

Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 162 – 20 MARCH, 2026

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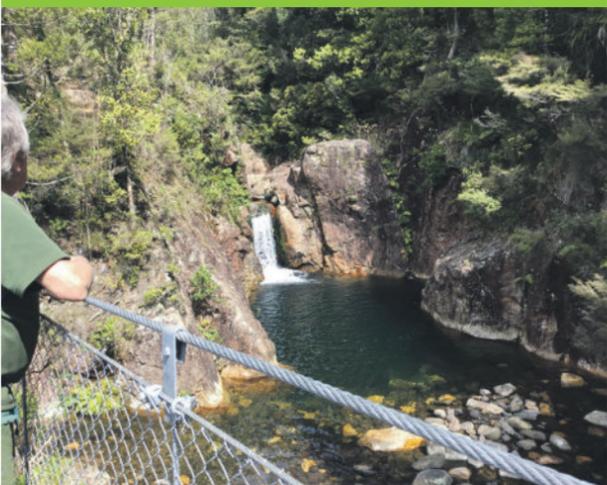


Welcome Beach Hoppers '26

from 'Our Crew' to 'Yours'

PHOTOS by MARK JAMES

Swing Bridge is gone P4



Will you help? P7



Kickdown has arrived P13



BY LOCALS, FOR LOCALS, ABOUT LOCALS.

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From the Editor

Welcome to all our visitors, enthusiasts and the lovers of all vehicles with speed.

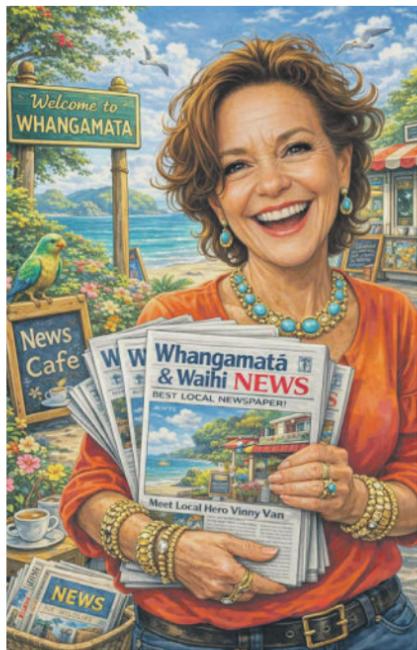
Having such huge events to our communities, celebrating the best of American cultures, rock n roll and all things that make your visit here even more memorable.

Our Whangamatā & Waihi News and our very small team of three, look forward every year to printing the 14,000 Official REPCO Beach Hop magazine, year on year and even more creative, our newspaper is no different. We absolutely acknowledge what these ticketed events means to our communities.

Beach Hop President Denis Beaver stated "even though the Kickdown is a smaller event, just for this year, we know 97% of tickets are from out of town, estimating 300 motorbikes will come. Friday night the Port Road will be closed from Whanga Books down to Rassasy at 4pm for the down town bike show, complete with a bike 'slow' race in the middle of the road. Saturday morning, they have a big local brekkie and then off on the world famous motorbike 'loop ride' right up to Coromandel town. Saturday night at 5 pm a spectacular Freestyle Moto X Show and again at 7pm. Watch out 'Smoky The Bandit' is coming!

Denis also spoke to Beach Hop, his 10th year with event and now President since November, replacing Noddy after 25 years of his incredible service. Road Closure on Port Road will remain closed until 10pm that night for entrants only.

"Visitor numbers is about 120,000 that come to Beach Hop, that



makes this the 2nd largest festival in NZ and 'the largest Rock festival outside of America'. Incredible stats indeed!"

Accommodation generates approx 2.5m to Whangamatā across all rentals, motels and the like, the largest ever, this year for Beach Hop. Visitor spend, with credit card and card (excluding cash and accommodation) is estimated 2.2m in the Whangamatā community over the 5 day period.

"The huge prize draw of the 1967 Mustang convertible, is likely the best car we have ever had on offer and a 2026 Street Bob Harley Davidson valued at \$28k."

Get in the rock 'n' roll groove, party, be safe and enjoy our beautiful Paradise Coast.

- Jennie Black, Editor

HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel



Beach Hop is almost here

The annual Beach Hop festival is just around the corner, which means it won't be long before Whangamatā and other towns up and down the Coromandel are full of classic cars, vintage caravans, and people looking to enjoy some good old fashion fun.

Beach Hop has firmly established itself on our local events calendar and many people plan their entire year around the festival. I'm always impressed by the care and dedication that people take with their outfits, because it adds to the atmosphere and helps to transform our communities back to the 50s, 60s, and 70s for the weekend.

Major regional events like Beach Hop are a significant boost to our local economy, as well as our image as a premier tourism destination. The impact that they have on our region can extend well-beyond the

events themselves, especially when first-time visitors realise that we have much more to offer and make plans to visit us again.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Beach Hop organising committee who will be finalising everything before the hordes of people begin to arrive. These volunteers work behind the scenes throughout the year, as well as being on the ground during the event, to ensure everything goes smoothly. Their efforts don't go unnoticed and we're grateful that they're committed to putting on a world-class event year after year.

It's set to be a great time for our region and I'm looking forward to seeing what this year's Beach Hop has to offer.

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

Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f scottsimpsonmp

National
Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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Police Reports

WAIHĪ

Understanding Civil Disputes in Our Community

Waihi Police have recently noticed an increase in calls relating to civil disputes, particularly between neighbours. Many of these matters, such as fencing issues, noise concerns, boundary disagreements, or access questions, fall under civil rather than criminal law.

It's important for the community to understand the difference:

- Criminal matters involve offending under the law and will be responded to by Police.
- Civil matters are disagreements between individuals. These are best resolved through communication, mediation services, or independent legal advice.

We encourage neighbours to talk early, understand each other's points of view, and use mediation services where needed to prevent situations escalating.

The countdown to Beach Hop is officially on

There's a real buzz around town as classic cars, visitors, and vibrant energy start rolling into the district. This is always one

of the most exciting times of the year for Waihi — a chance to showcase our town, enjoy the atmosphere, and celebrate all things retro.

With more people out and about, roads a bit busier, and events happening across the region, Police encourage everyone to get involved, plan their days, and enjoy the festivities safely. Whether you're checking out the cars, hosting whānau, or joining one of the many events, let's make it another fantastic Beach Hop for our community and our visitors.

Clearing Up the Rumour — and Meet the Team

Waihi Police are aware of rumours circulating that the station is currently unstaffed. This is incorrect. The Waihi Police Station is open Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm, with staff available to assist with enquiries, provide advice, and help connect residents with the right agencies.

As part of improving visibility and strengthening community connection, we are introducing a "Meet the Team" feature in our updates.

First up is Andrea, our friendly and reliable Station Support Officer. Andrea mans the front desk from 9:00am to 3:00pm,



Monday to Friday, and is often the first point of contact for advice, taking reports, and assisting with everything from paperwork to lost keys.

Before joining Police, Andrea spent 20 years as a secondary school teacher in the local area, bringing strong communication, organisation, and community-focused experience to her role. Outside of work, she's heavily involved in women's basketball and is a dab hand at sewing alterations and repairs. Whether at the station or out in the community, Andrea is someone people know they can count on.

- Rachel Gillingham, Community Constable, Waihi / Waikato East

WHANGAMATĀ

Welcome to Whangamatā and, of course, Beach Hop 2026. There will be plenty of Police around over the next little while to keep everyone safe. Remember, if it is happening now call 111. If it is not urgent, call or go online to 105. Did you know, you can report most non-serious matters online now. No waiting on the phone and in most instances, you don't have to leave the comfort of your own home. Minor traffic collisions can also be reported online. Go to www.police.govt.nz/use-105

Very recently a local male in his mid 30s was arrested and charged with unlawfully being in possession of firearms. Local staff were doing mobile patrols when they spotted the male who, at that time should not have been driving. A subsequent search located multiple firearms in the vehicle, one of which was loaded. Its horrific to think these firearms were not only loaded but also driving around in our community. He is currently in custody to appear at a later date in Waihi District Court.

The same liquor ban is again coming, only this time a week prior has been included to cover the KickDown Festival. It covers from 4PM Friday 20th March 2026 and to end 4AM, Monday 30th March 2026.

A male in his early 30's was arrested and charged for an assault on an elderly gentleman recently. He will appear in the Waihi District Court at a later date.

Some good info coming into us regarding suspicious behaviour around the place. Keep it coming either direct or via CrimeStoppers.

Keep safe, have fun and look out for one another. Remember, don't drink and drive!

- Sergeant Will Hamilton, Officer in Charge, Whangamatā Police

Table Talk

New sorbet colours - just right for Beach Hop!

HUSKI

652 Port Rd - in the heart of Whangamata. Phone 07 865 7514.

Beach Hop Ladies!

We have in store now...

- Beach Hop dresses
- Petticoats, cardigans
- Stretch belts & retro handbags
- Flower Hairclips
- Hair/Neck Scarves
- Parasols

Lots of choice, colours and sizes

The PUMICE PATCH PORT ROAD Beside the SPCA Op Shop

A WINNING NIGHT FOR HELLOWORLD THAMES!

Helloworld Travel Thames has been crowned **New Zealand's most awarded travel store** after a standout performance at the recent APT/Travelmarvel Luxury Touring Awards held in Auckland.

The Thames-based agency walked away with four national titles on the night:

- Top Performing Travel Agent NZ**
- Top Performing Consultant NZ** awarded to Jen Steen,
- The Anne Waterhouse Legacy Award** presented to Jo Robinson,
- Prestigious VIP Platinum Award**

The accolades recognise outstanding excellence in APT and Travelmarvel sales and service nationwide, and Helloworld Travel Thames says the success is a testament to the passion and teamwork of its tight-knit staff and the loyal support of its clients.

Locally owned and operated for more than 22 years, the agency has steadily expanded its reach across the Coromandel and now operates from three bases, including new pop-up locations in Whangamatā and Waihi Beach two days a week.

As an award-winning local team, Helloworld Travel Thames says it remains committed to helping Coromandel travellers explore the world, working alongside clients in their own community and being there before, during, and after every journey to ensure trips run smoothly.

TRAVEL EVENT:
Whangamatā Wednesday 6 May 2026

RSVP by 1 April Essential
Scan the QR code for full details.

To celebrate the launch of the pop-up branches, Helloworld Travel Thames is hosting a special travel event in Whangamatā on Wednesday 6 May, where guests can hear from key travel suppliers from around the globe; RSVPs are essential, with full details available via QR code.

Helloworld Travel Thames
Waihi Beach Village & Town Centre Whangamatā
07 868 9260
thames@travel.helloworld.co.nz

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Parakiwai Valley Swing bridge gone! What's next?

Did you know that the Department of Conservation (DOC) has closed the whole Parakiwai Valley track, including the Falls loop track? And, as if that wasn't enough, the iconic swing bridge by the waterfalls has gone now too! That's right. Permanently removed. No public consultation. No putting it back. Our local environmental group, Earthwatch Whangamata, had one day's notice and the bridge was gone in three.

Located precariously over the first of the triple waterfalls, the bridge was a fantastic viewing point, used by trampers, families, pig hunters and our Search and Rescue. Unsurprisingly, there was no "on the ground" opposition to its removal, since the whole track had already been closed to prevent the introduction of Kauri Dieback disease. And nobody knew.

It's a little hard to ignore the obvious benefit of this track closure to Oceana Gold, the Canadian mining company, now approved to dig a 7km tunnel under public conservation land right into the heart of the Parakiwai valley - not far from the falls. But perhaps that view from the bridge won't be so enticing in the future anyway. Dewatering of the tunnel and mine, will take significant volumes of underground water from Parakiwai and discharge into the Ohinemuri catchment. Don't tell us that won't



affect the surface water.

You have to wonder where DOC priorities lie. They cut new tracks elsewhere (for little public good) whilst, for the sake of a few boardwalks around Kauri stands to help prevent disease, our track is closed. And if it's just a matter of money, there are people in our community

who would have stumped up to get the job done. But then, we were never asked.

Other mining companies are actively exploring in the Wentworth Valley and Broken Hills/Puketui Valley. How long until the public is shut out of these places while mineral companies expand their interests?

Visitors and Coromandel residents, you need to stand up and be heard! Contact your local DoC office and tell them that you should have had a say.

Earthwatch Whangamata is following up on the removal of the swing bridge. Follow us on social media for more information.

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Repco Beach Hop 2026: Important information

Beach Hop Central

What is Beach Hop Central? It's the only place in town where you can pick up all your Repco Beach Hop 26 memorabilia. We have a great selection of T-shirts in different designs, styles and colours. Plenty to choose from for women, kids and the blokes. Also, there are hats, caps and posters for sale. This year you'll find us at the Whangamata Club, just past the Challenge petrol station on Port Road. Look for the large Beach Hop Central signs. So, make sure you pop in, say hi to the team, and pick up a souvenir or two!

The shop hours are:

- Tuesday 24 March: 10am-5pm
- Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 March: 8am-5pm
- Saturday 28 March: 8am-4pm
- Sunday 29 March: 9am-noon

Repco Store in Whangamata

Our major sponsor Repco are going to join the team at JCD Customs & Marine on Aickin Road, near New World, and stock parts that old cars usually need when they break down. That's been a small problem in the past when entrants have mechanical issues as we have a limited supply in our small town. Repco will also stock car care products and tools. On Saturday 29th March Repco are also sponsoring the Hot Rod Show at the



See the 2026 Street Bob in the Whanga Books store.

Whangamata Club car park where all cars must be made before 1949 while JCD Customs & Marine are sponsoring the Classic Pickup Truck Show at the RSA at the same time so you can check them both out as

they are close together.

Catch a Bus!

To make life easier for you we are providing buses that move between the car and caravan shows on

Saturday 29th March. You'll find the bus stops shown on the map inside this programme. The longest walk from the centre of town to any of the other cars shows is 10 minutes. But for a gold coin donation you can jump on the buses to save your feet. The buses will run from 10:00am to 10:00pm and go from the wharf, through town via Barbara Ave, to the school and down to the Surf Club. As responsible hosts we are extending the bus hours until 11pm Saturday so there is absolutely no excuse to drink and drive - TAKE THE BUS!

Sunday Drive Classic Car Auction

Watching USA TV shows about auctions like Barrett Jackson are very entertaining and we have a NEW attraction at Repco Beach Hop 26 - the "Sunday Drive Classic Car Auction". You won't miss the big marquee next to the Police Station and inside you'll find a selection of vehicles on display that are going under the hammer from 1:15pm on Saturday. You'll be able to check these vehicles out in the days before the Auction - it will be like an indoor Car Show. And the team from Sunday Drive will have some give aways for visitors as well. So if you want to be part of Repco Beach Hop 26 you should be at the Auction to buy your dream vehicle!

TUESDAY	Welcome Hop with Gerry Lee — From 7pm —		ALL WELCOME OPEN: 11am Daily Sat 10am LUNCH: 12pm to 5pm Sat 11am to 4pm DINNER: 5pm to 9pm Sun 5pm to 8.30pm CARVERY: 5pm to 8pm Wed to Sun
WEDNESDAY	Tim & the Rockets — 7pm to 10pm —		
THURSDAY	Rock 'n' Roll Dance Lessons Intermediate • \$15pp - 2pm to 4pm •	50's & 60's Quiz Night with DJ Alan Booth — 7.30pm to 10.30pm —	
	FRIDAY	Rock 'n' Roll Dance Lessons Beginner • \$15pp - 2pm to 4pm •	Gerry Lee — 6pm to 8pm —
SATURDAY	Repco Pre-49 Hot Rod Show • 9am to 3pm •	Chet O'Connell & the Rock 'n' Roll Riot • 8.30pm till late •	
	Gerry Lee — 6pm to 8pm —	Toucan • 12pm - 3pm •	Chet O'Connell & the Rock 'n' Roll Riot • 8.30pm till late •

404 Port Road, Whangamata
www.whangamataclub.co.nz





Repco Beach Hop 2026 major promotional prizes

Our prize pool is as exciting as ever and the prizes will change the lives of the winners!

Inside the programme is an entry form and two of the three major prizes below will be given away in a draw from correctly completed entry forms. Place your completed entry form in one of the entry bins around Whangamata. We keep bins at Whanga Books and Beach Hop Central until 4pm on Saturday, 28 March - plus at the Ford Reserve, Williamson Park. And, most importantly, you MUST be at the draw after 4pm at the Ford Reserve to claim the prizes.

The third prize will be given away in a Repco Beach Hop 26 vehicle entrant draw at noon on Sunday, 29 March at the Ford Reserve. Once again, the entrant must be present to claim the prize.

Prize 1: 1967 Ford Mustang Convertible

There's no better way to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 than with the ultimate cruising icon - a 1967 Ford Mustang Convertible. Roof down, V8 rumble, and endless highway ahead... this is exactly the kind of car Route 66 was made for.

With the support of our incredible sponsors, the search began for the perfect vehicle. We wanted a car that not only looked the part, but one that was already registered in New Zealand, well cared for, and



worthy of being one of the finest prize cars we've ever given away. When this stunning '67 Convertible came along, it ticked every box. This Mustang is without question one of the nicest and best-presented cars we have ever offered as a Beach Hop prize. From its classic lines to its immaculate presentation, it captures everything we love about American motoring and the golden era of cruising.

The car has received a full fluid service using quality Castrol products, ensuring it's mechanically sorted and ready to enjoy. It has also been fully detailed using Meguiar's best products, bringing the paintwork and chrome up to show-stopping condition - all proudly supported by Smits Group.

To give the lucky winner complete peace of mind, Classic Cover Insurance have taken care of insuring the Mustang, with the winner receiving 12 months' insurance cover thanks to Ryan and the team.

This is a car that looks just as good parked up as it does rolling down the main street - but let's be honest, who wouldn't want this beauty sitting in their garage?

We'd also like to thank Kiwi Plates for supplying the personalised number plate, adding the perfect finishing touch to an already iconic Mustang and making this prize car

truly one of a kind.

Prize 2: 2026 Street Bob

The New Definition of "Less Is More"

The 2026 Street Bob is lean by design and loaded up where you need it. With a Milwaukee-Eight™ 117 motor, torque-tuned 2-into-1 exhaust, updated 102 mm analog gauge, USB-C charging, and standard Rider Safety Enhancements, it leaves the frills on the factory floor.

This Brand new bike will find a new home at Repco Beach Hop 26 in the Festival Programme draw on Saturday 28th March at Williamson Park after 4:00pm

Plus Prize 3: \$10,000 cash

Our final major prize is \$10,000 cash which will be drawn from Ultimate & Standard Pass entrants on Sunday 29th March just after 12:00pm. But there's a catch - they have to be present at the draw to claim the prize!



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Classic From the Top Down
Mustang, Mack Truck & Ford Racing hats.
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Welcome to the 26th Repco Beach Hop

To our wonderful visitors, participants, exhibitors, and friends — On behalf of Enterprise Whangamatā and our entire community, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 26th Repco Beach Hop — New Zealand's most spectacular celebration of American automotive culture, rock and roll, and the golden era of the 1950s and 60s. Whatever brings you here this week — the cars, the music, the sunshine, or simply the extraordinary atmosphere — we are thrilled to have you.

An Event Like No Other

The numbers alone tell a remarkable story. This year we expect upwards of 75,000 visitors to descend on our beautiful coastal town, with 1,500 registered cars and at least double that number participating in the event. Add to that 200 stunning retro caravans and 200 RVs, and you begin to understand just how extraordinary Beach Hop truly is. Whangamatā hosts the largest collection of American cars outside the United States of America — a title we wear with immense pride.

The Heart of Our Economy

Beach Hop is far more than a spectacular show — it is the single most significant economic event on Whangamatā's calendar. The arrival of 75,000 plus visitors over four days generates an enormous boost for local businesses: accommodation fills months in advance, restaurants

and cafes trade at peak capacity, retailers see their biggest week of the year, and service providers across the region benefit from the surge in demand.

Economists estimate that major events of this scale generate a visitor spend multiplier that flows through the entire local supply chain — from fuel stations and supermarkets to artisan stalls and takeaway outlets. For a town the size of Whangamatā, Beach Hop is estimated to inject several million dollars into the regional economy each year, sustaining local jobs, supporting small businesses, and helping fund community infrastructure and services. It is, quite simply, irreplaceable.

Beyond the immediate spend, Beach Hop builds Whangamatā's profile as a must-visit destination, attracting return visitors and generating national and international media coverage that no advertising budget could replicate. The events reputation has grown steadily over 26 years, and its legacy is woven into the identity of this community.

Classic Cover Nostalgia Fair — Sunday at Williamson Park

Enterprise Whangamatā is proud to once again host the Classic Cover Nostalgia Fair on Sunday at Williamson Park. With around 100 stalls and food outlets, this is a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy, and soak up the atmosphere

in one of Whangamatā's most picturesque settings. Whether you're hunting for vintage treasures, retro collectables, or simply a great meal, the Nostalgia Fair delivers.

Top Shop — Rock n Roll Window Dressing Competition

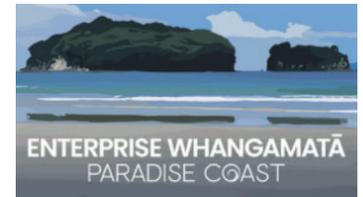
One of Beach Hop weeks most beloved traditions is our Top Shop competition, where local businesses go all-out to dress their shopfronts in the most creative and authentic Rock n Roll style they can muster. Enterprise Whangamatā offers a great prize to the winning Top Shop, and the competition draws enormous enthusiasm from traders and visitors alike.

Entries are drawn by popular vote — simply complete your entry in the official Beach Hop Magazine. As you wander through town this week, take a moment to admire our local businesses creativity, and cast your vote for your favourite!

Lemonade for Will - Please give Generously

Beach Hop has always had a generous heart, and this year we again ask you to dig deep for one of our own.

Our much admired local Whangamatā Police Sergeant and good bugger, Will Hamilton, suffers with Multiple Myeloma (blood cancer). He is undergoing chemotherapy treatment, which includes an oral medication called

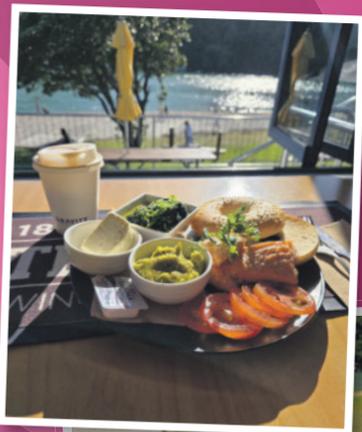


Pomalidomide. For 10 weeks, Will travelled abroad every week to receive treatment on a clinical trial, however the cost of being able to access the trail is still not cheap with medical and travel costs mounting up. Amongst this, taking time away from work and family to access life extending treatment. There is no sign of Pharmac funding further drugs that Will needs. This necessitates seeking options around the world for treatment. Unfortunately all treatments for Myeloma wear thin and Will will become resistant to the medication he is receiving. Around the world the gold standard drug for Myeloma treatment is Daratumumab. Here in New Zealand, accessing that costs \$156,000 for the first year of treatment. You have to remember here, Will still works full time to pay the bills and contributes to the economy..... Every single dollar helps Will stay around longer for his young family — and that is a cause worth raising a glass of lemonade to.

Enjoy our beautiful Paradise Coast, be safe, and Rock n Roll!

- Patrick Kerr, Chairman, Enterprise Whangamatā

Welcome Beach Hoppers '26



Our Beach Hop Hours:
BREAKFAST 8AM-11.30AM
LUNCH/DINNER 12 NOON - LATE



CLUB VAN

The Van service is available for pick-up and drop-off from 4pm Thursday to Saturday. It's just \$2 per passenger, and you can also purchase multiple trip cards at the bar.



Phone; 027 865 2582

Just Ralph



Playing Repco Beach Hop 26

THURSDAY
 6.30pm - 8.30pm

FRIDAY
 6.30pm - 8.30pm

SATURDAY
 12 noon - 2pm

SATURDAY
 6pm - 8.30pm

[f @Whangamata-Ocean-Sports-Club-New-Page](#)

P. 07 865 8704

WWW.OCEANSPORTS.CO.NZ

END OF PORT RD AT WHARF

WSLSC send strong team of 18

Oceans '26, the annual junior surf lifesaving nationals, was held at Pāpāmoa beach 19-22 February. Participants are aged 10-14 and represent the next generation of New Zealand's surf lifeguards. The event featured 731 competitors from 52 clubs, including our own Whangamatā Surf Lifesaving Club. Pāpāmoa ran a slick event, with only three weeks' notice of a shift from Mount Maunganui, following the tragic events at Mauao.

WSLSC sent a strong team of 18 athletes, including eight from Whangamatā Area School (Megan Luke, Javier Lima-Hoskins, Charlotte Oswald, Smith Ebbet, Elina Fetcher, Frankie Hight, Addy Redman and Hamish Miller). The team, led by head coach Moritz Padrutt, had been training since Labour weekend, with training during the school holidays increasing to six days a week.

Oceans comprises a wide range of surf lifesaving disciplines including swimming, board paddling, beach sprints, flags and team relays, finishing with an epic six person Grand Cameron. Our young lifesavers bought skill, determination and teamwork, time and time again, to make it through heats, semis and finals in each race.

Whangamatā brought home medals in 12 events and were lucky enough to have local Surf Lifesaving NZ board member Nathan Hight presenting the medals. Special



mention to Megan Luke for taking out the board race for the fourth year in a row.

Glassy conditions and settled weather made for a superb four days of racing. Saturday saw the crowd treated to a spectacular flyover by the RNZAF Black Falcons. Ultimately, what makes Oceans special is the chance to come together to race, learn, make friends and celebrate what it means to be part of the surf lifesaving family.

- Dianna (Dide) Harrison,
Club Manager, Whangamata Surf
Life Saving Club (Inc.)



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Deborah Padfield (General Manager)
353 Tairua Road, Whangamata
07 865 9643

MOANA HOUSE & VILLAGE

He whare ahuru – a caring safe place

WHANGA STORY COMPETITION

Do you have a piece of Whangamata's past?

Whangamatā has changed enormously over the decades — but much of its history still lives quietly in family photo albums, shoeboxes of prints, and stories told around kitchen tables.

Long before today's busy summer town, the harbour was dotted with small boats, forestry trucks rumbled along dusty roads, families gathered on simple wooden wharves, and children learned to fish, ski and surf in places that look very different today.

Many long-time residents still remember those earlier days — the open harbour channels, early farming blocks, the first baches, and community events that helped shape the town we know now.

The challenge is that these memories often remain in private collections. As time passes, photographs fade, names are forgotten, and the stories behind them risk disappearing altogether.

A new community initiative, WhangaStory, hopes to help preserve those memories before they are lost.

Local residents have launched a Whangamatā History & Photo Competition, inviting the

community to share historic photographs and short written stories that capture the town's earlier years.

Images might show early streets and buildings, harbour life, forestry and farming days, surfing history, flooding events, community gatherings, or everyday life in a smaller coastal town.

The competition offers a \$2,000 prize pool, including a Gold Heritage Award of \$1,000 and ten Heritage Merit Awards of \$100 each.

Entries close 30 April 2026, with judging completed by 30 June.

Selected photographs and stories will help build a digital archive of Whangamatā's history and may also appear in a future publication celebrating the town's past.

If you've ever said "I've got a photo somewhere..." — now might be the time to go looking.

To receive an entry number and instructions, email: competition@whangastory.nz

**Further details:
Promoted by WSAG Rob Boston and Ian Holyoake
www.whangastory.nz**



THE TIGER AWAKENS

How Mekong Foo Brought the Electric Soul of Southeast Asia to Whangamatā!

There comes a moment in every coastal town's story when something electric arrives, something that does not just add to the landscape, but transforms it. For Whangamatā, that moment came when the doors of Mekong Foo swung open, unleashing a riot of colour, flavour and unbridled joy onto the Coromandel Peninsula.

This was not just another restaurant opening. This was a manifesto.

"We wanted to create something the community would feel happy to come to, not just for special occasions, but for a Tuesday lunch with your workmates, Sunday dinner with the whānau, or that spontaneous 'let's grab a bite' moment with friends," says the team behind Whangamatā's most vibrant culinary arrival.

The result is a space that pulses with the energy of a Saigon street market and the warmth of a Kiwi beach town, where the décor hits you like a tropical thunderstorm and the food transports you straight to the bustling hawker stalls of Hà Nội, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.

The Art of the Tiger

Every great venue needs a guardian spirit. For Mekong Foo, that spirit came alive through the visionary brush of Shane Walker, the local artist who took raw, ambitious dreams and rendered them into a prowling, electric Asian tiger that now watches over diners with fierce, welcoming eyes.

"Shane was incredible to work with," the team recalls. "He took our very raw ideas and made them reality." That collaboration birthed an interior that refuses to whisper. It shouts with joy. Vibrant hues clash and harmonise. Neon accents pulse against bold murals. It is a space designed to make you smile before you have even tasted the food, appealing to grandparents and grandchildren alike, to surfers fresh from the beach and professionals escaping the office. This is not minimalist fine dining. This is maximalist fun!

Mekong Foo proudly welcomes Beach Hop 2026

As the newest addition to this year's Beach Hop line-up, they are revving their engines alongside the chrome and leather. Whether you are cruising in a classic '57 Chevy or riding a thundering Harley, swing by for fuel of a different kind, vibrant Southeast Asian flavours that match the energy of New Zealand's most iconic automotive festival. Consider this your pit stop for paradise.

Your Invitation to the Table

Mekong Foo throws open its doors six days a week—Tuesday through Sunday, from 12pm till 9pm—ready to feed your cravings whether they strike at midday or sunset.

07 214 9271 — Call for inquiries, or bring your spontaneous spirit and walk right in (parties under 10). Planning a celebration? Groups over 10 can book ahead to secure their spot in the jungle.

Join us for an inspiring evening of art, storytelling and connection with copper artist

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Oyster Catcher – determined rescue

On 5 March, Ann Costar was walking along beach when she saw an Oyster Catcher with string around both its legs cutting in and the string also tying both legs together.

A friend brought Ann a towel to try to catch him but it could still fly a

little so was impossible to catch.

Ann put the sad story up on Whangamata Notice Board asking people to look out for it and did anyone have any ideas on how to catch it.

Several people tried to catch him

but he kept flying away. Diana (Goaty) Ngawiki started going down each morning with a pole net but no luck.

She went and brought a throw net and started a group - Operation Oyster Catcher with people letting her know if there were any sightings.

So finally on a misty Friday 13th morning Goaty, Mareika and Greg threw the net and captured the poor bird. They took him to Corovets where James the Vet anesthetized him and successfully removed the string. He's not out of the woods yet but the good news is the string hadn't damaged him beyond repair. He was then taken to the Thames Bird Recovery. We wish him all the



best. So thank you to all who helped get this bird some much needed help..

And as for the person who did this to a poor bird...karma is coming.

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Rare whale beached



On 13 March, Coastguard was informed of a "large fish" on the beach at entrance 14 (Island View Reserve). Sadly, it appeared to have been dead for a few days.

The Haast beaked whale, also known as Gray's beaked whale, is a medium-sized toothed whale that can be found in the cool waters of the southern hemisphere. It is known for its long, thin beak and is considered the "typical" beaked whale. This species is characterized

by its uniformly stocky body, long thin rostrum, and gray-green to pale brown-green coloration on the ventral region. The Haast beaked whale is a rare species, occasionally sighted, and is notable for its larger and more complete social structure, as evidenced by stranding and beaching events. It is the only beaked whale, other than the Shepherd's beaked whale, that has upper teeth.

DOC had been informed.

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Safer Coromandel

Whangamata SLSC Shines at AON SLSNZ Nationals



Whangamatā Surf Life Saving Club made its presence felt at this year's AON New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships, held at Ōhope Beach from 5-8 March 2026, delivering a proud and determined performance on the national stage.

With a team of 13 senior athletes, the club showcased not only impressive skill but also the trademark grit and camaraderie that define surf lifesaving in our community.

Across the beach and water events, Whangamatā SLSC competitors pushed through Ōhope's tidy swell with intensity and determination, navigating extremely competitive and tight racing to earn several standout results.

From powerful board paddles to fast-paced sprints and tightly contested team relays, the club's athletes showed the growing depth of talent being developed along our stretch of the Coromandel coastline.

Top results included:

- Finn Freemantle — U17 Male Board Race Champion; U17 Ironman 3rd • Izzy Milne — 3rd Place U19 Ironwoman; U19 Surf Race; U19 Run Swim Run • Will Robinson — U17 Beach Sprints 2nd; Beach Flags 2nd; U19 Beach Sprints 3rd

- Madison Kidd — Open Women's Beach Flags 3rd • U17 Male Board Relay — 2nd (Whangamatā SLSC: Finn Freemantle, Daniel Lewis, Will Robinson)

The most rewarding part of the weekend wasn't just the results, but the way the team carried

themselves — backing each other, racing hard, and representing Whangamatā with pride. Coached by Moritz Padrutt and supported by a dedicated group of families, this small but determined squad stood tall among much larger Bay of Plenty and National clubs. The team rose to the occasion with confidence and determination, creating a strong and united presence throughout the event and finishing with an impressive Top 10 placing among the 44 clubs involved.

The club extends a huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers, parents, and sponsors who make training and competition possible. Their support ensures Whangamatā SLSC continues to grow strong surf lifesavers — and even stronger young people.

With Nationals wrapped up, the team returns inspired and motivated for the seasons ahead — and our community couldn't be prouder.



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WHANGAMATA FOOD MARKET
 612 Port Road, Whangamata. Ph 07 865 8282. Chicken & Chips 10:30am to 7:30pm, 7 days.

LandSAR crew attends courses



Tairua Pauanui Whangamata Land Search and Rescue have had a quiet start to the year with no requests to assist with a search in the area although there was a missing person in the bush near Thames we were not required at the time.

Our first monthly training of the year in February was held at the Whangamata Fire station where we had a refresher on the use of GPS and Radio equipment.

Several of our crew attended various regional courses in February including a two day Outdoor First Aid course held at

the Hikuai School and a Helicopter Operation course held at Pauanui.

Our involvement in the community recently has been assisting the Ramblers at the Whangamatā Beach Clean Up following the storm in January and this month we will be fundraising by having a BBQ stall at the Tairua Car Show and Beach Hop at Whangamatā.

Just some words of advice before venturing into the outdoors it is important to follow 5 rules to keep you safe.

1. Choose the right trip for you and your skill level.
2. Understand the weather and

check the forecast.

3. Pack warm clothes and extra food in case of an unexpected night out.
4. Share your plans and take ways to get help e.g a distress beacon can save your life.
5. Take care of yourself and others. eat drink and rest, stay with your group.

Have a great time in the outdoors!

Anyone who would like more information regarding Land Search and Rescue services may contact Bryan Farquahar on 021 0237 2851 or Kevin Daley on 027 7505 060

ADVERTORIAL

The perfect Easter weekend – Whangamata Art Trail

This year, the Whangamata Arts Collective is once again hosting the Easter Art Trail, offering a vibrant opportunity for local artists to open their studios and galleries to the public. Artists are collaborating with special guest creators, presenting a diverse range of works and creative experiences throughout the community. Visitors can explore unique exhibitions, meet the makers, and enjoy the lively atmosphere of art in Whangamatā.

Ten studio hubs will be open to the public with over 25 exhibiting creatives on deck to greet visitors and art lovers from all over the country. From mixed media, sculpture, fabric art, felting, visual arts, ceramics and photography such a wonderful selection of mediums on offer.

Scan the QR code to select your starting point and visit studios/hubs with artists listed, then follow the map around town to your destination.



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Art Trail

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Kickdown Saturday – here's what's happening!



A massive day and night lined up for KickDown THIS Saturday, 21 March with bikes, rides, freestyle motocross and music.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00am - Bike Registration - Port Road
- 10:45am - Riders Briefing - Summer Bar
- 11:00am - Coromandel Loop Ride Departs
- 5:30pm - Freestyle Motocross Show - Port Road
- 6:00pm - DJ Starts - Summer Bar
- 7:00pm - Freestyle Motocross Show - Port Road
- 8:30pm - 88 MPH - Main Stage, Summer Bar

A full day of riding followed by a big night of entertainment. Bring your bike, bring your mates and be part of the action. KickDown - Bikes, Music and Mayhem.

- Photos by Mark James



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Scott's News

You may have seen the announcement from Conservation Minister Tama Potaka that National will campaign on restricting the limited amount of commercial fishing currently permitted in the Hauraki Gulf.

I'm thrilled with this announcement because a consistent approach to protecting the Gulf is needed and it's essential that we strike the right balance for those who fish, dive, swim, or collect seafood recreationally, as well as commercial and customary users.

When the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Act was introduced last year, it included a provision for limited commercial fishing in two of the 12 High Protection Areas. However, this provision has caused widespread concern from people with an interest in the current and future state of the Gulf.

We've listened and we will look to reinstate the ban on all fishing in the High Protection Areas. We will also review the decision to allow bottom sea trawling in some designated trawl corridors in the Gulf.

Bluegreens Forum 2026

A few weeks ago, I attended the annual Bluegreens Forum in Wellington, which brought together industry leaders and other stakeholders who believe that economic growth and improving the environment must go hand in hand.

Bluegreens is an environment advisory

group within the National Party and has been going since the 1990s. As a former Chair of the Bluegreens, it's great to see a growing, thriving Bluegreen economy in New Zealand and businesses like Paeroa-based AgriSea are an excellent example.

I really enjoyed catching up with Clare and Tane Bradley, who gave an overview of the AgriSea journey and the exciting new technologies they are embracing using seaweed at the heart of everything they do.

Funding Boost for Local Event

It was great to hear that the Whitianga Oceans Festival will be going ahead in September 2026, with the Government providing support through the Events Boost Fund. I'm sure that there will be plenty for locals and visitors to taste, savour and celebrate as this event makes a successful return to our local events calendar.

The Government is focused on growing the tourism sector, because it's a significant driver of our local and national economy. Recently released data showed that total tourism expenditure in New Zealand was \$46.6 billion for the year ending March 2025. That's an increase of 3.3 percent compared to March 2024 and is a clear sign that our approach to fixing the basics and building the future is working.

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

Waitawheta Bridge weight limit reduced to 30 tonnes

Hauraki District Council has reduced the weight restriction on Waitāwheta Bridge to 30 tonnes following a detailed structural assessment completed recently.

The inspection found that one of the bridge's load-bearing beams is compromised. This means the other beams are compensating to support loads across the structure.

"To keep people safe and the bridge operational, we're reducing the weight limit from 44 tonnes to 30 tonnes," says Adrian de Laborde, GM Service Delivery. "This ensures the bridge continues serving our community safely while we develop options for its future."

The bridge remains fully open for all standard vehicles, cars, and light trucks. Heavy vehicles over 30 tonnes gross will need to use alternative routes.

"We know this affects heavy vehicle access at Karangahake Gorge, particularly for farming operations and freight using

Waitāwheta Road, while we continue our investigation and assess options for the bridge", says Mr de Laborde.

The inspection was part of our investigation into whether the 1960s bridge could be upgraded to handle High Productivity Motor Vehicles to improve its capacity as a State Highway 2 detour route. The findings will inform future planning, supported by NZTA funding.

We will keep the community updated as options are developed.

What the weight restriction means:

- 30 tonnes gross = new maximum weight limit
- Standard cars, SUVs, utes, light trucks = unaffected, continue using bridge normally
- Heavy vehicles over 30 tonnes = must use alternative routes

For more information, visit www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or call 0800 734 834.

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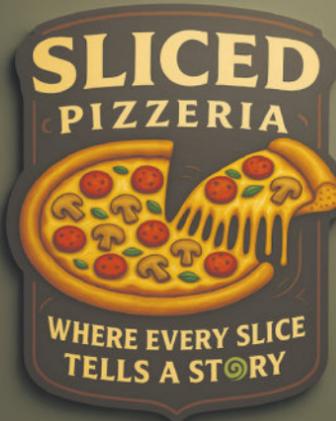
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Morse Claims NZ Women's Surf Festival at Pauanui

Raglan's Alani Morse triumphed at the New Zealand Women's Surfing Festival this weekend taking out the Open Women's Division at Pauanui, the third stop on the NZ Surf Series for 2026.

The 15-year-old New Zealand representative surfed seven heats throughout an action packed day adding a runner up finish in the Under 16 Girls Division earlier in the afternoon and an appearance in the Hyper Ride Expression Session.

After three days of easterly storms and terrible weather during the week, Pauanui turned on a charm for the weekend with the surf starting out in the 1.0m range with beautiful sunshine and offshore winds. Sunday finished slightly smaller with the Under 14 Girls, Longboard and Novice divisions rounding out the weekend.

Morse looked sharp all Saturday finding the waves that offered several scoring opportunities in the often challenging conditions.

"Yeah, I kind of waited a while for that last wave, but it came in the end and I knew it was going to come and I knew my surfing ability would definitely be good enough to get that score, but it was just about waiting and it came and I was pretty stoked," said Morse of her 5.27 point ride to clinch the final.

Morse opened her account with a 7.83 point ride and finished with a 13.10 point heat total - her highest of the day.



Chloe Groube - Under 18 Girls Division winner. Image courtesy of PhotoCPL.

"Yeah, I've had a few pretty good heats today. But yeah, it was really good to get the best score in the final," she added of her overall performance.

Morse took out the final over Mount Maunganui surfer Sage Fritchley on 9.97 points, Poppy Arkle (Piha) in third on 9.44 and an injured Chloe Groube (Pau) in fourth on 6.73.

Our top young stars were amongst a field of over 110 entrants in the event with surfers attending from Ahipara down to the Catlins.

"It's really cool to see the number of girls that are here this weekend, just the younger ones coming through and the older ones too, it's really

good to get together and celebrate women's surfing in New Zealand".

Local surfer Chloe Groube secured her first event win in a year despite exiting the water with four minutes to go in the final, sustaining an ankle injury. After completing two big turns on her fateful wave, Groube went for broke on the end section but tweaked her ankle and floated to shore in agony. However, the 6.67 point ride was enough for the win with her opponents unable to best her 10.50 point heat total while she waited on the beach. Poppy Arkle (Piha) finished second in the final ahead of Sage Fritchley (Mnt) in third and Izzy Evans (Mnt) in fourth.

Lola Groube made it a double in the age groups for the sisters when she won the Under 16 Girls Division. In another major battle against Alani Morse, Groube got the better of this encounter 12.20 v 11.67. The win brings Lola's total to three for the season after winning the National Championships and the second event of the Billabong Grom Series. Gisborne's Charlotte McDiarmid made her first final of the season to finish third ahead of Jade Nias Phillips (Ahipara) in fourth.

Jade Nias Phillips made a mends in the Under 14 Girls Division taking out the division in the final minute with a 5.83 point ride for a critical backhand turn to flip the heat. Maddie Smith (Gis) finished with her best result of the year placing second ahead of Millie Dyck (Mnt) and Savannah Dawes (Mnt) who finished in third and fourth

respectively.

Te Waiotu claimed her second win of the season in the NZ Longboard Series taking out the Harcourts Pauanui Women's Longboard Division. Emma Lay (Mangawhai) had the lead until about two minutes to go when Fairlie posted a 7.0 point ride to snatch the victory in a close final. Izzy Evans placed third in her second final of the weekend with Willow McBride (Mnt) finishing in fourth.

Miriam Popich (Pau) surfed to a win in the Over 40 Women's Division, the local surfer beating her out of town opponents in Alex Monteith (Piha), Carolyn Gundy (Piha) and Fleur Blackie (Whitianga).

In a mix of participants for the Novice Division, it was the older Sarah Ling (Mangawhai) that claimed the win on her longboard over the two youngsters in Maeva Dyck (Mnt) and Fay Devoy (Whiti) with Kristin McCaw (Pauanui) finishing in fourth.

The Salt Gypsy Expression Session drew all the groms into a one heat winner takes all assault on the Pauanui waves with Sage Fritchley taking the win with her searing forehand wraps. Meanwhile, Sunday saw the Hyper Ride All-In Soft Top Challenge where the young girls had a blast, tandem surfing, sharing party waves and completing all sorts of tricks with Jade Nias Phillips and Lara Lay taking out the most entertaining performance.

The New Zealand Women's Surfing Festival pres by the Thames Coromandel District Council includes divisions ranging from the Open Women, Under 14, 16 and 18 Girls, Over 40 Women, Longboard and Novice divisions. To add some fun to the weekend, there was an expression session, all-in foamie soft top session and a skate session. Over 110 entries were received for the weekend.

The event is part of all three national series for the open, junior and longboard. The juniors and longboarders head to the Duke Festival of Surfing next weekend before the South Island Champs for all three during Easter, the Kaikoura Grom Comp on the 11-12 April then the Backdoor King and Queen of the Point pres by Quiksilver, Roxy and WSL on the 15-19 April.



Alani Morse. Image courtesy of PhotoCPL.

Friends of the School Revives the PTA Spirit

After many years without a PTA, a group of parents and teachers has come together to form Friends of the School (FoTS), a new incorporated society supporting Whangamatā Area School and fostering connections within the wider community. Setting up the organisation required patience, persistence, and many volunteer hours, from navigating the legal process of incorporation to opening a bank account.

FoTS was created to support school initiatives by giving parents and the community a way to contribute their time, skills, and fundraising efforts. One of the group's first priorities is raising funds for a new school playground — a project that will

benefit generations of children.

The group's work goes beyond fundraising too. Through working bees and small projects around the school grounds, FoTS aims to build a sense of connection, shared effort, and pride in the school environment. "Schools are at the heart of a community," says FoTS Chair Susie Artz. "This group is about creating opportunities for people to come together, support the school, and strengthen those connections."

To kick off its fundraising, FoTS has launched a community raffle featuring generous prizes donated by local businesses and supporters. Special thanks go to everyone who has contributed prizes and to sponsors who have helped with

essential behind-the-scenes support, including website setup, accounting, and printing.

Ultimately, Friends of the School is about building connections — between parents, local businesses, and the wider community — all in support of the children and the

future of the school.

Raffle tickets are available at:
Discover Whangamatā (Port Road)
W.A.S. School Office
Online at www.fots.org.nz/events

The raffle will be drawn on Sunday, 29 March at 11am. For more information, visit www.fots.org.nz.

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OceanaGold Update

20th March 2026



Changes in the Martha Open Pit

Recent visitors to the Pit Rim Walkway may have noticed changes on the southern side of the Martha Open Pit wall. These surface changes relate to historically mined and backfilled stopes from early mining activities, between 1878 and 1952, which have been intercepted during mining of the modern pit. Heavy rainfall events since early 2023, beginning with Cyclone Gabrielle, have contributed to visible deterioration in these older zones.

Importantly, this deterioration does not indicate any instability within the open pit, and it does not affect the Pit Rim Walkway, public safety, or our ongoing operations. From a geotechnical perspective, the changes are cosmetic only.

Some erosion and deformation over time is expected, and the pit walls continue to be closely monitored using multiple established monitoring systems.

You may also notice that Cemented Rock Fill (CRF) has been used to seal one of the deteriorated areas. This area of deterioration was above one of the portals

(tunnel entrance) in the bottom of the Martha pit, and was allowing rainfall to enter into the mine and was also disrupting our ability to effectively manage ventilation. Our operations in and around the Martha Open Pit continue as normal. Monitoring, maintenance, and review of these systems will remain part of standard operations. The base of the pit will also continue to be used for temporary stockpiling of non ore-bearing waste rock before that material is returned underground as backfill.

How is the Martha Open Pit monitored?

The pit walls have been monitored for many years, using a combination of established geotechnical systems and technologies:

- 3D Real Aperture Radar (RAR) continuously scans the southern wall, completing about 150 scans every 24 hours. Automated alerts notify our team if any movement falls outside expected tolerances.
- Survey prisms, more than 130 in total, are installed around the pit walls and scanned approximately every two hours to track long-term trends.
- In-ground inclinometers measure below-ground movement and are assessed monthly.
- Additional remote-sensing methods, including Interferometric Synthetic-Aperture Radar (InSAR) and aerial drone-based LiDAR scanning, provide further deformation monitoring to complement the prism and radar systems.

What is CRF?

CRF is a mixture of concrete and rock fill that forms a stable, durable material. Its use on the surface is similar to the works we already do in our underground operations. When mining near unfilled historical stopes, we often use CRF to fill and stabilise the area either pre-or post our activities. This ensures the area is safe for modern mining and removes the potential for long-term surface settlement.



Our 3D Real Aperture Radar completes about 150 pit wall scans every 24 hours.



OceanaGold Update

20th March 2026

Update on the Willows Road surface infrastructure site

Following the Waihi North Project receiving approvals in late 2025, it has been a busy start to 2026 at our Willows Road Surface Infrastructure site. This new area of operations is now officially a controlled mine site.

It will serve as an important staging and maintenance area for the project, as well as the location of an access portal (tunnel entrance) linking our existing processing plant to the Wharekirauponga orebody. Work to date has focused on preparing the waste rock stack area, establishing site access and workshops, beginning construction of the access portal, and

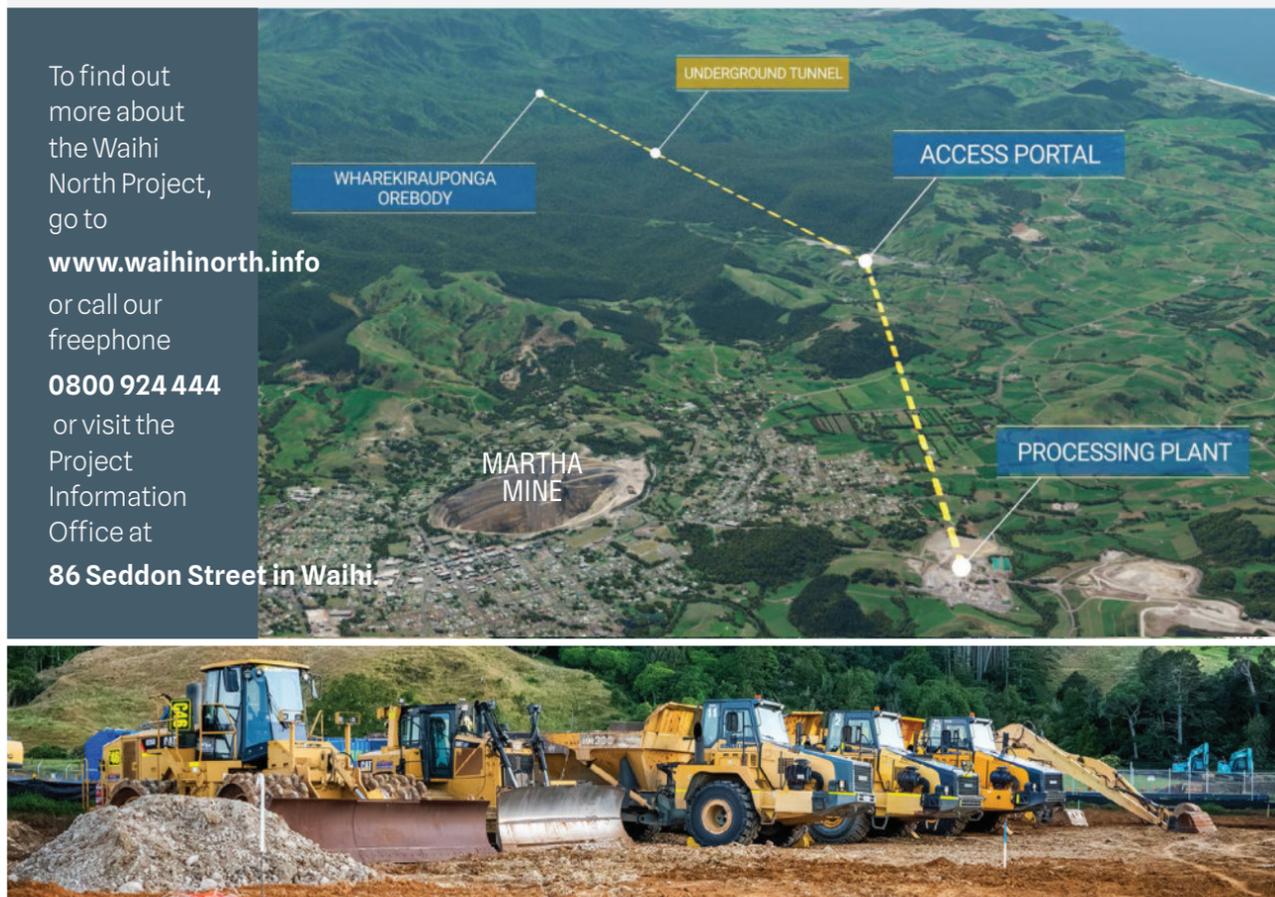
building the holding ponds needed to store captured site water before it is piped to our Water Treatment Plant for processing and safe release. Fulton Hogan is the lead contractor for these works, supported by several subcontractors, including C&R Construction and Whangamata-based EPL Construction.

It's Beach Hop Warm up Party time again

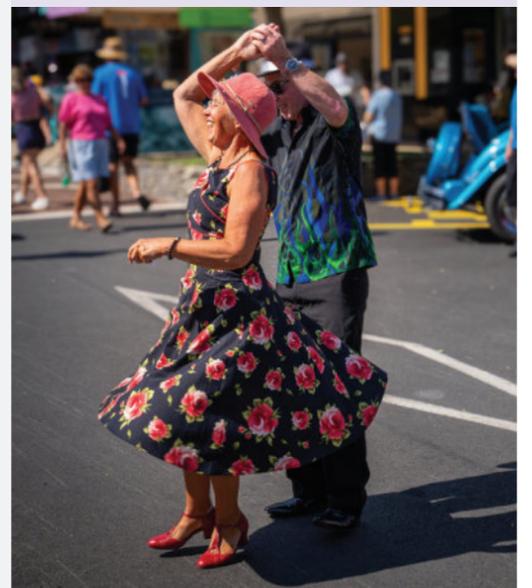
We are once again proud to be the main sponsor of the OceanaGold Waihi Beach Hop Warm Up Party, organised by GO Waihi.

The theme for this year's Beach Hop is Route 66, celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the iconic highway.

for all the info - go to www.waihi.org.nz/events



To find out more about the Waihi North Project, go to www.waihinorth.info or call our freephone **0800 924 444** or visit the Project Information Office at **86 Seddon Street in Waihi.**



Investing in our host community

Sponsorship Application Form www.waihigold.co.nz/sponsorship-donations

Sponsorships and donations approved in February

GO Waihi	OceanaGold Beach Hop Warm Up Party and Christmas in the Park	\$12,000.00
Katikati Open Air Art Inc.	Mural funding	\$6,000.00
Paeroa Upholstery WRFC	Uniform Sponsorship	\$260.87
Firewood (in-kind)	Firewood to residents in need	\$2,911.74
Waihi Contract Bridge Club	Tournament costs	\$800.00
TOTAL		\$21,972.61



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us

Community Engagement Line: 0800 924 444 | Project Information Office: 86 Seddon St., Waihi
Email us via our website: www.waihigold.co.nz

Please note: We are not currently blasting in the Martha Open Pit. Any changes to this will be notified.



OCEANAGOLD

WAIHI WARM UP PARTY

FOR **BEACH HOP** 2026

RepcO

Wednesday 25 March

DRAG RACE!



TEAM ENTRIES!

Can your team of 4 drag a mine truck tyre down Seddon St?

Cash Prizes



Sign up on the day at Go Waihi Tent before 11am or preregister by Facebook DM or info@gowaihi.org.nz

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Best Dressed Guy, Best Hair,
Best Dressed Group/Family

GO Waihi

Sign up on the day at the GO Waihi Tent

Waihi NEWS

Underground Market – where treasure is found

Recently I saw a post on Facebook, stating shopping in Waihi is too expensive, good grief, well here is my take on it.

The wonderful thing about living in rural Waikato towns is exactly the opposite. God forbid The Warehouse - the red barn never returns. You can kiss goodbye to boutique shopping, right?

Being a nut on all things treasure for my 1914 Villa, makes shopping in Waihi an absolute delight, in fact I am out and about at all our retail stores, Op Shops and Yes I also go to Paeroa for more expensive antique wee things, being on a budget for the unique, re gifted, glorified and oh so cool is my absolute hobby for my home and my friends.

In fact, as you will see on this page, I have converted an old toilet room off my lounge, into a Butlers Pantry, and Yes, all things from The Underground Market, all of it!! It is in itself a wee museum of delight.

So I went and caught up with Kim and Monique Gardiner, who run the stalls and manage all the magnificence for the last 8 years.

They have seen a lot of changes over the years which is not surprising given its unique business model.

Comprising of over 30 artists and traders, the market offers space for people and businesses to showcase their wares without the added pressure of having to cover the usual expenditures of leasing and operating a shop on their own.

This family owned business is the brainchild of Kim Gardiner who, after years of trading at boot sales and swap meets, was offered an incredible opportunity to lease the building owned by Alton Drilling. Grateful of being given a chance, Kim chose to share the opportunity with others to create an original and eclectic experience for traders and customers alike.

Kim's passion for all things antique and retro has seen some incredible items pass through her hands. She sources her stock from a variety of places including but not limited to auction houses, deceased estates and garage sales. Kim's no nonsense



approach has given her the reputation of being a fair trader and has resulted in her acquiring some truly amazing pieces.

Both Kim and Monique still get a kick out of people entering the market and saying 'wow' as they come through the door. Customer's enjoy the nostalgia of walking down memory lane and noticing items that their mother or grandmother once had. 'It can be a real conversation starter' Monique says, "It never gets old" Kim adds.

So call on in! They have Beach Hop memorabilia, clothing and jewellery, I mean the lot! And Yes they also are selling the Official REPCO BEACH HOP Magazine in store now!

Let's support local, all our wonderful retailers, be happy there is NO Red Barn and just enjoy the experience of our Waihi splendour.

- Jennie Black, Editor



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Waihi NEWS

Apple Pie Moonshine – just for The Hop

The Waikino Hotel, commonly known as the 'Kino' is always a favourite stop for Beach Hoppers and all the vehicles that come every year to the Hop.

Experience the old fashioned hospitality, in a spot as old as the hills, nestled in the wild Karangahake Gorge and a favourite stop for locals and weary travellers.

If you didn't know it, Wayne Chowles, and his infamous Kaimai Distillery make an Apple Pie Moonshine especially for Beach Hop every year.

It is mighty fine and a must have, when calling in for their five day american menu. Jan Mercer, Business Manager of the Kino told us "this year we will have Panhead lager on tap, our classic American car posters in all sizes and all our patrons will enjoy Hot Dogs, southern fried chicken, philly cheese steak, apple pie and ice cream and more on our extensive menu."

Wayne also makes a range of Eliza Claim Gins, using pure artisan spring water and botanicals complemented with organic rosemary and manuka honey.

Jan is also offering a great price, a bottle of the infamous Apple Pie Moonshine and a \$50 Venue voucher at the Kino, if you take a photo of your Beach Hop vehicle outside the pub and upload it to the Waikino Hotel Facebook.

Stop at the Waikino Hotel, it's our local and it should be yours!

- Jennie Black, Editor



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Waihi NEWS

Council public arts fund supports striking new mural

Paeroa has a vibrant new addition to its streetscape, with a large-scale mural now gracing the side of Arkwright's Antiques, made possible through funding from the Hauraki District Council Public Arts Fund.

Created by Hamilton based artist Pauly B, who has been enriching communities through art since 1998, the mural transforms the building's exterior into a sweeping celebration of beauty, story, and place. Paul brings extensive professional experience to the project, with a background in graphic design, illustration, arts education, creative community development, and directing major arts events, including Hamilton's Boon Street Art Festival.

The project began with conversations in Paeroa, where locals shared what the town means to them. Paul then developed these insights into drawings, focusing on recurring themes to create a cohesive design that captures the town's essence in a fresh way.

Two key themes emerged, the significance of the Ohinemuri River, which holds historical importance for Māori and remains valued today as a place for recreation, and the



town's distinctive antique shops. Inspired by a pair of Crown Lynn swans spotted in one of these shops, and by a personal connection to Crown Lynn, the final mural features two swans on the river. The artwork brings together the natural beauty of the Ohinemuri, the treasures found in the Paeroa's shops, and our shared cultural history.

Paul shared that painting in Paeroa was an incredibly positive experience, possibly the friendliest place he has ever worked. Over the six days, people offered him

coffee, water, snacks, and even accommodation. He had countless engaging conversations with locals and visitors, and the response to the artwork was overwhelmingly supportive. Each day just after 3pm, two schoolboys would stop by to chat and help paint a small section. For them, it was something new and exciting and they loved being able to proudly say, "I painted that part."

The mural not only enhances the character of the building but also contributes to Paeroa's evolving creative identity. Through the support of the Council Public Arts

Fund, the project demonstrates the positive impact public investment in the arts can have on community pride, vibrancy, and economic vitality.

The Hauraki District Council Public Arts Fund is currently open for applications. Whether it's a mural, sculpture, mosaic, or integrated urban design, this fund is here to help turn your idea into something real for our rohe and neighbourhoods.

For more information please visit our website: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding

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Waihi NEWS

Meg volunteers automotive skills

A campaign that worked: one local volunteer has saved the club \$1,000+ and become a surf lifeguard.

When Surf Lifesaving New Zealand launched its recent national volunteer recruitment campaign, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc. hoped it might bring a few new people through the doors.

It did more than that. It delivered a brilliant local success story.

Meg Taitoko, who recently moved to Waihi Beach from Northland to work at Waihi Beach Automotive as an apprentice mechanic, saw the campaign and reached out to the club - not because she'd grown up in surf lifesaving, and not because she'd already decided she wanted to patrol.

She simply asked:

"Is there any way I can help with your engines and gear?"

That one question has turned into a powerful reminder that volunteering doesn't have to start in the water. It can start with the skills you already have, and a willingness to pitch in.

Fast forward a short time and Meg has been in the workshop welding new engine trolleys for moving and storing the club's IRB engines as



well as helping the lifeguards with engine maintenance. It's the kind of practical job most people never see, but it makes a real difference to the club's day-to-day operations, helping keep equipment organised and improving the ease and safety of handling heavy gear.

Better still, this one project has saved the club well over \$1,000. That's money that can now go straight back into first aid supplies, emergency equipment and surf lifeguard training, supporting

the beach safety services the community relies on.

And the story doesn't end there.

Through getting involved, Meg has become part of the club whānau and she's now taken the next step and trained as a surf lifeguard. A volunteer response to a national campaign has turned into real operational support, real savings, and a new surf lifeguard on the beach.

There's a place for you here, in any



aspect of club life.

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc. is always keen to hear from locals who want to help, whether that's training as a surf lifeguard or Patrol Support, or jumping into the many roles that keep the club running, including communications, events, logistics, working bees, operational support, and more.

If you're interested, email info@waihibeachlifeguards.co.nz or message via Facebook or Instagram.



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FOR SALE

101 Esplanade Drive, Whangamata

The ultimate Beach Hop grandstand. Front-row above Whangamata Main Beach, this rebuilt contemporary masterpiece offers unrivaled panoramic views and premium luxury—the perfect high-end retreat to host your crew while the engines roar.

By Negotiation

View
by appointment

5 🚗 3 🛏 2 🛏 2 🏠 522 📏



Tanja Stevenson
027 284 0911
tanja.stevenson@raywhite.com



Kiera Curd
027 251 8422
kiera.curd@raywhite.com

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FOR SALE

312b Beverley Terrace, Whangamata

- The perfect balance of luxury and comfort in this exceptional Beverley retreat
- Elevated to capture ocean views, this home delivers effortless entertaining and relaxed family living—all with the sea as your constant backdrop.

By Negotiation

View
by appointment

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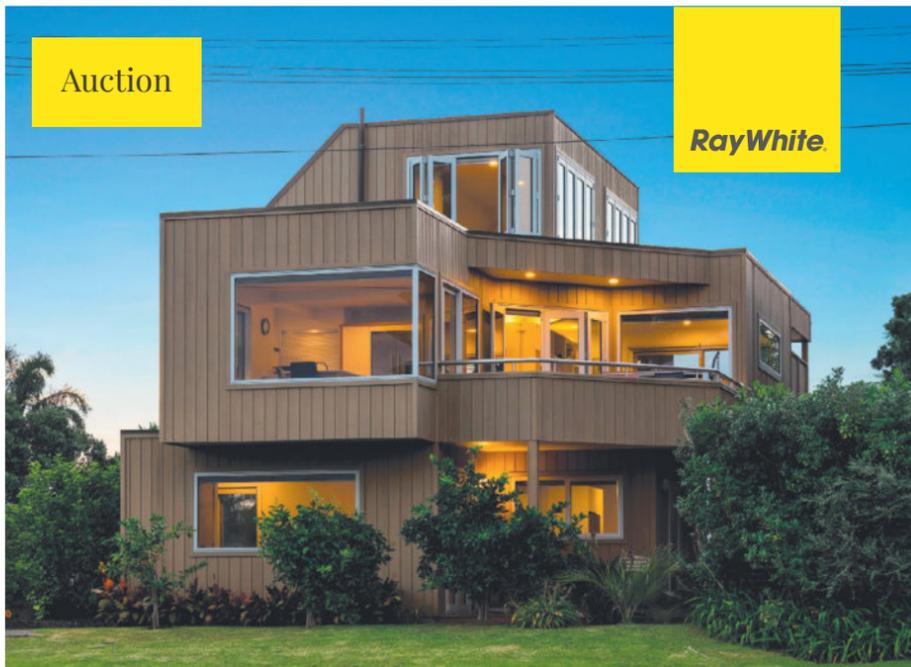


Reuben van Dorsten
021 104 6060
reuben.vandorsten@raywhite.com



Tanja Stevenson
027 284 0911
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AUCTION

1101A Port Road, Whangamata

This elevated Port Road gem offers water views and flexible living, steps from the harbour and beach. Perfectly positioned as a premier Beach Hop viewing location, you'll enjoy a front-row seat to the action—all just a short stroll from town.

Auction
11 April 2026 at 2pm
at 503 Port Road
(unless sold prior)

View
1-1.30pm Sun 29th March
12.30-1pm Sat 4th
& Sun 5th April

3 🚗 2 🛏 2 🏠



Jos Kennings
021707533
jos.kennings@raywhite.com



Sarah Kennings
021707544
sarah.kennings@raywhite.com

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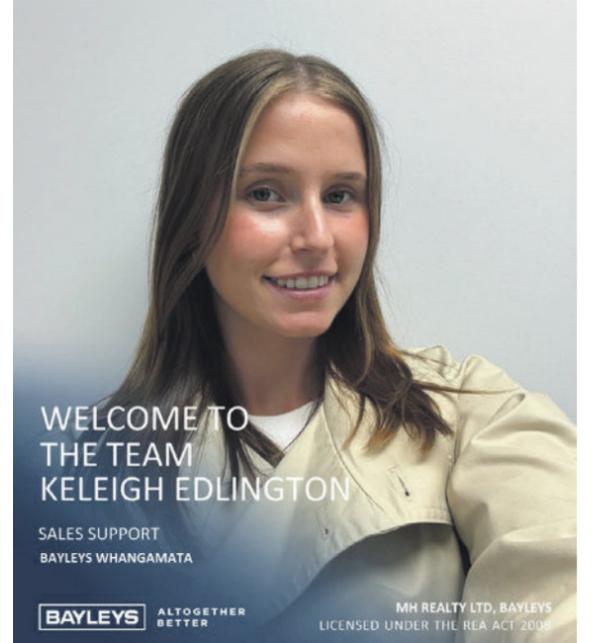
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NEW LISTING



Whangamatā 140 Moana Anu Anu Avenue

Timeless elegance

Gracefully positioned on the boundary of picturesque Moana Point Reserve, this immaculately presented residence captures timeless English charm in a peaceful cul-de-sac setting. Bathed in sun and framed by tranquil water views, the home enjoys a special outlook across the reserve where birdlife and natural beauty create a serene backdrop. Generous living spaces include both formal and informal lounges, complemented by a well-appointed kitchen with excellent storage and double walk-in pantry. Seamless indoor-outdoor flow extends to a paved patio and established, sanctuary-like gardens with direct access to the reserve beyond. Complete with a lift, internal double garage and excellent storage, this is a home designed for relaxed living and entertaining.

bayleys.co.nz/2221594

614_{sqm} 4 3 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 9 Apr 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment
Jerry Waddington 027 314 0707
jerry.waddington@bayleys.co.nz

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BAYLEYS

FINAL NOTICE



Whangamatā 137 Patuwai Drive

Claim your slice of waterfront paradise

Positioned right on the water's edge, 137 Patuwai Drive commands a majestic estuary front-row setting, where calm waters and ever-changing tides create a truly captivating backdrop. Protected by the stunning reserve directly in front, the serene, uninterrupted outlook is secured - a view that will remain forever. Step outside your front door to the estuary and immerse yourself in this natural playground. Swim, kayak, paddle board, or simply savour the changing colours of sunset dancing across the water. Set on a generous 670sqm (more or less) site with a substantial 160sqm (more or less) home, this is a property rich in scale and scope. The home has been lovingly enjoyed by four generations of one family and is thoughtfully designed for casual living, while also presenting significant opportunity to renovate or further develop to truly capitalise on this exceptional waterfront position.

bayleys.co.nz/2221568

4 2 6

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty

12pm, Wed 25 Mar 2026

501a Port Road, Whangamatā

View by appointment

Jerry Waddington 027 314 0707

jerry.waddington@bayleys.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only



Whangamatā 141 Everitt Crescent

Olive grove on the harbour

Cherished by one family for more than 30 years, the estate blends the natural beauty of an established olive grove with a substantial 216sqm residence. This four-bedroom, three-bathroom home is oriented for sun and views, with generous living areas. Tranquil, private, and expansive, it is a setting that feels truly unique. Garaging and storage are standout features, with a large internal double garage, adjoining workshop, plus a detached double shed providing space for cars, boats, jet skis, campervans, or hobbies. An olive press is included in the chattels of this offering. The extensive grounds invite endless recreation. With its residential zoning and the sheer size of the land, this property offers options to create an oasis of your dreams, which adds further appeal. A preliminary development feasibility report is available. Equally suited as a holiday escape or a permanent residence, the estate delivers both lifestyle and opportunity.

A property that truly stands apart in Whangamatā.

bayleys.co.nz/2221332

10,160 sqm 4 3 4

Price by Negotiation

View by appointment

Dale Sholson 021 636 519

dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz

Gordon McGregor 021 998 810

gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz

M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



NEW LISTING



Whangamatā 704 Otahu Road

Just metres from the sand

Positioned on a landmark 504sqm (more or less) freehold corner site only metres from the ocean and close to the estuary. This property presents a compelling opportunity in tightly held Whangamatā. Originally built in 1968 and expanded over time, the split-level home enjoys protected ocean views across the road and down through the adjacent walkway. An outlook that enhances both lifestyle and long-term value. The home offers three formal bedrooms, two bathrooms, plus an additional lower-level shower and toilet (ideal after a day at the beach) Three separate living areas provide versatility for extended family living, holiday entertaining, or future reconfiguration. Internal access garaging is complemented by a separate single garage, ensuring ample space for vehicles, watercraft and beach equipment.

Opportunities this close to the beach with established view corridors are increasingly scarce.

bayleys.co.nz/2221589

504_{sqm} 3 3 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 23 Apr 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Dale Sholson 021 636 519

dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz

Gordon McGregor 021 998 810

gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz

M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Whangamatā 109 Pacific View Drive

Owners relocating - Quality and views

Elevated and beautifully executed. Built by renowned Coromandel Homes, this substantial 218 sqm (approx.) circa 2021 residence sits on a fully developed, easy-care site. The design delivers modern comfort with a practical, future-focused layout suited to permanent living, professional couples or families seeking space without compromise. The heart of the home is a generous open-plan kitchen and living area that flows effortlessly to an expansive deck, creating a seamless connection between indoor comfort and outdoor entertaining. The kitchen is well-appointed with quality appliances and a butlers pantry, ensuring both functionality and style. A hydraulic lift enhances accessibility. With an immense internal-access garage with excellent storage and an additional toilet/basin adds further practicality. The ocean and surrounding views will dazzle you without doubt.

With the owners relocating, this is a compelling opportunity to act with confidence.

bayleys.co.nz/2221592

621_{sqm} 3 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 2 Apr 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Dale Sholson 021 636 519

dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz

Gordon McGregor 021 998 810

gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz

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- Includes furniture, appliances, security system and more

4 2 2

Auction on Site

1pm, Saturday 11 April 2026
(unless sold prior)

View Listing whanga.co/8598



Sharon Laurenson
027 662 3164



Check QR code for viewing options



Whangamata Real Estate

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Don't just dream it, live it



AUCTION



Island Views & Reserve Bonus

231B Rangi Avenue, Whangamata

4 🚗 2 🚗 1 🚗

Auction (unless sold prior) 1pm, Friday 17 April 2026
328 Ocean Road, Whangamata

- Located opposite Island View Reserve with views across the park to the Pacific Ocean and Outer Islands.
- Conveniently located with easy access to surf beach, swimming, kayaking, playground, and Estuary.
- Open plan kitchen, dining and living area with sunroom and good connection to covered deck.
- Spacious internal access garage, workshop and good storage solutions plus Lift.
- Fully fenced and gated easy care garden, lawn and yard area

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8614



DEADLINE SALE



Beach Road Bonus

303B Beach Road, Whangamata

2 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior) all offers considered 3pm, 9 April 2026

- Views of the harbour and handy to the water's edge
- Stroll across the road for a swim at high tide
- Easy access for Kayaking or Paddle Boarding
- Elevated level site with easy access and off-street parking and a fully fenced yard
- 479sqm freehold title
- Open plan living with good connection to outdoors
- Dual decks giving all weather options

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8611



PRICE BY NEG



Beach & Bay Panorama

209A Esplanade Drive, Whangamata

3+ 🚗 2 🚗 2 🚗

- Waterfront property with panoramic views of the bay
- Dual north-facing upper-level decks with sweeping outlook of beach and islands
- Three/four bedrooms with great separation & guest facilities, two bathrooms (one on each level)
- Open-plan kitchen & living flowing to decks and views
- Easy lock and leave, low maintenance property
- Stroll across to beach for swimming between the flags
- Wander to Blackies Cafe for Breakfast or Coffee
- Too easy - relax and enjoy

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8571



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The Great Entertainer

130 Moana Anu Anu Avenue, Whangamata

5 🚗 3 🚗 2 🚗

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

Check QR Code for viewing options



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



Size, Space, Surf & Sunshine

107 Rangī Avenue, Whangamata

4 🚗 2 🚗 1 🚗

- Freehold 809sqm full site
- Popular address near surf beach and estuary
- Open plan kitchen and living area flanked by dual decks
- Second lounge or games room (includes pool table)
- Master bedroom with private balcony
- Large garage and great storage
- Easy care grounds
- Great sun aspect
- Potential for future development

Check QR Code for viewing options



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



Attention Beach Hoppers!

107 Sharyn Place, Whangamata

4+ 🚗 1 🚗 2 🚗

- Ideal beach house or permanent home
- Renovated modern interior
- Excellent sun and privacy
- Spacious covered outdoor living
- Beautiful large kitchen
- Heat pump for year-round comfort
- Consented sleepout/garage
- Low-maintenance grounds
- Large 924sqm fully fenced freehold section
- Great garaging

Check QR Code for viewing options



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





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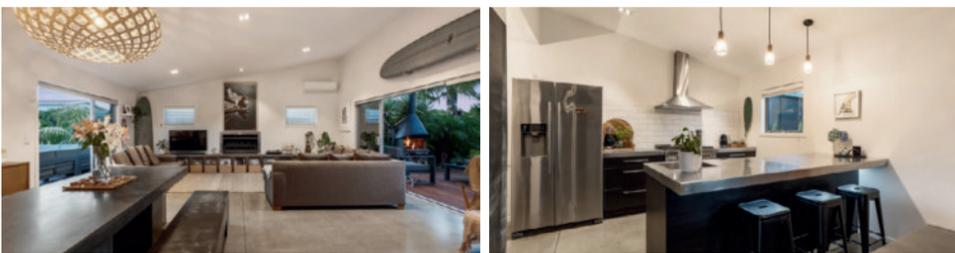
PRICE BY NEG

Living the Getaway Life

209 Kiwi Road, Whangamata

5 🚗 3 🚻 2 🚗

- Entertaining made easy with large open plan kitchen, dining and lounge
- Stainless steel chefs kitchen with a walk in scullery
- Resort-style living with tropical gardens, pool, spa and sauna
- Seamless indoor-outdoor flow to multiple entertaining areas
- Fully self-contained one-bedroom accommodation with its own access
- Freehold 809sqm (more or less) sun-drenched site



Check QR Code for viewing options



Chris & Katie Speedy
M 021 747 901 & 021 382 022
View Listing whanga.co/8601



\$1,465,000

Flexible Beach Living

215A Ocean Road, Whangamata

3 🚗 2 🚻

- Open-plan kitchen, living, and dining
- Main bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and ensuite
- Low-maintenance, lock-and-leave living
- Flexible layout with additional living space
- Barn door allows separation for guests or kids
- Off-street parking
- Garden shed for storage
- Ideal holiday bach or comfortable permanent home
- Recently completed, modern build
- Walk to Whangamata Beach and town



Check QR Code for viewing options



Chris & Katie Speedy
M 021 747 901 & 021 382 022
View Listing whanga.co/8592



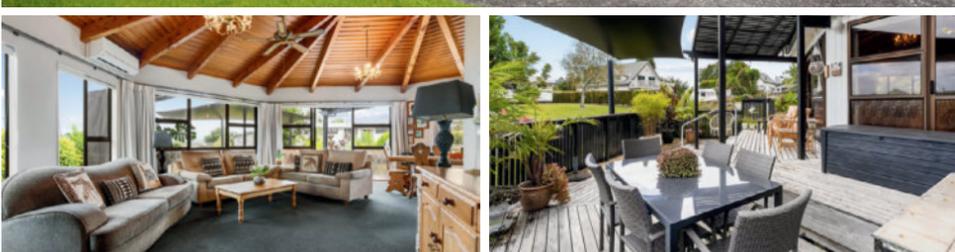
ENQUIRIES OVER \$1,099,000

Timber Charm & Easy Living

203 Tirohanga Drive, Whangamata

3 🚗 2 🚻 2 🚗

- Warm and sunny north-facing aspect
- Feature timber ceiling adding character and charm
- Primary bedroom with ensuite and balcony
- Wood burner and heat pump
- Double garage with workshop
- Separate cabin - ideal for office, studio, or guests
- Good off-street parking
- Fully fenced section - 661sqm Freehold title



Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8610



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Architectural Escape

107 Russell Bruce Place, Onemana

4 🚗 3 🚿

- Architecturally designed by Hillary Priest, built in 2006
- Exceptional entertaining spaces with ocean view
- Sunny north-facing aspect
- Cosy separate lounge with gas fireplace
- Light-filled open-plan living
- Solid kwila flooring
- Quality fittings and finishes throughout
- Private, tropical gardens
- Large freehold 918sqm site (more or less)



Check QR Code for viewing options



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



Hilltop Holidays

441 Onemana Drive, Onemana

3+ 🚗 3 🚿

- Panoramic ocean, island and rural views
- Modern kitchen and bathroom
- Generous open plan living
- Cosy wood burner
- Two bedroom cottage
- Separate sleepout & cabin
- Multiple outdoor entertaining options
- Freehold 593sqm full site



Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8618



Retro Coastal Classic

101 Titiro Place, Onemana

4 🚗 2 🚿 3 🚗

- Wide views across Onemana Beach
- Well-maintained 1970's dwelling full of retro charm
- Large, home with great proportions & potential
- 3 car garaging options
- Sunny conservatory with lift
- Two deck areas
- 641sqm corner site - freehold title
- Great floor plan
- Two separate entry ways



Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8613





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**NOW
\$415,000**

Realistic Vendors Wants SOLD!

9/106 Barbara Avenue, Whangamata

1 🚗 1 🚗

- Affordable entry level opportunity
- Sunny elevated one bedroom unit
- Open-plan living with balcony access
- Prime location

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8395



**ENQUIRIES
OVER
\$850,000**

It's a Given

303B Given Avenue, Whangamata

3 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗

- 401sqm freehold title
- Single level dwelling with dual decks
- Appeals as a holiday home or rental option
- Sunny aspect and popular location

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8572



\$935,000

Welcome Home

111 Tobie Place, Whangamata

3+ 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗

- Ideal family home with a lovely private outlook
- Spacious and sunny backyard
- Recently renovated kitchen and bathroom
- 914sqm section bordering a reserve

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8609



**ENQUIRIES
OVER
\$950,000**

Waterfront - Under \$1M, Act Fast

135B Durrant Drive, Whangamata

3 🚗 1 🚗 1 🚗

- Freehold property of 503 sqm
- Waterfront location, spectacular views
- Sheltered outdoor patio
- Fenced garden opens onto the reserve

Check QR Code for viewing options



Andrew McGee
M 021 135 5158
View Listing whanga.co/8615



\$1,049,000

Fresh, Modern, Coastal Living

123 Park Avenue, Whangamata

4 🚗 2 🚗 1 🚗

- Set on a rear freehold half site with bush backdrop
- Renovated modern interior
- Designer kitchen & spacious living
- Ample basement storage & future potential

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sarah Speedy & Jordan Dench
M 027 843 4013 & 021 053 0182
View Listing whanga.co/8612





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ENQUIRY OVER \$985,000

Relax & Enjoy

304B Sylvia Road, Whangamata

2 🚗 1 🚿 1 🚗

- Prime central beach location with great presentation
- Separate serviced garage
- Open plan living with direct access to deck
- Easy access to Surf Club & estuary beach

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson
M 021 723 723
View Listing whanga.co/8617



\$1,195,000

Motivated Vendor has Purchased

115 Chevron Crescent, Whangamata

4 🚗 2 🚿 1 🚗

- Permanent ocean and island views
- Peaceful elevated cul-de-sac location
- Modern kitchen with excellent views
- Convenient lift access from garaging

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson
M 021 723 723
View Listing whanga.co/8573



\$1,395,000

200a Harbour View Road

Harbour Attraction

200A Harbour View Road, Whangamata

3 🚗 2 🚿 1 🚗

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

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson
M 021 723 723
View Listing whanga.co/8578



ENQUIRIES OVER \$799,000

Walk to Estuary & Beach

115A Papanui Road, Whangamata

2 🚗 1 🚿 1 🚗

- Fantastic beach house with relaxed, easy-care living
- Sunny open-plan living, updated kitchen
- Seamless indoor-outdoor flow to deck
- Recently painted and freshened up

Check QR Code for viewing options



Chris & Katie Speedy
M 021 747 901 & 021 382 022
View Listing whanga.co/8588



\$1,295,000

Relaxed Beachside Living

409 Tamaki Road, Whangamata

3 🚗 2 🚿 2 🚗

- Low-maintenance and superbly positioned
- Open-plan kitchen, dining and living with indoor-outdoor flow
- Sunny private deck with shade awning

Check QR Code for viewing options



Chris & Katie Speedy
M 021 747 901 & 021 382 022
View Listing whanga.co/8607



\$85,000 Superior Cabin for auction at the Hop



This year, Beach Hop is incredibly proud to announce one of the most valuable auction items ever donated in the festival's history.

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of Mike and Neens and the team from Superior Cabins, a bespoke 25-square-metre, two-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin, valued at \$85,000, will be auctioned on Saturday during Beach Hop.

This high-quality cabin has been thoughtfully designed and built to an exceptional standard. It features double-glazed windows throughout, is fully insulated with insulation under floor and in the walls R2.2 and ceiling R3.6. The exterior is finished in durable Coloursteel corrugated iron cladding and Abdo, giving it a timeless, robust look.

Adding even more value, the cabin also comes complete with a deck and canopy, creating a ready-to-enjoy outdoor living space that makes this an outstanding turnkey package.

Perfect as a bach, rental, sleep-out, or additional accommodation, this cabin represents an extraordinary show of support for Beach Hop and the wider community.

The Cabin will be onsite at Beach Hop Central for the Beach Hop week for viewing. For any pre auction enquiries please contact info@superiorcabins.co.nz

Make sure you're there on Saturday — this is an auction you won't want to miss.

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Whangamatā Tides 2026

MARCH 2026										
New Moon: 4 th Full Moon: 19 th										
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
	AM		PM		AM		PM			
20	Fri	8:49	2.0	21:12	2.0	2:27	0.4	14:56	0.3	07:17 19:29
21	Sat	9:35	2.0	22:00	2.0	3:14	0.3	15:43	0.3	07:18 19:28
22	Sun	10:22	2.0	22:48	2.0	4:02	0.3	16:30	0.2	07:19 19:26
23	Mon	11:10	2.0	23:38	2.0	4:51	0.3	17:18	0.2	07:20 19:25
24	Tue			12:00	2.0	5:43	0.3	18:08	0.2	07:20 19:23
25	Wed	0:31	2.0	12:53	1.9	6:37	0.4	19:01	0.3	07:21 19:22
26	Thu	1:28	1.9	13:49	1.9	7:34	0.5	19:57	0.4	07:22 19:20
27	Fri	2:28	1.9	14:49	1.8	8:34	0.5	20:57	0.4	07:23 19:19
28	Sat	3:31	1.9	15:54	1.8	9:38	0.5	22:00	0.5	07:24 19:17

Waihi Beach Tides 2026

MARCH 2026										
New Moon: 19 th Full Moon: 4 th										
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
	AM		PM		AM		PM			
20	Fri	8:44	2.0	21:07	2.0	2:22	0.4	14:51	0.3	07:17 19:29
21	Sat	9:30	2.0	21:55	2.0	3:09	0.3	15:38	0.3	07:18 19:28
22	Sun	10:17	2.0	22:43	2.0	3:57	0.3	16:25	0.2	07:19 19:26
23	Mon	11:05	2.0	23:33	2.0	4:46	0.3	17:13	0.2	07:20 19:25
24	Tue			12:00	2.0	5:38	0.3	18:03	0.2	07:20 19:23
25	Wed	0:26	2.0	12:48	1.9	6:32	0.4	18:56	0.3	07:21 19:22
26	Thu	1:23	1.9	13:44	1.9	7:29	0.5	19:52	0.4	07:22 19:20
27	Fri	2:23	1.9	14:44	1.8	8:29	0.5	20:52	0.4	07:23 19:19
28	Sat	3:26	1.9	15:49	1.8	9:33	0.5	21:55	0.5	07:24 19:17

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Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Katikati, a sub branch of U3A Tauranga warmly welcomes visitors to this meeting April 8th - 10am - 12pm

Venue: the Hub, adjacent to the Katikati Library
Cost: \$3.00 pp to cover a light morning tea and venue hire
Short speaker: Katherine Lucas, Waikino Battery
Main Speaker: Christopher Archer, NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade in Egypt and Palestine 1916-19

CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that, the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the **Kickdown Festival 2026**, will close the following street to ordinary vehicular traffic for the periods indicated hereunder.

Whangamatā

Friday 20 March 2026 and Saturday 21 March 2026
Each day from 2pm to 11.30pm

- **Port Road** closed from Lincoln Road to Aickin Road

An approved copy of the Traffic Management Plan including road closure maps may be requested from Thames-Coromandel District Council.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE: Thu 26 & Fri 27 March. 200B Tuck Rd 8am each day. Alum window, handymans stuff, fishing gear, bikes, baby clothes, records, kitchenware, something for all.

PUBLIC NOTICES



WHANGAMATA THEATRE SOCIETY Inc

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Cornerstone House - 100 Ocean Road
Wednesday 29 April 2026

AGENDA

Welcome & Apologies
Minutes - AGM 2025
President's Report
Finance Report
General Business
Election of Officers

At the conclusion of the meeting all members and prospective members are invited to socialise and brainstorm ideas for future productions.

All enquiries to Secretary, Jude Briton
021 188 5134 or judeb@live.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of Special General Meeting Whangamata Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated

Date: 31st March 2025
Time: 5:30pm
Venue: Whangamata Rugby and Sports Club, Aiken Rd, Whangamata

Dear Members,

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Whangamata Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated will be held at the date, time, and place set out above.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this Special General Meeting is to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution:

Resolution 1: Amendment of Constitution and Re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

"That the constitution (rules) of the Whangamata Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated be amended by adopting the amended constitution tabled with and attached to the notice of this meeting, such amendments being required to ensure compliance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, and that the Committee be authorised to apply for re-registration of the Society under that Act before 5 April 2026, including making any further minor or technical amendments required by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies that do not materially alter the intent or effect of the rules so adopted."

Resolution 2 - Re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

"That the Club apply to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and that the Committee be authorised to take all necessary steps to give effect to that re-registration, including filing the adopted Constitution and any required documentation with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies."

Background

The Incorporated Societies

Act 2022 requires all existing incorporated societies to adopt a compliant constitution and apply for re-registration by 5 April 2026.

If re-registration is not completed by that date, the Society may be removed from the register.

The Board recommends that members approve the proposed resolution to allow the Society to meet its statutory obligations and continue operating without interruption.

A copy of the proposed Constitution is attached to this Notice.

Meeting Procedure (Constitutional Requirements)

In accordance with the Society's constitution:

1. Eligibility to attend and vote: All financial members are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting
2. Quorum: A quorum for a general meeting is not less than twenty (20) members
3. Voting:
 - a) Each member present is entitled to one vote
 - b) Voting will be by show of hands, unless a majority of members present require a secret ballot
 - c) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair has a casting as well as a deliberative vote
4. Resolution threshold:
 - a) The resolution will be carried if passed by a two thirds majority of members present and entitled to vote
5. Notice:
 - a) This notice specifies the intention to propose the resolution, as required for amendments to the rules

Documents Available to Members

A full copy of the proposed amended constitution, as intended to be adopted if the resolution is passed, is attached to this Notice.

By order of the Committee,
Michael Fleming, President
20 March, 2026



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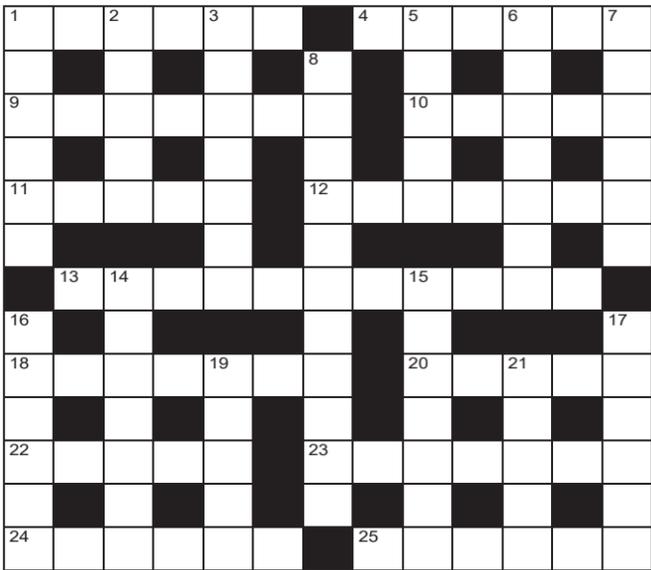
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AUCTION:
Onsite, 2pm Sunday 26 April 2026
Call for inspection

QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
 1. Find (6)
 4. Actor's notes (6)
 9. Height-induced dizziness (7)
 10. Pale-faced (5)
 11. Tiny spot (5)
 12. Hard-wearing (7)
 13. Diploma (11)
 18. Ban on trade (7)
 20. Hire (5)
 22. Killed (5)
 23. Of little importance (7)
 24. Israeli currency unit (6)
 25. Eagerly (6)
- Down**
 1. Extravagant (6)
 2. Arc (5)
 3. Cheap piece of jewellery (7)
 5. Preside over a meeting (5)
 6. Restrict (7)
 7. Soft, delicate (6)
 8. News spread orally (4-2-5)
 14. Hug (7)
 15. Come together violently (7)
 16. Against (6)
 17. Actually (6)
 19. Scope (5)
 21. Bird-like (5)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SOLUTIONS



DECODER



CRYPTIC

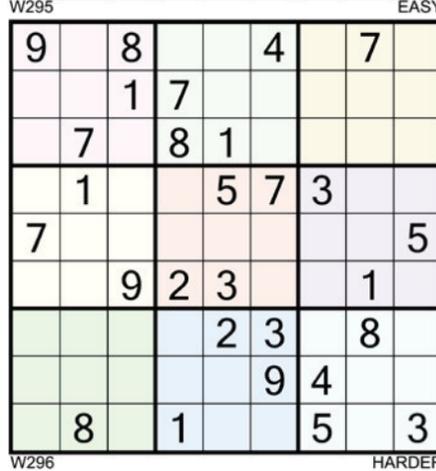
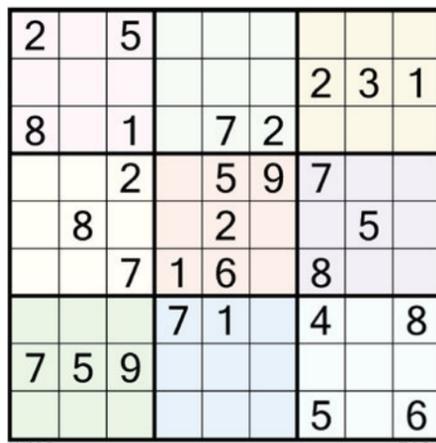
- Across:** 6. Demonstration, 8. Up in arms, 9. Ilex, 10. Keyring, 12. Alias, 14. Stork, 16. Somewhat, 19. Fuss, 20. Lifetime, 22. Standard-hamps.
Down: 1. Heap, 2. Corner, 3. Tsarina, 4. Press, 5. At will, 7. Oregon, 11. Entrust, 13. Confide, 15. Resent, 17. Entrap, 18. Pleat, 21. Mope.

CROSSWORD

- Across:** 1. Locate, 4. Script, 9. Vertigo, 10. Ashen, 11. Speak, 12. Durable, 13. Certificate, 18. Embargo, 20. Lease, 22. Slain.
Down: 1. Lavish, 2. Curve, 3. Trinket, 5. Chair, 6. Inhibit, 7. Tender, 8. Word-of-mouth, 14. Embrace, 15. Collide, 16. Versus, 17. Range, 21. Avian.

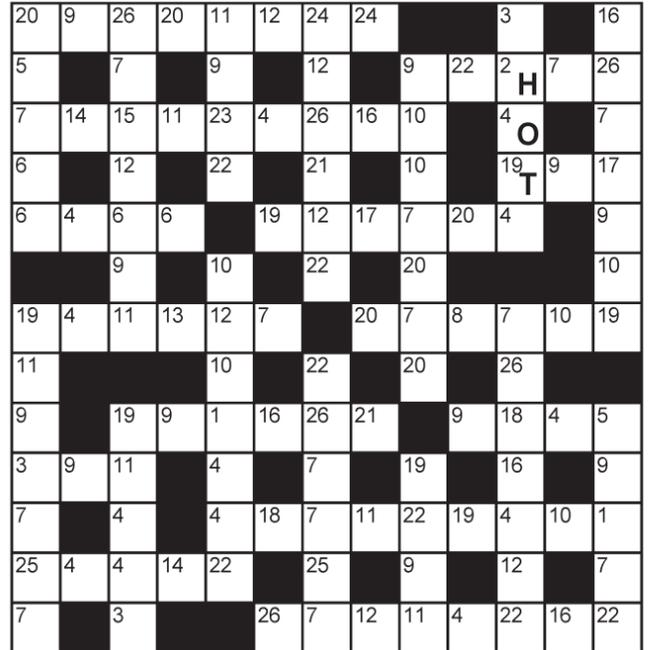
SUDOKU

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



DECODER

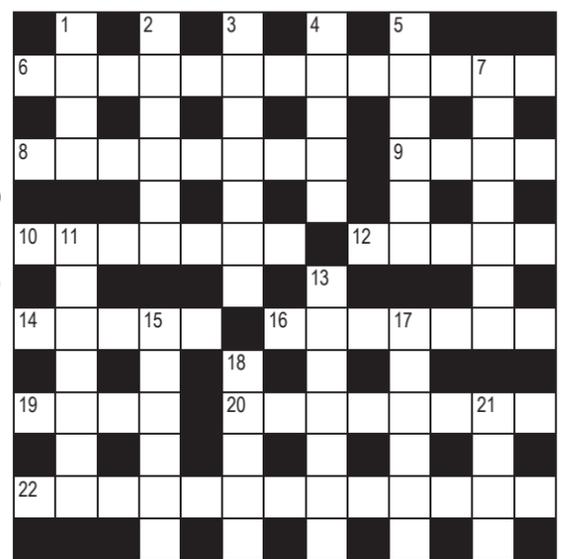
Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



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

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- Across**
 6. Show protest (13)
 8. Ruins map and has you reading the riot act! (2,2,4)
 9. Holly gets a kiss on the French island (4)
 10. Security device was found in the main circus arena reportedly (7)
 12. American lady is actually someone initially different (5)
 14. A baby bird (5)
 16. Hoe and sown, in a way (7)
 19. Too much concern about display of excitement (4)
 20. Limit fee foolishly from the earliest till late (8)
 22. Normal lights for one night stands? (8-5)
- Down**
 1. No casket for cheapskate – just a big mound (4)
 2. Where you take turns (6)
 3. Sinatra was really a woman! (7)
 4. Mangle the reporters (5)
 5. Where you may find what's left whenever you want (2,4)
 7. Regan gets a couple of rings about Herb (7)
 11. What you wouldn't do about nutters! ... (7)
 13. ... or if conned, maybe, without direction (7)
 15. Against being posted for a second time (6)
 17. Catch by making parent perhaps (6)



18. To be part of the fold you need to exercise around the paddock (5)
 21. A number fall off the scooter and become sad (4)

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ONLY \$25.00

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CRAFT HAUS
 Gastropub Est. 2022

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