invited along to show their support and appreciation for those essential workers.

## Our Clubs

# Stay strong and healthy with Tai Chi



Tai Chi is becoming a popular activity in Whangamata, appealing to a wide age-group.

Classes held at the RSA are mostly for beginners, says tutor Cherry Estcourt.

Cherry learned the art of Tai Chi from local fitness guru Temara Echave, and continued studying to diploma level 'because I knew it was my thing'.

Despite former health issues, Cherry is no sloucher. She has a full life with her Tai Chi classes, is a keen and well-practised weaver and is a board member on the Whangamata Arts Collective.

'I used to have trouble with my right leg. Getting into the car meant I had to lift that leg in but now I can get in without having to do that,' Cherry says.

'The benefits of Tai Chi include improved memory, strength, bone density, respiration, balance and focus, back and neck problems - it focuses on the whole body,' Cherry says.

For this reason, doctors are known to encourage patients to attend sessions.

'It's a very important part of my life - to me, it's about the feeling,' Cherry says.

According to Wikipedia, Tai chi is short for T'ai chi ch'üan and is an internal Chinese martial art practised for both its defence training, its health benefits and meditation.

- Lesley Staniland

**Tai Chi is held at Whangamata RSA, 9am-10am, Wednesdays and Thursdays.**



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# Bowlers so happy to be back



After nearly three months of social isolation, bowlers were over the moon to get back into action this month.

An open tournament was held at the Rutherford Street greens on June 10, attracting a good turnout from clubs around the Coromandel.

The winners were the local team of Peter Burgess (skip), Colin Hunter and Brian Stent, the only team to notch up four wins.

And while fundraising is going well to enable the club to replace the old grass artificial surface which will require less

maintenance than the current surface.

Instead of mowing it, greenkeeper Peter Burgess will be out with a vacuum cleaner, keeping the surface perfect for bowlers!

The whole exercise to carpet the number 1 green will cost about \$320,000 with most of that covered by grants from various foundations.

About \$50,000 is outstanding so any donations would be gratefully received, Peter said.

**If you can help, please contact Peter on 865 8409 or president Keith Miles 865 6955.**



## Moana House bowls final



It's official - 102-year-old Brant Robinson is the Moana House Bowls Champion!

The event, held early June, is the big annual event for the retirement village and runs over four days with fierce competition from the 28 residents competing for 'The Cup'!

Aileen, Dorothy, Brant and Peggy made it to the finals.

And yes, Brant is the reigning champion for the second year running, with Dorothy being runner up.

Congratulations Brant, well done!



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Nancy Millett  
021 517708  
nancy@whangamatarealstate.co.nz

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[www.whangamatarealstate.co.nz](http://www.whangamatarealstate.co.nz) ref# 7804

AUCTION to be held at Port Road Office, 607 Port Road Saturday 11 July at 12noon (will not be sold prior)



## 308 MARY ROAD – AUCTION



Pete Sheppard  
027 609 4955  
pete.chris@whangamatarealstate.co.nz

Chris Speedy  
021 747 901

- It's not hard to recognize quality in terms of beach location and Mary Road has plenty to offer
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- Very close to the Surf Club and main beach
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- A property like this does not come to the market very often and will tick the box for many purchasers wanting to enjoy summer holidays in Mary Rd.

[www.whangamatarealstate.co.nz](http://www.whangamatarealstate.co.nz) ref# 7805

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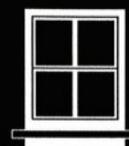
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# Tiny homes come to the Coromandel

Almost ready for viewing is the first brand new Tiny Home on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Installed at the Bellona Rd home of Paula and Tony Lucas mid-June, its installation marked the opening of a new chapter for the couple.

They Lucases - well known in Whangamata real estate circles as Team Lucas - have been appointed Whangamata and Coromandel agents for Taranaki-based NZ Tiny Homes.

For people looking toward retirement or de-cluttering, or for those looking to get on the property ladder, or for others wanting to set one up as a bach or a rental property, these tiny homes could well be the answer.

Measuring just 10.7 metres by 3 metres, the Lucas's two-bedroomed show house comes with everything a person needs - a queen bed and mattress, bunks for the second bedroom, TV, fridge, washing machine, bathroom with shower and more.

A heat pump is an optional extra but with double glazing, the wee homes stay nice and warm. And there is also a stained glass window.

All that's required is crockery and cutlery and your own personal touches to make this your home.

Double glass doors fold back to let the sun shine in during summer.

There are a lot of different sizes - with different prices of course - in the range of NZ Tiny Homes.

**For more information Tony can be contacted on 021 940 090 and Paula on 027 572 9342.**



Tony and Paula Lucas are excited about their new franchise. Other photos give an idea of what the tiny homes look like.



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