

Whangamata NEWS

ISSUE 8 – AUGUST, 2019

BY LOCALS. FOR LOCALS. ABOUT LOCALS.

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Power for the people

Photo details, page 2.

STORY ON PAGE 3

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WWW.WHANGAMATANEWS.NZ

Welcome to the August edition of *Whangamata* NEWS

– a monthly magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals



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PowerCo contractors doing maintenance on switchgear on the corner of Martyn Rd and Hetherington Rd, Whangamata.
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For all genuine emergencies requiring Whangamata St John Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Coastguard, Surf Life Saving or Police, **DIAL 111 immediately.**

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WHANGAMATA POLICE
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07 865 9011

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07 865 8032

COASTGUARD
07 865 8800

HARBOURMASTER
021 594 563

THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL, WGM
07 865 0060

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We welcome your letters, articles, photos, news tips and advertising enquiries.

- We ask that articles be no more than 250 words although exceptions can be made.
- Photos should be at least 300dpi and in focus.
- Notices of upcoming events, sports results and club notices must be as brief as possible.

For editorial or photographic matters, phone Lesley on 021 664 784 or email whangamatanews@gmail.com

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A special note of thanks

We would like to thank Phil and the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club committee and team for a fantastic evening at your Sponsors & Helpers Evening on 27 July.

We were spoilt rotten with the most delicious dinner and enjoyed the company of happy, like-minded people.

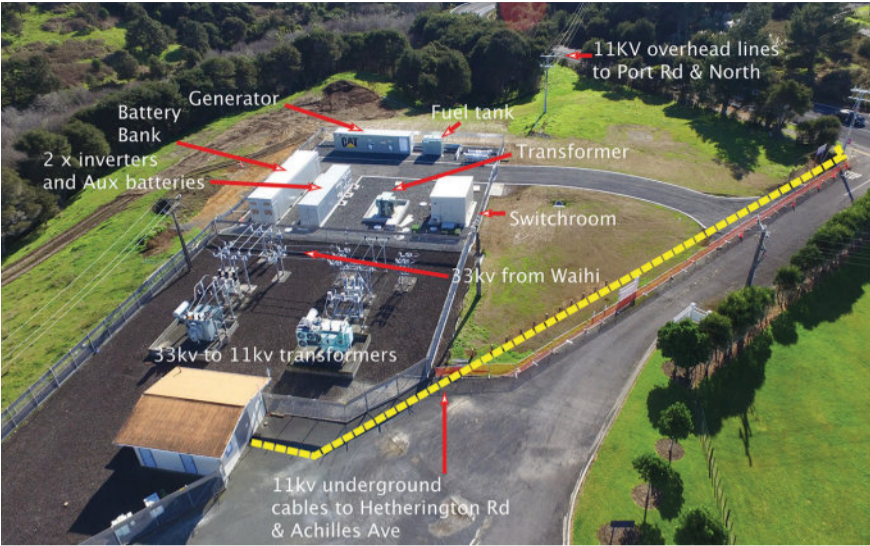
A truly wonderful evening packed with great people, a great speech from your Patron and the meal was absolutely superb!

The fact that you run this special event every year to extend your appreciation to all sponsors and volunteers is a credit to all involved at the club.

Again thank you for the invitation - a brilliant night!

Jennie & Lesley
Whangamata NEWS

Powerco's bold step forward



When I first started coming to Whangamata, in the 1950s, there was no power.

Lighting was by way of candles and kerosene lamps. Fridges, of course did not exist, and an external safe on the cool side of the bach kept the flies out of the meat and milk, which didn't last much more than a day in summer anyway.

Then, finally in the 1960s, mains power came to Whangamata.

While it made a huge difference to those living here, power cuts were very common, because we were out on a limb, with a single feeder coming from Waihi through a line which was vulnerable to falling foliage and Australian imports.

This has persisted until now, with numerous power outages at peak season when, naturally, most visitors want to buy takeaways and indulge in retail therapy.

While several dairies and businesses have their own standby generators, they are unreliable, usually being started only when

the power goes off, and run on petrol, which is an expensive way to generate power.

Anyone using large amounts of power- e.g. to heat cooking vats, is out of business for the duration.

This is about to change, with Powerco taking the bold step of installing a battery/ inverter/ generator system capable of picking up the normal load of the CBD within a few seconds of a failure, and with the ability to supply the base load via the generator for up to 20 hours without refuelling.

That makes it pretty bullet proof as far as security of supply goes. It also has the advantage that in normal use, the battery and inverter can be used to shore up the supply from the Waihi feeder, smoothing out demand fluctuations, while maintaining a constant supply voltage.

It can only get better.

Earlier this year electricity distributor Powerco unveiled plans for its Whangamata Central project, a multi-million dollar trial of cutting edge electricity technology, to support the town.

'The line between Waihi and Whangamata has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment. However, due to the rugged terrain and the exposure to severe weather the line is subject to a high level of risk and having a system like this in place is a first for Powerco which we believe

will provide a step change in performance for the Whangamata CBD.

'At Powerco we understand that many of the businesses in Whangamata generate 80 to 90 per cent of their income over the holiday season and so if we can minimise the risk and duration of power cuts, we minimise any adverse economic impact to the area.

Details of which properties in the CBD would be supplied by the back-up system can be found on Powerco's website: www.powerco.co.nz/Whangamata

The project is on track to be completed before this Christmas.

Powerco is New Zealand's second-largest electricity utility and gas distribution utility with around 446,000 consumers connected to its networks.

- Peter West



Letters

Whangamata NEWS welcomes your letters.

Your letters must be no longer than **250 words** and must be signed (no nom de plumes please).

Whangamata NEWS reserves the right to edit, or to not print, submitted letters.







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Ella takes on world's best

It's full steam ahead for Whangamata surfer Ella Williams, as she takes on the world's best in the United States, Europe and Japan.

The bubbly 24-year-old won the ASP World Junior Champion title in 2013 at the age of 18 and is now aiming for the World Champion title.

She was home for a few months, taking a break and working in the family surf shop, getting the business website (www.whangamatasurfshop.co.nz) online, after competing in a couple of big competitions early this year.

Any spare time is spent training in the surf or at Bodyworks Gym to keep in great shape.


Oceanside, USA, was Ella's first three-day surf challenge at the end of July, followed by another three-day event at Huntington - with just a day's rest in between.

With a world ranking of 40th, Ella will then go on to contest titles in Cornwall, UK, France and Spain before going to Japan early next month to represent New Zealand at the ISA tournament.

"All up I'll be away nearly two months. I couldn't do it without the support of my family - they're my best friends and greatest support system," Ella said.


Ella is sponsored by Rip Curl, Whangamata Surf Shop, Ocean & Earth, Almond Breeze, and Gareth and Gemma at Bodyworks Gym.

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WHANGAMATA TIDES 2019

August

New Moon: 1st & 30th Full Moon: 16th

| Date | High tide | Height (m) | High tide | Low tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Sun rise | Sun set |
|------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | AM | | PM | AM | | PM | | |
| 14 | Wed | 05:56 | 1.7 | 18:30 | | 0.4 | 12:06 | 17:39 |
| 15 | Thu | 06:44 | 1.7 | 19:15 | 00:35 | 0.4 | 12:52 | 17:40 |
| 16 | Fri | 07:29 | 1.7 | 19:57 | 01:21 | 0.4 | 13:35 | 17:40 |
| 17 | Sat | 08:12 | 1.7 | 20:38 | 02:03 | 0.4 | 14:15 | 17:41 |
| 18 | Sun | 08:52 | 1.7 | 21:16 | 02:44 | 0.4 | 14:54 | 17:42 |
| 19 | Mon | 09:31 | 1.7 | 21:54 | 03:22 | 0.4 | 15:32 | 17:43 |
| 20 | Tue | 10:10 | 1.7 | 22:32 | 04:00 | 0.4 | 16:10 | 17:44 |
| 21 | Wed | 10:48 | 1.7 | 23:10 | 04:38 | 0.4 | 16:50 | 17:45 |
| 22 | Thu | 11:29 | 1.7 | 23:49 | 05:17 | 0.4 | 17:31 | 17:46 |
| 23 | Fri | | 1.7 | 12:12 | 05:59 | 0.4 | 18:16 | 17:46 |
| 24 | Sat | 00:32 | 1.7 | 13:01 | 06:44 | 0.4 | 19:06 | 17:47 |
| 25 | Sun | 01:20 | 1.7 | 13:55 | 07:34 | 0.4 | 20:02 | 17:48 |
| 26 | Mon | 02:14 | 1.7 | 14:55 | 08:30 | 0.4 | 21:01 | 17:49 |
| 27 | Tue | 03:13 | 1.7 | 15:56 | 09:29 | 0.4 | 22:03 | 17:50 |
| 28 | Wed | 04:15 | 1.7 | 16:56 | 10:29 | 0.3 | 23:03 | 17:51 |
| 29 | Thu | 05:17 | 1.8 | 17:54 | 11:28 | 0.2 | | 17:51 |
| 30 | Fri | 06:17 | 1.9 | 18:49 | 00:02 | 0.3 | 12:24 | 17:52 |
| 31 | Sat | 07:15 | 1.9 | 19:43 | 00:58 | 0.2 | 13:19 | 17:53 |

September

New Moon: 29th Full Moon: 14th

| Date | High tide | Height (m) | High tide | Low tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Sun rise | Sun set |
|------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|---------|
| | AM | | PM | AM | | PM | | |
| 1 | Sun | 08:09 | 2.0 | 20:35 | 01:52 | 0.1 | 14:12 | 17:54 |
| 2 | Mon | 09:03 | 2.0 | 21:27 | 02:45 | 0.1 | 15:04 | 17:55 |
| 3 | Tue | 09:55 | 2.0 | 22:18 | 03:36 | 0.0 | 15:56 | 17:56 |
| 4 | Wed | 10:48 | 2.0 | 23:10 | 04:27 | 0.1 | 16:48 | 17:56 |
| 5 | Thu | 11:41 | 1.9 | | 05:18 | 0.1 | 17:42 | 17:57 |
| 6 | Fri | 00:02 | 1.9 | 12:36 | 06:10 | 0.2 | 18:37 | 17:58 |
| 7 | Sat | 00:55 | 1.8 | 13:32 | 07:04 | 0.3 | 19:35 | 17:59 |
| 8 | Sun | 01:50 | 1.7 | 14:30 | 07:59 | 0.3 | 20:33 | 18:00 |
| 9 | Mon | 02:46 | 1.7 | 15:28 | 08:57 | 0.4 | 21:32 | 18:00 |
| 10 | Tue | 03:43 | 1.6 | 16:23 | 09:54 | 0.4 | 22:29 | 18:01 |
| 11 | Wed | 04:39 | 1.6 | 17:15 | 10:49 | 0.4 | 23:21 | 18:02 |

What worries you most about Whangamata?

Achieving a 65 per cent turnout in the Thames-Coromandel electorate at this year's local body elections would make Terry Wilson a very happy chappy.

Terry, chairman of Whangamata Ratepayers Association, is leading the charge to overcome voter apathy, common in local body and general elections.

A public meeting to be held on Saturday September 14, 5pm, at the Memorial Hall, six days before voting papers are sent out, has been set up for voters to have a say on what they see as the most important issues for the district.

'We (the WRA) see the three main issues pertinent to this area as being stormwater management, mangroves and the Waikato Regional Council, and the use and development of Williamson Park,' Terry said.

But he's keen to hear from residents before Saturday's meeting about their concerns for the region and the meeting will focus on the top three issues identified - hence the meeting being labelled The Big Three.

Those concerns could include the beach walkway, the Thames pool, sealing of Wentworth Valley Road and fair rates.

All available candidates standing for Mayor, TCDC, WRC and the Whangamata Community Board will be given four minutes to introduce themselves and present their position on The Big Three.

To have your say now, go to the Whangamata Ratepayers Association Facebook page - Upcoming Events: Pre-election Candidate Forum, and say what you want fixed.

- **Whangamata NEWS** invites our readers to air their concerns in the September issue, due out on September 11. Email to whangamatanews@gmail.com before Friday August 30 to ensure publication.



At the time of going to publication, there was just one Mayoral candidate: the incumbent, Sandra Goudie. Putting his name forward for council representing the South Eastern Ward was Dave Ryan, and for Whangamata Community Board, Dave Ryan and Gaye Barton. Nominations close this Friday (August 16) so if you're keen to make a difference, get the paperwork done and in to the council by midday Friday.

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Kiwis supporting gun buy-back scheme



Gun owners and members of the public have been ‘overwhelmingly supportive’ of the New Zealand Government’s gun buy back and amnesty scheme, one of the region’s top cops says.

The scheme began on July 20 with police going from town to town with their team of police civilians recording details of people who pass over rifles, magazines,

ammunition and other parts, said Waikato office-in-charge, Acting District Commander Superintendent Warwick Morehu (pictured).

Accompanying them at all venues are a team of uniformed police providing security.



Morehu, the man who, as the then Taupo Area Commander, was credited as being the hero after negotiating with the gunman during the March, 2016 seige in Kawerau in which several police officers were shot, said he was happy with the number of firearms

handed in at Whangamata.

‘It’s been a bit slow but then, it is a weekday, and not suitable for everyone who wants to hand their guns back.

‘We’ll be back before the December cutoff for the amnesty so there will be another chance for those who missed out today,’ Morehu said on August 7 in Whangamata.

He said some of the guns on the prohibited list were ‘beautiful, clean and tidy – a reflection on their owners’.

‘To a lot of owners their gun is a taonga and treated with a lot of love and respect. We are cognisant of that and treat them with respect too.

‘We realise that to many people, giving up their gun can be a wrench, almost a grieving process, so we give them coffee and have a chat with them.’

Morehu said many of those handing in their guns were surprised to find how much compensation they would receive – and how quickly – and that lessened the blow somewhat.

‘And they spread the word to friends and families and those needing the money...’ he said.

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OUR VOLUNTEERS

Couple saving lives together



The couple pictured above at the Honours Night and, left, as a team ready to attend an emergency.

Having a husband and wife team in a fire brigade is a bit of a rarity around New Zealand – but Whangamata has such a couple.

Watching the fire trucks – and her husband – leave the station in response to an urgent callout was too much to bear for Suzanne Barker.

After spending six years or so of being a support officer and doing administration work for the Whangamata Fire Brigade and watching husband Jim and

colleagues roar off in the trucks to a house fire, road crash, fallen tree, flooding, ambulance assist or other emergencies, Suzanne took the big step of becoming an operational officer.

Training alongside other hopefuls younger than herself was a bit daunting, Suzanne said.

‘On-station training is ongoing but the actual week-long course away was a bit challenging,’ Suzanne said.

But she passed with flying colours and is now attending callouts along with Jim, who has a 39 year history as a firefighter and as Deputy Chief Fire Officer with the Whangamata brigade for the past 10 years.

At the brigade’s recent Honours Night, Suzanne was awarded a medal for five year’s service and Jim received a bar, marking his years of service.

Suzanne urges other men and women of any age – as long as they are fit and have a positive attitude –

to consider becoming a fire fighter.

‘It’s very rewarding and we are just like one big family here – it’s a good station to be at.’

Suzanne is a pharmacy assistant at Whangamata Unichem and said that without her employer – Chris Langford – being cooperative, she would miss week-day callouts.

‘In fact, employers of most of our firefighters are really good and allow us to take off at the drop of a hat,’ Suzanne said.

G.J. Gardner. HOMES

RUN WALK FESTIVAL

Whangamata



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5k – 10k

Half Marathon

\$2000
Travel
Spot Prize
+ many more
spot prizes

**This event supports
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More Info:
www.whangamatarunwalk.co.nz

Check out the website for a training programme for people who have never walked or run a 5k or a 10k event before. Entry forms are available at shops in town or enter online. Paper entries can be left at GJ Gardner, 612 Port Rd.



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Pictured are C95FM sales manager Bronny Shaw, left, with Run Walk organiser Maurice Sheppard and C95FM co-owner Lynda Grant.

New radio station supports festival

Throwing their support behind the GJ Gardner Run Walk Festival on September 7 is new radio station C95FM.

The crew, based in Whitianga but stretching its coverage throughout the peninsula by the end of the year, will broadcast live from the event.

Owned by John and Lynda Grant, the station is nine months old, having made its first broadcast from its studios in Cook Drive,

Whitianga, on November 14 last year.

They will bring their mobile studio – a retro Zephyr caravan – to Whangamata for the Run Walk Festival.

The station, targeting the 30-plus age group, can be heard in Whangamata and the Eastern seaboard on 95.1FM and on the Thames coast on 94FM.

Fresh look at New World



Shoppers at Whangamata New World will notice a bright new look in the store, especially in the fruit and vegetable department where new refrigeration units have been installed.

The new space-saving shelving is just another step in the refurbishment of the whole store, says owner/operator Neville Singh.

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- Gaming Machines
- Housie
- Quiz Night
- Member Draws
- Raffles
- Joker's Wild

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22nd September 2019
at 11.00am

Notices of Motion, and Nominations for the Executive Committee are to be in the hands of the Secretary by 5.00pm Friday 30th August 2019

Voting to take place between 9.00am and 6.00pm Saturday 21st September

Absentee Votes available from Monday 16th September

RSA COMBINED SERVICES DAY

To honour those who have served or are still serving in Defence & Police Forces

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to attend a day to remember and talk about for years to come.

Sunday 25th August 2019
Whangamata RSA - 11am start

Rum Ration - Parade of Flags into the RSA - Last Post

Medals to be worn. Entertainment & raffles.

Subsidised Lunch - Bookings Essential - \$20 per person

If you do not wish to have lunch you are still more than welcome to come and share the day with us, buy some raffles and enjoy the entertainment provided.



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Sunday 8th September
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from 4pm



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Supporting older people

A visiting service to help older Whangamata people feel less isolated is to be launched in our town.



Age Concern Thames is a busy place; the four part-time staff answer almost every age-related question in both the Coromandel and Hauraki districts; as well as an elder abuse response team, and running five strength and balance classes, they deliver a volunteer visiting service.

Robyn Sinclair is the coordinator of the Accredited Visiting Service that exists to reduce social isolation and loneliness and to increase social participation for older people living in our communities.

The visiting service has been the seed of many wonderful friendships in other towns and looks forward to seeing the same in Whangamata.

Being socially isolated can have severely detrimental effects on health through increased blood pressure, disrupted sleep and cognitive decline as well. In the last national census in 2013, nearly half of those living by themselves were over 65.

'The visitors that we have doing good works in the other towns we cover are making a genuine, valuable contribution to the lives of their neighbours,' says Robyn.

The visiting service has not operated in Whangamata before but Whangamata Community Services Trust whanau support worker Katie Jolly welcomes the service as she sees there are definitely people in the community that need the extra support.

The volunteering commitments are just one hour a week. All applicants must complete a police check, and are provided with full training, continued support and ongoing professional development opportunities.

If you would like to discuss becoming a visitor, or would like to ask for a visitor, please call Robyn on 868 9790 Monday to Wednesday 9am-2:30pm, or email robyn@ageconcern.gen.nz

Whangamata Marina – one of NZ's cleanest!



Holding the Clean Marina flag are, from left, John Gillooly, Operations Manager, Jo Matheson, Administration, Sue Amos, Marina Manager and Simon Brickwood, Operations.

'We belong to the Clean Marina Programme because we want to be the best and make a difference – not because we have to.'

Those words from Whangamata Marina Manager Sue Amos after the marina was again last month awarded its Clean Marina status, the second consecutive time since 2012.

The Clean Marina initiative is a voluntary one and of New Zealand's 42 marinas only 11 have currently achieved certification.

The programme was first introduced in Florida, USA, in 1993 and now has thousands of marinas there adopting the strategy.

Australia also boasts more than 30 members.

The marinas all go above and beyond the requirements sought by the local

governing bodies – in this instance, Waikato Regional Council.

'The requirements are quite strict,' Sue said. 'Everything is covered to the last detail regarding emergency spills to properly marked shut-off valves, waste disposal, waste water and sewerage provisions, recycling, using the right tradesmen when needed, and so much more.'

'Staff and boaties must be vigilant all the time that they adhere to the rules and regulations, keeping our marina and waters clean to the standards of the programme.'

'And that includes our boatyard – which many New Zealand marinas don't have.'

For more information go to www.cleanmarina.org.nz and to check that you're a clean boatie go to www.cleanboating.org.nz

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Students fight climate warming



Students around New Zealand have been leading the charge against climate change, vowing to make things better for their own, and future, generations.

Even in little old Whangamata, the area school students are keenly aware of global warming, its causes, and how it is causing the North and South Poles and glaciers to lose millions of tonnes of ice as record temperatures are experienced

around the world. Following on from the Year 7 & 8 studies on marine sustainability, global warming and plastic pollution, Tadhg Mulverhill and friends made a call to do something about the situation.

A fossil-free fuel day was held on the recent mufti day, with students donating a gold coin for the honour of not having to wear school uniform - and to mark fossil-fuel free day.

'We all know that fuel emissions are affecting the atmosphere,' Tadhg said.

So all students were urged to ride their bikes, scooters, skateboards or walk to school on the day instead of being dropped off by car.

Most students heeded the call but several were seen being dropped off by mum or grandma in the car.

Tadhg (pictured, left, with fellow classmates Ethan Jameson and Seajay McKeown) expected to raise about \$250 which was to be forwarded to a group called Give Now to Protect the Planet.

Netball donation



At every monthly Lions club dinner meeting in Whangamata, the evening ends with the Tail Twister extracting money from members for supposed misdemeanours. At the July meeting, Tail Twister Ross Dingle collected about \$150. The money was stuck on to an old netball covered in double-sided tape which was later presented to staunch netball supporter, player and coach Shona Taikato (pictured with Ross Dingle). The money will go toward practise balls for the 10 teams of players (including three adult teams). Balls cost about \$30 each - test match balls are \$60 to \$70 each.



Front row, left to right: Judy Eades, Judy Garry, Jude Small, Judy Nelson, Judy McGowan and Judy Dony. Middle row: Jude Turner, Jude Kenealy, Judy MacPherson, Judy McClintock and Judy Arlidge. Rear: Judy Birchall, Judy Price, Judi Cossey, Judy Mace, Judy Hares, Judi Harrison, and Jude Briton. Absent: Judy Bellamy and Judy O'Reilly.

Are there any other 'name' clubs in Whangamata? If so, please contact Lesley at *Whangamata NEWS*: whangamatanews@gmail.com or phone 021 664784



Jude Kenealy beautifully decorated the table with potted colour - one for each person who attended the lunch - and fairy lights.

Join the club!

The Judy Club, which meets every year, is a happy, cheerful group of 'same-name' women

Started 11 years ago when some members of the Spinners and Weavers Club discovered they had three Judies in their group, membership now stands at 44.

Half those attended the lunch and had a great old time, swapping stories and catching up with events since they met a year ago.

It's a casual club with no membership fee, and their annual get-together at the Whangamata RSA is a noisy, happy event over lunch and drinks.

Their group includes several Judith Anns, Judith Nancys and Judith Agneses.

Two of the members - Judy Hares and Judy Birchall have known each other for more than 70 years, having gone to school together in Raglan as children.

Other women who have joined the group are from Katikati, Te Puke, Te Kauwhata, Waihi and Waihi Beach, Morrinsville, Tairua, Thames, Tauranga and Auckland.

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**VISIQUE**
See the difference

Skatepark in line for replacement

Whangamata skateboarders are delighted that they're possibly going to get a new skatebowl in Martyn Rd.

The current skatebowl is in poor condition with cracked, chipped and broken areas and it floods whenever it rains.

TCDC projects manager Ross Ashby said with the sport of skateboarding becoming more and more popular the council was looking to upgrade skateparks in its area.

The sport will make its debut at the summer Olympics in Tokyo next year.

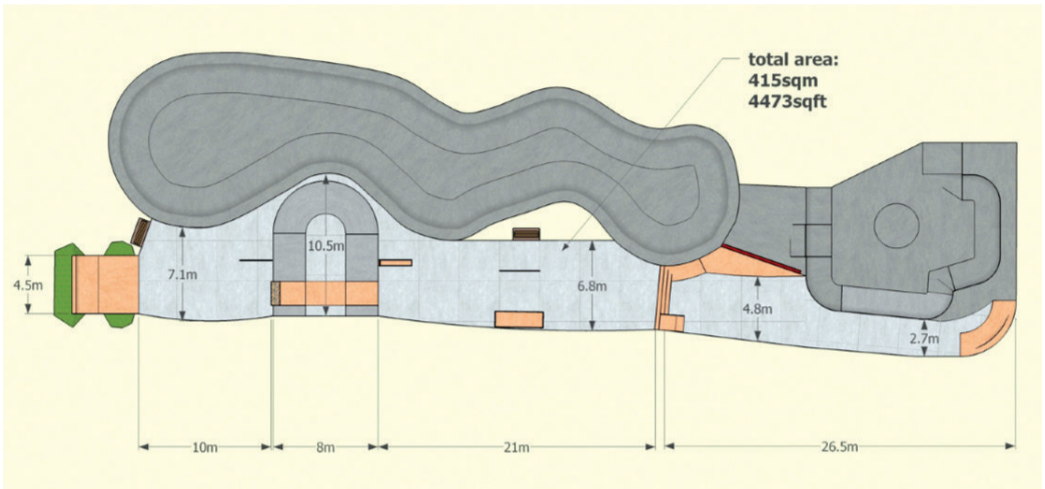
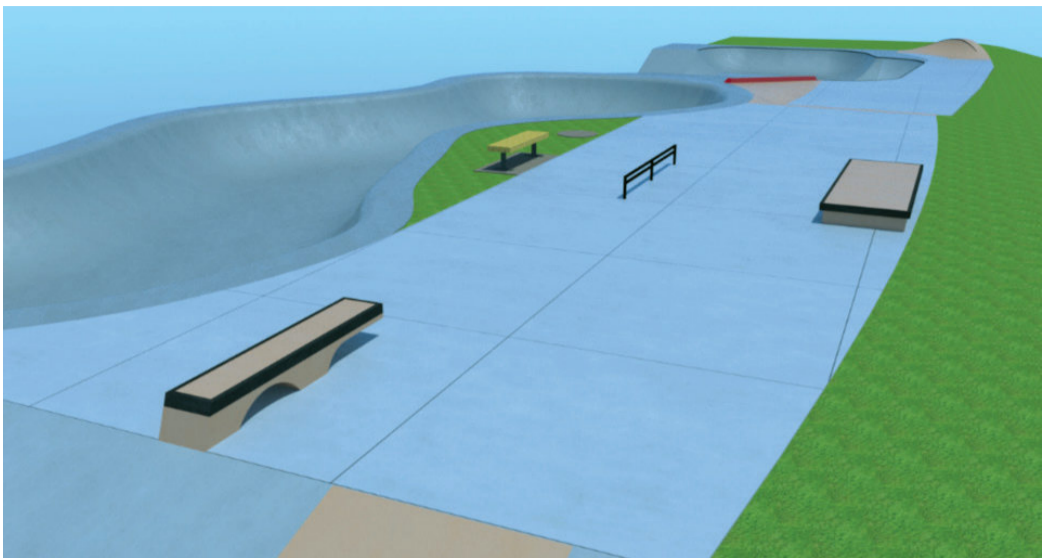
The council has held a meeting with skateboarding students at Whangamata Area School to get an idea of what they want to see in a new park.

Now Ross wants to hear from the community: What do you like or dislike about the current park and any other comments or suggestions.

Ross said the WAS group were impressed with the new design shown to them and offered ideas for further improvements.

The proposed new park will be built alongside the current 30-year-old park next to the Aickin Rd park.

'We are planning to ban BMX bikes to keep the park from being damaged and improve safety. BMX riders are encouraged to use the bike park track across the road.'



Feedback can be made to ross at ross.ashby@tcdc.govt.nz until August 30 or by completing an online survey at tcdc.govt.nz/whangaskatepark





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FITNESS

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- Bootcamp is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6am and Saturdays at 6.30am

WHAT IS '25 TO LIFE FITNESS'?

Fitness isn't a fad, it's a lifestyle – use it or lose it.

I train people of all ages and fitness levels, have injuries? No problem! Safety is paramount, you can rehab and reach your goals with me! Muscle plays such an integral role in our bodies all throughout life, learn how to lift safely and effectively!

Learn how mindset, food, sleep and lifestyle can affect your goals and what you can do to overcome any road blocks. Learn how to replace unhealthy habits with healthy ones so that you can continue your health and fitness journey for life.

"Nothing changes if nothing changes"

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WEAVE HOODIES

Don't be
afraid to
be bold



Stirling Sports Whangamata

607A Port Road
Phone 865 9999



Cowboy Day

A fun but competitive day held by the Whangamata Equestrian and Social Group attracted riders from as far away as the King Country, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. The horses and riders – both of all shapes, sizes and colours – were put through various obstacle courses featuring footwork, lassoing, rider/ horse communication and more. The weather cooperated and a great time was had by all.



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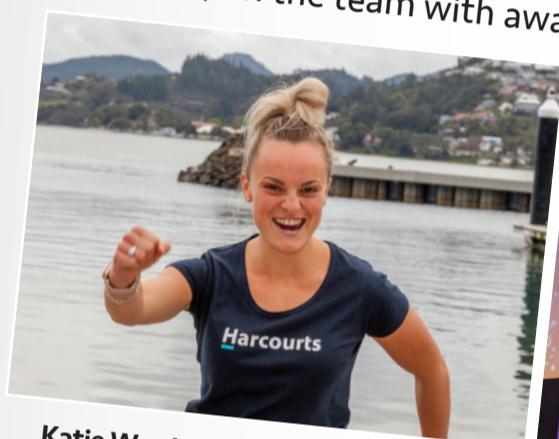
The strength of the Coromandel

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Pictured above: Molly Aldrich, office administrator and sales trainee; Katie & Alyce with Mike Green International CEO Harcourts.



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E enquiries.whitianga@harcourts.co.nz

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E pauanui@harcourts.co.nz

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P 07 865 9400
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OUR COMMUNITY

gives a damn!

SUPPORT THOSE WHO COME TO OUR RESCUE...

AUCKLAND RESCUE HELICOPTER TRUST



The Auckland and Coromandel Rescue Helicopter's new AW169 helicopters are now in commission but we are yet to see one of them in Whangamata. Last month was a quiet one on the Coromandel Peninsula with just six callouts.

JULY 8: Whitianga. Crew tasked to Whitianga to assist a female patient in his 30's suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Auckland City Hospital in a serious condition with a blood transfusion administered by the Helicopter Emergency Medicine Service (HEMS) Doctor while enroute to the hospital.

JULY 12: Coromandel. Crew tasked to Coromandel

to assist a female patient in her 40's suffering injuries from an assault. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

JULY 14: Whitianga. Crew tasked to Whitianga to assist a toddler, a girl, suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Starship Hospital in a serious condition.

JULY 17: Cooks Beach. Crew tasked to Cooks Beach to assist a male patient in his 70's suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a critical condition.

JULY 18: Tairua. Crew tasked to Tairua to assist a male patient in his 70's suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

JULY 19: Whitianga. Crew tasked to Whitianga to assist a female patient in her 30's suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

- Area School gymnasium
- Bunnings, Aickin Rd
- Bowling Club, Rutherford Rd
- Combined Squash and Tennis Sports Club, Barroclough Rd
- Carters, 103 Lindsay Rd
- Coastguard, 619 Beach Rd
- Community Swimming Pool, Achilles Ave
- Fire Station, Port Rd and both fire appliances
- Medical Centre, Lincoln Rd
- Moana House, SH25
- New World Supermarket, Aickin Rd
- Onemana Rural Fire depot - Dial 111
- Onemana Surf Club
- Onemana Boatshed Café, Onemana Dr
- St John Ambulance station, Lincoln Rd
- St John Health Shuttles
- St John Op Shop, Martyn Rd
- Surf Club, Williamson Park
- TCDC Area Office, Port Rd
- The Marina, end of Beach Rd
- Titoki Golf Club, Waihi Rd
- Whangamata Club, Port Rd
- Whangamata RSA, Port Rd
- Whangamata Ocean Sports Club, Port Rd
- Whiritoa Rural Fire Station, Dial 111
- Whiritoa Surf Club, Kontiki Rd
- Williamson Golf Club, Achilles Ave
- Z Gas Station, Port/Ocean Rd corner

WHANGAMATA COASTGUARD



JULY 2019 CALLOUTS

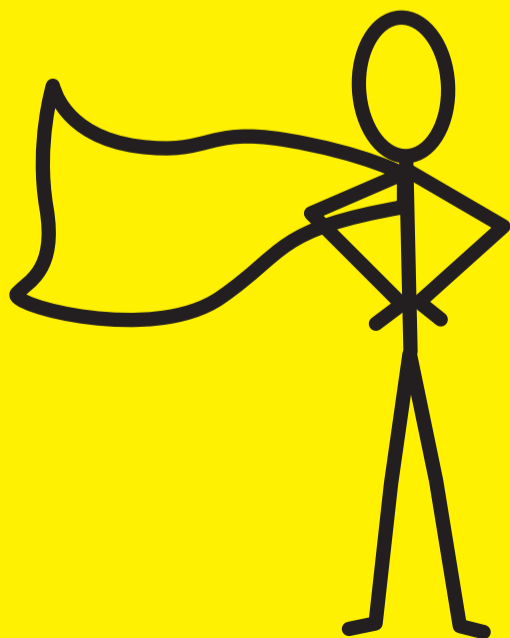
All assisted vessels and persons on board were returned safely to port.

10 JULY: Launch. 13m. Engine failure. 6 POB. 3nm NE of Whangamata Entrance. CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to a Whangamata Marina berth.

Total Coastguard involvement 14 hrs.

27 JULY: Civil Defence Exercise 'WET'. Being a support agency for the exercise, CRV GJ Gardner Rescue was tasked to attend to a launch moored in the Whangamata Harbour. The situation being, 1/ the Launch had on board an injured crew member and 2/ the launch because of the storm's torrential rain downpour was taking on water. The vessel having no electrics through flat batteries was unable to pump out the incoming precipitation. CRV GJ Gardner Rescue reached the vessel, pumped out the water taken on and then transferred the non-critical patient to a waiting ambulance at the Whangamata Wharf.

Total Coastguard involvement 19 hrs.



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WHANGAMATA FIRE BRIGADE



The month of July had the Whangamata Fire Brigade respond to three medical assist calls and a minor motor vehicle accident. Weather has been less than favourable with the high winds buffeting everywhere. Only one call has been required to clear a tree off the highway. There is a constant risk of encountering vegetation on the road as a result. Travel with this in mind and, if required to stop, park where it is safe from traffic and also clear of

other dangerous trees. During July we attended the Civil Defence exercise and all those who attended enjoyed the day. Skills and strategies were tested along with the combination of operations in our station and the council office. Agencies used our combined communications system along with the station's setup as another operational hub. Good learnings came out of the day and the combined resources of the Whangamata Brigade and our rural fire forces, whenever possible ,strengthens the service we can provide to our community. Enjoy the new month!
- Nigel Airey, Chief Fire Officer

WHANGAMATA POLICE



LOCK IT
Police have been getting a few complaints as houses have been targeted by low lives. This is again concerning as we have run into a lot of unwanted guests lately; so please LOCK IT UP! Don't give these ne'er-do-wells an opportunity. Burglaries have been on the increase in recent weeks. If you have had anything stolen please give us a call on 105, the new non-emergency number, or pop into the station

WAR ON DRUGS
This will continue and more resources will be implemented to rid our community of this nasty scourge on society , so keep the Crimestoppers info rolling in 0800 555 111
GUN BUY BACK
Refer to story on page 6.
DRINK DRIVING
Remember to plan before you party. If you are out and about having a few brews, it's just not worth driving and putting others at risk. Look out for each other and hunker down as more cold weather is on its way.
Happy days,
Whangamata Police - Greg Resink

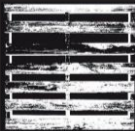
ST JOHN



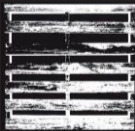
ASTHMA ATTACKS
Asthma is a common condition in which breathing becomes difficult because of inflammation of the air passages. The airways become narrowed by muscle spasm, swelling and increased mucus production, often causing a wheeze to be heard. Air is trapped in the lungs by the swollen airways and the patient has most difficulty breathing out. Common triggers are chest infection, pollens, dust, fur, smoke, cold air or exercise. Patients with asthma may be taking prescribed medication to avoid an asthma attack. These drugs are called 'preventers' and are colour-coded in shades of red, brown and gold. Preventers are of no use during an asthma attack. During an asthma attack, the patient can take a

prescribed 'reliever' medication, preferably through a 'spacer' device, which helps to hold the medication and overcome the difficulty of inhaling it during an attack. Reliever containers are colour-coded in shades of grey or blue, and the medication quickly relaxes airway spasm.
SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS: Not all may be present:
• Breathlessness and difficulty speaking more than a few words without a gasp of air
• Wheezing
• Persistent cough, often moist and 'rattling'
• Poor skin colour, especially blueness of lips and fingertips
• Obvious difficulty breathing
HOW YOU CAN HELP:
1. Help the Patient to Rest

Help the patient into a position of greatest comfort. Usually this is sitting upright, leaning forward with arms resting on a table.
2. Assist with medication
Help the patient take any 'reliever' medication they have using a spacer if available, one puff at a time. Give 6 puffs of the medication and then repeat this dose after about 6 minutes if no improvement has occurred. If the patient does not have any personal medication available, be prepared to borrow a 'reliever' from another person, or if the patient has no medication or the medication is having no effect - call 111. Continue to assist the patient with 6 puffs every 6 minutes until an ambulance arrives.
Source: St John online First Aid Library - www.stjohn.org.nz



SMOKY PALLET FREEHOUSE



\$10 LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday to Thursday from 12pm
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one coupon per customer to be redeemed with any lunch meal

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Open for dinner every day from 5pm
This coupon entitles you to:
10% OFF your total bill
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HAPPY HOUR 5 - 7PM

Monday to Friday drink specials
This coupon entitles you to:
\$5 Smoky Pallet Credit
one coupon per customer to be redeemed during Happy Hour

LADIES NIGHT

Every Friday night 5-9pm drink specials & prize draws
This coupon entitles you to:
\$5 Smoky Pallet Credit
one coupon per customer to be redeemed at Ladies Night

POKER LEAGUE

Cash tournament \$15 buy in every second Sunday
This coupon entitles you to:
\$5 Credit & \$1000 bonus chips
one coupon per customer, drink is limited to house beer, wine, spirits



Intrepid pickers

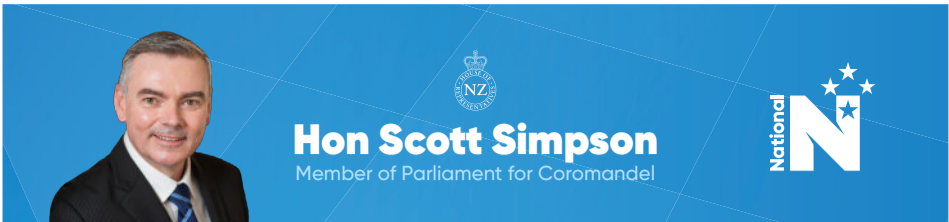


Every year, an intrepid team of men and women get out of bed early and dress in many layers of clothes to keep themselves warm in the winter weather.

They head off to a paddock south of Whangamata where they're bent over, gathering bunches of daffodils, by the time the clock strikes 7.30am.

Regardless of the weather, the group of Whangamata Lions Club members pick twice a week for six to eight weeks, then distribute bunches of the flowers to outlets around town.

Bunches sell for \$3 and every cent goes toward upkeep of the Lions Lodge in Hamilton, used by many Coromandel people attending Waikato Hospital for treatment, in particular cancer.



Select Committee failing to assess submissions

Government members of the Environment Select Committee have voted down the opportunity for a one month extension to the Zero Carbon Bill process, which would have given New Zealanders more opportunity to be heard, National's Climate Change spokesperson Scott Simpson says.

'This piece of legislation is important and people deserve to have their say. It has already had over 12,000 submissions and 1500 requests from the public to appear in front of the Committee. The current time-frame affects the ability to hear and consider these submissions.

'A one month extension would have meant there was still time to enact the Bill by the end of 2019, but would also have given the Select Committee the time to properly assess the many submissions.

'Now there is going to be a truncated regional Select Committee programme,

with as few as two MPs present at times. An extension is needed to allow the Committee time to properly hear regional submissions.

'Regional submitters are concerned by many parts of the Bill. The methane target of a 24 - 47 per cent reduction goes beyond what many believe farmers can achieve, and forecasts of over a third of pasture being converted to pine for forestry offsets have caused alarm.

'The Government has claimed their priority is to inform the public of the "just transition" to lowering emissions, but by not allowing the Bill to be properly considered they are doing the exact opposite.

'It appears that this Coalition Government is so concerned with being first, fast and famous on the matter of climate change they're failing to consider the impacts the Bill could have on everyday New Zealanders.'



WHANGAMATA ST JOHN HEALTH SHUTTLE

Our health shuttles, look after Whangamata, Whiritoa, Onemana and surrounds, we travel four to five thousand kilometres a month, transporting around 45 patients!

Not only taking patients to local appointments but also out of town to Thames, Hamilton, Paeroa, Tauranga and Waihi.

We have just had two new drivers start, taking us up to nine volunteer drivers getting patients where they need to go.

Thank you to the community for their donations and for their ongoing support of our Op Shop which enable us to provide this service.

For bookings please phone 07 865 9011. St John Health Shuttles run Monday to Friday (except public holidays). Bookings need to be made 24 hours in advance or by 4pm the day prior.

COMMUNITY CARERS

Do you have a spare two hours a week to support Moana House? Our volunteers offer companionship & assistance. Hours and days are flexible.

Please phone Lyn at the Whangamata St John Station on 07 865 9011



Teaching respect for Whenuakura

It started out as a couple of mates going for a paddle and a fish in Whanga Bay and turned into a song. Mike Frogley and Shaun Fay write songs, like the Paradise Coast song featuring Tina Cross. "Mike had never been out to Whenuakura, so we put away the rods and headed for the hole", said Shaun. "It was a beautiful day and the sea was like a big pond, it's a stunning spectacle when the weather is good".

Back on dry land the words and music started to happen, it was then that they started to find out things they didn't know. For example, the island is privately owned and while everyone knows the place as Donut Island, local Maori find this offensive. The island is also a sanctuary, which is supported by Destination Coromandel with signage round town and a strong, united group of local tourist operators committed to conservation.

One of the issues concerning some locals however was that a song and then video would make the island even more popular than it already is, again putting its future at risk. Taking all the local feedback and sensibilities on board,

the boys decided to write something that encouraged education and respect for the island. Whenuakura can be dangerous and travelling out there alone can be risky- just ask Coast Guard and our local surf live saving club. There have been numerous incidents. We wanted to encourage people to 'go with a guide - learn the secrets of inside'.

It took about 9 months for the boys to be happy and then at their own expense, headed to Auckland for a big studio, final production. They're proud of the song and the message it carries and while "we'd love to film a really slick video", time and funds have run out "we'll take what we have for now, maybe down the track we'll be able to do more with it", said Mike.

The intuitive has also been supported by Destination Coromandel, General Manager, Hadley Dryden believes that “....any opportunity to help promote the desired travel behaviour is welcomed. The island’s voice is that of the local community and this is great example of the local spirit supporting this taonga.”

- Shaun Fay



Photo: Lesley Staniland

You can view the song on YouTube – search for “Whenuakura Shaun Fay”.



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ARTIST *of the month*

BRIAN RUSSELL

Art from beach rubbish

Brian Russell's artwork can only be described as 'unique'.

He collects pieces of rubbish - Coke and plastic bottle tops, fishing line, clothes pegs, straws and all sorts of plastics, bits of tennis balls and more - from the beach and transforms them into works of art.

Now retired from the Muriwai area and living in Whangamata overlooking the harbour, Brian used to design furniture and equipment for people with disabilities.

He has always had an eye for art and recalls that as a child he was always drawing.

Brian's current type of artwork looks great in the original 3-D format (pictured on the table) but as limited edition prints they are just as impressive, if not more so and have been popular with art collectors.



They can be viewed at - and bought from - The Little Gallery in Tairua and Whangamata.



WHANGAMATA CLUB



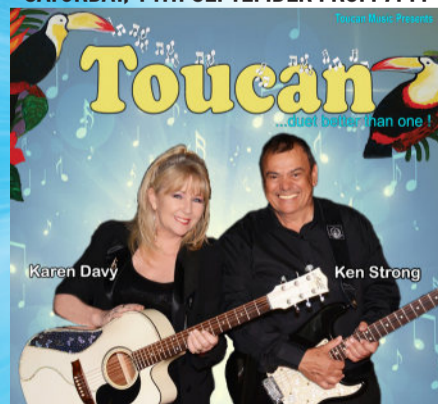
FRIDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER FROM 7.30PM



**WINTER
RESTAURANT
PROMOTIONS**

- Mondays Bangers & mash - \$15
- Tuesday Sheep-shank Redemption - huge shank with mash & veg with your choice of 12oz tap beer, glass house wine or non alcoholic options
- Thursdays: Quiz combo

SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER FROM 7PM



- Friday & Saturday night carvery
- Sunday roast & kid's combo - new kid's menu options
- Checkout the additions to the kid's menu and pricing including mini hot dogs and chips and a choice of toppings and ice creams for our kid's sundaes.



- All Blacks vs Australia
Saturday 17th August
from 7.35pm
- All Blacks vs Tonga
Saturday 7th September
from 2.35pm

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OCEAN & HARBOUR VIEWS



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

Chris Speedy
021 747 901

Being on the end of the ridge in Te Pamahue Drive gives you a superb position. Magnificent views of the harbour and hills to the north, as well as over the ocean and islands to the east. Your house will be warmed by the sun from dawn till dusk and your aspect means you won't really be overlooked by other properties.

Some good quality homes in this street and the location is not far from town with a walking track just across the road.

Your building cost will be well rewarded by the views and sun here - take a look and be inspired.

www.whangamatarealestate.co.nz ref# 7706

\$389,000



106 TE PAMAHUE DRIVE

KIWI COME BACK



Sharon Laurenson
027 662 3164
sharon@whangamatarealestate.co.nz

Being an easy care, lock and leave, it's an ideal all-rounder. Suitable as a holiday home, permanent home or rental property. The floor plan makes the best of the sun and aspect. Morning sun warms the kitchen and dining area, then meanders around to the north / west facing deck for the rest of the day.

Featuring two double bedrooms, open plan living area and separate bathroom, toilet and laundry, it's simple yet sassy with its eye-catching colour and located just across the road from the greens of Williamson Golf Course.

www.whangamatarealestate.co.nz ref# 7702

\$645,000



215A KIWI ROAD

4 BEDROOM BEACH HOME



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

Chris Speedy
021 747 901

Such a tidy property this one and very handy to the surf club and main beach. Excellent north facing decks have the benefit of a new 'Archgola' for some shade. The rear site is roomier than most and is fully fenced and gated.

The fourth bedroom is a nicely built new addition and you still have a great single garage with internal access plus off-street parking. Open plan living, a heat pump and ceiling fans in all bedrooms.

This well-maintained property can suit as a permanent home, retirement or a beach house. Easy care, easy living and good beach location.

www.whangamatarealestate.co.nz ref# 7705

\$845,000



205B WILLIAMSON ROAD

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Theatre supports rescue helicopter



The Auckland and Coromandel Rescue Helicopters are better off by \$2422 after the Whangamata Theatre Society donated the takings from their opening show of Stepping Out.

Happy to receive the cheque from Sarah Christensen (choreographer), Lois Butcher (president) and Aisne Edwards (Director) was the ARHT Whangamata trustee Ross Dingle.

He said the new AW169, twin-engined helicopters were operational - 'but we haven't had

any callouts to Whangamata for almost a month'.

Auckland and Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust communications manager Lincoln Davies, said the \$2400 donation was hugely appreciated by the Trust.

'That amount will pay for about half a mission (all costs associated),' Mr Davies said.

Anyone wanting to donate to A&CRHT can check out the Trust's Doctors on Choppers Annual Appeal at rescuehelicopter.org.nz

SPORTS RESULTS

INDOOR BOWLS

Whangamata RSA, June and July

June winners: John Hares, Betty Wilmer, Ron Childs, Jim Hiley, Ann Costar (twice), Bill Watson, Laurene Eade. Runners-up: Norm Sayer, Ellen Martin, Ann Costar, Basil Johnston, Betty Wilmer, Lynda Callaghan, Peter Gorrie, Max Hill, Bronwin Sonntag.

July: The month began with the AGM at which John Hares stood down as treasurer. This position has now been combined with secretary and taken over by Trish. Jim Foley remains as president. Committee: Paulette Glading, Janet Foley. John Hares, Peter Gorrie, Ellen Martin and Laurene Eades. Bill Watson was awarded a Life Membership and asked to be Patron, which he accepted.

Five teams entered the Waihi Beach RSA triples. Paulette, Joy and Nancy were runners-up to Te Awamutu.

July winners -

July 2: Gary Denise

July 9: Paulette, Joy and Ron

July 16: Willen McSkimming, Bronwin and Lyndia.

July 23: Championship Triples. Eight teams compete with three qualifying. Team Ellen McSkimming, Basil Johnston and June Wilkinson had the bye through to the final. The semifinal was between John Hares' team of Betty Wilmer and Denise Braithwaite playing norm Sayer, Max Hill and Lyndia Callaghan. A tight match saw John's team the winners. Ellen's team won a tense final match.

July 30: Winners Ellen McSkimming, Bronwen Sonntag and Bill Watson.

TABLE TENNIS

July saw a good turnout of players at the Whangamata Club each Thursday at 12.50pm. Cary Hope was consistently in the top 3 with honourable mentions for Wayne Broom, Gary Small, Angie Dewhirst, Brian Ford and Sally Grennell.

GOLF CROQUET

Monday 29th July: Winners on the maximum 21 points were Judy McGowan, Kay Savage and Carol Smith and the runners-up on 19 points were Dave Burrell and Pat Flinn.

Monday 22nd July: Competition

winners on 20 points were Kay Robinson and Pat Worth and the runner-up on 19 points was Lynne Reece.

Monday 15th July: Competition winners on the maximum 21 points were Lynn Reece and Don O'Sullivan and the runners-up on 20 points were Joy Ross and Bill McGowan.

Monday 8th July: Competition winners on 20 points were Pat Worth, Glenys Lee and Lesley Falconer and the runners-up on 19 points were Cherie Cunningham, John Flinn and Kay Robinson.

MAHJONG

Whangamata Club



Friday 5th July: We had 58 players at Mah Jong. The Winner was Joyce Deeming with 41 points and the Runner-up was Rosemarie Rutherford with 39 points.

Friday 12th July: We had 54 players at Mah Jong. The Winner was Barbara Harold with 44 points and the Runner-Up was Ngaire Hurst with 39 points.

Friday 19th July: We had 54 players at Mah Jong. The Winner was Alison Todd with 43 points and the Runner-Up was Margaret Birkett with 39 points.

Friday 26th July: We had 50 players at Mah Jong. The Winner was Shirley Matthews with 42 points and the Runner-Up was Irene Burns with 35 points.

Saturday 27th July: On this day we had the annual Papakura Whangamata Challenge. This year Whangamata won with 294 points and Papakura got 202 points.

Sunday 28th July: On Sunday we held the annual Open Mah Jong Tournament. We had 104 players from all over the North Island. First was Marie Madgwick from Papakura with 55 points, second was Pam Russell from Katikati with 45 points and third was Carol Ferris from Whangamata also with 45 points.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

WISE, Ian Edward. 28.05.1927 - 24.06.2019.

Marie, Steve, Larry, Anna and families wish to thank everyone for their cards, messages of sympathy and floral tributes after Ian's passing. Please accept this a personal acknowledgement.

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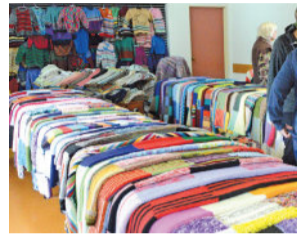
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Good fishing at the wharf



Whether the weather be wet or fine, little Hunter Temple, 5, loves coming to Whangamata for holidays and weekends. The young Auckland boy is a dead keen fisherman and can't remember how many fish he's caught. With the help of his uncle Ant Jaques, Hunter reeled in this handsome kahawai at the Whangamata wharf.

Warmth for freezing orphans



Whangamata's 'woolly women and men' have triumphed again with an amazing display of woven, knitted, crocheted and quilted items, all bound for Eastern Europe.

As just one of the many groups involved in Operation Cover Up around New Zealand, the Whangamata group meets regularly to knit or crochet everything needed to keep the orphans of Eastern Europe warm during their winters, where temperatures drop to well below freezing point.

Every year the group has a two-day exhibition of work before everything is packed up and taken to Thames for a Coromandel-wide display.

Local organiser Alison Todd (pictured in pink) has been involved with the group from the beginning and says she is always amazed at the work that is produced during the year.

As can be seen in the photos, there are booties, socks, slippers, hats and gloves or mittens to keep

extremities warm. Then there are the more than 130 blankets knitted. Some are quilted and lined with a woollen blanket.

Then there are all the jerseys, cardigans, jackets and shawls, in every colour of the rainbow.

The group would be delighted to receive gifts of wool or yarn - and they would also like to see more members, men included.

'Some men knit and others are particularly helpful in unravelling garments we've been given for recycling,' Alison says.

The three hamper raffles proved popular and the entry by gold coin donation goes toward covering costs of hall hireage and taking the many items to Thames after which they are shipped to Auckland then to Eastern Europe.

Raffle winners: 1st Gayle Ryan, ticket No. 27E. 2nd Lynne Plowright, ticket No. F28. 3rd Gwen Stewart, ticket No. F42.



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Enthusiasm abounds as juniors prove themselves

Rugby is pumping at Whangamata Area School.

Each week three teams pull on the famous Red n White jersey ready for the ref's whistle.

The two boys' sides, Open Grade and Under 15, are part way through their seasons while the girls side start their season soon with a seven-a-side tournament.

The highlight of the season for the Open Grade boys side was their giant-killing win over big town Thames College.

Whangamata Area School dotted down for three tries then built a

rock wall defence to defend their winning 19-12 lead.

The talent-laden Under 15 side have finished in the top five of their competition.

They plan to be on the winners' rostrum after the upcoming play-off games.

The extensive Whangamata Rugby Club's junior development programme has seen many players come through into these school sides.

Players are also emerging from seemingly unlikely places. Year 13 student Anthony Sergent had

never played rugby before and is now a key part of the Open grade's forward pack as a rampaging prop forward.

The local community have supported these teams with First Windows and Doors, Ussher Lawyers, RMS Surveyors, Bruce Scott Architects, Urban Homes, Toe Kickers, BodyWork Gym, New World Whangamata, The Lion Foundation, Whangamata Rugby Club and Kiwi Teamwear all contributing.

Another school initiative has been to provide transport home for students from Tairua and outlying areas.

This transport enables students to attend their after school sports practices and get home safely and timely.

Seven Whangamata Area School students have been selected for the Thames Valley Under 16 representative side - Callum Whatley, Otama Roberts, Joel Bathurst, Jono Handy, Kiharoa Gilbert (under 15), Kybah Aupouri-Te Huia and Isaac Cunningham. They have a full representative season with a curtainraiser before the Bay of Plenty Steamers tour to Horowhenua-Kapiti and rugby festival in Te Kuiti.

Thanks to the many people who make this sport available including school principal and sports nut Alistair Luke, rugby leader Brendon Mckeown, coaches Errol Gilbert and Greg Laing, all rounder Ros Handy, tactical adviser JJ Hazelton and Whangamata Rugby Club president Kevin Brookes.

- Don Mackay



Jubilant Whangamata Area School Open Grade (First fifteen) after their hard earned win over Thames College. Back row left to right Ball girl Bella Mckeown, coach Brendon Mckeown, Kybah Aupouri-Te Huia, Callum Whatley, Otama Roberts, Jake Laing, Harry Bryant, Zac Anderton, Joel Bathurst, Billy Clarke, Jah Peke, Te Mawe Kerepeti Te Peke, Max Brame-Norman, Jake Herraman, Assistant Manager Rod Whatley. Front row left to right Anaru Aupouri-Te Huia, Sam Baxter, Brodie Ward, Trae Cooney, Jono Handy, Jackson OConnor, Isaac Cunningham, Anthony Sergent and Manager Ros Handy.



Whangamata Area School pack down against Hauraki Plains College with players left to right flanker Jah Peke and front row Solomon Te Hiwinui, Alex Whitford and Kybah Aupouri-Te Huia and half back Sam Baxter.

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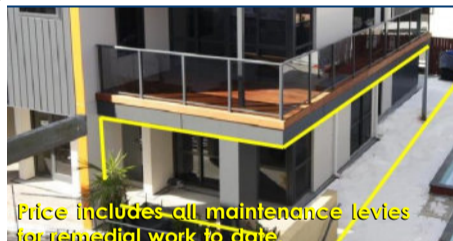
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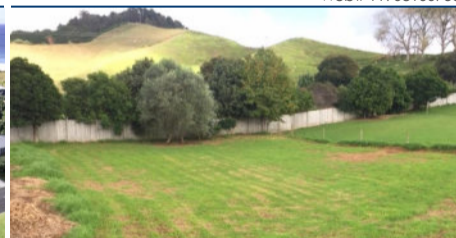
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Rugby season ends in tense finale

Whangamata 15, Hauraki North 12

The 2019 season has come to end on a positive note for Whangamata with a nail biting match against the 2017 Thames Valley champions.

With both sides playing for pride after not making the semi finals of the premier competition, this game proved to be one of the best of the season.

Some early wind and rain threatened to disrupt the day and could have made conditions ugly underfoot for the players.

Luckily the sunshine came out 20 minutes before kick off to set the platform for a great game of grassroots rugby.

Whangamata, playing in their traditional red and white hooped jerseys for the last game of the season, was led out by club legend Eli Savage who captained the team for the day.

Also a massive inclusion in the squad was number 8 Mateo Ibanez, son of French international Raphael Ibanez (98 tests) who was released by his club in France to play one game for the mighty Red and White.

Another massive lift was veteran Mike Fleming who returned from injury to put on the number 4 jersey.

The men from Waitakaruru were

the first to score, chipping the ball through to score with 5 minutes on the clock and asking big questions of the home side's defensive line.

Unable to convert, the score was locked down at 5-0 for much of the first quarter and Hauraki North retained most of the possession and field position.

Some great tackling from flankers Zane Heath and Toby Middleton eased the pressure that was mounting and very soon Whanga found some rhythm and shape on attack.

Enter fullback Brendon Mckeown who produced a great try from broken play to draw the scores

level, unfortunately injuring himself in the process and being unable to play on.

A small reshuffle to the back line and yellow card to the visitors for rucking at the breakdown gave Whangamata the opportunity to regain the upper hand.

Some quick work from Argentinian Pedro Caceres-Gazon, playing at centre, produced his first try in his last game for the club.

Running some excellent lines and scoring under the posts, he converted making the score 12-5 to Whangamata right before the break.

Stand out forward Rhys Middleton showed, once again, his versatility at ruck and maul time, winning some good line out ball, allowing half back Nathaniel Smith plenty of passing opportunities.

Soon the crowd of around 300 people that packed the club and banks of the Aickin Road reserve found their voices creating a buzz around the pitch.

Hauraki North came back strong in the second half winning valuable ball that led to a converted try and the game was locked up once again.

A second yellow card for a high tackle 20 minutes in did not help the visitors at all.

The red and white machine held the ball and attacked the fringes of broken play, holding on to much needed possession.

A big game came from 39 year old prop Tui (Tazor) Hall who worked tirelessly on crash ball and was backed up by Frenchman Mateo Ibanez who led the charge up the middle of the park.

Second five Joel Taylor impressed with the ball. Having played wing for most of the season he showed his skills to maintain momentum and tackled well under pressure.

A penalty to Whangamata with 17 minutes left on the clock gave Pedro Caceres-Garzon a chance to regain the lead.

He slotted the 3 points to regain the lead and put the game beyond reach for North.

Full Time 15-12.

A good solid game from both sides and a great game to watch.

The team would like to thank the Whangamata NEWS for their game day sponsor, and continued support of rugby in our little town, and the Red and White Club and all other supporters and sponsors.

We now look forward to the 2020 season with confidence and determination.

Good luck also to those players who will be selected into the Thames Valley Development side this month.

- Gareth Coslett, Coach

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AUGUST

August 20: 2pm, Whangamata Library is hosting Emma Stevens, a New Zealand woman who, with her husband, has lived with the Yup'ik Eskimo people in Alaska. She has written a trilogy of her memoirs of that time. Emma will have copies of her book for sale. The library's AGM will follow at 4pm.

August 25: Second of Lynne Robinson's Art History Conversations, Artichoke Studio, August 25, 5.30pm.

August 25: Combined Services Day at Whangamata RSA from 11am. Parade of flags, lunch, entertainment.

SEPTEMBER

September 22: 11am, RSA AGM. Voting for executive positions the day before.

• If you have an event coming up that you'd like us to list or cover please let us know. Email details of the event, the date, the venue and the time to: whangamatanews@gmail.com



BEACHES

Whiritoa – 12km south of Whangamata. Swim or walk, collect shells.

Whangamata Harbour, Ocean Beach and Otahu Estuary – check these areas for yourself. The various spots are ideal for SUP, kayaking, surfing, swimming, diving, spearfishing, snorkelling, jetskiing and skiing.

Onemana – swimming is OK along the beach. The south end is safest for children. A good beach for surfcasting. Mussels and kina in the area around the rocks.

Oputere – All the above activities. Access through the pine forest. Bird watching is an added attraction here.

Note: At all beaches, watch for rips and do not swim out beyond your comfort zone.



CYCLING

Just about anywhere is safe to ride in Whangamata as long as you respect the rights of other road users. The path from the Marina and along Moana Anu Anu estuary is ideal for walkers, runners and cyclists. Again, have respect for other users.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Whangamata Ridges Park, five minutes north of Whangamata on SH 25 has numerous tracks from Grade 1 to Grade 6, offering exciting rides and spectacular views. The tracks are in a forestry area so please check accessibility before riding.

Facebook: Whangamata Ridges Mountainbike Park. Information also available from Pedal and Paddle shop, cnr Port Rd and Winifred Ave.



GOLF

Whangamata has two golf courses administered by the Whangamata Golf Club – the Titoki 18-hole course just south of town and the nine-hole Williamson course on Achilles Ave. Whangamatagolf.net.nz Email: whangamata@golf.nz



SURFING

Whangamata is renowned for its surf beaches – take your pick! There are several surf schools close to the beach. Check with the Whangamata Interim Information Centre for further details. Phone: 0800 651 477 Website: www.thecoromandel.com



WALKS

Whangamata and surrounds have numerous walks. In town one of the favourites goes from the Marina along the Moana Anu Anu estuary and river, with a fitness trail along the edge.

There are many kilometres of beach to explore – and if you get too hot, take time for a dip.

Pokohino Beach and Te Ananui are on forestry roads off Whitipirorua (Oneman) Rd, with fairly steep tracks down to each.

Walking tracks at the end of Peninsula Rd offer spectacular ocean views and over Whangamata.

Wentworth Valley – a popular area with walkers and campers. Not accessible if fords are flooded. About 1.5km heading south of town, turn right onto Wentworth Valley. Many attractions on the valley walks, including waterfalls and swimming holes.

Grab a brochure from Whangamata Interim Information Centre, Port Rd or phone: 0800 651 477

Website: www.thecoromandel.com

WE WANT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS! If you have an event coming up please let us know! Email: whangamatanews@gmail.com

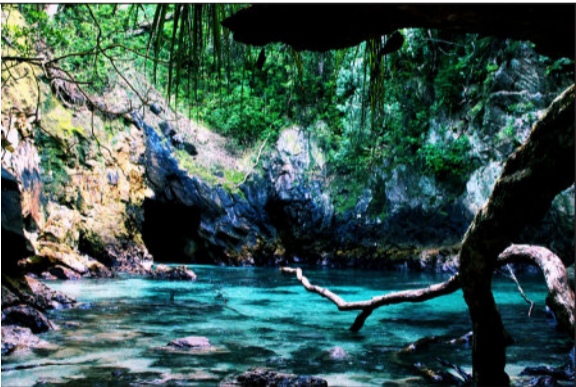
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THE BACH

Looking back



Rustic, retro... and much loved

It's about 70 years old, rather basic and in original condition but for Sue and Lewis Speedy and their families, friends 'and waifs', the old Whangamata bach and caravan provide a home away from their Te Kauwhata home.

For the past 18 years the couple have spent as much time as their jobs allow them, to spend time at the bach that is a close walk to the Otahu estuary and the ocean beach.

With a fibroplank cladding and a corrugated iron roof, the two bedroom cottage is homely, with coloured crochet throws, shell hanging, old couches and chairs and an even older caravan as a spare room (also featuring retro crocheted bedspread, cushions and lacy lamp).

The bach is truly a relic of the past, with unlevel flooring, ancient carpet and a kitchen that appears

to be the original one.

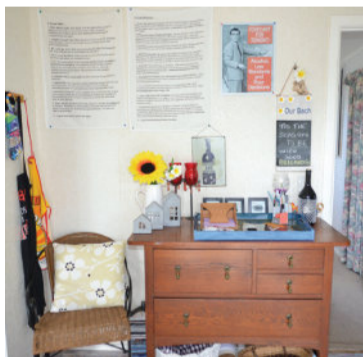
The only work done on it by the Speedys is painting the exterior and roof.

'We love it but if we start throwing money at it we'll never stop,' Sue says.

She has enjoyed furnishing the bach and caravan with steals from op shops, markets, hand-me-downs from friends and families, bargain buys at garage sales – and treasures put on the roadside by people who no longer require the particular items.

Sue, a music teacher and Lewis, a driver, say they have no intention of selling the bach.

'But if we ever retire to Whangamata, we couldn't live in it as it is – it's just too small – so we'll either sell it or bowl it and rebuild,' Lewis says.



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