

PARADISE COAST

Whangamatā NEWS

ISSUE 69 – 10 JUNE, 2022

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Noddy Watts M.N.Z.M. – Outstanding Service

PAGE 3

Photo by Mark James



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Welcome to the first June 2022 edition of Whangamatā NEWS

– a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals

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For advertising queries, contact Jennie Black



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We welcome your letters, articles, photos & news tips

- We ask that articles be no more than 250 words, although exceptions can be made.
- Photos should be high resolution and in focus.

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



ARHT rescues report – May 2022

2 May: Thames Crew tasked to Thames to assist a male patient in his 70's suffering a medical complaint and in a moderate condition. Crew were stood down enroute and returned to base.

4 May: Kuaotunu Crew tasked to Kuaotunu to assist a male patient in his 20's involved in a paragliding accident, falling four to five metres. He was flown to Thames Hospital in a minor condition.

10 May: Coromandel Crew tasked by the Rescue Coordination Centre to Coromandel to assist with the search of an activated locator beacon in the vicinity of Turkey Island. After an uneventful search, crew were stood down and returned to base.

13 May: Thames Crew tasked to assist with the interhospital transfer of a female patient in her 80's suffering a fall. She was flown from Thames Hospital to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

22 May: Coromandel Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a male

patient in his 30's suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

22 May: Whitianga Crew tasked to Whitianga to assist a female patient in her 60's suffering a medical complaint and in a moderate condition. Transportation to hospital by helicopter wasn't required and crew returned to base.

28 May: Manaia Crew tasked to Manaia to assist a male patient in his 50's involved in a motor vehicle accident. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

29 May: Coromandel Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a female patient in her 60's suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

29 May: Whangamata Crew tasked to Whangamata to assist a boy suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a critical condition.

Emergency numbers

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The Whangamata Lions were once again sizzling sausages and fundraising with the book fair held on Queen's Birthday weekend.

Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
 0800 550 330
 mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
 scottsimpson.co.nz
 scottsimpsonmp



Authorised by Scott Simpson,
614 Pollen St, Thames.



Just a car-guy from Whangamata

Whangamatā News had the honour of interviewing Noddy Watts MNZM, following the Order of Merit Investiture at Government House in Auckland on 30 May.

A long process that started with the Queen's Birthday honours last year when it was announced, differing and extremely honourable awards, given in a hierarchy, making Noddy a Member of New Zealand Order of Merit.

A confidential process, but he did have some awareness of it, because a lot of information needed to be gathered and researching supporting evidence, information from our Mayor, Beach Hop Sponsors, TCDC and so many more with the writing of endorsement letters.

The process goes back nearly two years and on 6 April last year, Noddy received an email, which he initially thought was spam.

But then he realised it was from a government site, telling him he was nominated and that they wanted to accept him for New Zealand Order of Merit - which then must be approved by our Queen at that level.

Because of Covid, the investiture was postponed twice with various traffic light levels, so Queen's Birthday 2022 was the date he chose to go to Government House in Auckland, to time it with family members of five to attend - Andrea,



Noddy Watts and his fiancé Andrea.

their daughters and his sister, who could be there on that day.

When asked if he found this a humbling experience, Watts said "absolutely, it was a real honour to accept the award and be proud of my achievements and represent our community. I was asked for my preferred name on the acceptance form so put my name down as Noddy rather than Graeme. Yes, this is serious stuff but I was delighted when Mr Noddy Watts was called to approach the Governor General."

Facing the Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro, his citation was read aloud of his achievements, the medal received, a quick chat - then

the medal is pinned on.

"I'm just a car guy from Whangamata," Noddy said.

Mr Noddy Watts, of Whangamata, MNZM for services to the community and charity fundraising.

Noddy Watts has been a member of the Whangamata Beach Hop Committee from 2001 and President since 2016. The Beach Hop is a classic car, motorcycle and music festival that is attended by more than 100,000 people and brings an estimated \$8 million to the local economy each year, with several hundred thousand dollars having been donated to local emergency services and charities since 2001.

Mr Watts was Chairman of the establishment committee for the Whangamata Free Kindergarten and President of the Whangamata Amateur Athletics Club. He has organised scooter rides around the Coromandel for charity since 2016, raising \$15,000 for prostate cancer, Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Youthline.

Andrea smiled the whole time and was so very proud. "It was then, that I felt justified for being there" said Noddy.

Noddy particularly wants to add "I just want to thank all of the people who made it possible for me to become a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit last week at



Government House, Auckland.

There was a team of people behind the nomination - thank you all! Plus my family, friends, crew & sponsors - I wouldn't be there without your support.

It was a very humbling and special occasion that I was lucky enough to share with Andrea, Amelia and Caitlin plus my sister Lyn. Unfortunately Corie was unwell and couldn't attend - we ate & drank her share!

The Governor General and her Husband were very warm and kind. It was an honour to meet them. The entire Government House staff were just amazing."

Whangamatā News could not agree more, there's no one more deserving - it's an award for the whole community, led by a local legend.

- Jennie Black

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Vaccinate flu and MMR

Whangamatā News saw the news on Influenza and toddlers recently, so we caught up with our local Practice Manager, Rebecca Townsend, at Whangamata Medical Centre.

Why are flu and MMR vaccinations so important this year?

Immunisation is the best way to protect our community from infection and serious illness. With the borders closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand has had few to no influenza infections for the past two years. This has likely led to lower-than-normal immunity against the virus in the New Zealand population and may contribute to a higher risk of serious disease.

As our borders reopen it's expected that there will be a resurgence of respiratory viruses, and seasonal viruses may not follow typical seasonal patterns. We can expect to have influenza circulating in our community this winter, but we cannot predict what this influenza season will be like, therefore preparation is of the utmost priority. Having both influenza and COVID-19 circulating in our communities presents further concerns due to the risk of co-infection, and an increased burden on our health system.

There is also concern that due to the pandemic, there has been a fall in our tamariki getting their MMR vaccinations. Low immunisation rates and reopening international

borders increase the chances of a measles outbreak.

There is a national push to get more people vaccinated against measles, a serious and highly contagious disease that would put additional pressure on a health system already contending with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination with the MMR vaccine is the best way to protect against measles, mumps and rubella. While these infections may be mild in some people, they can cause serious complications in others.

Just one dose of MMR gives you a 95% chance of being protected against measles. The reason for a second dose is to make sure the 5% who need this second vaccine get immunity.

The influenza vaccine is funded for people who meet the influenza vaccination eligibility criteria set by PHARMAC and include:

- Pregnant women
- People aged 65 years and older
- Maori/Pacific peoples aged 55-64
- People aged six months to under 65 years with eligible conditions
- Tamariki aged four years or under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness (including measles) or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

Please contact your GP practice if you are unsure of your immunisation status, have any questions about the vaccinations, or wish to make a booking.

Gallery's exhibit unique

Whangamatā News had the pleasure interviewing the three-dimensional artist John Wilson who currently has an exhibition at The Little Gallery, Port Road in Whangamatā.

In a world of digital trickery and special effects, it takes a true artist to conjure an illusion with a trusty paintbrush and canvas. All of John's three-dimensional artworks are originally painted by hand without any digital images or tracing.

He does this by painting a perspective in reverse: the parts on the canvas farthest from your eyes are the largest, and the parts closer to your eyes are smaller. As you stand away from the painting, the farthest parts seem to come forwards, and the nearest parts appear to move backwards, reversing the whole picture and creating a 3D effect.

John tells us that a three-dimensional canvas has to be made a few days prior, and that a painting can take 10-14 days.

John has a particular piece called *Imagine* that he favours with stripy tents, and is in Whangamata presently "a feel of the *Lord of the Rings*-type landscape." Although at



this exhibition most of his work is surreal, every so often he feels like doing something different, and will do a flat canvas."

"Picasso once said that he spent his life trying to paint like a child. This inspired me to mix children's art with the carefully-planned paintings of an adult artist. I always look at things through rose-coloured glasses. I like to look for the good in things, and I try to depict this in my paintings" says John.

He left his home in Omokoroa for the UK last week, to catch up with family and friends after three years, so be sure to catch the exhibition running until 17 June 17 at The Little Gallery.

"I like to think that when people look at my paintings, it will cheer them up and put a smile on their face."

The Little Gallery is open Friday to Monday, 10am to 3pm, every week, and can open for private viewings.

- Jennie Black



Dog agility fun



Roxi and Luca get to be the first doggies to investigate the new tunnel.

Dogs of Whangamatā can have more fun at the park ave reserve with the long awaited installation of the tunnel on the fun agility course.

The 1.8 metre concrete pipe was delivered on site by EPL recently and manhandled into place by volunteers and will be painted and ready for any intrepid canine adventurer to charge through.

The tunnel is part of the multi obstacle course which sits inside the huge grassy dog friendly public park which is tucked away between the Drive and Park Ave. Doggy bags are supplied in case the excitement results in any

deposits!

Sponsorship opportunities will soon be available on the tunnel and the tyre jump.

- Helen & Barbara, Dog Park Project Coordinators 0272 865 709



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I am the water, the water is me

Whangamatā News wanted to explore the Tamariki Festival plans in our small communities and caught up with Michelle Flowers, from Whangamata Kindergarten, to see what experiences they have had as part of the 2022 celebration.

Matariki takes place from late May to early July and this year has its first public holiday on Friday, 24 June, across New Zealand and marks the reappearance of the constellation.

*Ko wai ko au, ko au ko wai.
I am the water, the water is me.*

As a kindergarten community we are committed to developing our kaupapa around the interdependence of the taiao. We understand the relationship between people and water, in which waterways – especially rivers are known as ancestors.

We have been researching and retelling pūrākau as we continue to explore our local curriculum. In Mātauranga Māori whakapapa always returns to Papatūānuku and Ranginui. Kaikao recently attended the Te Korowai's fabulous sessions on the creation story.

We have been lucky enough to share some beautiful time watching and feeding some Tuna (eels), pictured above, in the river with one of our kindergarten whānau. These adventures have started many conversations about eels as we have been exploring the pūrākau surrounding tuna. They are



very fascinating creatures and an important part of our taiao.

We have learnt that a longfin eel can live in our awa for 90 years or more. At the end of her life, she treks 2,500 kilometres north to breed. Haramai he āhua – what a journey! Her babies then swim all the way back.

The pūrākau of how Maui used his magic to kill the first great eel by digging a huge hole beside the river, then saying a karakia to make the rains come down and create a flood forcing the eel into the hole, lead to us creating our own mud pit at kindergarten in which the tamariki retell this story.

Maui was so angry with this great eel he cut off its head and threw it into the sea. Then he chopped off its tail and threw that into the river. Finally he threw the middle part of the eel far into the ngahere. We now have conger eels in the sea, the tuna in the rivers and the vines in the ngahere. They all came from that one great eel.



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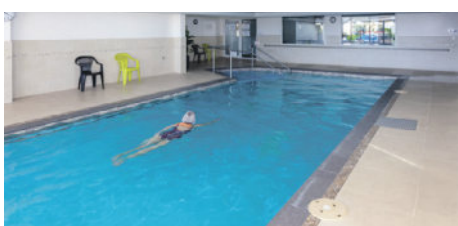
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Grey Power benefits abundant

Whangamatā News caught up with Rex Osbaldiston and Alison Hearn at the Whangamatā Grey Power monthly meeting, at the RSA in May, to discuss the many benefits of joining the Grey Power Assn, and no, you don't have to be 65! Over 50 is absolutely a membership.

While talking with Rex Osbaldiston regarding the start of Grey Power Electricity, he says that Grey Power could see the effect on people of the rapidly rising electricity prices, and they therefore negotiated a special deal with Pulse Electricity to offer lower rates for Grey Power members.

Alison Hearn added "The main objective of Grey Power is to act as an advocate for all seniors over 50 – they lobby all political parties and local government on the members' behalf."

What's in it for members?

Here are a few things Grey Power NZ have contributed to, and achieved, for their members:

- Lower doctor fees
- Lower pharmacy fees
- Removal of over 80s driving tests
- Lower tariff electricity
- A National Code of Practice for Rest Homes
- Hearing Aid Subsidy increase
- Retention of Super Gold off-peak travel
- Increased funding for glaucoma operations
- Winter Energy Payment



- The Appointment of an Aged Care Commissioner. Carolyn Cooper has been in the position for two months now, to monitor aged care.

Whangamatā Grey Power has over 400 members, a great volunteer committee, and has well supported monthly meetings at our RSA. They invite you to come along and hear great speakers.

Did you know you can also enjoy discounts:

- At over 50 local businesses in Whangamatā,
- Grey Power Electricity
- AA Insurance
- Scenic train journeys
- The Interislander crossing
- At our local Challenge Service Station

Membership is only \$25 per couple and \$15 single. Check out the website at www.greypower.co.nz.

Come to our AGM being held on Thursday, 23 June, 10am, at the Whangamatā Club (please note the change of venue for the AGM). Enjoy some cake and celebrate 30 years of Grey Power Whangamatā. Join us!



GREY POWER WHANGAMATA AGM MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Venue: Whangamatā Club 10am
Thursday 23 June 2022**

**Please join us to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of
Grey Power in Whangamatā**

Our guest speakers are:

Mark Middleton, Chair of Moana House Board of Trustees
Vivian Blake - GM Moana House
They will speak on present and future developments of Moana House.

We would like you to join in our celebrations!

For further information contact
Rex Osbaldiston, Vice President 07 865 7654
Maree Burt, Membership 021 211 9897



We want your poems!
Email them to
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Destination

I changed down the required
three gears when we settled here
The pace of things was different
The taste was in the air

Why were they so obliging?
A friendliness so sincere
Invitations to participate were a
very welcome cheer
I didn't miss the city and I really
thought I would
The hustle bustle, the excitement,
the hurry up
But was it good?

I walked to Waimama Bay today,
a little hidden gem
The short adventure, the stream
to cross, the steps, the dryness in
my mouth

Absorbing the Alderman's, the
bush, then Mayor Island in the
south

I pinch myself sometimes and
wonder if it's true

This piece of amazing Coast
available to navigate, sand
reaching to the blue

– Graeme Smith, Whangamata

Grace – journalist in training

Whangamata Area School holds a contract with the Tertiary Education Commission to implement the Gateway Programme. This programme delivers hands-on practical learning and offers students a pathway from school to further education and training, or employment. The Gateway Programme enables senior students to participate in structured workplace learning and gain valuable learning and work opportunities.

They also gain specific vocational skills leading to future employment and can benefit from making significant progress towards qualifications.

Whangamata News wanted to start a regular student column and now, at last, the first column is born! Meet Grace Howells, our new journo.

"Who are you?"

If I'm being honest, I don't quite know how to answer that yet. Not in the "oh, my name is Grace Howells and I'm 17 years old" way, but in the "what do I want to achieve?" way.

When I started at Whangamata Area School, I remember feeling completely lost. It was the first time in my life I'd really felt behind everyone else. I spent a lot of time thinking about it, but I had no idea what I was going to pursue after



high school. I did a lot of things to try and figure it out and dropped a lot of commitments to give myself time. In the end, I made the decision to pick up the NCEA Level 3 Gateway course.

Gateway programs are for Year 11 to 13 learners who want to explore job options while studying. This course gives students the opportunity to experience placements in a working environment, learn skills specific to their interests and complete personalized modules. Gateway focuses on giving students information that they can apply to the real world after graduation. Specific students may be offered a STAR programme (Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource) which enables them to access tertiary education whilst studying. In a STAR programme, you are able to experience tertiary courses and start studying towards further qualifications.

In November 2021, I booked an appointment with Whangamata Area School's Gateway Coordinator and Careers Specialist, Bev Scorrington. Mrs Scorrington analysed my course selection and asked me about my interests outside of school. I expressed that I enjoyed literature-rich subjects, creative outlets and writing essays. Mrs Scorrington utilized this information and composed a selection of modules for me to choose from.

Nearing the end of the first semester I discovered a fondness for journalism and the Bachelor of Communication Studies degree immediately caught my eye. Auckland University of Technology is well regarded nationally as graduating students are known to pick up the top jobs in New Zealand's most prestigious media outlets. Next year, I intend to pursue this qualification, majoring in Journalism.

As my workplace experience for 2022, I am honored to be given the opportunity to work under Jennie Black, owner of *Whangamata News*. This will offer me invaluable workplace experience that will help me establish a career in this competitive industry. I am inspired by Jennie's dedication towards the paper and excited to see what the next 10 weeks will bring.

– Grace Howells, Journalist-in-training

cheers

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A2B Signs now open

Whangamatā News had the pleasure of welcoming another new business to our central retail district. A2B Signs is new in the arcade, located next to Chilli Cove, and is now open for business.

Meet Amba McFarland and fiancé Brendon Fredericksen. They originally bought Whitianga signs about seven years ago. After giving it a successful spruce up, the two decided to rebrand and offer a mobile service, which met customer needs... Amba and Brendon are always moving from A to B!

Now you can find them at DJ's Plaza on Port Road, as well as enjoying their mobile service.

The pair were new to the signage trade seven years ago and have found their way, like us all, through blood, sweat and tears, late nights and seven day weeks.

A2B has three main factions; firstly window films – for residential and commercial properties – and the other of course is commercial signage, vehicle wraps & graphics – that's Brendon's focus.

Amba takes care of all the screen printing, heat vinyl transfers, uniforms and the like.

They both saw the opportunity



and a need in our market locally, without enquiry going to Waihi and over the hills.

They welcome work, no job is too small and they genuinely enjoy helping people to look their best in business and can offer advice to improve your business brand. They are extremely community orientated, and would really like to assist school sports/clubs, teams to look their best with sponsorship offers to suit.

Come and say hello! They

have already started helping local businesses such as the Craft Haus, Jax's Pet Boutique, Sunrise Painters & Decorators and Vibes Café, with many more to come.

Open Tuesday to Thursday 9.30am to 4pm and on Fridays and Mondays by appointment.
Call 07 865 6920 or 0204 A2B4ME (0204 222 463) or check their work out on facebook.

- Jennie Black

Books

THE RESISTANCE GIRL

MANDY ROBOTHAM

Rumi Orstad and her fellow resistance fighters smuggle British agents, fugitives and supplies into Nazi-occupied territory.

One night, Rumi's fiancé is lost to the dangerous waters. She withdraws from the clandestine group, vowing never to let her loved ones put themselves in the line of fire again.

But, Rumi stumbles across a Nazi secret that lays Hitler's plans for Norway bare, and she knows she has no choice but to risk her life for her country once more.



THE DIAMOND EYE

KATE QUINN

In Kiev, Mila Pavlichenko's life revolves around her young son – until Hitler's invasion of Russia. Suddenly, she and her friends must take up arms to save their country from the Führer's destruction.

Handed a rifle, Mila discovers a gift – the young woman turns into a deadly sniper: the most lethal hunter of Nazis.

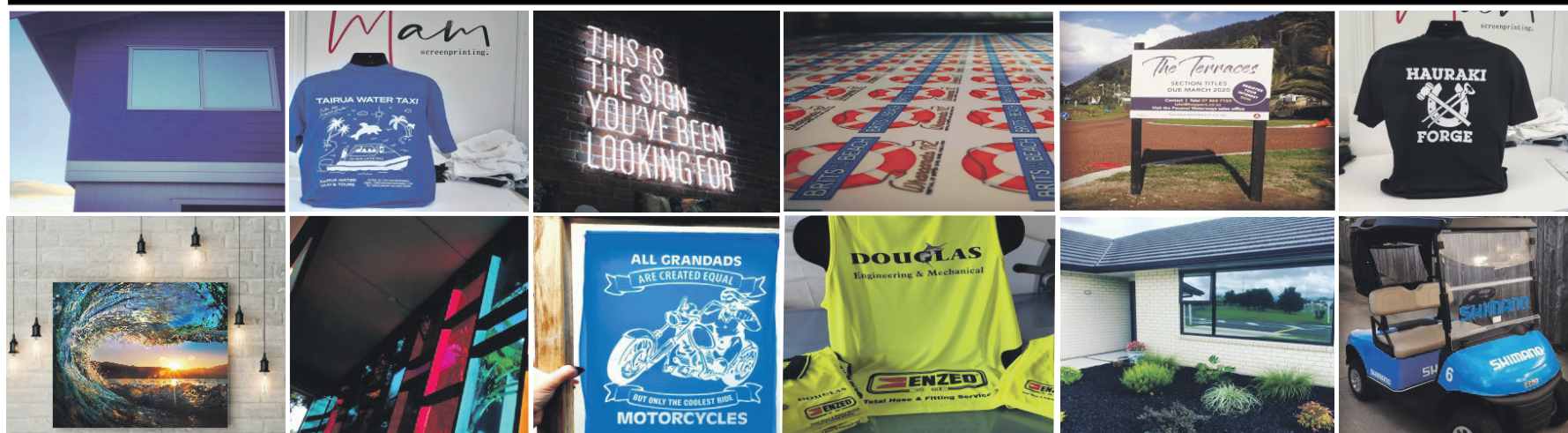
But when an old enemy from Mila's past joins forces with a terrifying new foe, she finds herself in the deadliest duel of her life.



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FRIDAYS BY APPOINTMENT

Full house at Wellington Poker Champs

The Whangamata Club Poker Adjunct attended the Clubs New Zealand North Island Poker Championships at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club on Queen's Birthday to defend their title.

It was one of the highlight events of the year. The club was led once again by Jilly Witehira and Phil Harriss with a total of 15 members participating in the event.

Nine of the members qualified for the main event on day one.

Day two started off intensely with players dropping at a rapid pace, but our club held its own with first time tournament player Sandra Whitmore finishing 12th, Michael Barlow 11th, and Mathew Aro making the final table with a sixth place, like he did previously. Well done, Mat!

In the Consolidation Final, Whangamata legend, Tui Hall, finished sixth.

It was an extremely fun-filled weekend for all of our group, capped off with celebrating the final night away with the eventual



winners, Paul Kent and the Hamilton Workingmen's Club.

Also held on the same weekend in Rotorua was The Bay of Plenty Poker Champs, which had a star studded line-up of top echelon players from around New Zealand.

Jacqui Thorby, founder of the Runner Runner Poker Club in Thames, attended this event and secured 4th Place with a huge \$8,000 prize for her efforts.

Jacqui is residing here with us in Whangamata for several months and has joined our Club, along with her husband Pete Ingerson, which is a major coup.

It's exciting times for poker in the Thames Coromandel region.

You can catch us all at the Whangamata Club on Monday nights from 5.30pm.

The Whangamata Club is also hosting the Thames Coromandel Poker Championships for the first time ever in mid-September. Busy times ahead.

- Phil Harriss, on behalf of the Whangamata Club Poker Adjunct





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A local celebration of two year's efforts

It was a packed clubroom for the celebration of a massive two years for The Whangamata Golf Club. Fair to say its members have had a lot to contend with. Water issues, tree removal, new clubrooms, pro- shop, health restrictions, staffing. This was a night to say 'thanks for your patience' to as many as possible. The club's brewery sponsor shouted the drinks, Gypsy the nibbles and members the positive vibe.



hoping to start work soon with New Zealand golfing legend, Phil Taurangi on some concepts. Phil grew up playing both courses as a kid on holiday. The club clearly helps build champions.

As Terry said, any changes to Williamson, in the next five to ten years, are all about running it up the flagpole to see who salutes - and if they do, we'll take it from there.

- Contributor Shaun Fay



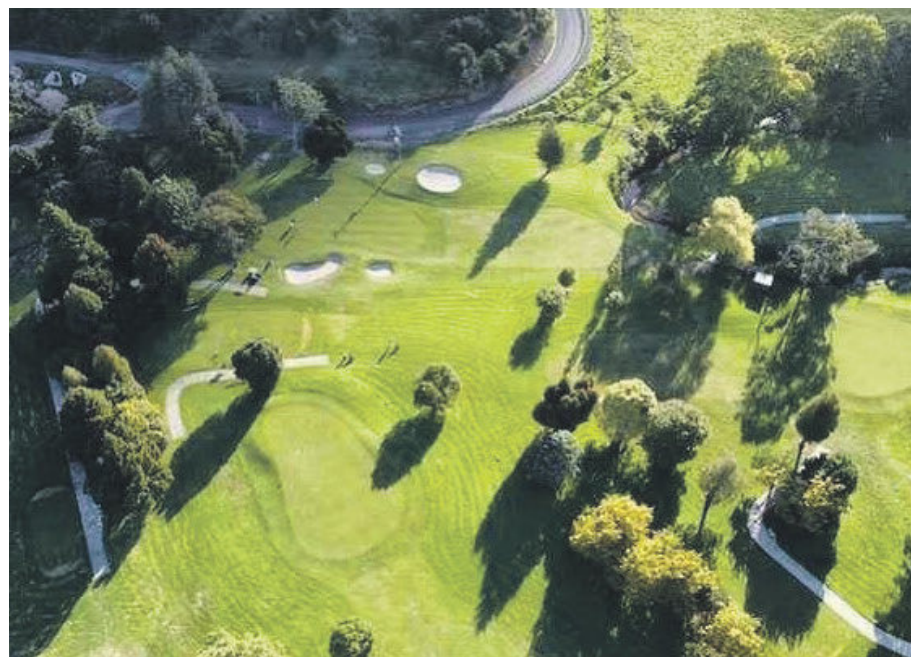
President Terry Wilson presented his and the board's dream for the course but before he did that. He felt it worth noting that nine-hole golf is the one of the fastest growing segments of the game.

At two hours, it's perfect for time poor, our town's veterans and is popular with women. Therefore, the club believes it's time to get serious with 'The Willy'. New clubrooms, golf simulators, a flexible links type nine-hole design, pizza bar, a new town putt putt.

"It's a five-year plan", says Terry, "but it's council land and we only have a 15-year lease. We will talk to the council and neighbours to see how, or even if, we can make even some of it work".

In the meantime, the club is

While the night - well, a cocktail hour to be fair - was about celebrating the past, it was also a look into the future. The Williamson Golf Course, while charming and steeped in history we were told, is very nearly past its use by date. In short, although loved by generations of golfers both new and old 'The Willy' needs extensive work.



SPORT CLUBS SPORT TEAMS SPORT EVENTS

Any club, group or adjunct - all ages...



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Incredible \$14,000 raised for cause



The Hello Friday team - Mandy Alexander, Jan Missen, Nicola Hartung, LeeAnne Macready and seated at front Maggie Goudie and Paula Leen

Hello Friday's annual Pink Ribbon Breakfast was held at the Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club on 25 May. A vintage and lace theme with decorated books, pearls, flowers and the good china tea cups, set the scene for the day.

Women of all ages came together to celebrate and raise funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand. Guests were served fruit and cereal and a lovely cooked breakfast while entertained by the very talented actress Sara Wiseman,



Great crowd in attendance.



Guest speaker, Sarah Wiseman.

who shared the story of her acting career (certainly one of grit and determination) and her connections to Pauanui.

Glenda Tan, last year's guest speaker, updated us with how the movie *The Pinkies are Back* has been playing to sell-out crowds overseas, and has been chosen to feature at the New Jersey Film Festival.

Pat Mravicich, advocate for breast screening for over 70s, reminded all women in the crowd of the importance of getting regular breast screening done – even once the free funding stops.

Many items were donated by hugely supportive businesses, part of either



Left to right: Judy McKenzie, Lyn Barrett & Zoe Batten.

the online auction or the raffles that ran alongside the event. A whopping \$14,000 was raised for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

Special mention must go to Danske Mobler who generously donated a Stressless Sunrise Recliner and Footstool, valued at \$4,599, as an auction prize.

It is Hello Friday's privilege and pleasure to coordinate and host this fantastic community event. Head on over to facebook.com/hellofridaypauanui to see more events.

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Theatre Society presents the infamous Mark Wright

During the month of June and beginning of July, Whangamatā will be hosting New Zealand professional actor, Mark Wright.

On 16 June, he is holding an Interactive Workshop about Gallipoli, with senior drama and history students at Whangamata Area School.

On 1 and 2 July, The Whangamata Theatre Society are bringing him to the Memorial Theatre to perform his one man play titled *The Gallipoli Monologues*.

Mark has a special affinity with Gallipoli and has been an ardent supporter of the RSA ANZAC Day services.



The GALLIPOLI MONOLOGUES



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"My great grandfather used to own the Rob Roy Hotel in Waihi and two of my great uncles served in Gallipoli so writing and performing this one-man show is very close to my heart", said Mark.

This extremely accomplished and gifted actor has recently written *The Gallipoli Monologues*. The various monologues provide the audience with an incredible insight into Gallipoli and the lives of many varied characters who spent time there.

Mark graduated from Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School and then worked extensively in professional theatre throughout New Zealand. He has also enjoyed a highly successful Television career appearing in nearly forty different series including *What Now*, *Shortland Street*, *Billy T James* and *Amazing Extraordinary Friends*.

He is probably best remembered for his impersonations of New Zealand politicians and personalities in *Issues* and *More Issues* with McPhail and Gadsby. His portrayal of the likes of Ruth Richardson, Mike Moore and Richard Long won him two Best Performance NZ Film and Television awards.

In 2015, Mark returned to the professional stage performing at theatres throughout New Zealand, including *The Audience* and *Six*

Degrees of Separation at Auckland Theatre Company.

An accomplished improviser, he has been Regional, National and International Theatre Sports Champions representing New Zealand at international improv competitions in Sydney, New York and Amsterdam.

"As an actor, I'm known for my battle of the wits with theatre-sports, but the last two years, along with other performers, I've been in the wars facing lack of work due to Covid. To combat that, I've combined the two things I'm passionate about - New Zealand history and acting - to write my own show, and I'm thrilled to be bringing it to Whangamatā on 1 and 2 July."

See the advertisement in this issue (left) regarding ticket sales for his performances at 8pm on Friday 1 July and 2pm and 8pm Performances on Saturday 2nd July. \$25 Evening shows and \$20 matinee. Cash sale tickets will be on sale at The Pumice Patch at 704 Port Road or by emailing Lorna Judd at laj@scifi.geek.nz

Ticket sales have been limited to allow spacing out of the audience. Masks are encouraged to be worn.

- Aisne Edwards

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I still remember that day, like it was yesterday

Whangamatā News had the pleasure of attending the Whangamata Area School Year 11 presentation and devised drama of the 1953 Tangiwai disaster, 69 years ago.

A group of 12 student actors portrayed New Zealand's worst rail disaster with incredible accuracy. No teacher assisted them – they wrote the entire script themselves and set the stage too.

The lights came down and with clever lighting dimming onto speaking parts, I was brought back to a time my father recalled. Each actor had a large amount of script to learn and deliver, not one mistake, superb.

The costumes set in the time period, the steam across the stage, whistle blowing and the call of the train 925 to board together with the sound effects of the crash took it to another level.

They even built into the script historic events in New Zealand at

the time of the tragedy, recalling our Queen's first visit to New Zealand, test match cricket and introducing the fact that the tracks were, indeed, in need of maintenance.

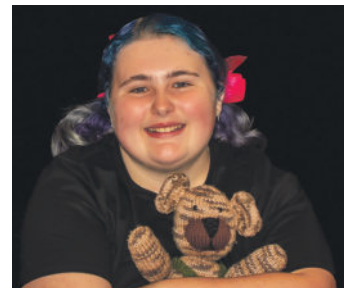
The flash flood, brought about by the collapse of Ruapehu's greater walls, caused the deaths of 151 passengers.

Impressively, all the actors portrayed differing and real roles of those onboard: the ticket master; a young woman off to Auckland to marry; a young girl and her teddy 'Freddy'; aunties heading home up north; a young woman who got off at the train at Taihape – on the advice of another mother seated next to her who was also headed to Auckland to her 19-year-old's wedding; and an old man seeking first class. It was all there, describing the aftermath, the fear on the faces, the freezing cold water, the bodies recovered from the wreckage. They would never be the same, certainly not after that Christmas Eve...

When time stopped.



Left to right: Summer Lovell, Ethan McLoud, Sam New, Heratha Impey, Amy Russell (teacher), Tyreese Clarke, Topia Hansen, Jorja Hansen, Mollie Robinson, Tayla Davis-Mateara, Kanon Hirose, Luka Foote. Shavorne Reynolds (not pictured).



Afterwards, Whangamatā News caught up with Amy Russell, the dance and drama teacher, for her comments on the play:

"These talented students proudly produced and created a moving fictional perspective of the Tangiwai disaster.

"Through this impressive production, the students earned 9 NCEA credits. Five for devising and writing the play and four for using their acting techniques on stage. The WAS Kura is extremely impressed and proud of this diverse group of students' achievements.

"As a teacher, this week has been a career highlight for me, seeing these students be the best they can be. Displaying such pride when sharing their hard mahi and creative ideas with their whanau and community".

Agreed – I found the students had complex characters, great eye contact and overall a very impressive level of acting.

– Jennie Black

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Dining degustation premium experience

The Smoke Room is the latest initiative from Smoky Pallet. Located at the front of the Smoky Pallet venue between the two decks, the area has been transformed into a moody and intimate space offering a range of premium beverages to accompany the food experience created for guests.



The idea of the Smoke Room has been driven largely by the senior staff at Smoky Pallet, with Head Chef Victor Diaz (formerly of The Resort at Pedregal) creating unique fine dining degustation menus to accompany a hand selected range of premium wine, spirits and cocktails matched to the food by bar managers Alex Prinselaar Smith, Carl Marriott-Kane, and Naomi Hannaford.

"The staff are extremely passionate about the initiative and have collaborated as a team to create something totally unique to town, while also allowing them to individually showcase their skills with the hope of making every guest's experience outstanding".

The Smoke Room's focus is on offering a unique and premium experience to guests every time the room is opened, with an emphasis on quality over quantity. As such, the Smoke Room is currently open on selected Tuesdays (approximately twice per month) where guests can enjoy a five-course Chef's degustation



menu, matched with premium beverages to suit the particular palate of the night. Guests can expect a unique and educational experience with Chef Victor explaining each course as it is presented, and the host's walking guests through the accompanying beverage matches.

Seats are limited to between 18 and 25 guests depending on table layout, so booking is essential. Opening dates and menus are posted through the Smoke Room's own Instagram account

@thesmokeroomwhangamata, and it is highly recommended that if you would like to be notified of events in advance, that you contact Smoky Pallet to have your name put on the priority list to be informed of events before they are posted.

The Smoke Rooms are also available for small private functions where guests will enjoy the same intimate atmosphere and premium experience as the regular event nights.



Hon Scott Simpson
MP For Coromandel

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is coming up and it's a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate all those who dedicate their time to giving back to the community. This year's event runs from 19 to 25 June and incorporates Matariki by emphasising the themes of reflecting on the past, celebrating the present and planning for the future.

The Coromandel and Whangamatā are home to a fantastic array of volunteer organisations, from our fire fighters and St John crews to heritage and conservation groups, and everyone in between. Volunteering is often a thankless task which requires giving up time with family and friends. Whether it's a couple hours a week or a lifetime of service, I'm grateful to all our volunteers because our communities simply wouldn't be the same without them.

When we look at the statistics, it becomes evident volunteering is definitely a key part of who we are as New Zealanders. Approximately 21.5% of New Zealanders undertake volunteer work, but this increases significantly when informal efforts are taken into account. Statistics New Zealand estimate that about half of Kiwi adults have done some volunteer work in the last month.

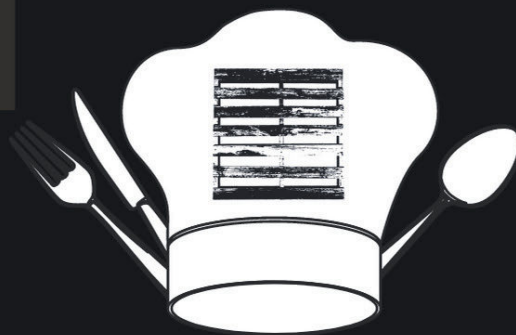
As the Member of Parliament for Coromandel I am very fortunate that I get to meet so many volunteers. I always welcome the chance to highlight the positive impact they have on our communities. Our volunteers' shared desire to make our communities stronger makes the Coromandel the best place to live.

*Authorised by Scott Simpson MP,
614 Pollen Street, Thames*

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**DIAMOND
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**Whangamata
NEWS**



First game a tough one

The Whangamata Area School Girls rugby team played their first game in two years last week.

It was a very hard ask for these young women, most of whom had never played any rugby. Up against a well drilled Mercury Bay Area School team, and with only ten a side playing, the field looked twice as large as normal.

The game started with a rampaging Mercury Bay scoring at will. They looked dominant, but as the game progressed Whangamatā started to tackle well and get a better feel for the necessary tasks, and were unlucky not to score a couple of tries in the second half. Player of the day Aenika Cornwall earned it with some good carries and very dogged tackling, and Captain Charlie Taylor had a top all round game.

Whangamatā News look forward to following the teams progress through the season, good luck to these determined young women, representing!

- Mark James



The team from left: Coach Rod Whatley, Maddie Downs, Georgia Gray, Cheyenne Clark Smith, Emma Lee Willaims, Talia Giles, Lilly Honeycombe, Charlie Taylor (Captain), Shavorne Reynolds, Madison Mathews. Front: Aenika Mathews and Coach Qiana Wharepapa.



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Junior rugby home game a win!

Junior rugby is for Year 4 and the Whangamatā team is made up of a dozen eight-year-olds.

The first game of the season was against Coromandel – also Year 4s – at the Whangamata Rugby Club grounds.

Jesse Webb, Jeremy West and Steve Trebilco make up the coaching team. Sami Watts and Hayley West



Scrum time.



First pic team shot post game.

are the team managers, all of whom make the team come to fruition.

On 3 June, they played a fabulous game winning over the Waihi Blacks with a final score of 100-20.

We have 12 players on the team, 11 of them have moved up through the years, from ripper rugby. Most of them starting ripper rugby at just three-years-old.



Jesse Trebilco – runaway try.

"All obsessed with rugby and strive to better themselves week by week" Sami Watts tells us.

"I suppose in a game like that, where the score blows out, it's challenging for the boys to remain focussed and to stick to the structures that we have practiced.

"It's a bit hard to say in a game like that, or maybe that some of the team are still finding it challenging to have the confidence to tackle" Coach Webb says.

Player of the day: Aldyn Nicholson

Tackler of the day: Kobe Mulrennan

Opposition player of the day:

Ari Price

The next home game is 11 June, at 10am, against Thames – they're the team to beat! As they're sitting one point below us on the table, we are currently sitting in the number one spot.

Annual ramp fees to rise 1 July

There'll be changes to boat ramp launching and boat trailer parking fees around our district, following decisions made by our Council at its draft Annual Plan deliberation earlier this week.

Council endorsed fees of:

- A combined annual fee for boat launching and trailer parking set at \$115
- A launching only annual fee of \$45
- A daily trailer parking fee of \$15 per day
- A daily launching fee of \$15 per day.
- These fees will apply at nine Council boat ramps from 1 July; the remaining 17 would remain free to use.



Trailer parking fees already exist at six of our boat ramps. The new parking fee would apply to three additional ramps and the new launching fee would apply at all nine ramps, listed here:

- Sugarloaf (Te Kouma)
- Whangapoua
- Matarangi
- Whitianga Wharf/The Esplanade
- Robinson Rd, Whitianga

- Purangi (Cooks Beach – Purangi Reserve)
- Tairua Wharf
- Royal Billy Point, Pāuanui
- Beach Rd, Whangamatā

"Our coast is such an integral part of who we are as a district," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie. "Boat ramps and wharves are important assets to help people enjoy the water. But they're costly to maintain and replace or upgrade when needed. This change to the fees is about shifting some of that cost from ratepayers to the people who use the facilities. The fees collected will stay in the local area to help pay for the boat ramps and wharves."

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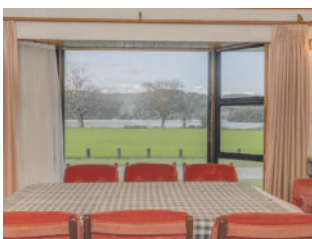
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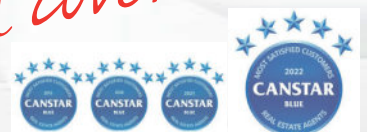
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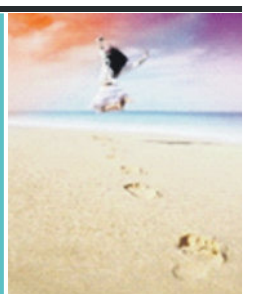
Another fantastic weekend, enjoyed by all!
A big thank you to the organisers!



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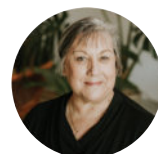


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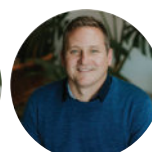


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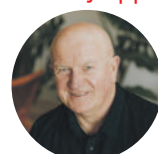
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Sharon Laurenson
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- Modern kitchen, open plan living
- New flooring & also a heat pump. Gas hot water

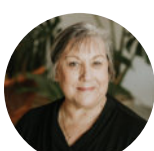


Pete Sheppard 027 609 4955
Chris Speedy 021 747 901
Pete.chris@whangamatarealestate.co.nz
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121A Ocean Road

- A well-presented two-bedroom house plus a 2-bedroom cabin
- The fully fenced site is zoned extra density
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- Great location



Nancy Millett
021 517 708
nancy@whangamatarealestate.co.nz
View Listing: whanga.co/8097



CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES



WHANGAMATA THEATRE SOCIETY Inc

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Cornerstone House – 100 Ocean Road
Thursday 23rd June 2022

AGENDA

Welcome & Apologies
Minutes – AGM 2021
Minutes – Special Meeting 2021
Presidents 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 some ideas for future productions.

All enquiries to Secretary, Jude Briton
021 1885134 or judeb@live.com

WHANGAMATA CLUB (INC) AGM

In terms of Rule 15. (1), Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Whangamata Club (Inc), will be held at the Clubrooms,
404 Port Road, Whangamata on Sunday 3rd July 2022 at 10.00am

AGENDA

- President's Welcome
- Minute Silence
- Apologies
- Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting
- President's Report
- Financial Report & Balance Sheet
- Presidents Honorarium
- Notices of Motion close 12th June 2022
- Executive Remits
- Results of Election of Executive Committee
- Subscription Fee
- Appointment of Auditor for the 2022/2023 year
- General Business
- Closure.

All Full Financial Members are welcome to attend.
Please present your Membership for entry into the Meeting.

Ian McAuley, President.

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Casual



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DEATH NOTICE

LITTLEJOHN Richard (Dickie). Passed away 31st May, 2022.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends. A private memorial service for Dickie will be held at a later date.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Moana House & Village Whangamata

Activities Assistant Part-Time

We are looking for a part time Activities Assistant, up to 50 hrs/ fortnight, to complement our dedicated staff who are passionate about the health needs of older people. You will work alongside experienced staff at Moana House, an aged residential care facility, situated in the beautiful town of Whangamata.

Moana House provides facility-based rest home and hospital services for the older population. We have a total of 47 beds and an on-site retirement village. We are about to embark on a significant expansion plan which will allow us to provide a continuum of care for Whangamata and the surrounding districts.

In this role you will facilitate activity programmes designed for both individuals and groups to stimulate thinking, encourage mobility and foster social interaction. If you are not trained in aged residential care but have a keen interest in working with the elderly, we would love to hear from you.

To apply please email your CV with a covering letter to:
office@moanahouse.nz

Or to request an application form and job description use the email address provided.

Whangamata Tides 2022

June 2022

New Moon: 29th Full Moon: 14th

Date	High tide AM	Height (m)	High tide PM	Low tide AM	Height (m)	Low tide PM	Sun rise	Sun set
10	Fri	2:32	1.8	15:07	8:48	0.5	21:09	07:26
11	Sat	3:25	1.8	16:05	9:43	0.4	22:06	07:27
12	Sun	4:20	1.8	17:03	10:38	0.3	23:04	07:27
13	Mon	5:16	1.9	18:00	11:34	0.3	07:28	17:03
14	Tue	6:13	1.9	18:56	0:01	0.4	12:29	07:28
15	Wed	7:09	1.9	19:50	0:58	0.3	13:23	07:28
16	Thu	8:06	2.0	20:44	1:53	0.3	14:16	07:29
17	Fri	9:02	2.0	21:38	2:49	0.3	15:08	07:29
18	Sat	9:57	1.9	22:33	3:44	0.3	16:01	07:30
19	Sun	10:53	1.9	23:27	4:39	0.3	16:55	07:30
20	Mon	11:49	1.9		5:34	0.3	17:50	07:30
21	Tue	0:22	2.0	12:46	6:29	0.3	18:46	07:30
22	Wed	1:16	1.9	13:43	7:24	0.3	19:44	07:31
23	Thu	2:10	1.9	14:41	8:19	0.4	20:42	07:31
24	Fri	3:03	1.8	15:37	9:14	0.4	21:39	07:31
25	Sat	3:54	1.8	16:32	10:07	0.4	22:34	07:31
26	Sun	4:44	1.7	17:22	10:57	0.4	23:25	07:31
27	Mon	5:33	1.7	18:10	11:45	0.4		07:31
28	Tue	6:19	1.7	18:54	0:13	0.6	12:30	07:31
29	Wed	7:04	1.7	19:37	0:59	0.6	13:12	07:31
30	Thu	7:47	1.7	20:18	1:42	0.5	13:53	07:31

July 2022

New Moon: 29th Full Moon: 14th

Date	High tide AM	Height (m)	High tide PM	Low tide AM	Height (m)	Low tide PM	Sun rise	Sun set
1	Fri	8:29	1.7	20:58	2:24	0.5	14:32	07:31
2	Sat	9:10	1.7	21:37	3:04	0.5	15:11	07:31
3	Sun	9:51	1.7	22:16	3:44	0.5	15:50	07:31
4	Mon	10:31	1.7	22:56	4:24	0.5	16:30	07:31
5	Tue	11:13	1.7	23:37	5:05	0.5	17:13	07:31
6	Wed		1.7	11:58	5:48	0.5	17:58	07:31
7	Thu	0:20	1.8	12:46	6:34	0.5	18:48	07:30

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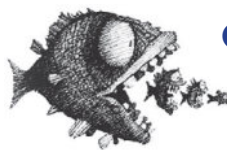
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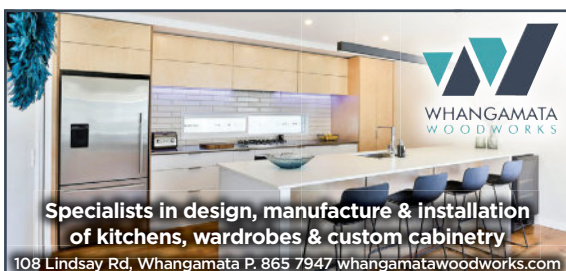
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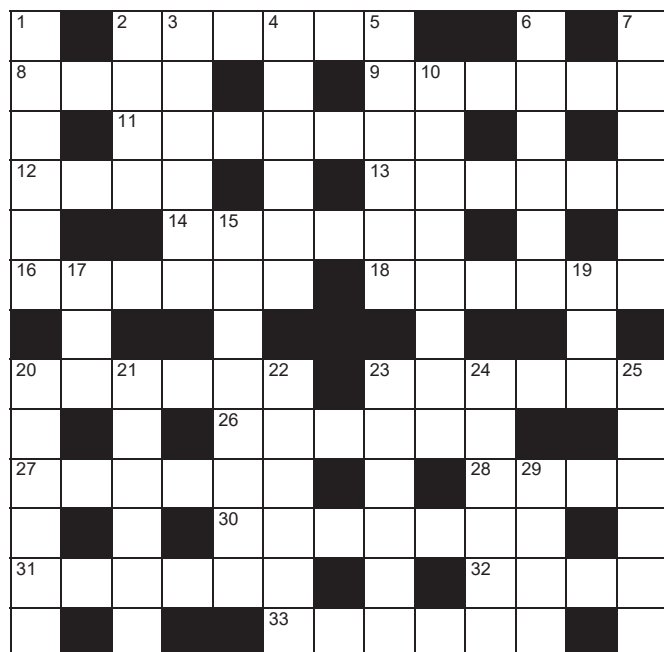
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QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. From one side to another (6)
8. Decant (4)
9. Typeface with slanting letters (6)
11. Pasta envelopes (7)
12. Recite (4)
13. Catch fire (6)
14. Set boat afloat (6)
16. A way out (6)
18. Bear witness (6)
20. Curtsied (6)
23. Short sleep (6)
26. Tune (6)
27. Morsels (6)
28. Point of transition (4)
30. Dictionary (7)
31. Person who dies for a cause (6)
32. Greasy (4)
33. Oppressive ruler (6)

DOWN

1. Thin (6)
2. Halo (4)
3. Baby bed (6)
4. Detestable (6)
5. Type of quartz (3)
6. Rinse freely (6)
7. Hold to be true (6)
10. Miser (8)
15. Gathering (8)
17. Sticky substance (3)
19. Health resort (3)
20. Got (6)
21. Hazy (6)
22. Arid area (6)
23. Imaging machine (6)
24. Wealthy or powerful businessman (6)
25. Melon-like tropical fruit (6)
29. Small, usually semi-detached house (colloq) (4)

TRIO

The same three-letter sequence will complete each of the four words

ME___Y
I___
EN___SS
CAN___

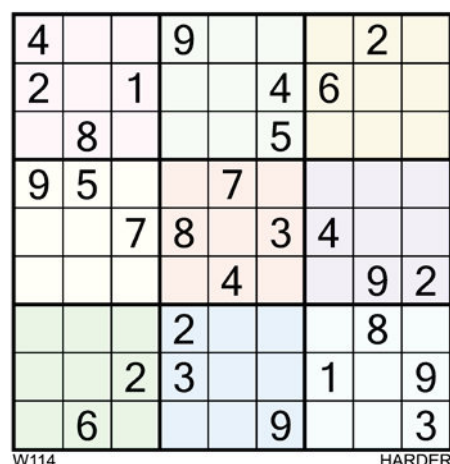
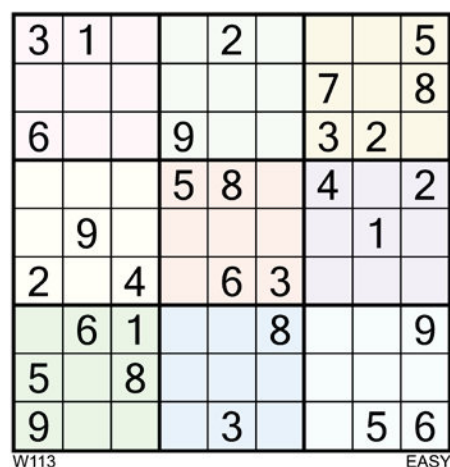
WORDWHEEL

Add one letter to make a nine-letter word reading clockwise or anti clockwise



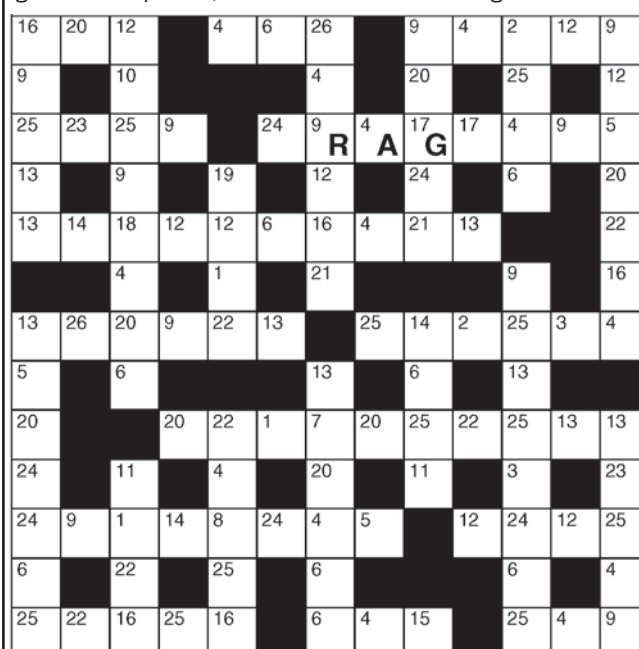
SUDOKU

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

WORKING SPACE

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

Across: 2. Across, 8. Pour, 9. Hallie, 11. Ravioli, 12. Read, 13. Ignite, 14. Launch, 16. Egress, 18. Attest, 20. Bobbed, 23. Catnap, 26. Melody, 27. Crumbs, 28. Cusp, 30. Lexicon, 31. Martyr, 32. Oily, 33. Tyrant.
Down: 1. Sparse, 2. Aura, 3. Cradle, 4. Odious, 5. Silica, 6. Sluice, 7. Accept, 10. Tightwad, 15. Assembly, 17. Goo, 19. Spa, 20. Became, 21. Blurry, 22. Desert, 23. Copier, 24. Tycoon, 25. Papaya, 29. Unit.

DECODER

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

SUDOKU

5	6	8	4	1	9	2	7	3
7	4	2	3	5	8	1	6	9
3	1	9	2	6	7	5	8	4
8	3	6	5	4	1	7	9	2
1	2	7	8	9	3	4	5	6
9	5	4	6	7	2	3	1	8
6	8	3	1	2	5	9	4	7
2	9	1	7	8	4	6	3	5
4	7	5	9	3	6	8	2	1

9	4	2	7	3	1	8	5	6
5	3	8	6	9	2	1	7	4
7	6	1	4	5	8	2	3	9
2	5	4	1	6	3	9	8	7
8	9	6	2	7	4	5	1	3
1	7	3	5	8	9	4	6	2
6	8	7	9	4	5	3	2	1
4	2	5	3	1	6	7	9	8
3	1	9	8	2	7	6	4	5

TRIO: DLE

WORDWHEEL: CHALLENGE

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