

# Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 157 - 9 JANUARY, 2026



Photos by Pat Courtney

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**Car & Bike Show - World's Best P6**

**Coromandel Watchdog have their say P15**

**Longest Xmas Table P19**



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# Winners of Miss Pauanui

One of the Summer Series Pauanui still does is the Miss Pauanui. The event is a Pauanui legend and very popular with the holiday makers. From Tiny Master and Miss, Mini Master and Miss, Little Master and Miss, Junior Master and Miss, Mr and Mrs, Teen Master and Miss, Master Pauanui and of course Miss Pauanui. This event is all about having a bit of fun. To proud parents and grandparents. The crowd were cheering, the judges had a massive job, to the contestants giving it

their best. A fun way in the sunshine at the Pauanui Club as part of the Pauanui Summer Series fun events. Thank you to Outback Surf Shop - Pauanui Beach NZ for sponsoring this event.

- Pat Courtney

### MISS PAUANUI 2026 WINNERS

- 1st** Sofia Gonzales, Auckland
- 2nd** Paige Olsen, Kaitaia
- 3rd** Caitlin Watene, Auckland



# Scott Simpson re-selected



The National Party has confirmed Scott Simpson as its Coromandel candidate for the 2026 General Election.

"I am delighted to have been re-selected as National's candidate for the Coromandel electorate for the 2026 General Election."

"Our electorate is home to many towns and communities, each with their own opportunities and challenges. It is without a doubt the best place to live, work and play, and representing the people who call it home is an immense privilege."

"As the Local Member of Parliament since 2011, this isn't a role or responsibility that I take lightly, and I look forward to earning the trust of

the electorate once again."

"The Government was elected on the promise to get the country back on track, and we remain focused on growing the economy and managing the country's books responsibly. We have cut wasteful spending, inflation is under control, and our trade balance is in surplus after four years of deficits."

"There's still plenty of work to be done, but I am proud to be part of a Government which is committed to fixing the basics and building a future where New Zealand and New Zealanders can thrive."

- Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



## START OF YEAR INFORMATION 2026 KEY DATES:

### Monday 26th January

Auckland Anniversary Holiday

### Tuesday 27th January

School office reopens 9am-noon

### Thursday 29th January and Friday 30th January

Teacher Only Days,  
office open 9am-3pm

### Monday 2nd February

School commences for all students

### Friday 6th February

Waitangi Day public holiday

**PORT ROAD, WHANGAMATĀ - PHONE 865 8557**

## Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

### Contact me anytime

0800 550 330 • [scottsimpson.co.nz](http://scottsimpson.co.nz)  
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# Waihi Police Report

## Burglaries - Lock It or Lose It

Police have continued responding to burglaries at residential properties over the holiday period.

A gentle reminder: even though it's summer, doors and windows still need to be locked. Criminals don't take holidays — in fact, they seem to enjoy yours.

Please keep an eye on your neighbours' places too. If something looks off, sounds off, or smells off, call 111. Better safe than explaining to someone why their TV has gone on an unexpected adventure.

## Road Rage & Tailgating - Let's All Take a Breath

There's been a noticeable rise in road rage and tailgating. It's hot, everyone's tired, and the roads are busy — but we're all trying to get somewhere without starring in a police report.

For perspective:

- 20 km at 100 km/h = 12 minutes
- 20 km at 80 km/h = 15 minutes

That's a three-minute difference. Not exactly worth blowing a gasket over. Relax, enjoy the scenery, and remember: Karangahake Gorge is beautiful when you're not glued to someone's bumper.

## Speed Limit Changes - Courtesy of NZTA

Two local speed changes have

kicked in:

- Parry Palm Avenue (Seddon Street to past Dean Crescent): now 60km/h
- SH2, Karangahake Gorge (Paeroa-side entry to near Waitewheta Bridge): now 60km/h

Please adjust your driving. The signs are new, but the fines are very real.

## Alcohol - Fun Is Good, Fines Are Not

Police have been out and about visiting local licensed premises. The good news: most people have been well behaved and enjoying themselves responsibly.

The not-so-good news: some people — especially those under 18 — are still breaching the alcohol ban in Waihi and Waihi Beach.

A reminder: supplying alcohol to a minor without written permission from their legal guardian is an offence.

Verbal permission, a wink, or 'she'll be right' does not count.

Police aren't trying to be the 'fun police' — they just want everyone to get home safely with their dignity intact. Look after yourselves, look after your whānau, and if someone is drinking in a way that's clearly going sideways, step in early.

- Sergeant Nigel Sanderson, Waihi Police

# Whangamata Police Report



## Whangamatā News caught up for an in-depth report on Whangamatā New Year's Eve activities with Inspector Mike Henwood, Area Commander for the last four years for Christmas and New Years here.

He told us "this year seemed to be busier than the last couple of years, in terms of total people, through Whangamatā and the Peninsula, with more vehicles on the road. New Year's night itself, was a little quieter than last year, which was really good, mostly due to the number of parents that came down to Williamsons Park to keep an eye on their kids, that was most encouraging, and after the midnight countdown they took their kids home and that was really good".

He told us just under 4,000 gathered at the park, he had at any one point 60 staff at the Park.

However, on New Years night itself, "there were no parents supervising their kids down there, close to a 1,000 kids were at the park, a few issues arose, as reported in the NZ Herald."

"We did find that kids were drinking on private properties, but we still found kids with large amounts of alcohol hidden, and

generally the intoxication level was what we expected for New Year's."

Inspector Henwood went onto tell us that the St John Ambulance 'Safe Zone', financed by TCDC, "six people went through there, they were so affected by drugs and alcohol, they couldn't even stand, three went to ED, this really shows, that those are severely affected by alcohol and drugs, St Johns is great and a wonderful support for us and a thankless task."

As for the traffic congestion and slow vehicles, please, let people pass you and pull over wherever you can, these are key things to stop people getting frustrated. He did say "it's a tough time of the year, there are a lot of opportunist thieves, typically a beach house unlocked all day, with say 15 to 20 people staying there, leaving fishing gear and surfboards out all day."

Inspector Henwood has an office in Paeroa but manages from Matamata up to Whitianga, so spends a lot of time on the road and will continue for the next busy weeks, he did say "I thank the additional forces from Hamilton and Auckland, who assisted, and have returned home now".

- Jennie Black, Editor

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## Stall donation wonderful

Last week, the Whangamata Sunday Market was privileged to be able to donate \$1000 to our local Whangamata Volunteer Fire Brigade. Not only do they attend house fires but also horrific car accidents, and all sorts of other rescues, and we appreciate them immensely.

The donation comes from stallholder fees at our market by the library, which is weekly now until the end of April and brings our total, since the market started, to \$18,000 - all supporting local community groups.

If you'd like to join us, the stall fee is \$5, with kids \$3 during the holidays. Call/ txt Suzanne on 022 651 2250 for more information.



# Celebrating a Decade of Artistic Exploration

## The 10th Annual Harcourts Art Challenge: "North East South West"

This year marks a significant milestone for the Whangamata Arts Collective renowned art exhibition as it celebrates its 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, the exhibition has become a cornerstone of the local cultural scene, fostering creativity and dialogue among artists and audiences alike.

For its tenth year, the curators have chosen a compelling theme: "North East South West" - an invitation to explore the diverse perspectives, journeys, and stories that define the artistic landscape.

### Navigating Directions and Identity

The theme "North East South West" is more than a geographical reference; it is an exploration of direction, identity, and connection. Artists from all walks of life have interpreted the concept in a myriad of ways, offering works that traverse physical borders, cultural boundaries, and emotional terrains. Through sculpture, painting, photography, mixed

media and the creative writing category, visitors will encounter art that evokes travel, migration, memory, and belonging.

### A Decade of Artistic Growth

Since its inception, the 'Challenge' has grown not only in scale but in its ambition. Each year has presented new challenges and opportunities, inspiring artists and audiences to think critically about place, purpose, and expression. The tenth anniversary is a testament to the event's enduring relevance and to the vibrant artistic community it supports.

The effort and energy of the Art Collective's dedicated volunteers and unseen workers, as well as the generous support from local businesses who are proud to be associated with the creative community, must be congratulated for their lasting commitment.

### Looking Forward

As "North East South West" draws visitors from all directions, it reminds us that art is a universal language - one that connects us across time and space. The Harcourts Art



Challenge stands as a beacon of creativity, inviting everyone to chart their own course through the rich tapestry of visual and written storytelling. With a decade behind it and many more ahead, the annual Harcourts Art Challenge continues to celebrate the power of art to illuminate, challenge, and unite.

- Clare Mewse for Arts Collective Whangamata

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Annual Art exhibition  
**Celebrating 10 years of the**

# HARCOURTS ART CHALLENGE & BIG ARTS DAY OUT

## 23 - 25 JAN 2026

### Whangamatā Memorial Hall

**Harcourts Challenge**  
Prize-giving evening 23rd Jan  
5pm - 8pm  
Tickets from Discover Whangamata

**Big Arts Day Out**  
24th & 25th Jan  
10am - 4pm  
Koha entry

Artist entry forms online at  
[www.artscollective.co.nz](http://www.artscollective.co.nz)



### \$5 Billion Question

Alison Paul paints a pretty picture of the benefits of Oceania Gold's activities in the Coromandel, and of the benefits to the community. One benefit mentioned was five billion dollars plus, of exports. This must be gold, as the company has only one

product. But no mention is made of the burning question. Who gets the five billion dollars? The gold is being extracted from Crown land, so if it stays where it is, it belongs to us. How much of the five billion does New Zealand get, after it is mined?

**Harvey Barraclough**  
WAIKINO

## Fire report



**This year our brigade has responded to 115 incidents up to Boxing Day. Thankfully our region has been spared of any large weather events where previous years have impacted hugely on our resources.**

Medical calls feature high in total numbers with alarm activations second. Fires and vehicle incidents make up the numbers.

Of note is the rise in battery powered equipment calls. Be sure to charge with correct matching cords, charge in a safe area and disconnect once charged. When responding our appliances have had some issues with locating addresses and gaining access. Please ensure you have easily identified property numbers and vegetation is cut back allowing ease for access - .4 metres high and

wide is the approved gap. Sending someone to the entrance can also improve response times.

Our volunteer numbers are up and down with work and family commitments. Ideally, we would like to increase our crew to reduce the work load on the current crew. If interested please contact us. For those from out of Whangamata, your own local brigade would also appreciate your support.

Of note this year we congratulate OS SO Ralph Pitcher and his family for the 60 years of service in our brigade this year. A huge sacrifice to family and work over this period.

We wish everyone a safe and rewarding new year.

- Chief Fire Officer Nigel Airey

## Cole aces 6th hole



At 8am on a quiet Wednesday morning, 11-year-old Tauranga local Cole Hills made history at the Whangamata Golf Club's Williamson course.

Visiting for the holidays and armed with new clubs—an early Christmas gift—Cole delivered a perfect tee shot on the sixth hole of the picturesque 9-hole course. The ball tracked beautifully, bouncing onto the green before disappearing

into the cup for a spectacular hole-in-one. The morning silence was broken by the ecstatic yelling and cheering of Cole and his Dad (Darin).

After celebrating with a family dinner and more rounds of golf, the pair plan to mount the lucky ball on a trophy upon returning to Tauranga to honour the day the young golfer conquered the course.

Whangamata Club

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|   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Summer Guide  | <p><b>FRI 9 JAN</b><br/><b>Must Go Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM</p>                   | <p><b>SAT 10 JAN</b><br/><b>Super Saturday Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM - 7PM</p>         | <p><b>7.00PM SAT 10 JAN</b><br/><b>Live Music "Crowded Trousers"</b></p>    | JANUARY 26  | <p><b>Lunch</b><br/>FROM 12PM SAT &amp; SUN<br/>LUNCH DAILY FROM FRI 26 DEC TO SUN 11 JAN FROM 12PM</p> |  |
|   | <p><b>5.30PM WED 14 JAN</b><br/><b>Summer Quiz Night</b><br/>QUIZ STARTS AT 6.00PM</p>       | <p><b>FRI 16 JANUARY</b><br/><b>Must Go Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 7.00PM</p>               | <p><b>7.00 PM SAT 17 JAN</b><br/><b>Live Music "Tim Armstrong Band"</b></p> |   | <p><b>Bar Meals</b><br/>FROM 3PM DAILY</p>  |  |
|   | <p><b>SAT 17 JANUARY</b><br/><b>Super Saturday Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM - 7PM</p> | <p><b>5.30PM WED 21 JAN</b><br/><b>Summer Quiz Night</b><br/>QUIZ STARTS AT 6.00PM</p>           | <p><b>JOIN TODAY!</b></p>   |   | <p><b>Dinner</b><br/>EVERY DAY FROM 5PM<br/><b>CLUB RESTAURANT</b><br/>FROM 5.30PM FRI TO SUN</p>       |  |
|   | AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND   |  |   |   | <p><b>7.00PM SAT 24 JAN</b><br/><b>Live Music "Toucan"</b></p>  | <p><b>4.00PM SUN 25 JAN</b><br/><b>Outdoor Live Music</b><br/>WITH MARK HUCKSTEP</p> |
|   | <p><b>MON 26 JAN</b><br/><b>Must Go Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM</p>                  | <p><b>SAT 24 JAN</b><br/><b>Must Go Super Saturday Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM - 7PM</p> | <p><b>7.00PM SAT 31 JAN</b><br/><b>Live Music "Plan B"</b></p>              |   | <p><b>DAILY FROM 5.30PM</b><br/>26 DEC - 11 JAN</p>   |  |
|   | <p><b>5.30PM WED 28 JAN</b><br/><b>Summer Quiz Night</b><br/>QUIZ STARTS AT 6.00PM</p>       | WAITANGI WEEKEND   |   |   | <p><b>DAILY FROM 5.30PM</b><br/>26 DEC - 11 JAN</p>   |  |
| <p><b>TUES 3 FEB</b><br/><b>Must Go Members Draw</b><br/>DRAWN FROM 6PM</p> | <p><b>FRI 6 FEB</b><br/><b>live Music "Gerry Lee"</b></p>                                    | <p><b>SAT 7 FEB</b><br/><b>live Music</b></p>  | <p><b>Carvery</b><br/>EVERY SAT &amp; SUN FROM 5.30PM</p>                   |   |   |  |
|   |  |  | <p><b>FEB 26</b></p>  | <p><b>Leander Social</b><br/>DAILY FROM 27 DEC - 11 JAN 3PM - 7PM</p> |   |  |

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# World's 1st Car & Bike Show 2026

The first show was held in 2007 with 'Buckets at the Beach' as a fundraiser for the Whangamatā Kindergarten that was being built at the time and then it morphed into this show which has been held annually ever since. Over the years they supported the Youth Group, Community Services Trust & Scouts while the past couple of years it's been the local Land Search & Rescue team who do a fantastic job.

Held on New Year's Day, 2026, it didn't disappoint. Eager crowds came through all day to view the best of muscle cars, hot rods, classics and bikes.

### THE WINNERS WERE:

- Best Ford 1955 Lincoln Capri: Jamie Klinoc

- Best Nostalgia 1932 Ford 32: Andrew Beatson
- Best Street Machine 1973 Pontiac Ventura Hatchback: Greg Kroon
- Best Custom 1978 Datsun 1500 Ute: Aaron Tucker
- Best Other 1966 Fiat Bambina: Maree Bentham
- Best GM 1948 Chev Pickup: Elaine Uttinger
- Best Mopac 1948 Chrysler New Yorker: Larry Barnett
- Best Original Bike 1946 Indian Chief: Colin Bunn
- Best Club 1971 Detomaso Pantena: Graeme Hamilton
- Best Hot Rod 1934 Ford Coupe: Craig Ohanlon
- Best Truck 1953 Ford 100: Rob Sperling

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# A bridge between communities: Tairua River Trail takes shape

Next summer, work is expected to begin on a 120-metre suspension bridge that will arc across the Tairua River, linking the two villages of Tairua and Pauanui by foot and bike for the first time. High above the water, it promises to be striking, visible and memorable – a project with the potential to reshape how the two communities connect.

The Tairua River Trail is underway.



Neville Thomson is tall and lean, his movements practised and easy. Dressed in high-visibility gear and safety chaps, he's working steadily along the edge of the new trail, cutting back pest plants and



invasive weeds.

"I hate privet – it's the worst," he says, thrusting out a hand in greeting.

Behind him lie felled black wattle, privet, woolly nightshade and wilding pines. A shapeless hat shades his face; stained chaps suggest this is familiar work. The new section of trail runs for more than a kilometre along the stopbank beside the Tairua River, behind the old Tanner's Sawmill site. Neville is part of the team preparing the route that will eventually link through to Tairua School.

"We're going to plant kahikatea along the riverbank," he says,

gesturing toward the water. "We've seen bittern and native ducks here. The planting will provide habitat for more rare birds."

That long view sits at the heart of the Tairua River Trail. The work begins with clearing invasive species and forming the foundation of the track, before planting and restoration follow.

From the site of the planned suspension bridge, the trail already extends downstream toward Swampy Stream and along State Highway 25 to the future boardwalk connection to Tairua School.

I'm walking the route with Andy Bolton, Project Manager for the

Tairua River Trail. Over the past decade, Andy and a crew of volunteers have completed the Pauanui side of the trail. The long-imagined connection to Tairua now feels close.

"The bridge will be spectacular," he says. "At over 120 metres, it'll be one of the longest in the North Island. People will come to see it – and once they do, they'll want to cross it. It'll be a real boost for local businesses."

The momentum is already there. Events such as the Pāuanui Trail Epic in March show how readily people are using the trail. Year-round, runners train in the early morning mist, friends meet for a cycle before coffee, and families picnic beside the harbour.

More than 30,000 people already use the existing trail each year. When the connection between Tairua and Pauanui is complete, it will become more than a recreational path – a shared piece of infrastructure shaped by local effort and long-term care.

Andy looks back along the river corridor, clearly energised.

"When?" I ask.

"Next summer," he says. "And we need all the help we can get."

- Tony White



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**For bookings, please phone 07 8659011**  
**St John Health Shuttles operate Mon to Fri (except public holidays)**



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL ON SATURDAY 24 JANUARY.**

# Furry friends in style



Move over CroCroffff Dog Show, Pauanui Woof Dog Show was in town.

Man's and lady's best friends took to the dog walk Furry Friends style. Doggie treats were in hand to encourage them to be on best behaviour and best behaviour they were. From spotty dogs to scruffiest dogs, best trick and they came out flowing, to the special golden oldies and the judges choice.

All for a fun afternoon raising money for Saving Hope. A special organisation in finding homeless dogs their forever homes. Boy did the judges have a hard time.

Thank you to Corovets Whangamata, The New Zealand Pet Food Co, Mutt Butter, Pump Pups and No Excuse Dog Training, Pauanui Pines Motor Lodge for helping to make this very fun event happen.

- Story & photos by Pat Courtney

# King of the Mountain 2026

2 January was a stunning morning for Pauanui King of the Mountain. 189 runners of all ages took part in this epic event. A run from Surf Club along the reserve then it was up, up all the way to the top of Mt Pauanui, turn and all the way back down for an 8.5km course. It was bids on, stretching done and they were on their way, first runner taking

only 45 minutes. A magic effort. Congratulation to all that took part. Thank you to the sponsors and the marshals. A No Code Event.

- Story & photos by Pat Courtney



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# Pauanui Colour Chase



What a way to start 2026. The smiles and laughter says it all for the Pauanui Colour Chase. All ages taking part and yes even the mums and dads joining in the fun while getting colour bombed in their wet tee shirts, thanks to Pauanui Fire Brigade on the obstacle course.

- Photos by Pat Courtney



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# Iconic swim event



Harcourt's Pauanui Waterways Swim 2026 is part of the Pauanui Summer Series. All ages gave it their best for this iconic event. Six sections take part, from Juniors at 100m to Legends at 1km and 2km. Congratulations to all!

- Photos by Pat Courtney



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R. Preston, 2025

"The boys were marvellous. Couldn't fault them!"

T. and L. True, 2025

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## Record Breaking Carols in the Park 2025



**Thank you Whangamatā locals and out of town visitors who attended either of the Carols in the Park events in Whangamatā or Onemana.**

On Christmas Eve, heaps of families flooded into Williamson Park to enjoy the Carols in the Park concert. On the 23rd December, Onemana had a great turnout in the marquee. Both audiences joined in the Carols as they followed along with their song sheets and the kids loved the arrival of Santa with some lollies. As MC it was easy to say that Whangamatā certainly punch above their weight! It was a pleasure to MC such a professional and well planned event.

They gave generously to the local Food Bank and we raised \$2200, substantially up on last year's \$1740.

A huge thanks to our main sponsors TCDC, Bayleys Real Estate and Enterprise Whangamatā. Thanks to the local choir of about sixteen who were in great voice thanks to the

musical direction of Sandie Moss and Sandy Snook. These two had arranged a great program, which included an acapella version of Carol of the Bells. The local singers did us proud and were enthusiastically applauded by the audience. The local Coastal Rockers added to the festivities by dancing along to the rocking carols.

A special thanks to all the helpers but notably behind the scenes Lyn Norris, Alistair Page and Andy Murray who helped put up signs, provided the float vehicle in the parade, organized in the background or oversaw off stage as the event unfolded. A huge thanks to the following business who gave vouchers for their establishments which were given out in draws throughout the night. Thanks for Craft Haus and Smoky Pallet for five vouchers each, Bach Café, Blackies Café and Chill Café, The Lunch Ladies, Luv Coffee, Mekong Foo, Port Road Project, Whanga Bar and Café.

*- Aisne Edwards*





# Summerset by the Sea Open Day

**Summerset by the Sea** is a stunningly located, scenic village boasting views across the water to Matakana Island. The village provides easy access to state highways and is conveniently close to local amenities, making it an ideal retirement destination.

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Only townhouse 152 is left at \$595,000.  
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# OceanaGold welcomes permit approval

## OceanaGold welcomes the Expert Panel's final decision granting approval for development of the Waihi North Project.

The Waihi North Project includes the Wharekirauponga underground mine which is located approximately 10km north of OceanaGold's current Waihi Operation. Wharekirauponga will extend mining at Waihi to around 2040, and will provide significant economic benefits for Waihi, the Hauraki District and New Zealand.

OceanaGold President and CEO Gerard Bond said the Waihi North Project is the largest investment project in the Company's portfolio. "We are investing around NZ\$1 billion in this project, which will deliver high-paying jobs and contribute to economic growth for New Zealand. It will generate substantial taxes and royalties, support communities and boost exports, whilst also making a net positive contribution to the environment."

Alison Paul, OceanaGold's Senior Vice President in New Zealand for Legal and Public Affairs, said that the Waihi North Project will both add to and extend the current operations at Waihi. "Once producing, the Wharekirauponga Underground mine will generate over NZ\$8 billion of export revenue for New Zealand (estimated at current gold prices). The Company expects to invest approximately NZ\$1 billion and generate hundreds of additional, high-paying jobs associated with the project. About 80% of our expenditure is expected to be spent in New Zealand, including over 30% of that within the Hauraki District."

Mr. Bond praised the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 which he said was tough, but welcome. "This new legislation provides the efficiency and certainty of a very clear timeline, while maintaining stakeholder involvement and the



necessary rigour, oversight and expert scrutiny of the Company's proposals."

Ms. Paul agrees. She says there were 112 working days allocated to assess the application and the process stayed within that timeframe. Under the umbrella of the Fast-track Approvals Act, the Expert Panel assessed the application against 26 different Acts and regulatory instruments, spanning five different government regulators. "Using previous processes to work through the different regulatory regimes under separate applications, the same project would have taken a number of years to permit, with unnecessary duplication, uncertainty and inefficiency, and no substantive added benefit."

She says of the process, "I can confidently say that speed does not equate to a lower standard of outcome."

"There were 263 parties invited to comment, resulting in over 60 sets of comments and a large number of detailed expert reviews. Permitting is a substantial undertaking, but a necessary part of responsible business practice, which is why a clear and timely process like that introduced under the Fast-track Approvals Act is a sensible and important initiative."



Ms. Paul thanked the community members who took part in the process and emphasised the benefits of the project.

"When we acquired the Waihi mining operations in 2015, OceanaGold made a commitment to the New Zealand Government to invest in extending the life of mine in Waihi, which has been operating since 1988. With this set of approvals in-hand, we can follow through on that commitment. We look forward to making a significant contribution locally, regionally, and nationally. This includes our contribution towards New Zealand's Predator-free programme with a focus on the Coromandel Peninsula."

Mr. Bond said that OceanaGold has a proven 35-year track-record of working within a tight regulatory framework. "This includes obligations relating to vibration, noise, dust, ground surface stability, biodiversity, and water management."

He says he has walked with colleagues in the Coromandel bush and that both he and the Company recognise the ecological value of the Wharekirauponga area, "This is a key driver for the mine being underground and accessed by a tunnel from outside the Forest Park area, minimising any impacts at the surface."

- OceanaGold

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# Watch out Wentworth Valley – you’re next!

The decision to approve the Waihi North Gold mining project, including the first underground mine in public conservation land in the Parakiwai Valley, is a “crime against the environment and our communities”, says Catherine Delahunty, chairperson of Coromandel Watchdog.

“It’s the first private profit FastTrack Mine decision and it legitimises more toxic waste, more damage to biodiversity and more profits heading offshore. The project includes blasting under sensitive land and species and threatens the forest through dewatering and subsidence. Oceana Gold admits they have 9 more years of exploratory drilling before they start mining, which shows their use of the Fast Track law was premature”.

Under the Fast Track Law, invited groups, including Watchdog, were able to comment but not seriously challenge the range of risks of this project. However, most people had no say. “The Panel gave little weight to their concerns and assumed the applicant’s mountain of evidence represented robust environmental protections. Oceana Gold’s assumptions around water, land subsidence, economic returns and biodiversity are based on weak data and the conditions rely on the offset of damage rather than protection from damage. You can’t just make up for loss of hot springs and water quality with some pest control down the road.

We have no faith in their ability to protect water quality in the underground mining situation when they have no base lines to establish safe water standards. We also have no faith in the economic mantra of jobs which omitted a proper regional and national cost/benefit analysis of gold mining. We can have no confidence in the tailings dams to last in perpetuity or the proposed bonds to pay for any collapse of these cyanide and heavy



Photo by Mark James



metal laden waste.

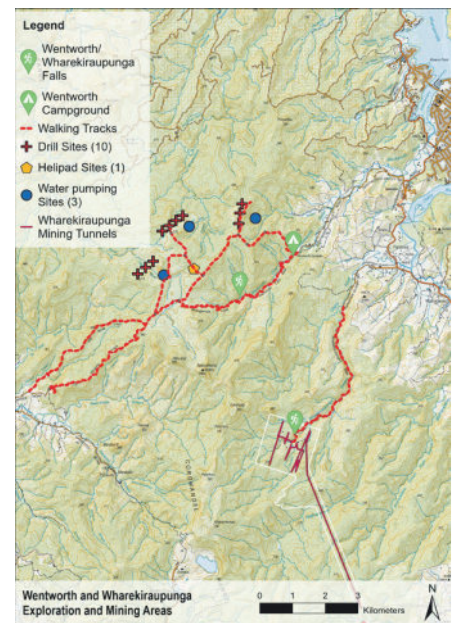
We are also worried about the effects of dewatering under a forest and fire risk if soils and forests are affected by drought and underground water depletion. Where is the fire plan for this remote area? “

Scientist Marie Doole from ‘Mātaki Environmental’ said there are “meagre checks and balances in the Conditions and a “blizzard of management plans” with the risk of harm if monitoring is not robust. Local councils are already being asked to take on more responsibility, with the potential demise of

Regional Councils, so how on earth are they supposed to find and fund local experts to monitor gold-mining operations as well?

All of this is of huge concern to local environmental group, Earthwatch Whangamata, particularly as another Canadian company, Rua Gold, are exploring and applying for permits in the Wentworth Valley area right now. Earthwatch are concerned, not only for their water supply but also the prospect of noise from helicopters and drilling rigs operating so close to one of our iconic recreational areas. And it will happen fast.

Rua Gold has a mountain of data from Oceana Gold and will be welcomed into the Fast Track Approvals process. And if anyone wants to talk to us about how much gold we need for our devices, let’s talk! There’s 100 times more gold in a tonne of e-waste than a tonne of ore from an underground mine, so let’s stop risking our wilderness and start lobbying the government to invest in e-waste recycling with long-term job prospects.



Map shows consented tunnels for the Parakiwai Valley (Wharekairaupunga) and proposed drill, water pumping and helipad sites for the Wentworth

Find us on Facebook, Instagram or [earthwatchwhangamata@gmail.com](mailto:earthwatchwhangamata@gmail.com) if you want to help save our special places for the next generation.

- Coromandel Watchdog

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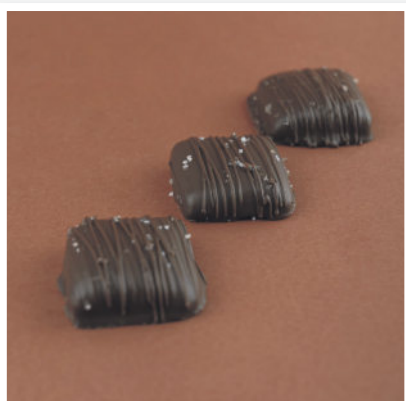
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# Whangamata Harbour Birds: The Gulls

There are two species of gulls most commonly seen on and around our harbour and beach areas, the Southern black-backed gull (Karoro) and the red-billed gull (Tarapunga). Nationally, both species are abundant with the red-bills occurring in much greater numbers locally, yet in recent years the red-billed gull has suffered declines at their main breeding colonies. These losses are thought to be associated with the reduced availability of their main food krill, along with introduced predators. The red-billed gull can be confused with their black-billed cousin, especially the juvenile forms of these sub-species. The black-billed variety is far less common, found more often inland, and has a much finer and longer bill than the red-billed gull.

Red-billed gulls, also known as silver gulls, inhabit mainly coastal areas throughout New Zealand and are seldom seen inland. A small breeding population is present at Sulphur Point Lake Rotorua but the main breeding populations are in large dense colonies on the eastern coasts of both mainland islands. These colonies are commonly sited at river mouths, rocky cliff faces and sandy or stoney beaches. They also breed singly or in small numbers on a number of off-shore islands with their nests hidden amongst low coastal vegetation. They are monogamous with one banded pair known to have remained together for 17 years. Nests are well



Juvenile Black-backed gull. Photo by Bevan Walker.

constructed from twigs, grasses and feathers, normally 2 eggs are laid which hatch after about 23 days incubation. Both parents share the incubation, feeding and caring duties. Chicks begin to fly at about 35 days and are fed by their parents for another 30 days.

During the breeding season most feeding is undertaken on inshore waters targeting the surface swarming small shrimp-like crustacean known as krill. They are opportunistic feeders however and will take alternative foods such as kelp flies, small fish, earthworms, rubbish tip garbage, offal from fishing boats etc. Some have even been observed preying on the eggs and young chicks of the endangered NZ dotterel and shore plover.

The black-backed gull is about 3 times the size of the red-billed gull. With the mature adults displaying their distinctive black and white plumage, yellow legs, and yellow

bill tipped with red, they are easily distinguished from the red-billed gulls. The speckled brown plumage of the juvenile birds does confuse some people, mistakenly identifying them as southern or south polar skuas. They live in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from coastal areas and plains to high country farms and subalpine zones. The only habitat they don't frequent is forested areas. The species is also common in parts of other countries in the southern hemisphere including southern Australia, southern Africa, southern America, most subantarctic islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. They are one of the most abundant and familiar large birds in New Zealand.

The New Zealand black-backed gull population has benefited significantly from human colonisation. The resultant land development, growth of agricultural and fishing industries, open landfill and other waste disposal methods,

have all contributed to providing additional new food sources for these voracious feeders. They have increased in number to the extent they are causing serious harm and are considered a pest. At airports where grassed runway berms and outfields provide suitable breeding, feeding and roosting habitat they pose a serious bird-strike threat. On farmland some develop a habit of attacking cast sheep and newborn lambs. They are not afforded any legal protection under the Wildlife Act and are subjected to various control measures when required.

Black-backed gulls breed in colonies or scattered pairs in a variety of habitats ranging from river beds, rocky outcrops, open pastures, grassed airfields, alpine tarns and wetlands, coastal dunes and beaches. They have even been known to roost and nest on the roofs of city buildings. They are both predators and scavengers and will consume almost any organic waste they find and any living or dead animal matter small enough to manage. Some have developed a learned behaviour of opening bivalve shellfish by way of flying high above concrete and tarsealed surfaces or rocks and repeatedly dropping them from a great height until they are broken open sufficiently for them to access the fleshy contents.

- John Adams, Whangamata Harbour Care

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## Waihi NEWS

### Art Club exhibit incredible



Whangamatā & Waihi News attended the Waihi Art Club at Waihi Beach Community Hall last Sunday, with 21 members and more than 200 works displayed, we were enthralled, the variety, the detail, the creativity made for a fabulous afternoon.

We met up with Tim Chadwick on the day, he told us he had been painting since 2022, at 82 years old, previously working on oil rigs, his creative works of boats, landscapes and more, he said "I should have started earlier" he showed us one he had just completed that morning and said "quite a good turn out isn't it", indeed it was.

The annual event has been running for 20 years now, with differing artists coming and going. I'm pleased to say many, many works had already sold by the time we got there, voting Peoples Choice was incredibly hard for all of us that made our way around the hall.

- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James



# Waihi NEWS

## Christmas in the Village: Bringing our community together



When I first envisioned Christmas in the Village, I wanted it to be about one thing above all else, bringing our community together. In a world that often feels rushed and busy, my hope was to create an evening where people could slow down, gather in the heart of Waihi Beach, and simply enjoy being together.

On the night, the village came alive with families, friends, neighbours and visitors filling the street. The long whānau table quickly became the heart of the event, a place where

people lingered, shared kai, caught up with familiar faces, and met new ones. Seeing the village used in this way was incredibly special.

It was important to me that Christmas in the Village was accessible to everyone, which is why the evening was filled with free activities for both children and adults. From craft tables and face painting to circus skills and festive fun, there was something for all ages to enjoy. Watching children fully absorbed in creative play while

adults took a moment to relax and connect was exactly what I had hoped for.

I am incredibly grateful to our sponsors, Barfoot & Thompson, the Tauranga Western Bay of Plenty Community Event Fund, and Western Bay District Council, whose support made it possible to offer this event as a free community celebration.

A huge thank you also goes to our local businesses who helped create

the magic on the night. LJ Hooker once again hosted their much-loved Santa's Grotto, while Harcourts added to the festive atmosphere with free popcorn for everyone to enjoy.

**Christmas in the Village was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together, and I feel very proud to have been part of it.**

*- Hollie Jones, drone photo by Sion Jones*

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# Waihi NEWS

## Waihi Beach Markets – so much on offer

This New Year, we had such a great time attending the Retro & Collectables Market at the Waihi Beach Community Hall, absolutely everything you could want from days gone by, and I mean everything. It was like visiting a museum of the past, but you could take it home for a reasonable price.

The Wilson Road Sunday Market is always a must – do on my list, foody yums, leather, pottery, door stops, candles, beautiful creams, blankets and funky pillow covers and, oh my, the clothes!

What a fab summer we're all having.



### Retro market



### Sunday market





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# Waihi NEWS

## Tennis Open a hit

Crashing forehand drives, sweetly timed backhands were combined with Xmas cheer at the LJ Hooker Waihi Beach Tennis Open Doubles Tournament. The six tennis courts were in sparkling shape for the bumper entry of 25 pairings for the men's and women's competitions. Players travelled from Tauranga, Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North and Portland, Oregon, USA. Tournament director Craig McFarlane superbly co-ordinated the tournament made up of one woman and 2 men's divisions. On Saturday the mens and women's doubles were held with the combined doubles on Sunday. Michelle Wheaden and Sofia Shing won the Woman's title over Waihi Beach local Laura Richardson and partner Delwyn Guilford. Then Josh White and Matt Finn took the

men's division 1 title with a super tie breaker win over Eggers and Ou. The tie breaker had White and Finn out to a considerable early 5-1 advantage. The scores clawed back to 7-7, with White and Finn pushing home 10-7. The USA father and son team of Dusickas edged past the hugely promising Waihi Beach youngsters Nivek and Thierry Smith for the division 2 title. The Sunday combined doubles had a real family feel with combinations of mother/son, husband/wife and father/ daughter taking part. Delwyn and Jack Guilford beat Waihi Beach tennis locals Mark and Laura Richardson 9-5. Cheers to all involved sponsors LJ Hooker, players, organising volunteers, including the kitchen team with fresh and tasty 'mega sandwiches'.

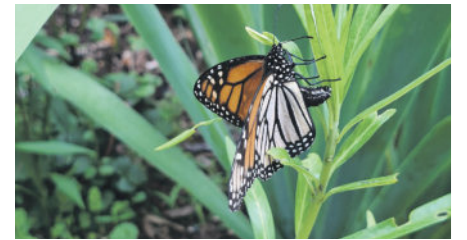
- Don Mackay, Sports Reporter



Tournament winners: Josh White, Matt Finn, Michelle Wheaden & Sofia Shing.


## Garden always a delight

Last Sunday, I took the most marvellous humans I know to the Waihi Butterfly Garden. It was chocka full of flowers and, as we went on our whispering adventure looking for butterflies, fairies and bears, we found the Mill Stream Walkway, as a new way out to Clarke Street base. The waterfalls were full and flowing at speed, the bamboo thicket still dark and spooky and the wee delights we found on the way, made memories for us all. Thanks to Cora, Dominic and Aries,



my neighbours, who even had me singing "we're going on a bear hunt!"

- Jennie Black

# WAIHI LIFECARE VILLAGE

EST. 1902

---

## COTTAGES AVAILABLE

*Located close to the township of Waihi, Waihi Lifecare Village is one of the region's most idyllic yet affordable lifecare villages.*

*Our cottages are set in a peaceful, rural setting with extensive lawn and garden areas which celebrate the heritage of the site.*

*The village offers a range of one and two bedroom cottages as well as a 65 bed care facility providing resthome and hospital level care for continuity of care.*

*We have cottages available soon so please contact us for more information or to book a viewing.*

*We look forward to hearing from you.*



*Caring for the community since 1902*

# Craft Cocktail Indulgence

ADVERTORIAL



At the Waikino Hotel, we may be laid-back... but when it comes to spirits and cocktails, we don't mess around. Partnering with the award-winning Kaimai Distillery means every drink we pour starts with the good stuff. And now, thanks to Oracle—our new sugar-free, keto-friendly liqueur range—we've taken cocktail crafting to glorious new heights.

Think indulgence without the guilt: silky hazelnut, chocolate, and Irish Cream in our famous Toblerone Cocktail, or the bright, juicy burst of Summer Fresh, loaded with real cucumber and strawberries and perfectly paired with Eliza's Claim Ruby Gin and Strawberry Oracle. Sip all day, smile all night, and let the flavours do the talking.

## THE WAIKINO HOTEL

SH2 between Paeroa and Waihi • 07 863 8381 • Open from 12pm daily

# Waihi NEWS

## Owharoa Falls in Waikino Gorge

Recently we ventured to a favourite spot of ours to see the mighty staircase falls, if you haven't been for a while, grab your togs for a dip, super refreshing and then follow up with a great lunch at Falls Retreat or our Waikino Hotel, I can't recommend this family outing enough!

Photo - Mark James



**Location:** Owharoa Falls is situated in the Karangahake Gorge, near State Highway 2, between Paeroa and Waihi. The falls are easily accessible from Waitawheta Road, with a short walk to the base. There is parking at the nearby Karangahake Gorge car park.

**Waterfall Type:** Owharoa Falls is

a staircase waterfall, known for its wide and trapezoidal shape.

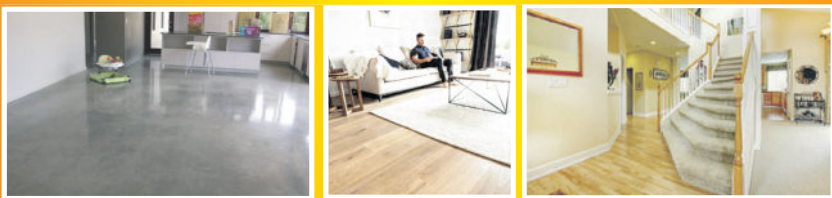
**Swimming:** The shallow pool at the base of the falls is great for a quick splash, but caution is advised due to potential hazards.

**Best Time to Visit:** Spring and summer are ideal for visiting, with weekends being busy.

## Owens Flooring

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sales@owensflooring.co.nz • www.owensflooring.co.nz



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AUCTION



## Beach & Bay Panorama

**209A Esplanade Drive, Whangamata**

3+  2  2 

**Auction Saturday 31 January at 1pm (unless sold prior) at 328 Ocean Road, Whangamata**

- Waterfront property with panoramic views of the bay
- Dual north-facing upper-level decks with sweeping outlooks
- Three/four bedrooms with great separation & guest facilities, two bathrooms (one on each level)
- Master bedroom with walk-in robe & private deck access
- Open-plan kitchen & living flowing to decks and views
- Easy lock and leave, low maintenance property

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Sharon Laurenson**  
M 027 662 3164  
**View Listing** [whanga.co/8571](http://whanga.co/8571)



AUCTION



## It's a Given

**303B Given Avenue, Whangamata**

3  1 

**Auction Saturday 31 January at 1pm (unless sold prior) at 328 Ocean Road, Whangamata**

- 401sqm freehold title
- Single level dwelling with dual decks
- Level grounds with easy access and off street parking
- Carport and handy garden shed for extra storage
- Low maintenance construction, lawns and gardens
- Appeals as a holiday home, permanent 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](http://whanga.co/8572)



PRICED FROM \$755,000



## Horizon Views Way Subdivision

**409 The Drive, Whangamata**

- Titles have now been issued
- Five elevated sections in Whangamata's newest subdivision - House & Land Packages available
- Outstanding views of Pacific Ocean, Outer Islands and Whangamata
- Natural surrounds and bush backdrop and ocean views
- Established post-and-rail fencing
- Access via private road (auto gate)
- Lot 1 \$755,000
- Lot 4 \$765,000
- Lot 5 \$875,000
- Lot 6 \$775,000
- Lot 7 \$825,000



**Sharon Laurenson**  
M 027 662 3164  
**View Listing** [whanga.co/8473](http://whanga.co/8473)





# Whangamata Real Estate

WHANGAMATA REAL ESTATE 2024 LTD (LICENSED REAA 2008)

Don't just dream it, live it



ENQUIRY OVER \$880,000

## Lock 'n Leave on Leander

212A Leander Road, Whangamata

2 1

- Close to beach and town
- North facing deck creates central gathering space
- Cabin providing extra space or storage
- Carport and low maintenance features

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laursen  
M 027 662 3164  
View Listing [whanga.co/8472](http://whanga.co/8472)



ENQUIRY OVER \$950,000

511c Ocean Road

## Beachside Sweetheart

511C Ocean Road, Whangamata

2 1

- Opposite and overlooking Williamson Park and Surf Beach
- Refurbished unit
- Easy lock and leave option
- A great position so close to the beach

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laursen  
M 027 662 3164  
View Listing [whanga.co/8514](http://whanga.co/8514)



ENQUIRY OVER \$1.045M

## Home to the Hamptons

112 Hampton Road, Whangamata

4 2 2

- 568sqm Freehold Title, level with easy access
- Open plan kitchen and bonus kitchenette
- Supersized garage and workshop
- Selling fully furnished and ready for Summer

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laursen  
M 027 662 3164  
View Listing [whanga.co/8569](http://whanga.co/8569)



ENQUIRY OVER \$2.1M

## Size, Space, Surf, and Sunshine

107 Rangi 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

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laursen  
M 027 662 3164  
View Listing [whanga.co/8568](http://whanga.co/8568)



\$2,195,000

## Barrowclough - Beach & Bar

103B Barrowclough Road, Whangamata

4 2 2

- Desirable location three back from beachfront
- Sought after address in quiet beach side cul-de-sac
- Handy to beach, harbour, surf bar, town, cafes
- Views of the beach, bay and outer islands

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laursen  
M 027 662 3164  
View Listing [whanga.co/8457](http://whanga.co/8457)







# Whangamata Real Estate

WHANGAMATA REAL ESTATE 2024 LTD (LICENSED REAA 2008)

Don't just dream it, live it



ENQUIRY  
OVER  
\$785,000

## Sun, Surf & Simplicity

211B Weka Street, Whangamata

2 1

- Handy to Island View Reserve, Estuary, & Surf Club
- Open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge area
- Excellent indoor/outdoor flow to sheltered deck
- Bonus Caravan and garden shed

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Sharon Laurenson**

**M 027 662 3164**

**View Listing** [whanga.co/8538](https://whanga.co/8538)



\$815,000

## A Honey for the Money

106 Everitt Crescent, Whangamata

2 2 1

- Easy access level site in a quiet cul-de-sac
- Good indoor / outdoor connection to north facing patio
- Open plan kitchen, dining, lounge
- Additional family room plus office / playroom

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Sharon Laurenson**

**M 027 662 3164**

**View Listing** [whanga.co/8487](https://whanga.co/8487)



REDUCED  
TO  
\$449,000

## Barbara Avenue - Prime Location

9/106 Barbara Avenue, Whangamata

1 1

- Sunny, elevated one-bedroom unit
- Ideal for weekend getaways or AirBnB
- Selling fully furnished
- Open-plan living with nice flow to balcony patio

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Sarah Speedy**

**M 027 843 4013**

**View Listing** [whanga.co/8395](https://whanga.co/8395)



\$1,090,000

## The Bigger the Better!

127 Tuna Place, Onemana

5 2

- Well-maintained & generous holiday home
- Spacious kitchen, dining and lounge taking in an ocean view
- Multiple outdoor living options
- Furniture package available

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Sarah Speedy**

**M 027 843 4013**

**View Listing** [whanga.co/8411](https://whanga.co/8411)



\$955,000

## Easy Living on Everitt

135 Everitt Crescent, Whangamata

3 2 2

- Open-plan living and dining with a renovated kitchen
- Sunny north-facing veranda running the length of the home
- Master bedroom with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe
- 614sqm (more or less) freehold site

**Check QR Code for viewing options**



**Chris & Katie Speedy**

**M 021 747 901 or 021 382 022**

**View Listing** [whanga.co/8547](https://whanga.co/8547)





# Whangamata Real Estate

WHANGAMATA REAL ESTATE 2024 LTD (LICENSED REAA 2008)

Don't just dream it, live it



## Harbour Attraction

200A Harbour View Road, Whangamata

3 2 1

Deadline Sale closes 3pm 12 Feb 2026 (unless sold prior)

- 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](http://whanga.co/8578)



## Spacious Family Living

115 Chevron Crescent, Whangamata

4 2 1

Deadline Sale closes 3pm 12 Feb 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Permanent ocean and island views
- Peaceful elevated cul-de-sac location
- Modern kitchen with excellent views
- High stud rumpus room

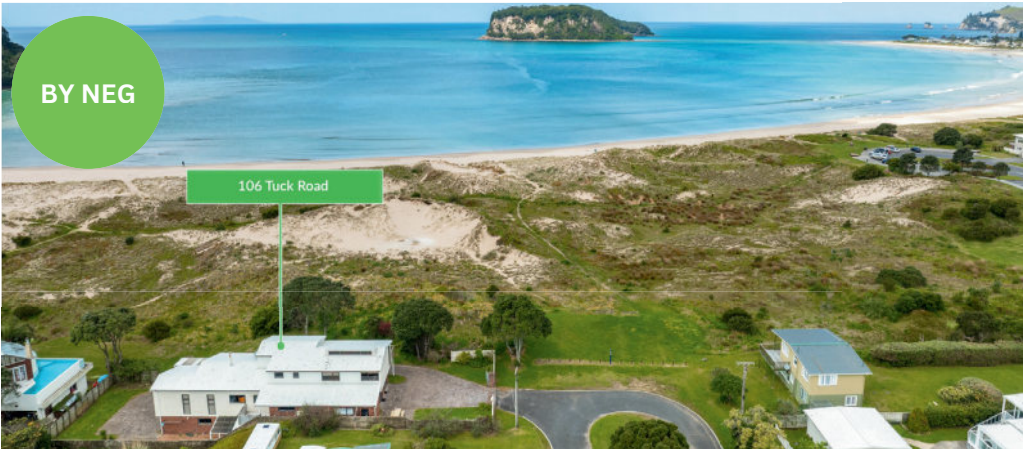
Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing [whanga.co/8573](http://whanga.co/8573)



## Ultimate Beachfront Escape

106 Tuck Road, Whangamata

5 5

- Prime beach location
- Substantial accommodation options
- Wide beach front boundary
- Comprehensive chattels list - ready to move in

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing [whanga.co/8541](http://whanga.co/8541)



## Development Opportunity

1006 Port Road, Whangamata

4 2 3

- Extra density zoning (1011m2 approx)
- Living on ground & first floors
- Harbour and ocean views
- Highly desirable location

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing [whanga.co/8512](http://whanga.co/8512)



## Desired Harbour Location

104 Moana Avenue, Whangamata

3 2 2

- Open plan living with sarked ceilings and water views
- North facing decks with direct access from lounge
- Low maintenance landscaped site with mature planting
- Easy access to harbour reserve walks, marina and town

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing [whanga.co/8544](http://whanga.co/8544)





# Whangamata Real Estate

WHANGAMATA REAL ESTATE 2024 LTD (LICENSED REAA 2008)

*Don't just dream it, live it*



**First Home Buyers** \$849,000  
**104A Casement Road**  
2 1 1 whanga.co/8517



**Onemana Hideaway** \$895,000  
**338 Onemana Drive**  
3 2 whanga.co/8446



**Easy Living** \$955,000  
**135 Everitt Crescent**  
3 2 2 whanga.co/8547



**Lifestyle & Location** \$1.050M  
**201 Ocean Road**  
3 2 1 whanga.co/8464



**Must See** \$1.175M  
**109 Te Tutu Street**  
3+ 2 2 whanga.co/8525



**Views & Location** \$2.195M  
**611 Beach Road**  
3 1 1 whanga.co/8511



**Surfside** EO \$2.195M  
**106 Saint Patricks Row**  
3 2 2 whanga.co/8310



**Low Maintenance** By Neg  
**105 Everitt Crescent**  
2 2 1 whanga.co/8553



**Tropical Escape** By Neg  
**324B Mary Road**  
4 3 2 whanga.co/8496



**Harbour Views** By Neg  
**623B Harbour View Road**  
4 2 2 whanga.co/8490



**Premium Apartment** By Neg  
**4/111 Hunt Road**  
3 2 3 whanga.co/8440



**Elevated Style** By Neg  
**107 Pacific View Drive**  
3 2 2 whanga.co/8567

**Proud to have helped 50 families  
move in 2025.  
Thank you for your trust.**

**Buying or selling in 2026?  
We'd love to help.**

**Chris & Katie Speedy  
Local Experts, Proven Results**



Thinking of selling?  
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**31 sales** in 2025!



**Phone Chris 021747901 | Katie 021382022**

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OR

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On site **Moana House facility** provides a full spectrum of care all in **one location**.

Contact us for more information on 07 865 9643

For more information, please phone (07) 865 9643  
*Deborah Padfield* (General Manager)  
**353 Tairua Road, Whangamata**

## MOANA HOUSE & VILLAGE

He whare ahuru – *a caring safe place*



## LOCAL PASSION PROVEN RESULTS

After 30 years of holidaying in Whangamatā, my family and I are proud to now call this wonderful place home. Real estate is in my DNA. With my mum running a successful agency in Wellington, I grew up in the property industry, which sparked a passion that's never left. Over the past five years I've built a strong track record selling homes in Lower Hutt, recently recognised as **Bayleys Lower Hutt's #1 agent**. Coming from one of New Zealand's most competitive markets, I know what it takes to deliver outstanding service and achieve great results.

I've hit the ground running, having already helped several families with their Whangamatā sales, and I'm excited to continue to bring my experience, dedication, and personal approach to a community I've loved for decades.

Whether you're buying, selling, or just exploring your options, I'm here to help.

Get in touch with me today. I'd love to hear from you.

**Jerry Waddington**

027 314 0707

[jerry.waddington@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jerry.waddington@bayleys.co.nz)

M H REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS,  
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**BAYLEYS**

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**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](http://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](mailto:dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz)

**Gordon McGregor** 021 998 810

[gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz)

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



**Whangamatā** 203A Graham Street

**Sophisticated coastal retreat steps from the surf**

Steps from the sand and surf, this exceptional beach house combines refined coastal design with a truly enviable location. The property enjoys tranquil views across the dunes to the ocean while being set back just enough to provide privacy and calm away from the Esplanade's bustle. Beautifully proportioned and thoughtfully appointed, the home offers four generous bedrooms and two bathrooms across two levels. Every detail has been considered to enhance comfort and ease of living. From underfloor heating in the upstairs bathroom and a heat pump for year-round climate control, to the versatile rumpus or office space designed for working or relaxing in style. The open-plan living area flows seamlessly to a covered deck, creating an inviting space for entertaining or simply unwinding as you take in the ever-changing coastal light.

**Perfectly positioned, less than 100 metres from the beach.**

[bayleys.co.nz/2221544](http://bayleys.co.nz/2221544)

4 2 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 5 Feb 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Gordon McGregor** 021 998 810

[gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz)

**Dale Sholson** 021 636 519

[dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz)

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

# The end of a golden era: Tennis coach retires



50 years is a long time to do anything; 50 years wrangling children at tennis clinics and coaching juniors with varying degrees of interest in your own personal passion, is another story.

**This is David Branks' story; on the eve of his final junior tennis coaching clinic, and on the Golden Jubilee of his coaching career, David reminisces on his life's work...**

The opportunity to become a coach started because I had a few hits with Richard Hawkes, a prominent lawyer in Wellington who was ranked in the top 5 tennis players in NZ. Richard later went on to become a Judge in Hong Kong.

I was just a slightly above average club player but, because of my job at the time, I was able to give him a hit at lunch times. He suggested that I should join the Wellington Lawn Tennis Association. I guess they wanted someone a little younger - I was 23 at the time.

The 1970s was arguably a heyday for the business of tennis coaching in the US and Australia. The Victor A Edwards Tennis School (VAETS) in Sydney Australia was the largest and finest tennis school in the southern hemisphere with over 4,500 students instructed every week. In 1975 I found myself the Wellington/Masterton contact person for THE Vic Edwards for his tennis coaching tour in NZ for the best juniors in the country. I mentioned to Vic that I was thinking of going overseas and he invited me to come to Sydney and learn to be a tennis coach.

Wow! What an opportunity. Vic, at this stage, was the National coach of Australia and NZ. In January 1976 I flew to Sydney. VAETS had produced some of Australia's great Grand Slam players; Vic is probably most famous for adopting Evonne Goolagong from a small country town in the outback of Australia and she became number 1 player in the world and won 13 major titles.

At VAETS there were 10 coaches

and for over a year it was full of learning the trade, and passing my Australian coaching exams. Vic wanted to open a branch in NZ and Tasmania. He offered me the Tasmania job, but I wanted to work for myself so I returned to NZ to be Regional Coach for the Wairarapa based in Masterton, my home town, where I met my wife Karen, surprise surprise, on the tennis court. Two of our five children became tennis coaches.

We moved to Tauranga - I was the Regional Coach for the Western Bay of Plenty for 5 years, then to Auckland to coach in many clubs for 30 years. Somewhere in-between all that we leased a tennis centre in Brisbane for 5 years. Wow, that's a whole lot of coaching. Thousands of people and I loved every second of it!

Most often asked questions: Were you a great tennis player? No, but I did represent Wairarapa and Western Bay of Plenty. Did you coach any famous NZ tennis players? No, but I started off a lot of juniors who have gone on to win national junior titles.

My role has always been to give them good technique, then encourage them to inter-club competition and, if they are a little special, into tournaments. If they achieve at tournament level, they move on to high performance coaches. To see children who have never played before on that journey is an absolute pleasure.

- David Branks

**After "retiring" to Whangamatā mid 2018, it wasn't long before David was organising after school lessons and school holiday tennis clinics. Whangamatā junior tennis has grown with David's support and hopefully this retirement will stick. David is running his last clinic these holidays (as advertised in the Classifieds section) and Term 1 2026 is your last chance for your potential junior tennis champ to have a good start.**

## CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Whangamata Tennis Club

#### SCHOOL HOLIDAY Tennis Coaching Clinic

Monday 12th January to Thursday 15th January

Age: For children 8-12 years Cost: \$75 for the week or \$20 per day

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Racquets provided if needed

Coaching rain or shine (inside on squash courts if wet)

All strokes covered, singles & doubles, scoring, court positions and even how to practice

#### TERM 1 - Tennis Coaching

For 8 weeks, Starting Monday 2nd Feb 2026

Age: For children 8 years and above

Days: Days and times are negotiable Cost: \$90

Any children who can Serve consistently will be invited to play Club Tennis on Sunday afternoons in the 4th Term

#### CONTACT

Coach: David Branks (NZ & Australian Qualified) with 49 years coaching experience

Register: Email child's name, age, preferred date & time and contact details to [brankstennis@hotmail.com](mailto:brankstennis@hotmail.com)

Enquiries: David or Karen Branks Phone: 021VOLLEY 021865539

Payments: Account name: K F and D R Branks

Account Number: 12-3449-0117165-00

## Whangamatā Tides 2025/2026

### JANUARY 2026

☾ New Moon: 19<sup>th</sup>

☀ Full Moon: 3<sup>rd</sup>

| Date | Day | High tide |     | Low tide |     | Sun rise |     | Sun set |     |       |       |
|------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-------|
|      |     | AM        | PM  | AM       | PM  | AM       | PM  |         |     |       |       |
| 9    | Fri | 0:07      | 1.8 | 12:32    | 1.9 | 6:05     | 0.3 | 18:43   | 0.3 | 06:04 | 20:40 |
| 10   | Sat | 0:56      | 1.8 | 13:18    | 1.9 | 6:54     | 0.4 | 19:30   | 0.4 | 06:05 | 20:40 |
| 11   | Sun | 1:45      | 1.7 | 14:04    | 1.8 | 7:43     | 0.5 | 20:18   | 0.4 | 06:06 | 20:40 |
| 12   | Mon | 2:36      | 1.7 | 14:50    | 1.7 | 8:34     | 0.6 | 21:07   | 0.5 | 06:07 | 20:40 |
| 13   | Tue | 3:29      | 1.6 | 15:38    | 1.7 | 9:27     | 0.6 | 21:57   | 0.5 | 06:08 | 20:39 |
| 14   | Wed | 4:23      | 1.6 | 16:28    | 1.6 | 10:21    | 0.7 | 22:49   | 0.5 | 06:09 | 20:39 |
| 15   | Thu | 5:18      | 1.6 | 17:20    | 1.6 | 11:16    | 0.7 | 23:41   | 0.5 | 06:10 | 20:39 |
| 16   | Fri | 6:10      | 1.7 | 18:12    | 1.6 |          | 0.6 | 12:08   | 0.7 | 06:11 | 20:38 |
| 17   | Sat | 6:59      | 1.7 | 19:02    | 1.6 | 0:30     | 0.5 | 12:58   | 0.6 | 06:12 | 20:38 |
| 18   | Sun | 7:45      | 1.7 | 19:49    | 1.7 | 1:15     | 0.5 | 13:44   | 0.6 | 06:13 | 20:38 |
| 19   | Mon | 8:28      | 1.8 | 20:34    | 1.7 | 1:58     | 0.4 | 14:28   | 0.5 | 06:14 | 20:37 |
| 20   | Tue | 9:09      | 1.8 | 21:18    | 1.8 | 2:40     | 0.4 | 15:10   | 0.5 | 06:15 | 20:37 |
| 21   | Wed | 9:50      | 1.9 | 22:00    | 1.8 | 3:21     | 0.4 | 15:53   | 0.4 | 06:16 | 20:36 |
| 22   | Thu | 10:30     | 1.9 | 22:43    | 1.8 | 4:02     | 0.3 | 16:35   | 0.4 | 06:17 | 20:36 |
| 23   | Fri | 11:11     | 1.9 | 23:27    | 1.8 | 4:45     | 0.3 | 17:18   | 0.4 | 06:19 | 20:35 |
| 24   | Sat |           |     | 11:54    | 1.9 | 5:29     | 0.3 | 18:03   | 0.3 | 06:20 | 20:34 |
| 25   | Sun | 0:12      | 1.8 | 12:38    | 1.9 | 6:15     | 0.4 | 18:49   | 0.3 | 06:21 | 20:34 |
| 26   | Mon | 1:01      | 1.8 | 13:25    | 1.9 | 7:05     | 0.4 | 19:39   | 0.3 | 06:22 | 20:33 |
| 27   | Tue | 1:54      | 1.8 | 14:16    | 1.9 | 7:59     | 0.4 | 20:33   | 0.3 | 06:23 | 20:32 |
| 28   | Wed | 2:53      | 1.8 | 15:13    | 1.8 | 8:58     | 0.5 | 21:31   | 0.3 | 06:24 | 20:32 |
| 29   | Thu | 3:57      | 1.8 | 16:15    | 1.8 | 10:01    | 0.5 | 22:32   | 0.3 | 06:25 | 20:31 |

## Waihi Beach Tides 2025/2026

### JANUARY 2026

☾ New Moon: 19<sup>th</sup>

☀ Full Moon: 3<sup>rd</sup>

| Date | Day | High tide |     | Low tide |     | Sun rise |     | Sun set |     |       |       |
|------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-------|
|      |     | AM        | PM  | AM       | PM  | AM       | PM  |         |     |       |       |
| 9    | Fri | 0:02      | 1.8 | 12:27    | 1.9 | 6:00     | 0.3 | 18:38   | 0.3 | 06:04 | 20:40 |
| 10   | Sat | 0:51      | 1.8 | 13:13    | 1.9 | 6:49     | 0.4 | 19:25   | 0.4 | 06:05 | 20:40 |
| 11   | Sun | 1:40      | 1.7 | 13:59    | 1.8 | 7:38     | 0.5 | 20:13   | 0.4 | 06:06 | 20:40 |
| 12   | Mon | 2:31      | 1.7 | 14:45    | 1.7 | 8:29     | 0.6 | 21:02   | 0.5 | 06:07 | 20:40 |
| 13   | Tue | 3:24      | 1.6 | 15:33    | 1.7 | 9:22     | 0.6 | 21:52   | 0.5 | 06:08 | 20:39 |
| 14   | Wed | 4:18      | 1.6 | 16:23    | 1.6 | 10:16    | 0.7 | 22:44   | 0.5 | 06:09 | 20:39 |
| 15   | Thu | 5:13      | 1.6 | 17:15    | 1.6 | 11:11    | 0.7 | 23:36   | 0.5 | 06:10 | 20:39 |
| 16   | Fri | 6:05      | 1.7 | 18:07    | 1.6 |          | 0.6 | 12:03   | 0.7 | 06:11 | 20:38 |
| 17   | Sat | 6:54      | 1.7 | 18:57    | 1.6 | 0:25     | 0.5 | 12:53   | 0.6 | 06:12 | 20:38 |
| 18   | Sun | 7:40      | 1.7 | 19:44    | 1.7 | 1:10     | 0.5 | 13:39   | 0.6 | 06:13 | 20:38 |
| 19   | Mon | 8:23      | 1.8 | 20:29    | 1.7 | 1:53     | 0.4 | 14:23   | 0.5 | 06:14 | 20:37 |
| 20   | Tue | 9:04      | 1.8 | 21:13    | 1.8 | 2:35     | 0.4 | 15:05   | 0.5 | 06:15 | 20:37 |
| 21   | Wed | 9:45      | 1.9 | 21:55    | 1.8 | 3:16     | 0.4 | 15:48   | 0.4 | 06:16 | 20:36 |
| 22   | Thu | 10:25     | 1.9 | 22:38    | 1.8 | 3:57     | 0.3 | 16:30   | 0.4 | 06:17 | 20:36 |
| 23   | Fri | 11:06     | 1.9 | 23:22    | 1.8 | 4:40     | 0.3 | 17:13   | 0.4 | 06:19 | 20:35 |
| 24   | Sat |           | 1.9 | 11:49    | 1.9 | 5:24     | 0.3 | 17:58   | 0.3 | 06:20 | 20:34 |
| 25   | Sun | 0:07      | 1.8 | 12:33    | 1.9 | 6:10     | 0.4 | 18:44   | 0.3 | 06:21 | 20:34 |
| 26   | Mon | 0:56      | 1.8 | 13:20    | 1.9 | 7:00     | 0.4 | 19:34   | 0.3 | 06:22 | 20:33 |
| 27   | Tue | 1:49      | 1.8 | 14:11    | 1.9 | 7:54     | 0.4 | 20:28   | 0.3 | 06:23 | 20:32 |
| 28   | Wed | 2:48      | 1.8 | 15:08    | 1.8 | 8:53     | 0.5 | 21:26   | 0.3 | 06:24 | 20:32 |
| 29   | Thu | 3:52      | 1.8 | 16:10    | 1.8 | 9:56     | 0.5 | 22:27   | 0.3 | 06:25 | 20:31 |

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### DELIVERERS WANTED IN WHANGAMATĀ

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Most routes take approximately 1 hour.



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Hottest delivery rate in town, \$20 per route at rate.

One delivery per fortnight with a 2-3 day window to deliver.

Most routes take approximately 1 hour.



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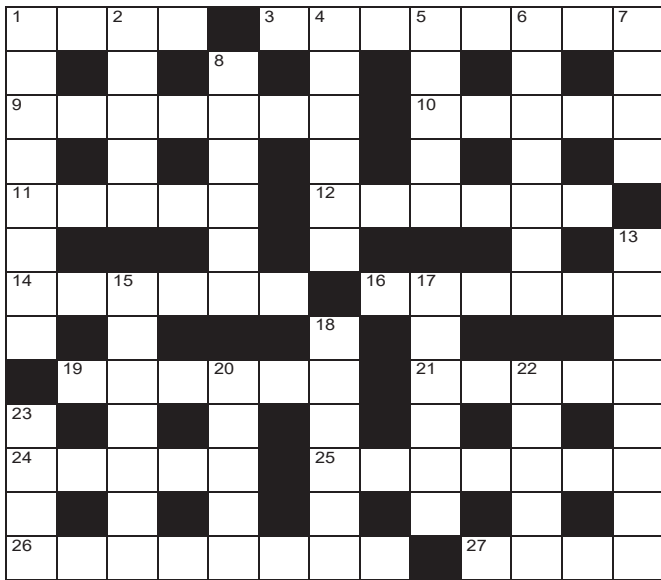
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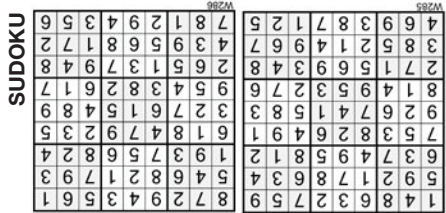
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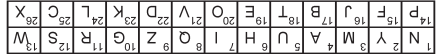
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 14. Shrewd (6)  
 16. Cut down (6)  
 19. Vote (6)  
 21. King (5)  
 24. Peculiarly (5)  
 25. Shiver (7)  
 26. Speculate (8)  
 27. Something positive (4)
- Down**  
 1. Plinth (8)  
 2. Drive back (5)  
 4. Indifference (6)  
 5. Mixture of metals (5)  
 6. Pariah (7)  
 7. Puffed (4)  
 8. Hidden (6)  
 13. Without equal (8)  
 15. Nonsense (7)  
 17. Damned (6)  
 18. Standing (6)  
 20. Tier (5)  
 22. Defame in print (5)  
 23. Misplaced (4)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

**SOLUTIONS**



**DECODER**

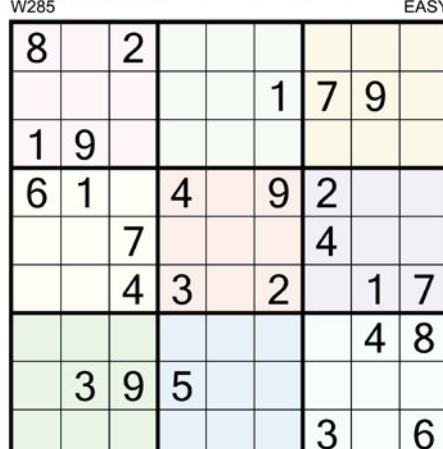
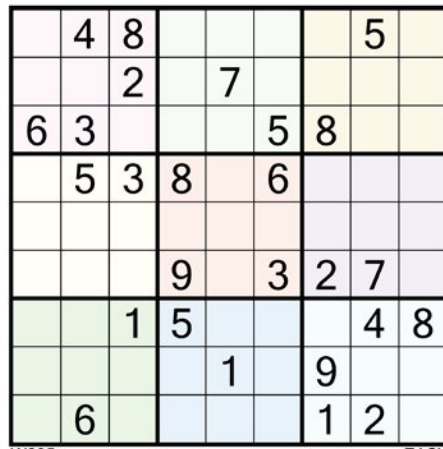


**CRYPTIC**

- Across:** 7 & 15. A close shave; 8. Epochs; 9. Cede; 10. Night owl; 11. Trinity; 13. UMBER; 14. Prophet; 16. Veneer; 18. Notice; 19. Chide; 22. Idea.
- Down:** 1. Ache; 2. Come on; 3. Keynote; 4. Verge; 5. Tom-tom; 6. Chow mein; 12. Rehearse; 24. Exceed; 25. Tremble; 26. Theorise; 27. Plus.

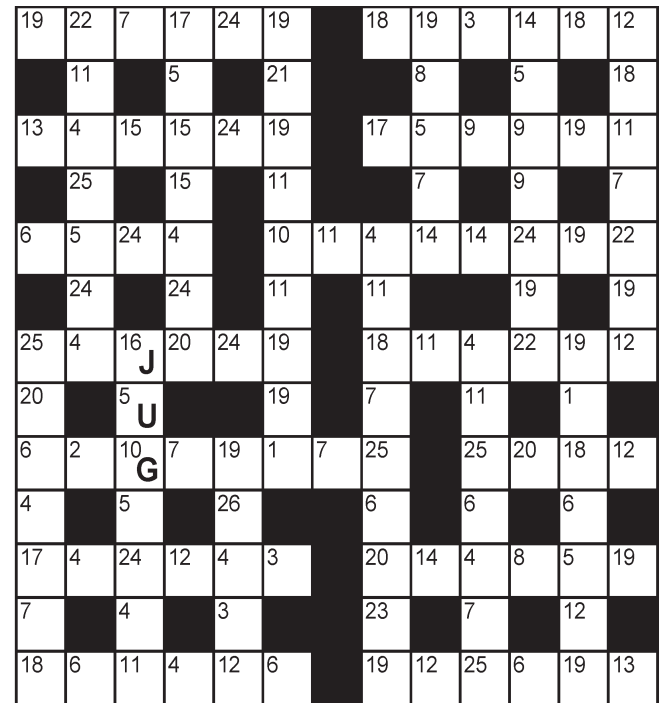
**SUDOKU**

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



**DECODER**

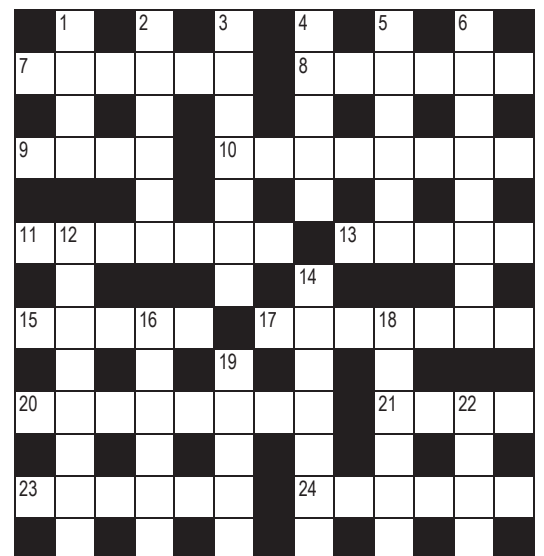
Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



| 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 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|    |    |    |    | U  |    |    |    |    | G  |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|    |    | J  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

- Across**  
 7 & 15. Miss by a whisker – or a total lack of (1,5,5)  
 8. They were eras of the “she cop” (6)  
 9. Yield in an about face decision (4)  
 10. Is he (or she) a bit of a hoot after hours? (5,3)  
 11. Three of a kind? (7)  
 13. A colour you may sling around when asleep (5)  
 15. See 7  
 17. Having an evening out? (7)  
 20. You may even find a chess piece here (8)  
 21. Wetsuit is useless you idiot! (4)  
 23. Climb to the top or the bottom we hear (6)  
 24. Outdo the former church journalist (6)
- Down**  
 1. The account he got caused some stress (4)  
 2. If it’s an enticement – get on with it! (4,2)  
 3. Keen toy becomes a tonic (7)  
 4. Truck driver gentleman admits being borderline (5)  
 5. The piper’s son gets a beating (3-3)  
 6. How mince is turned into oriental take-away (4,4)  
 12. Practice being a soldier on the funeral car (8)  
 14. We heard you can get a return from the seer (7)  
 16. Turn with bearings just on the surface (6)  
 18. A sign of summer on the Canadian lake? (6)



19. Reprimand – so many take cover (5)  
 22. Roadie has no alternative but to come up with a notion (4)

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chicken & cabbage  
 prawn & pork

from 1pm until sold out

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conditions apply

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FULL SIZE BUFFALO WINGS!!

\$1 PER WING!!

Dine in only

conditions apply

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conditions apply

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 FROM 4:30PM UNTIL SOLD OUT

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