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Local practicioner tells all

Not Just a GP: More than just a memoir

by Tony Townsend

More than just a memoir. Based on the author's 50 years of medical practice, teaching, and writing but supported and expanded by the international medical literature.

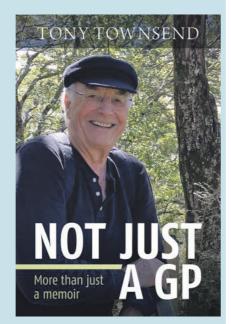
I remember my friend and mentor, Pat Farry, saying more than once, 'You might be just a country boy, but you are never just a GP.' This book is about what GPs do and how they do it. Although written as a memoir, it champions general practice as an essential medical specialty.

This is a short book about general practice medicine written for the public. I include insights into decision making, systems thinking, pattern-recognition. and advocacy. There are also chapters on emergency care, boundary issues, bias, medical errors, death and dying and the importance of teaching and learning in medical practice.

- Medical culture and practice demystified.
- Modern medical controversies explored.
- Draws on medical history as the key to understanding the present and planning for our future.

About the author

Tony graduated from the University of Ot.ago Medical School in 1969 and started his own general practice in 1974. He graduated Master of



General Practice in 1995 and was appointed a Member of the Order of Merit for services to health in 2015

During the last 50 years general practice has evolved from a male dominated. paternalistic, poor cousin. healthcare profession to a comprehensive. more gender equal. evidence-driven, specialty that is the cornerstone of modern medical care. But a number of these advances are now under threat. It is essential that we protect the principles that define this medical specialty.

Contact information

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Welcome to the first December 2023 edition of Whangamatā News

- a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals

Whangamatā NEWS

www.WhangamataNEWS.nz

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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 high resolution and in focus.

For editorial or photographic matters, phone Jennie on 021 0232 1661 or email WhangamataNEWS@gmail.com

HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel



Mahi to be done

As Christmas and the holiday season approaches, there's still a bit of work to do in politics before we can close out 2023.

The prospect of our new government getting down to work and getting our country back on track is exciting from my point of view

This is the first time in our history of MMP that we have had three parties in government and as they say the voter is always right. Now we will hunker down and work together to bring about the changes necessary to right the ship and restore the confidence that Kiwis used to have in themselves and our country.

The usual formalities and ceremony of a new Parliament will take place in early December, including the swearing-in of new and returning MPs. We'll also hear what's called the Speech from the Throne. This

is where the Governor General reads a speech setting out the government's legislative agenda for the next three years. Once this is completed, we can get on with the job voters elected us to do. I'm expecting Parliament to work right up to Christmas and that'll be a good thing.

Personally, I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and continuing to be the voice of the Coromandel in Parliament. Like most of the country, we have our fair share of issues, but I'm optimistic for what's ahead. The reopening of the Kopu-Hikuai highway before Christmas will be a massive boost to our entire region. It will mean more people travelling through our towns and spending their money over summer. Exciting times!

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





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Police report

Skateboarder injures Pedestrian

Recently a pedestrian crossing a marked pedestrian crossing on Port Road was hit and injured by a person riding an electric skateboard. Moments earlier, the skateboarder was seen riding at speed on Port Road in the opposite direction.

Police have eventually caught up with the rider who did not want to hang around for our arrival. The rider has been charged with careless or inconsiderate operation of vehicle causing injury and will appear in the Waihi District Court at a later date.

Liquor Ban applies to all

Being a 'local' gives even more reason to know the rules when it comes to the liquor ban.

Very soon the ban will come into force and it is important that everyone is aware. Often we get the odd person who likes to drop an officers name in the hope to get off a \$250 fine. Doesn't wash sorry team, same rules for all.

Head to the TCDC website for more information on dates and locations. Remember to remind your visitors of the rules also.

Think safety and limit opportunities

What I am referring to here is a message to our local businesses, particularly those with Al Fresco dining.

I am asking businesses with outdoor furniture used for dining or otherwise to begin placing it



all inside at night when closed/ not operating. There are several reasons for this, being:

- People love to get a deal on outdoor furniture/ornaments for their summer
- They could be used to damage the businesses or property
- Most of all they can become weapons against persons, especially Police

I will approach our friends at council to assist with this prevention measure, but really it is an easy and good thing to get into the habit of doing, not to mention part of the Al Fresco licence rules

Whangamata Raceway

I only refer to it as that because the speeds detected are again getting ridiculous.

The speed limit on Hetherington Road/Harry Watt Drive between Old Pub Road and Martyn Road is still 50km/h team. It hasn't changed and probably will not change any time soon.

If you're going too fast there will be no warnings. Children, families, cyclists all use that road. Take a moment to think what will happen when it goes wrong if you're driving too fast.

> - Sergeant Will Hamilton, Officer in Charge, Whangamata Police



Climate

Diverse commentary over the past seven days has illustrated the wide spectrum of climate opinion.

We began with senior scientific questioning of the validity of off-setting fossil fuel consumption through the ETS with tree planting as the saving grace. It is highlighted that no matter how vast the areas of plantings, it is simply folly to assert that mitigation is possible to achieve under the current levels of fossil fuel consumption. Threats of wild-fire, storm damage and the sacrifice of productive arable land insignificant it seems.

On the same day we had suggestions that the answer was widespread lifestyle change led by Government and business, suggesting "the people will follow".

Next, there was an alarming article claiming that large tracts

of dairy farming land were under threat from sea level rise accompanied by a farcical image beef cattle (not dairy) surrounded by flood water. The proximity to sea level not indicated. The fact that sea level changes over the past century have been barely discernible seems to have escaped the author. Some will recall early "modelling" that had us foundering under 3 metres of sea level rise by 2010.

A report then followed pointing out that global emissions continue to increase despite commitments to curtail pollution. Easy enough to make promises, harder to follow through.

And so to the ultimate irony with COP28 being hosted by the UAE with their oil-soaked wealth and political hand wringers flying in from all over, blissfully unaware of their hypocrisy.

George Williams WHANGAMATA







It Takes Two

On September 21, 2019, I lost my sister Sally to suicide, an event that changed mine and my family's life, forever.

My name is Corey Choat and at 6pm on 24 November, in Whangamatā, I ran two minutes for each of the 538 people we lost to suicide in New Zealand last year. That's just under 18 hours of running.

If I stop, the watch stops. Each person will be remembered.

This run is named 'It Takes 2' because it only takes two people - one to check in and one to open up. One to listen without judgment and one to finally feel heard.

The run was to remember the 538 people we lost to suicide last year, but it is also to raise mental health awareness and funds for Gumboot Friday. An amazing charity who provides support and free counselling for Kiwis 25 years and under.

For those who joined me for my 10-hour run last year, the plan was very much the same. Corey used the rugby club as the base for the run and ran a few different loops around



town. They were 6km and 3km running loops as well as a 750m walking loop.

Corey started the run at 6pm on Friday and continued through the night until he ran for 18 hours. The goal was to complete a triple marathon, or around 130km, so the more support he got, the stronger he became.

"By sharing our struggles, we break the silence surrounding mental health and we begin to create an environment where those in need feel understood and supported.

Let's recognize the importance of expressing what our friends and





Together, we can create a community where mental health is a priority, and no one feels isolated in their struggles."

In memory of Sally and the countless others, It's time to make a difference, one step and one conversation at a time.

If anyone has any questions or wants to know more, feel free to give me a message on Instagram @ runningforsal.

- Corey Choat

Whangamatā News caught up with Corey at 6 pm just at the very start of the race. "I'm feeling excited and a little bit nervous, but I've done the training. I'm really grateful for all this support as always, losing 538 lives this last year will be on my mind the whole way round, everything I'm doing for the run is for Sal, it's peaceful running through the night and I will think of her."

Congratulations Corey, you are a legend, a super-achiever, a leader, teaching us to reach out, without judgement to those that need us!

- Jennie Black



A younger Corey with his sister Sally.



Come in store for our Christmas special:

FREE bike lock

with every bike sold in December and a chance to

WIN a Christmas hamper pack filled with goodies

with any purchase between 1st-19th December.
Winner will be drawn 20th December.

New owners! Jenny & Geordie, locals in Whangamata for 12 years! www.whangamatacycles.com Phone 865 8096 700 Port Rd, Whangamata

Major 2024 Repco Beach Hop prize arrives

Whangamatā News was thrilled to catch up with Noddy Watts and get the opportunity to have a photo shoot on the wharf of the 2024 major prize 1966 Ford Mustang.

"We weren't going to give away a vehicle for Repco Beach Hop 2024, but being the 60th Anniversary of the Ford Mustang and Ford being one of our major sponsors, we thought what the heck.

We are renowned for doing it, so we thought we wouldn't buy one from America, there's plenty of Mustangs in NZ, and we found this one online, and bought it sight unseen but it's a really good car, and a lot better than we thought it would be. It only needs a freshen up of the interior, its registered, warranted and its had modified brakes, power disk brakes and its LVVTA certified, so its already to go, someone will drive it home on the day, 23 March, 2024, valued at more than \$50,000!

"It has an A code, 225 Horsepower, factory, 4 barrel carburettor, the original 289 cubic inch V8 engine in it with automatic trans. Andrea and Noddy drove it up from Wellington,



the car never missed a beat and sat at 65 mph the whole way and it was a pleasure to drive"

Classic Cover Insurance (a major Sponsor to Repco Beach Hop) who have been with the event a long time, they insured the car as soon as

we bought it for the road trip north to Whangamatā.

But there's more... the winner will get another 12 months Insurance with it, as part of the deal. KiwiPlates just sponsored a set of plates for it, and The Pits (Motor Sports Apparel specialists for Ford) have donated two Mustang jackets and T-shirts, key rings, hats and all branded to go with the car!

Noddy went on to tell us "entries opened up on the 1st of October and we had 400 cars entered in the first 7 minutes, making it 600 cars entered within 15 minutes, so it shows the interest in the festival is really strong

Here is the crunch...

The 2023 Beach Hop was the first time the festival ran at a loss. Noddy told us "that's really sad, but thankfully due to the kindness of a couple of very strong supporters of the festival, we were able to get us through".

The reason for that were "we didn't print as many programmes, so sales were down, and that is because we didn't get the local advertising

support for it, the fear of the road collapsing between Waihi and Whanga, kept people away, getting messages on the day, despite the beautiful day, needless hysteria".

A number of factors led to revenue being down, but we are on track for 2024, which is why we have pumped up numbers of vehicle entries for more income.

"We ask our local business to advertise in the programme because we don't ask them for sponsorship really, but every programme that's printed and we sell is 100% profit for us. it's one of our biggest single income source for the festival and we can't produce the programme without local business support". It's the only way to WIN the Mustang, a brand new Harley Davidson and \$10,000 cash

"Support us by advertising with us in the programme and join some fantastic advertisers who have been with us from day dot".

You can contact Jennie Black at Whangamatā News for all sales bookings and collateral will be out soon, or call her on 021 0232 1661 be a part of it!







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Gastropub Est. 2022





CRAFT HA

We're on holiday! RE-OPENING Wednesday, 6th December.

Our staff are having a well deserved break before what is going to be an EPIC summer. We apologise for any inconvenience. Looking forward to seeing you all back soon!

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Giving hearts



Whangamatā News caught up with Whangamatā local Barbara Collett, who has come up with a heartfelt idea at the Whangamata Club.

Barbara tells us she got together with friends Sue Green and Rosalie Bell and the trio have knitted more than 70 hearts so far, for all of us who want to remember our loved ones this Christmas.

The idea has a special twist, because when you purchase a knitted heart (from \$5) all the proceeds will go to the much needed dementia unit at Moana House.

Barbara says "I've worked with so many people in our community, and I thought dementia affects so many." And rightly so, I can't think of a better cause.

Moana House residents will also be able to come and see the tree, enjoy a cuppa and a scone at the Whangamata Club, so for the rest of us, you will see the bucket by the tree at the entrance foyer for donations up to the 20 December.

Choose your heart, enjoy the memories and give to the most needy cause facing Whangamatā.

- Jennie Black



Scholarship awarded

The strong relationship between Eastern Coromandel Community Services Trust and Whangamata Area School has been further strengthened with the establishment of the ECCST Dux Scholarship. The scholarship, valued at \$5000 is provided to assist the Dux in their further pursuit of excellence post school.

Trustees Michelle Crook, Suella Care, and Charmaine Morrissey were on hand to present the inaugural Scholarship to 2023 Dux Madison Matthews. Madison, who is heading to The University of Auckland to study Engineering and Advanced Science in 2024, was both humbled and thankful to be the recipient of this generous award. ECCST

Chair Michelle Crook said "We have spoken with the school about the establishment of a scholarship to reinforce the work we do with youth in the community. When discussing how best to award this, we were interested to hear that there was no specific scholarship for the Dux so it was an excellent opportunity for us to reward a high achieving student".



WAS Principal Alistair Luke added "We are proud of and thankful for our partnership with ECCST which includes the provision of counselling and a range of other social services to our student community. This award is further recognition of the generosity of the trust and the many community groups who support our Kura." We wish Madison every success as she heads to Auckland next year.

- Alistair Luke, Principal, Whangamata Area School



From left: Mel and Tony Matthews (Madison's Parents), Suella Care ECCST Trustee), Madison Matthews (WAS Dux 2023), Alistair Luke (WAS Principal), Michelle Crook (ECCST Chair), Charmine Morrissey (ECCST Trustee).



Hilda celebrates 106 years

"I woke up at five past 12, and I thought... Gosh, I'm 106!" Hilda and her close family invited Whangamatā News to lunch, recently, to celebrate another huge milestone for Hilda Simmons.

Hilda was born in Morrinsville on November 15, 1917. A special day indeed.

Her parents moved to Whangamatā

in 1948, buying a small home, initially, on Ocean Road for just 45 pounds!

Hilda has the best of care living with her son, John, and daughter-in-law, Marie, in Ocean Road, Whangamatā.

John tells us that Hilda's Mum lived to 102 years and her grandmother 100 years, and neither elderly ladies took any medications.





When we asked if Hilda has any hobbies, he tells us that she has always been a great reader, but mostly her children and grandchildren filled her busy days.

Hilda's husband was in the Bomber Command in WWII and lost his hearing through the noise of the aeroplanes and was sent home early, where the pair married. There was no job for him, consequently he joined the forestry north of Whangamatā because he was deaf. It was unlikely he didn't hear 'stand clear!'.

They gave a small unit to Hilda, in Hamilton, and the pair would commute to each other on weekends. Catching the train from Frankton, the Taneatua Express, which dropped you to Waihi and then bus on up to Whangamatā and vice versa the following weekend.

While asking Hilda about her highlights this past year, she says "I don't want to live to 107 years, it's much too old!".

- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James

WHANGAMATA SPORTS BAR

NEW OWNERSHIP! NEW MENU!











Golf gladiator remains victorious



19 keen golfers started their shootout competitions and one golfing gladiator remained victorious at the end. Michelle Cotter won the ladies and Tom Horsburgh was the men's champion. The men's competition was very evenly matched such that on the second hole a chip off was needed between 13 players.

It was down to Tom Horsburgh, Peter Millen and Steve Goddard on the second to last hole. Both Tom and Peter laid up before the river while Steve's tee shot landed greenside. This time a three way putt off was needed. Tom was first to sink a putt, then Peter potted while Steve frustratingly missed all five attempts.

On the final hole, Tom gritted it out after two wayward approach shots to score a five to edge Peter with a six. Congratulations Tom and Michelle. Cheers to Kevin Marr for precise and timely match management.

- Don Mackay. Photo by Shaun Fay







Windies pre-Christmas crackers

The hugely successful Windies cricket side engraved their name on the Whangamata Twilight cricket trophy again as they won the pre Xmas tournament. Newcomers Pork Chops blasted 131 runs off their 18 overs. Then the composed Windies side hit the winning runs in the final over. Dave "Mr Windies" Webb won the toss, again, and naturally asked Pork Chops to bat. The Pork Chops side is loosely based around a group of golfers and they teed off with 30 runs off the first 3 overs. Michael Wickham, Kane Edwards and Josh Alderton all quality golfers piled the runs on for Pork Chops. The experienced Windies side stuck to their task and somewhat throttled the flow of runs. They significantly took wickets which helped pause





Windies back row, left to right: Jamie Barrance, JJ, Lachlan Ashford, Ryan Rogers, Dave Webb, Brad, Ben de Villiers. Front row, left to right: Ken Stilson, Jamie Carr, Karl Budgen and Marius de Villiers.

the rash of run scoring. The Pork Chops total of 131, just over 7 runs per over was definitely defendable. Despite losing key batsman JJ early on the Windies gradually progressed to the winning total. Brothers Marius and Ben both crunched their ways to unbeaten innings of 30 before compulsorily retiring. Jamie Barrance had a solid individual game with two accurate overs of bowling and a handy batting total. Windies needed only

2 runs off the final over and Brad stroked the second ball classically through the covers of a boundary 4. Special mention for Lachlan Ashford who in his first season of twilight cricket helped Windies to the title. Cheers to umpires Daymo and Nate, Ryan on the scorebook, Susie for refreshments and Greg on the scoreboard.

> - Don MacKay, roving sports reporter

Sports results

RSA 500 CARD CLUB

8 November: An enjoyable day was had by all. The winner on the day was Graeme Allen and Ann Jacob won the raffle. Christine Adams won the chocolate bar.

15 November: An enjoyable day was had by all. The winner on the day was Graeme Allen and Ann Sinclair won the raffle. Yvonne Beveridge won the chocolate bar.

22 November: An enjoyable day was had by all. The winner on the day was Lyn Dorreen and Snow Harris won the raffle. Christine Boston won the chocolate bar.

TABLE TENNIS

23 November: played at the Whangamata Club. 16 players attended and some great shots were played. Roger Wolfe was our winner, winning 10 of 11 games, Graeme Smith was 2nd winning 9 games and in 3rd place were Angie Dewhirst, John Wallace and Denise Wallace. As always lots of laughs and fun.

MAH JONG

24 November: We had 48 playing the game. Winners were: 1st Margaret Birkett, 39 points 2nd Trish Griffiths, 37 points 3rd Dianne Trembath, 34 points Lucky Number drawn was 9. Winner was Rosemarie Rutherford. Well done everyone. A nice afternoon had by all.

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- 505 Port Road, Whangamata



www.communityservices.org.nz

Safety plan vital

The local Whangamatā/Tairua/ Pauanui Land Search and Rescue (LSAR) group of 36 members were recently involved in the search for Jordan up the Wentworth Valley and surrounding area in November to support the police in their efforts.

A total of 96 LSAR searchers from all over the Waikato/Coromandel region were involved in the six days they were called upon to find Jordan in rugged and remote terrain.

Unfortunately, Jordan was not found during this time but the police are continuing to follow up on any leads.

LSAR would like to stress the following six point safety plan when going for a walk in the bush:

- Plan your route
- 2. Tell someone of your planned
- 3. Check the weather
- 4. Take waterproof and warm clothing
- 5. Take water and food
- 6. Have a mobile phone or Personal Locator Beacon - especially if going alone













Brazilian Jiu Jitsu team brings home the medals

Whangamatā News caught up with Paul Oswald on the fantastic results with medals for our small Whangamata club.

They recently sent their largest ever team of 25 to the nationals in Auckland to compete against over 800 other fighters from around the country.

Walking away with five national champions and around 15 medallists in total. Impressively they were the only club outside of the massive Auckland franchises to feature in the top 10 of results.

Paul tells us "I was so proud of our team and it was a massive effort by

Our local Whangamata Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club has growing support and trains at our Memorial Hall.

Jeremy Janny, Black Belt, Coach and Owner of the club, is originally from France, but trained from the early age of five years, the art in Brazil.

Operating for the last four years here, the club has students ranging from 5-years-olds to 50 years in the adult classes.

And there's no reason that age ever needs to be a barrier, as the martial art was created to help little Brazilian guys compete with, and defeat, bigger guys. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is completely nondiscriminatory.



Aaron in a dominant position.



Danny about to perform a takedown.



Jack in the bullpen before being led to his mat.

Jeremy tells us "Jiu Jitsu is becoming a leading sport and growing in the world - in America it's huge, Brazil, Europe, it's just picked up in New Zealand after

starting only 10 years ago".

If you're interested in joining, you can come down to see a session or phone Paul on 021 3117 08 or email him at proswald@gmail.com

The Southpacific Motel & Conference Centre









Are you looking for somewhere to entertain your staff for Chrissy, a conference, training day, or family affair?

Nestled in sub-tropical gardens, we have a purpose-built conference facility that can cater to groups of up to 25 people.

The on-site conference centre has wireless internet, data projector and screen, whiteboard and flipchart.

Equipped with tables, chairs, tea & coffee facilities, outdoor bbg area, commercial kitchen & bar area also available for use.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT Call Carly or KB (07) 865-9580 - or better still, pop down to check it out & say gidday as

we are loving meeting locals!

Santa's holiday a delight

Students at Whangamatā Area School have been busy rehearsing for their upcoming Christmas play. Written by year 10 student, Jos Watt, Santa's Holiday is a charming tale of Christmas spirit triumphing over evil.

Santa is feeling old and kids these days are getting so demanding. The naughty list is longer than ever. Santa needs a holiday and what better place than Whangamatā, New Zealand.

Drama and dance teacher Amy Russell is director and choreographer. Over 250 students from new entrants to year 10 are taking part in the production. You can look forward to singing and

dancing along with plenty of laughs.

The whole community are invited to come along and share the magic of the season at the Area School gym.

Whangamatā Lions are providing Christmas trees for the show which will be auctioned off at the end of the final show

Look out for some of the cast in the Whangamatā Santa Parade on Saturday 2nd December.

Showing: Tuesday 5 December and Wednesday 6 December, 10am at Whangamatā Area School gym. Koha entry.









Some of the students who will be taking part in the show.



Whangamata Craft Been & Gin Festival

Sunday 4th February 2024 from 12:30 1100 Port Rd, Whangamata Te Titoki Reserve Marquee



Craft beer, gin, cider, cocktails & wine from Coromandel, Waikato, Auckland, Geraldine, Rotorua & Marlborough

Dance the afternoon away with music by Tim Armstrong and his band

STRICTLY 18+ EVENT

Tickets on sale NOW! \$40 general

\$40 general access tickets available from AAATicketing.com

Brought to you by the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club

Captivating colours at the Whangamata Garden Club

Despite the recent terrible weather, Tuesday 21st November 2023 saw a display of beautiful roses competing in the annual Rose Show and the "spud in a bucket" growing competition.

Rose show winners were:

Miniature

1st Jacqui Clarke 2nd Carol Archer 3rd Chris Emmerson

Decorative

1st Jacqui Clarke 2nd Marilyn Fowlie 3rd Marilyn Fowlie

Exhibition

1st Chris Emmerson 2nd Marilyn Fowlie 3rd Doreen Spain



Carol Archer's winning rose.

Full Bloom

1st Carol Archer 2nd Jacqui Clarke 3rd Carol Archer

Floribunda

1st Marilyn Fowlie 2nd Marilyn Fowlie 3rd Sylvia Manning

Vase of Roses

1st Marilyn Fowlie 2nd Carol Archer 3rd Jacqui Clarke

Mini Medium

1st Dianne Trembath 2nd Carol Archer 3rd Doreen Spain

Carol Archer emerged the winner of Best in Show.



Carol Archer being presented with the Best in Show trophy.



Chris Emmerson in her winning hat.

Adding to the mood of the day, many club members paraded their Spring Fling hats with Chris Emmerson taking the prize for the day and Jude Eades runner-up Dianna Eastwood claimed the prize for her spuds weighing in at 1.624kg and Sylvia Manning winning the single weight with her 188g.

All in all a day enjoyed by members. However, the club is not just competitions. There are many enjoyable social activities throughout the year including an annual 5-day trip to beautiful gardens at different locations every year and always a highlight is High tea at the home of Jude and Geoff

New members are welcome. Come along to the Baptist Hall on the third Tuesday of every month from 11.00am and see for yourselves. Happy Christmas gardeners.

- Jan Collins



Some of the roses in the Rose Show.



President Kay Baker enjoying the wonderful High Tea at the home of Jude Eades.



Jude Eades, runner-up in Spring fling hat.



Your support would be greatly appreciated at this time.

Ways to help:

- · Gifts for ages 0 18
- Cash Donations
- (new and unwrapped) · Gift wrap
- Local Vouchers
- Food donations

Let's make this Christmas special for our local tamariki in need!

We encourage shopping locally and as sustainable as possible





Show Time

Gossip had elevated her enthusiasm as she purchased their tickets Eftpos card in hand anticipation in her mind

Exclusion from last years performance housebound and ill Was now not such a bitter pill to swallow

The old ticket a reminder placed carefully on the sill

Get there early her friend suggested we will secure a handy park And avoid the congestion when departing in the dark

Interval arrived as she took a breath and then another Her friend was smiling

"The show is so amazing I can't wait to return Let's have a glass of bubbles and perhaps a tasty snack We have to watch the time now

Can't miss any of the sell out second act"

- Graeme Smith

SH25A to reopen before Christmas

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has announced that SH25A (Kōpū-Hikuai Road) will reopen by 20 December.

The new SH25A bridge is another step closer to completion with the pre-cast concrete side barriers now in place and further work to connect the bridge deck to solid ground at the abutments completed.

Last week the team lifted and placed 44 barriers along each side of the bridge deck. At the eastern abutment, the team poured the concrete for the expansion joint and knock off block.

Soil nailing of the slip face above the bridge continues with night work as well to speed up progress. Drainage installation under the bridge and at the western abutment is underway.



The team also completed the pavement layers for the new road at the eastern approach. These are the crushed rock layers that will be sealed with a layer of asphalt.

This week the team will set up the reinforcement and do the concrete pours, which connect the barriers to the bridge deck and form and pour the expansion joint and knock off block at the western abutment. They will also start reinstatement of the road at the western approach.

Asphalt, road marking and barriers will be completed over the next few weeks ahead of the bridge opening, expected by 20 December.

Our Council is working with Waka Kotahi, stakeholders and the community about how we celebrate this milestone.

Share to Prepare - inquiry into North Island weather event response

The Government has opened consultation for their inquiry into the response to this year's North Island severe water events. They want to hear stories from people who experienced the storms and their impacts, to better prepare for future

The consultation closes on Friday, 15 December.

The severe weather events in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty and Tararua earlier this year were unprecedented. They caused loss and trauma to people. households and communities, and billions of dollars of damage.

We can expect more of these events. So, as a country, we need to prepare. The most powerful way we can do that is to hear from people like you; people who experienced the events, or have something to

The terms of reference for this Government Inquiry are available on the New Zealand Gazette website gazette.co.nz in the article: Establishment of the Government Inquiry Into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events.

Ratepayers seeking meaningful consultation

Chairpersons of ratepayer and resident groups from Tairua, Pauanui, Onemana and Whangamata recently met for talks with Mayor Len Salt and Deputy Mayor Terry Walker in the Pauanui

Several items were on the agenda.

- Pre-election change was "promised", ratepayers and residents are seeking change, meaningful, consultation, transparency, and accountability, the recent Whangamata Ratepayers Association Survey confirmed this.
- Significance and Engagement, the recent proposed changes to policy and submission procedures had caused concern through timing, purpose, and intention.
- Long Term Plan process, there was serious concern over ongoing annual 10% plus rate increases. Communities want to see a detailed breakdown of proposed rates for their area.
- Submission process for policy, plans etc, it requires considerable effort to make submissions that appeared to be a box-ticking exercise only and were seen by many as effectively meaningless.

Len reported of proposed changes



which should be noticed in 6 months, with LTP OPEX change starting to come through.

Addressing rate rises, Len used proposed essential large infrastructure projects as examples of major cost increases, in addition the cost of compliance is one of the high-cost items, as well as uncertainty over Three Waters.

The mayor spoke proudly of the of the achievement by all concerned to open SH25a pre-Christmas and the additional \$30million of funding sourced to upgrade the existing road whilst closed the slip was being repaired.

To improve resilience, Council was working on additional roading

packages to address one lane bridges and the need to extend to two lanes.

Len advised other income streams were being investigated, pointing out the amount of money collected by central government and the steady increase, as against the fixed rateable income by council, options to remedy this include government pays rates on properties they own, and return GST collected back to those communities.

- The role of Community Boards was a hot topic, those present felt Community Boards were ineffective as a result of bureaucracy.
- Community Boards need to be

fully involved, through networking and drop-in days, have agenda input at Community Board meetings over local issues, council staff should when given adequate time to prepare and be required to answer questions from Community Boards.

- Role of Area Manager's having some of their previous responsibilities restored, for example management of local maintenance and service programmes.
- Councils Request for Service system (RFS) was discussed, it was agreed work needed to be done on this to improve response times and outcomes
- Traffic Management was raised, seen by locals as a massive waste of resource, Len commented that this was being addressed at national level.

There was general agreement that these meetings should continue in 2024 to allow for frank and open discussion to improve consultation and collaboration, ideally in Council Chambers with the chairpersons of local ratepayer associations and chairpersons of each Community Boards in attendance.





Messy Christmas – pure delight!



Whangamatā News went along last Saturday to see lots of angels, young and old get creative with lots of arty projects, smiles and laughter from all ages.

Christmas crafts, song, story and prayer was just what we needed.

Thank you Vicar Rosie Dell, bringing more joy to our community.

- Photos Mark James











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Golfers swing in from everywhere

The inaugural Paradise Coast Golf Classic has attracted golfers from all over the upper north and will have a full field starting on 1 December.

The Coromandel is a popular spot for club golfers and the summer can get busy. Why has this tournament created such interest? The three courses chosen are quite different, the expansive Pauanui Resort, the bush rawness of Tairua and of course the stunning visual that is Titoki, Whangamatā. It's a couple friendly tournament with many teaming up also to play with friends. Finally, several of the players own or have friends with a bach in the area and getting to and from each course isn't too hard.

The Paradise Coast Golf Classic is an intuitive of Enterprise Whangamata (EW), the local business association. It's hoped the tournament will become established on the golfing calender. "It's been a steep learning curb for all of us.." said Patrick Kerr, chair of EW "... however, the co-operation of all three towns in our South East Ward has been Inspiring. We can't wait till tee off".

The Paradise Coast Golf Classic: Friday, 1 December and Saturday, 2 December at Tairua and Pauanui Resort. Sunday, 3 December - finals day at Whangamatā. Spectators welcome.

> - Shaun Fay www.whangamata.org.nz







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Any non-perishable items will be gratefully received. You can also drop any items into our Ocean Road office.



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- Well-appointed kitchen with scullery.
- Positioned well for the sun
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- Double garaging plus high stud carport for motor home /boat

View by appointment



Colin Thompson 021 723 723 View Listing: whanga.co/8273

107 Winifred Avenue

- Buy location first & maybe redevelop later.
- Easy care design property
- Level site. Zoned extra density.
- Easy stroll to the beach, cafes & shops from here

Visit websites for viewing times



Dave Anderson 021 790 488 Renee Jacobsen 021 250 8541 View Listing: whanga.co/8270

8 Mako Avenue, Whiritoa

- Presented in as new condition
- 3 bedrooms, full bathroom plus an extra separate toilet
- Sunny living area opening onto a large deck through bifold doors
- Built in 2011, double glazed joinery, fully insulated, woodfire
- Garage, carport, and garden shed, fully fenced & gated
- Easy walk to beach & surf club

Visit websites for viewing times



Dave Anderson 021 790 488 Renee Jacobsen 021 250 8541 View Listing: whanga.co/8272

108 Tuna Place, Onemana

- Very well presented three double bedroom home close to the beach
- Generous open plan lounge/dining opens onto spacious decks
- Modern spacious kitchen
- Bathroom with under floor heating, separate toilet
- Easy stroll to the local cafe/dairy, beach reserve, and beach
- Sited on a full freehold 822sqm bordering reserve

View by appointment











CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH NOTICES

SWANN, David William Malcolm (Reverend)

Peacefully at Thames Hospital, on18th November, 2023; aged 92 years. Dearly loved husband of the late Avis. Much loved Dad of Elizabeth (deceased), and Andrew. An adored Granddad of Ella, Sarah, and Juliet, Conran and Oliver.

In accordance with David's wishes a private cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service for David will take place at a later date.

Messages to:

TWENTYMANS



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Kitchen Assistants required

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Whangamatā Tides 2023

DE	CEME	BER 20	023		New N	loon: 1	3 th		Full M	oon: 27	/th
D	ate	High tide	Height (m)	tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
1	Fri	10.44	1.9	PM	1.7	PM	0.2	PM 16.F1	0.4	OE, 40	20:2
1 2		10:44 11:28		22:58 23:42	1.7	4:18 5:01	0.2	16:51 17:37		05:48 05:47	20:2
3	Sat Sun	11:28	1.8	12:12	1.7	5:01	0.3	18:23	0.4	05:47	20:2
4	Mon	0:27	1.6	12:56	1.7	6:27	0.4	19:08	0.5	05:47	20:2
5	Tue	1:13	1.6	13:41	1.7	7:12	0.4	19:54	0.5	05:47	20:2
6	Wed	2:01	1.5	14:27	1.7	7:59	0.5	20:41	0.5	05:47	20:2
7	Thu	2:52	1.5	15:14	1.6	8:49	0.5	21:30	0.5	05:47	20:2
8	Fri	3:46	1.5	16:02	1.6	9:42	0.6	22:20	0.5	05:47	20:2
9	Sat	4:41	1.5	16:52	1.6	10:36	0.6	23:10	0.5	05:47	20:2
10	Sun	5:35	1.6	17:41	1.7	11:29	0.6	0:01	0.4	05:47	20:2
11	Mon	6:27	1.7	18:31	1.7	11.20	0.0	12:21	0.5	05:47	20:3
12	Tue	7:16	1.7	19:21	1.7	0:48	0.4	13:12	0.5	05:47	20:3
13	Wed	8:05	1.8	20:11	1.8	1:36	0.3	14:02	0.4	05:47	20:3
14	Thu	8:52	1.9	21:01	1.8	2:24	0.2	14:52	0.4	05:47	20:3
15	Fri	9:40	1.9	21:51	1.8	3:11	0.2	15:42	0.3	05:48	20:3
16	Sat	10:28	1.9	22:41	1.8	3:59	0.2	16:32	0.3	05:48	20:3
17	Sun	11:18	2.0	23:33	1.8	4:47	0.2	17:24	0.3	05:48	20:3
18	Mon			12:09	2.0	5:37	0.2	18:16	0.3	05:49	20:3
19	Tue	0:27	1.8	13:01	1.9	6:30	0.2	19:10	0.3	05:49	20:3
20	Wed	1:22	1.8	13:55	1.9	7:25	0.3	20:05	0.3	05:49	20:3
21	Thu	2:21	1.8	14:50	1.9	8:22	0.3	21:02	0.3	05:50	20:3
22	Fri	3:22	1.7	15:47	1.8	9:23	0.4	21:59	0.3	05:50	20:3
23	Sat	4:24	1.7	16:43	1.8	10:24	0.4	22:57	0.3	05:51	20:3
24	Sun	5:25	1.8	17:40	1.8	11:24	0.4	23:54	0.3	05:51	20:3
25	Mon	6:22	1.8	18:35	1.8			12:22	0.4	05:52	20:3
26	Tue	7:16	1.8	19:27	1.8	0:47	0.3	13:17	0.4	05:53	20:3

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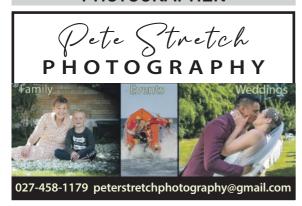
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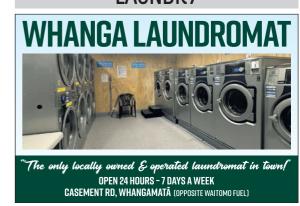


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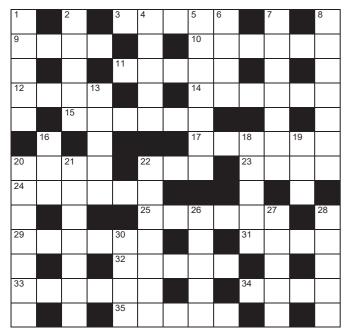
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CLOTHING



QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. Fear (5)
- 9. Bend out of shape (4)
- **10.** Rich cake (6)
- 11. Civic leader (5)
- 12. Behind (4)
- 14. Wrestling hold (6)
- 15. Former pupils (6)
- 17. Tranquillise (6) 20. Saucer-shaped object (4)
- 22. Signal (3)
- 23. Centre line (4)
- 24. Feebly (6)
- 25. Mollycoddle (6)
- 29. Silvery white metal (6)
- **31.** Concluded (4) 32. Outspoken (5)
- **33.** Decrease (6)
- 34. Minute parasite (4)

The same three-letter

sequence will complete

each of the four words

35. Allude to (5)

TRIO

___P

___ENT

IN___NE

___MATE

Down

- 1. Spin (5)
- 2. Play genre (5)
- 4. Kingdom (5)
- 5. Suffer mental anguish (7)
- 6. Challenge (4)
- 7. Honeycomb (7)
- 8. Tinted spectacles (colloq)
- 13. Pull out hairs (5)
- 16. Fib (3)
- 18. Old-fashioned (5)
- **19.** Pointed end (3)
- 20. Diminish gradually (7)
- **21.** Irony (7)
- 22. Rotating wind (7)

WORDWHEEL

S

0

- 26. Climb (5)
- 27. Restorative potion (5)
- 28. Riotous fight (5)
- **30.** Always (4)

Add one letter

9-letter word

to make a

clockwise

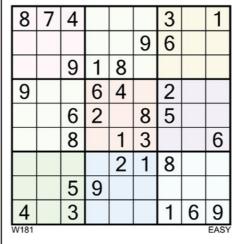
clockwise

reading

or anti

SUDOKU

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



1		2	6			4	
7					6 2		1
				9	2		
	5		4				
		3	1	2	4		
				3		7	
		4	9				
5		8					6
	6			1	7		4
W182						HA	RDER

DECODER

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

4	T10	T18	13	16	10	22	1			10		24
'	'				"		'					ļ .
23		9		22		21		¹⁸ C	²³ O	¹⁶ B	22	10
17	26	8	15	21	17	10	2	26		26		6
9		11		10		9		10		23	17	9
5	21	10	22		2	15	6	25	23	22		15
		15		16		5		15				21
25	23	21	15	8	18		5	21	9	25	21	1
21				2		12		22		10		
22		2	10	18	22	21	1		2	18	10	16
2	8	7		6		11		2		3		9
25		10		8	7	10	11	23	22	10	15	10
21	20	22	21	15		9		22		20		14
19		21			10	21	2	15	26	21	15	21

AΒ	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		В		С					0			

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

DECODER

H G

26. Scale, 27. Tonic, 28. Melee, 30. Ever. 20. Dwindle, 21. Sarcasm, 22. Cyclone, 13. Pluck, 16. Lie, 18. Dated, 19. Tip, 5. Agonise, 6. Dare, 7. Beeswax, 8. Sunnies, Down: 1. Twirl, 2. Drama, 4. Realm, 32. Vocal, 33. Lessen, 34. Mite, 35. Refer. 24. Weakly, 25. Cosset, 29. Nickel, 31. Done, 11. Mayor, 12. Rump, 14. Nelson, 15. Alumni,

17. Sedate, 20. Disc, 22. Cue, 23. Axis, Across: 3. Dread, 9. Warp, 10. Gateau,

SUDOKU

							L	81W
6	9	L	L	G	8	3	7	7
L	7	Þ	9	3	6	G	8	L
G	3	8	_	7	7	L	6	9
9	Þ	6	Э	ŀ	L	8	9	7
3	L	S	8	6	7	9	Þ	L
8	L	7	9	Þ	9	L	3	6
2	9	L	Þ	8	l	6	9	3
Þ	8	9	6	L	3	7	L	9
L	6	3	7	9	G	b	/	8

7	2	7	l	G	8	6	9	3
9	6	3	L	Þ	7	8	L	9
8	L	G	9	3	6	7	L	7
6	L	8	3	9	G	1	7	7
9	9	Þ	7	L	ŀ	ω	8	6
7	3	l	8	6	Þ	L	G	9
3	G	2	6	ŀ	L	9	Þ	8
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1	7	6	G	8	9	7	3	L

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TRIO: **WORDWHEEL: SNOOILOWE** CLI

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