

PARADISE COAST

Whangamatā NEWS

ISSUE 117 - 10 MAY, 2024



World champions are raised here

PAGE 10

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DELIVERED TO WAIHI, WHIRITOA, WHANGAMATĀ, ONEMANA, HIKUAI, PAUANUI & TAIRUA

Not just a market



Last week, the Whangamatā Sunday Market stall holders donated \$500 to the Moana House Dementia Unit fundraiser.

“The unit will be a huge asset to the town” says market organizer, Suzanne Clegg, “and we’re so pleased to be able to help.” This brings their total donations to community groups to just over \$13,000.

If you’ve not been to this local market before, it’s not just about the lovely fruit and vegetables, plants, crafts, books and bric-a-brac.

The Resource Recovery Trust is there from 10am to 11am, accepting small e-waste items, polystyrene, milk/juice cartons and batteries for recycling. And you can also drop-

off egg trays/cartons which go to Happy Hens farm for re-use.

St Johns will be there too, on 19 May, so come down for a free blood pressure check!

Special thanks must go to Dave, our brilliant busker, for his many hours of lovely music.

Unfortunately, Dave is unable to make it every week now, so if you’d like to try busking, let us know!

From now, through winter, the Market will be on the first and third Sundays of the month plus school holidays. Check out the sign by the Council gardens for the next date.

Come on down and be part of the community!

Phone Suzanne 022 651 2250 or follow us on Facebook.



Improving student achievement

For too many primary school children our education system is failing them. The ability to read, write and count are basic life skill tools that every child needs to have if they are to achieve the best outcomes in adult life.

In recent decades educational standard have been slipping. It’s not something that has just happened overnight. It’s been a long, slow but steady decline. Over the last few weeks, Education Minister Erica Stanford has signalled the coalition Government’s priority to raise student achievement.

Doing so is something my National Party colleagues and I campaigned on strongly during last year’s election.

The Minister has announced a renewed focus on structured literacy, which in effect is a return to the tried-and-true methods of teaching children how to read and write. When I went to school it was called ‘phonics’. From Term 1 in 2025 all state schools will be using the structured literacy approach, which we believe will make a real difference to the learning outcomes

of our children.

Presently, only 56% of Year 8 students are at the expected level for reading and writing. We’re committed to turning this around and have set a target to get 80% of Year 8 students to curriculum level by 2030. The return to proven education methods, as well as requiring schools to teach an hour each of reading, writing, and maths, will play a big part in better preparing kids for the future.

And on the general subject of education, I’ve been getting very positive feedback about the ban on cell phones in classrooms. It came into effect at the beginning of this school term. I’ve heard that it’s being received exceptionally well not only with parents and teachers but also actually surprisingly within the large number of school pupils who want to focus on their studies. Removing the distraction of phones has worked overseas, with countries reporting higher engagement and improved achievement.

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

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Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

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National

Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Welcome to the first May 2024 edition of Whangamatā News

- a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals

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To the EDITOR

Reducing crime

I think we all wish the Government luck in solving the problems with crime, cost of living and improving public services, but I must admit to having doubts that their 'back to the future' policies will work. Three Strikes is just another way of saying that we need to imprison more people.

This was described as a moral and financial failure by the last National government but anger at what people see as a rising crime rate will not be solved by simple populist slogans and bigger prisons.

The USA imprisons vast numbers of poor black people yet conservative politicians continue to amplify the fear that people feel with continued stories about immigrants and violent attacks. Boot camps are another blast from the past, and there is no evidence they work any better than other state attempts to control young people.

Will there be another State Commission in the future to examine the damage these camps did, just as is happening now with the previous generations who suffered the last time in the 'care' of the state?

Incidentally many of these wards of the state are the same people who are now imprisoned in our prisons.

John Lipscombe
WHANGAMATĀ

Shaping careers

G.N Kendall (NZ Herald 23 April, 2024) raises an important aspect of our education system that is often not given the prominence it merits. Many young people reach crossroads at the end of their secondary schooling years torn by uncertainty as to what lies ahead for their working lives.

Some will pursue university studies, some enter the trades or other fields of endeavour.

The point is well made that too many have little idea of which course to follow and where life beyond the school gate will take them.

As suggested, careers advice should be a specialist area in education, not necessarily provided by teaching staff but more by mentors well versed in business and employment opportunities across all sectors of the economy. Mentors should be well enough connected to be able to refer young people to key knowledgeable leaders across all occupations and industries.

We all know of school leavers who know exactly the career path they want to follow; these are the lucky ones. However, the many who need guidance would benefit greatly from in depth analysis of not only their educational strengths and weaknesses but also of their interests and favourite activities that motivate them outside school hours.

George Williams
WHANGAMATĀ

Blindsided

Once again our Whangamatā Community is blindsided by the idiotic plans that crop up for anything to do with Williamson Park.

Surely this latest one: a wetland in the pond: has to take the cake as the best one of all?

Extensive consultation costing, I am sure, well in excess of the quoted \$200,000 gives us all some indication of the appalling waste of our ratepayer money. This is only the beginning of course.

Whatever happened to transparency, consultation and public awareness from our Council members? It was quoted often enough during their election campaigns.

I am sure that this crazy project will end up costing well over a million dollars to complete, let alone the ongoing consultation fees that our Council love to engage in.

If it does become a wetland, what happens to the expensive piping that was put into the pond to take the stormwater from surrounding roads and Williamson Golf Course following previous flooding? Isn't it time we had some

sensible discussions for our future stormwater problems rather than half baked ideas from outside consultants.

Everyone knows, other than our great Council engineers, that the Weir at the edge of the pond has not worked properly for over 25, probably 30 years. This is due to lack of maintenance and Council owning up to the fact that it has been left to silt up and become clogged with silt, sand and rubbish so that no water can pass through it so there has to be a flood before the excess water can escape over the top.

It doesn't seem to matter to this Council what we want as a Community, maybe they think we don't understand. I have news for them!

Our residents are tired of being flooded during heavy rains, tired of platitudes from Council over how it will be fixed, tired of being lied to and finally tired of the appalling waste of our hard earned money.

A message to Council. Start consulting with us as a Community and be up front for once. It won't cost any consulting fees.

K. Baker
WHANGAMATĀ

Letters to the Editor: Whangamatā News ensures we are impartial - we take no sides, all readers have a right to their point of view, shape public opinion, tell others how you feel or can simply inform on an issue. Keep them under 250 words, including your name and the town you reside in.

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Henry, a seasoned digital marketer with over 20 years in IT, lives in Katikati, and will give a detailed and informative presentation while you enjoy a light breakfast over coffee.

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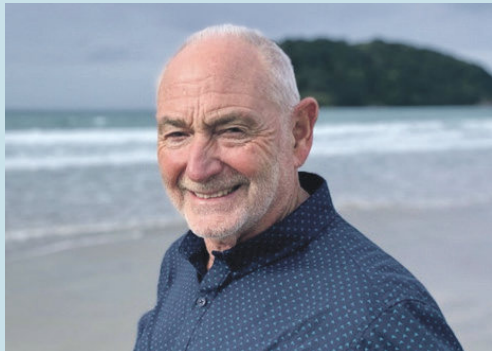
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Councillor to present at BA5



Two-term councillor, Gary Gotlieb, tells us why he's still there.

Gary loves Whangamatā, if he's not swimming in the ocean race at Christmas, he's helping out in the surf club. And when he's not doing that, he's in Thames working hard for The Paradise Coast. Re-elected with an increased majority at the last local election, he's not afraid to ruffle feathers, upset the apple cart or pull the monkey by the tail.

His presentation at Enterprise Whangamatā's Business After Five at Smoky Pallet will be honest and possibly controversial.

Enterprise Whangamata presents Gary Gotlieb, BA5, Smoky Pallet. Tuesday, 14 May, 5pm. Members and guests only. Free nibbles, bar open. For more details, phone Shaun Fay on 027 931 7157.

Workshops and meetings defined

In response to the Whangamatā News article 'Williamson Park to have a Wetland' published 19 April.

It is accepted that Whangamatā needs its stormwater problems to be resolved. As lay people in the field of stormwater, we must accept advice from civil engineers who are experts in this field.

It is accepted that the work plans of years ago were not properly attended to, but we must do our best with the current circumstances we face and the available money.

Council staff have had several studies done with engineers as mentioned and a working group to include Rob Boston, Ian Holloway, Eric Thorn (a retired civil engineer with storm water experience) and Councillor Walker attended some meetings.

What needs to be corrected is how local government works. Council meetings are open to the public where councillors vote on resolutions following staff advice, reports, and debate. The motion is moved there is a seconder, and the majority can pass the resolution. That agenda is on the Councils website and the public can attend council meetings by video link. On some

issues that are of a confidential nature, usually commercial matters, the public is excluded for that part of the meeting.

There has been discussion as to workshops and that staff are voting on what is to be done. Let us quote what standing orders say about Workshops.

"Workshop means in the context of standing orders a gathering of elected members for the purpose of considering matters of importance to the Local authority at which no decisions are made and which these standing orders will not apply, unless required by the local authority.

Workshops may include non-elected members. Workshops may be described as briefings."

The problem the Ombudsman addressed was workshops of elected members with no public present relating to 8 councils it appears had been making decisions, or directions at those meetings it was not entitled to. At TCDC workshops the agenda at the top of the page in capital letters states: NO DECISION CAN BE MADE AT WORKSHOPS.

Input was required from the community as mentioned above for the working group as above

also friends of Williamson Park were contacted through **Councillor Gotlieb**. One of their members is a civil engineer with considerable experience in stormwater. Craig made some suggested improvements which were taken on board by council officers. Eric Thorn, who is overseas, was kept informed of all these matters and on the 18 April responded that he was in favour of the proposed wetlands and offered a few minor suggestions which have been taken on board. He has again on 29 April reaffirmed his support of the wetland proposal.

From the best advice the wetlands proposal seems to be the way to go, and this can be seen as an operational matter that the staff deal with. If we continue to oppose, I expect the staff will proceed in any event (to not to do so will result in funding being withdrawn and it may take some time to have funding approved again) but it has been Councils wish to involve the community.

As stated earlier, as lay people we need to take advice from the experts, and it appears they all agree to proceed with the wetland proposal.

- Terry Walker, Deputy Mayor and Gary Gotlieb, Councillor

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Where: Titoki Golf Course

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SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE

Money is needed for research and support. At least 9 people a day are diagnosed with breast cancer.

See you all at the Golf Club

Open letter



A response to TCDC's advertorial 'Our Coromandel' on page 13 of the 19 April edition of Whangamatā News.

The advertorial states plans will be available later this year presumably for public consultation with works beginning 1 July, 2024. How is council expecting the public to provide input when the works have already started.

The editorial omits that council has decided a wetland is to be constructed inside Williamson Park and that progress is at the stage tenderers have already met on site. The 2018 Opus report into what can be done with Williamson Pond provided 3 options and that the public need to be informed as any decision would be contentious. Being contentious would mean the significance and engagement policy would be at the highest level and community must be involved in any decision. It appears that our elected members were not told of this decision or that other options had been tabled until April 2024. The recent Community Board meeting was a live action show where council admitted it was not engaging with stakeholders because they were under instructions from senior staff not to.

We have been members of what the advertorial states as a 'working group of residents' since April 2023. Our role

was two of three stakeholder representatives selected from the Whangamata Stormwater Action Group to participate in a series of workshops to produce a master plan by 23 November, 2023, to be included in the LTP draft giving community time for consultation before any work is started.

Workshops were to examine the benefits, pros and cons, of stormwater improvement options to then go to full council meetings where elected members then decide what choices would be included in the 2024/2034 LTP for community to be consulted on. The workshop is the engagement process. Council has instead made its own decision and refused to discuss at least three alternate options put forward by stakeholders and is proceeding with a wetland completion date June, 2024.

Making decisions in workshops is unlawful. We understand LGNZ is currently providing advice to council.

Ian and I have withdrawn from the workshops as we can no longer support councils' failure to engage, failure to be transparent, provide documents and making this unlawful decision.

It's time to consider what the residents and ratepayers of the town want.

- Rob Boston and Ian Holyoake

Whangamatā News understands the wetlands are just one small part of the stormwater issues around our town.

A public meeting is to be confirmed on the Williamson Park site this month to show the

stormwater wetland project.

These editorials on pages 4 and 5 were submitted by the various parties concerned and are showing both sides of the issue.

- Jennie Black

TCDC Responds

TCDC has responded to the Whangamatā News article in our 19 April edition regarding the Williamson Park pond.

The Williamson Park area has been a key focus for our Council due to issues with flooding. The existing pond was originally designed to be a soakage basin, with a spillway outlet. However, the existing pond provides a long water retention time which results in settlement of sediments and potential for growth of algae.

The solution developed for Williamson Park, which has been designed by professionally qualified engineering consultants, allows for water to be transferred via a wetland area and then dispersed out to sea. The wetland area is part of the stormwater quality treatment systems designed to handle sediments. The objective is that water ponding will still occur during peak weather events but will dissipate after a short retention time. This solution has been discussed at a recent meeting

of a community engagement team which was formed to gain community input into the work.

This engagement team includes three representatives of the Whangamatā Ratepayers Association, two community members who are civil contractors with experience of the Williamson Park pond (but who are not contracted to Council), a member of the Whangamatā Community Board, a Councillor and our Council Water Services Manager. Of the seven community representatives, five are supportive of the solution. Waikato Regional Council have confirmed they are supportive of this solution and that it meets their stormwater guidelines.

The objective is that this solution will be implemented by June 2024. As the design is subject to a commercial tender process, we are unable to provide costings.

- Contributed by Mohamed Imtiaz, Thames-Coromandel District Council's Infrastructure Manager

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Glam It Up Pink

BREAKING NEWS: Austin Powers is in town... Groovy baby!

We are a group of local women from Whangamatā who have joined forces over the past few months, to organise a charity event to raise funds for breast cancer on Pink Ribbon Day. We have pooled our ideas and resources and have gone to great lengths to create a pink-themed atmosphere. There's been many a fun evening cutting up crepe paper and making streamers, blowing up balloons (pink ones of course) and decorating pink, pink, pink!

The event promises to be a fun-filled couple of hours. Whilst you're sipping on a glass of bubbles, and enjoying Austin Powers flouncing around the room, there will be a breast health information session, promotional material to give away to encourage regular breast screening appointments, music, activities, and our special guest star Austin Powers making it a groovy time, baby! All proceeds will go towards Breast Cancer Research and Support Services. By working together, we can make a positive impact and help those affected by breast cancer live healthier, happier lives.

We have also put together a delicious menu of canapés - from cheeky prawn cocktails to smoked kahawai vol-au-vents and, for your sweet tooth, lemon curd and raspberry cups or a chocolate morsel. Guaranteed ladies, there will



Gary Brown as Austin Powers.

be continuous scrumptious platters throughout the evening!

Breast cancer is a disease that affects millions of people worldwide, including nine New Zealand women a day.

This super fun event provides a unique opportunity for us as a

community to draw attention to the ongoing impact of breast cancer amongst those diagnosed with the disease and their supporters. The event aims to raise awareness about the importance of early detection, treatment options, and support available to those affected by breast cancer.

Through participating in the event, we can come together and celebrate the strength, resilience, and courage of the survivors, as well as honour those who have lost their lives to this disease.

The dress code for the evening is 'Glam It Up Pink'. We are grateful to our many kind sponsors for their generous contributions toward making the soiree a success - namely: Andy's Wood Tech, Bartley Internet & Graphics, Beach Babies Boutique, Bella Design, Body Work Gym, Coromandel Chocolate, Haven, Nourish, Super Liquor Whangamata, Smokey Pallet, Tailored Signs & Prints, Table Talk, The Little Gallery and Whangamata Real Estate Community Swimming Pool - their generosity has enabled us to run an incredible raffle, and silent auctions, valued at over \$1500.

Pink Ribbon Bubbles & Canapés Thursday, 23 May, 5:30-8pm at The South Pacific Conference Centre.

The dress code (as Austin would say... 'Oh yeah, baby!') is Glam It Up Pink.

Limited tickets - call Carly 021 634 677 or Lisa 027 631 8002, or call in to reception at 249 Port Road to book. Tickets are \$45 and all proceeds go to Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand.

- Austin Powers (yeah, baby!), Lynn, Lisa, Lou, Lorraine, Paula, Rhonda, Daphne, Carly & KB



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Junior soccer

A great autumnal day on Saturday, 4 May, at the WAS grounds saw the juniors pre-season game with the Mini Kickers - Under 10s play Thames. Whangamatā News is looking forward to covering the upcoming season of the boys and girls with varying skill levels and incredible enthusiasm.

- Photos by Mark James



Tournament raises funds for flood works



A flood-prone provincial Kiwi golf club has raised some \$65,000 from a tournament to assist in implementing a major water mitigation programme which will see a network of natural creeks running through the course cleared of weeds impeding the smooth flow of rain run-off in winter.

Whangamata Golf Club in the Coromandel has regularly flooded over the past few winters as the effects of rain deluges are compounded by the growth of weeds and vegetation within the multiple creeks winding their way through the course's low-lying fairways... which are sometimes drowned under 1.5 metre ponds during heavy rain spells.

Even during 'normal' flow periods, the Wentworth River and its tributary creeks create water hazards alongside 15 of the club's low-lying holes. Bridges - many of which were close to the end of their life expectancy and were severely damaged by previous flooding - criss cross over from several of the course's adjoining fairways.

Whangamata Golf Club has a \$500,000 flood resilience reparation budget over the next five years - with expenditure being equally split between drainage construction and bridge installation in a phased programme.

To help fund the works programme, in addition to running two raffles

with the top lure of a luxury travel package to watch the famed Masters championship at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, USA, the Whangamata Golf Club also held a traditional Ambrose golf day with golfing memorabilia auction this month - which attracted some 80 players from across the Coromandel Peninsula, the Bay of Plenty, and the Waikato.

Whangamata Golf Club manager James Beston said the club realized that while the dual high-profile Masters raffle promotions had a nationwide appeal for incredible prizes they offered, it was also important to remember that local 'grass roots' fundraising events such as a stock-standard Ambrose golf tournament were fundamental to bringing in the dollars.

Ironically, the first half of the Water Be Gone Ambrose tournament was played in torrential rain after a delayed start, until the sun burst through the clouds and the second half of the event was played in glorious sunshine and sweltering temperatures, albeit on soaked fairways and greens.

"We need \$38,000 to clear the course creek beds and drains of weed and vegetation growth in time for this winter's scheduled rainfall. What better time to get those funds rolling in than with winter now on the horizon," said Beston.

- Scott Cordes, Golf NZ



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"I really love aged care – it's my passion"

Whangamatā News had the distinct pleasure of catching up with Deborah Padfield, the new GM of Moana House & Village.

Deborah has been in the role since April 16th, she came from Wales nearly 9 years ago, using her skills as a Mental Health Social worker once in Auckland, and then on to manage and transition large aged care facilities and medical centres on the North Shore for some years.



Deborah Padfield, the new GM at Moana House.



"Aged care has been with me for more than 20 years in some format." Now living at Waihi Beach, she saw a Seek advert for the position here in Whangamatā. She felt there was a reason for it, and two interviews later, here she is.

When asked what challenges and opportunities she sees for Moana House "I think there are both, I think the challenges here is that we are in a small community and we have to draw in the community, but in order to draw the community, Moana House has to give to the community".

"I'm looking at how we can incorporate more, we are a Trust, people think we have money, but that's not the case, which means we still have to tap on doors."

It's obvious that Moana House gets financial income from the DHB, but it's never enough, it never meets the needs of what they do.

Staffing levels, repairs, maintenance and the building is aging. Deborah is looking at how to engage local people, should they choose to work there, Deborah stated "we need to support the ladies and gentlemen here, drawing from the pool of

expertise in the local community first, but also looking at sourcing those nurses from overseas, internationally, they also are bringing great skills into New Zealand".

When I asked how she was fitting into the big family of Moana House, "I think I'm a source of amusement at the moment, it's the accent, I love asking lots of questions, for me it's getting to know them, forming an understanding, getting out and about with our ladies and gentlemen, our marvellous, helpful staff, the incredible volunteers. I feel like I'm building a foundation of relationships, the love for Moana House is here".

I discussed with Deborah, what volunteers could we use presently? We went for a walk and I tell you,,being an avid gardener myself, the veg patch has gone to a great patch of nothing, not a brassica in sight, a lonely shovel, a mound of what once was... imagine if some clever, gardener volunteers could offer their time for a veg patch ! Fresh, home grown delights harvested at will !

If you can help, please call, all ideas welcome, perhaps a wee stall 'Moana Veg & Care'.

Welcome to our paradise, Deborah - we look forward to our community getting to know you.

- Jennie Black

Mental health therapy groups



Learn and practise mindfulness-based activities to improve your mental health wellbeing. Come along to FREE kanohi ki te kanohi / in person therapy groups run by a trained health professional.

Attend a group

Thames: Thames Community Centre, Thursdays, 9-10am

Coromandel: CILT building, Wednesdays, 11.30am-12.30pm

Whangamatā: War Memorial Hall, Fridays, 11am-12pm

Paeroa: Paeroa Care House, fortnightly Tuesdays, 10-11am

Colville: Colville Junction, fortnightly Wednesdays, 2-3pm



To attend, contact Maraea Parangi on 027 375 3017 or fill in our self referral form at: www.pinnacle.co.nz/information-for-patients.

Kiwi Juniors start strong at the ISA Junior World Champs

Two of our Whangamata Area School students, Harrison Biddle and Lola Groube are in the team, now in El Salvador representing New Zealand at these 2024 ISA World Junior Surfing Champs.

It is the Under 16 Girls division that sees the most experience come into play with Alani Morse and Lola Groube returning for another year at the ISA World Junior Champs.

Groube, who was the star of the New Zealand team in 2023 placed 19th. With multiple titles to her name, her performances this season bode well for an excellent World Junior Champs campaign.

The New Zealand junior Surfing Team had an excellent start to their World Junior Surfing Championships campaign early on day one of the event with Taimana Marupo (Mnt) and Indi Lee Ruddell (Whng) winning their first-round matchups.

In the Under 16 girls' division Alani Morse (Rag) placed second and Tai Murphy in the U18 boys after their first foray into the water.

After a long day participating in the opening ceremony, where a staggering 441 of the world's best junior surfers gathered to celebrate the opening of the 2024 ISA World Junior Surfing Championship (WJSC).

The groms got straight into business with the Under 18 boys division taking to the water. A record breaking 54 teams are attending the event this year making it one of the biggest World Junior Championships ever.

Six of the twelve Kiwis competed on day one with The Under 18 Girls and Under 16 Boys having a lay day.

It was Taimana Marupo of Mount Maunganui up first for the New Zealand team contesting the U/18 Boy's Main Round 1 at La Bocana. Up in heat 2 he astonished the judges and the crowd with 12.77 heat total including a left and a solid overhead right hander that he tore to pieces, scoring a mid-range seven, he continued to keep busy



Harrison Biddle and Lola Groube from WAS with Matty Scoringe.

in the historically shifty waves of La Bocana, securing the win and advancing to the next round. On his win and his debut in the New Zealand team, Marupo commented "I was super stoked to get that good wave, gave me a lot of confidence, it's been fun..."

At the same time Indi Lee Ruddell of Whangarei was surfing in Round 1 of the U/16 Girls division at podium 2 in El Sunzal. Ruddell also found success on debut. "I was pretty nervous to start with, but once I got my first waves the nerves settled and I got into work, im stoked to

get through the opening round and can't wait for my next heat!" Indi Lee dominated her opponents of Canada and Guatemala taking out the heat with a massive lead and an 8.5 heat total.

Surfing soon after, Tai Murphy of Whakatāne took to the water where he placed 2nd with a 11.33 heat total. "Surfing in front of an international audience is pretty different, it's eye opening and intense but I'm really happy with my performance, bring on round 2".

As Whangamatā News went to print on Monday, 6 May, this update

came in: In the Under 16 girls' division, it was Lola Groube who opened the day in the calm morning conditions. A 1-2m swell with no wind saw Lola take first-round win in the famed El Sunzal. Although low scoring it was a tight battle between the Kiwi, Canadian and Guatemalan which eventually saw Lola take the win with a pair of mid-range 3s. "I've had a dream start to the event and It's great to be back surfing on the world stage Groube commented, it's so cool to have the opportunity to surf and be challenged by other girls from all around the globe" she added. Groube will surf again in Round 2 Heat 16.

Competition will continue with Boy's U/18 Main Event Round 1 at La Bocana and Girl's U/16 Main Event Round 1 at El Sunzal.

In the New Zealand team, Spencer Rowson surfs in heat 30 of the U/18 Boys Main round and Lola Groube (Pauanui) also will surf in the U/16 Girls Round 1 Heat 30.

In 2023 the New Zealand Team placed tenth overall.

The championship is the largest junior surfing event in the world playing host to over 340 surfers from 44 nations in 2024.

The 2024 New Zealand Junior Surfing Team is as follows:

Under 18 Boys Division

Taimana Marupo (Mnt), Spencer Rowson (Tara), Tai Murphy (Whaka)

Under 18 Girls Division

Sophia Brock (Mnt), Ariana Walker (Mnt), Poppy Arkle (Piha).

Under 16 Boys Division

Alexis Owen (Dun), Benji Lowen (Aus), Harrison Biddle (Wgm).

Under 16 Girls Division

Alani Morse (Rag), Indi Lee Ruddell (Whng), Lola Groube (Pau).

For further information on the New Zealand Junior Surfing Team please contact Surfing New Zealand's Ben Kennings on 021 2278732 or email benkennings@surfingnz.co.nz.

SeniorNet Whangamata is seeking your help!

Are you confident in using your smartphone? Are you good at sorting out the minor quirks and issues that seem to quite regularly bug our phones or laptops? Could you help SeniorNet provide this service to the Whangamatā community on an occasional basis?

We are looking for some extra tutors/assistants to do just that! You don't have to be a current member of SeniorNet to volunteer.

SeniorNet has been a part of the community of Whangamatā for over 20 years, providing all manner of training and support in many aspects of our digital lives. It was enthusiastically welcomed as an educational provider to the extent that it was able to acquire

its own classroom which is in the grounds of the Whangamata Area School, next door to the swimming pool. In this room, over the years, many residents have been able to learn computing skills, and gain confidence in using computers, Android smartphones and iPhones for all manner of everyday tasks. Everything from operating Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher, to manipulating photographs and storing them appropriately, to using the increasingly prolific apps on our phones, have been taught at SeniorNet.

We now recognise that residents have increasing demands on their time and to better enable access to the assistance that we can provide to members of our community we are looking at

providing one-on-one tutoring or help sessions. Often our senior citizens can ask family members, particularly grandchildren, to help in this way.

But for those who aren't so lucky, SeniorNet is hoping to provide a service allowing our members to request a short one-on-one session, to solve an immediate issue on their laptop or phone. To make this service available, SeniorNet would require a few more tutors, with good working knowledge of either Android smartphones or Apple products, in order to meet the possible demand for such a service. Consequently, we are reaching out to anyone who feels they might be able to assist our group in this way.

The hope is that with a number of

tutors on board, SeniorNet could feel comfortable to advertise this assistance with confidence. If you could spare an hour or so a month, we would love to hear from you.

From the other side of the coin, if you could see yourself needing such help from SeniorNet, we would love to hear from you. The annual membership is currently set at \$25, and we have suggested a small fee of \$5 per short one-on-one session would be appropriate. Is this something that would be beneficial and appreciated by the locals?

Please let us know if you think we are heading in the right direction. We appreciate all feedback.

Please contact either Bob Storey 027 820 5775 or Ila Pelowe 021 2130 566

Whangamata News Couch to 10km: Run app reviews

With 20 weeks until the G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon, Whangamatā News Couch to 10km candidate Liam 'Tusky' Bethell has time to choose a training style to suit his commitments. We'll be looking at goal-setting, nutrition, and physiology with Liam in the build up to the 10km event in September.

At some stage though, Liam will have to start running. How do you start running? Almost every run/walk event offers some sort of downloadable training plan, but just like everything else in life now – there's also an app for that. Actually there are a lot of apps for that. We short-listed three free or affordable run trainer apps that get you from the Couch to 10km. We couldn't decide which one is best – it truly depends on your preferences and what spins your wheels in an app, especially if that involves kittens.

Zenlabs Fitness 10k Trainer

Pros: Stylish graphic of your run with run/walk time split, distance, steps & calories burned and shareable to social media. Option for map view. Standard three workouts

per week. We really liked the tally of the run sections with "You are on run 1 of 8" announcements.

Cons: Only the first two weeks of the 14-week training plan is free. The Pro subscription is affordable at approx \$10 but you'd miss out on the final week of your plan unless you shelled out for the annual sub. Personally we're not big fans of subscription tricks like this.

Overall: This app has a lot of accolades but it seemed to be just like the others – except with a slight subscription con and cute kitten pies to celebrate your workout.

Active.corn Couch to 5k (followed by 5k to 10k app)

Pros: Who doesn't want a unicorn personal trainer, to run from a zombie, or be barked at by an army sergeant? Our child-friendly testing proved the avatar personal trainers were a huge hit. While we enjoyed the gags from Johnny Dead, our testing was not rigorous enough to know if they get a bit repetitive. The app has a nice log view with a summary of your workouts, including total distance plus run/walk breakdown plus mapping.

Cons: This app had a somewhat labour intensive set-up involving account creation, verification hoops to jump through and several permissions to grant before you were up and running, which could be daunting for the technologically challenged.

Overall: We love this app – it's fun with excellent functionality. A big selling point is the 9-week Couch to 5k followed by the 9-week 5k to 10k giving you a gradual 18-week build to your 10km goal. While it has a one-off cost of \$7.99, the follow up app is free. Both have exceptional features for the 3 x workouts per week, and offer social connectivity and an online community.

Just Run Zero to 5km (and 10km)

Pros: You can use this app for free! This is the only app we found with no strings attached. Split between a 9-week Zero to 5km plan and 6-week 5km to 10km plan. Our favourite feature was the optional halfway alert, so you'd know when to turn around if you're running out and back. There is a modest upgrade option of \$5.99 if you'd like some more trainer voice options (there's an Irish Liam – lol) and

a different colour scheme; the upgrade ask has a delightful social enterprise vibe of gratitude.

Cons: None. If you're looking for a 100% free couch to 10k run trainer app with the standard three voice prompted workouts per week, this is your best option.

Overall: You can't share your run to social media (gasps) and you don't get a pretty map of where you've run, actually you don't get a lot of information about your past performance except that you've done it. That's the important bit though right? Did we mention it's 100% free, and ad free, for the whole 15 weeks? No upgrade required. Very refreshing.

When you picked up the Whangamatā News today, you may not have known run apps existed. A trainer app can take the guesswork out and help to build your stamina and kilometres gradually and safely, not to mention help to keep you on track – especially through winter.

Jump on the Whangamata Half Marathon Facebook or Instagram pages to share your favourite run app or your own training story.

Calling all artists for new student competition

Whitianga Lions Club is pleased to announce that their Art Expo is returning this year to the Whitianga Town Hall on King's Birthday Weekend (31 May opening night to 3 June) with all profits going to Project Mammogram.



come and have a look at the talent we have in this community, and hopefully buy something to take home," says Art Expo committee chair Mike Brown.

An email is about to be sent out to the artists who have previously exhibited at Art Expo inviting them to the 2024 exhibition. Contact will also be made with artists who have expressed an interest in taking part.

"We know that there are so many talented artists in the Coromandel missing them with an invite, we'd like them to contact us by emailing us at whitibrown4@gmail.com and we will send them an entry form with details of the event.

"Whether you paint, sculpt, work in mixed media, are a potter, jewellery artist, wood turner or wood carver, photographer... basically if you create visual art then this expo is for you.

"This year we also have an exciting new competition for Coromandel Peninsula school students in years 11-13 with \$500 as the first prize for the winning artwork (2nd \$250 and 3rd \$100) which will be judged by the Whitianga Art Group committee.

"We're asking students to create a visual artwork that depicts life on the Coromandel Peninsula, either past or present."

If this sounds like something

you could do, either talk to your school art teacher or email us at whitibrown4@gmail.com and we can send you the entry details.

The winners in this competition will be announced on opening night and all student entries will be on display on that night and for the duration of the Art Expo. If students want, they can even sell their artwork at the event.

"This year we are giving artists who sell an item during the Art Expo the ability to refresh their stand with a replacement piece of art during the event. We want artists to have as much opportunity as possible to sell their artwork."

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Senior A in tough battle at Whitianga

MATCH REPORT: Mercury Bay 13 - 13 Whangamatā.

It was sixth versus seventh as coastal rivals Whangamatā and Mercury Bay went down to the wire in Whitianga. The clear sky and light wind was an open invitation for both teams to play the expansive rugby their clubs are historically known for, but it was in the forwards where this game was largely played.

The home team had all the territory and possession after Whangamatā failed to secure the opening kick off and then spent the next ten minutes defending wave after wave of Mercury Bay attack. But their defence held strong and soon it was their turn to camp in the Marlins' half. Like Whangamatā, Mercury Bay

didn't let their opposition through and it was evident by the physicality that they were up for the contest.

The deadlock was broken on the 30 minute mark when a series of penalties got Mercury Bay deep in the Red n White 22 and, after their rolling maul fell short of the line, they patiently recycled the ball until midfielder Dane Mathew made it over the line.

The final act of the first half was a TJ Wise penalty for Whangamatā to make it 7-3.

The opening half of the second stanza was marked by a step up in physicality and both teams trying to open the game up. Mercury Bay had a scoring opportunity thwarted

after a lovely left foot step from midfielder Charlie Best broke the Whangamatā line, but his team couldn't capitalise as Whangamatā stole the ball a few phases later.

Irishman Finn McCall was injected into the game for Whangamatā after 45 minutes and his impact was immediately felt with the lock making a long-striding break with his first touch of the ball. He made several more breaks throughout the second half and, as Whangamatā were picking and going near the Mercury Bay try line, he stretched out and scored to make it 10-7 with fifteen to play.

Two indiscretions in kickable areas handed the lead back to Mercury Bay after first-five Connor Curran

slotted both penalties. Whangamatā levelled it up with a penalty of their own and then had the chance to snatch it with a penalty on full time. The kick from out wide sailed just past the right upright and the match ended in a 13 all draw.

Two standouts were the aforementioned McCall and Best. Mercury Bay were well served by their half-back Connor McCauley whose crisp passing put his team on the front foot and whose box kicks were tough for Whangamatā to defuse. For Whangamatā Ben Laurie was tireless in his carries and regularly got over the gain line against a confrontational Mercury Bay pack.

- Whispering Will Everton

Whangamata Senior B vs Te Aroha



Saturday, 4 May, saw a beautiful, sunny day with Whangamatā Senior B's doing battle with the Cobras at Aicken Road.

The Cobras had come to play with some enterprising moves seeing

them take the lead early and never relinquish it.

Cobras proved too big and too fast for the valiant B team, running out winners by 46 -10.

- Photos by Mark James



Red n White Irishmen

Four young Irishmen have arrived in Whangamata to join up with the Red n Whites rugby team. Whangamatā News caught up with them last Friday, before they travelled to Mercury Bay for their first game.

One of the four is Finn McCall, from Tipperary, who readers may recall was here last year, making a solid impression as a lock. McCall is 23-years-old and is finishing his last year of studies in Plant and Agribiosciences at Galway University. His stay last year had meant his rugby skills were honed and he says "he is hoping to further improve his game", adding to his already impressive talents.

Daniel Bent, 21, is from Wexford which is a four hour drive from Galway. Dan is studying Arts and Law and will slot in at fullback and winger. Like all the young men, he hopes playing for the Red n Whites will up his game and broaden his outlook.

Ben Clarke, 21, hails from Galway and is studying Physics with Theoretical Physics, following in the footsteps of his famous grandfather - Ernest Walton. Ben's partner is one of the Irish women here to play, (Aisling).

Brian Murphy, 23, is also from Galway and is doing an MA in Public Policy. Brian visited New Zealand as a 15-year-old and loved the country,



Left to right: Finn McCall, Brian Murphy, Ben Clarke and Daniel Bent.

and had a desire to come and play rugby here. Brian is single and would make a great catch!

Experiencing something new is high on all the young mens list of what they hope to gain from their

stay, and I'm sure they will not be disappointed.

A hard fought 13-13 draw at Whitianga kicked things off on Saturday, 4 May, and with a home game this Saturday (11 May) all are

hoping for a fine day and huge turnout.

So get along to the game to support your team and these Red n White Irishmen. We certainly will be.

- Mark James

Irish women here to play



Emer Cafferkey (left) and Aisling Hahessy.

Whangamatā News had the pleasure last week to meet the latest two Irish women in town to play rugby, for Hauraki North Diamonds.

Meet Emer Cafferkey and Aisling Hahessy, two of the University of Galway's finest players. They play in the same team as last year's two young women, so have a good handle on what they will encounter both in rugby and culture.

Emer and Aisling (pronounced Ashling) arrived three weeks ago, and have had a practice game in preparation for Saturday's (4 April) first game for the Diamonds. (Diamonds win!) Emer plays in the backs as a utility while Aisling is a lock forward, and both are looking forward to honing their skills further.

Emer told Whangamatā News that "I got into rugby at a young age,

thanks largely to my rugby mad Dad." Aisling only started playing at 15-years-old, coming from a small island with no rugby.

Now here they are as far from home as you can be, and talking with them I get the impression they will do very well in this Island as well.

Emer and Aisling are staying with Kaitlin Russell, who along with having two youngsters, is VP of the Whangamata Rugby Club, a top administrator and total legend!

It was great to see a win to the Hauraki Diamonds, a top way to start the competition.

The two plan to see the South Island when their season ends, as they should.

Best of luck to you both.

- Story and photo Mark James

Netball team announced

CONGRATULATIONS

Waihi Under 18 Representative Netball Team 2024



- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Abigail Pugh | Lexi Meyer |
| Adeyne Taikato | Mussy Taikato |
| Brea Peka | Palace O'Brien |
| Caitlin Wairepo | Savarna Brightwell |
| Katie Templemeyer | Wairaraua Paul |

Whanga junior rugby results

Year 3s 75 vs Mercury Bay 80
 POD: Wolf
 Tackler: Konan

Year 6s 105 vs Waihi Red 20
 Forward: JT
 Back: Jack

Year 4s 25 vs Paeroa Green 105
 POD: George
 Tackler: Akiyah

Year 7s 15 vs Hauraki Plains 15
 Forward: Cruz, Back: Kobi B
 POD: Dacey

Year 5s 25 vs Coromandel 35
 POD: Jay
 Tackler: Marley

Year 8s 100 vs Coromandel 15
 Forward: Sam, Back: Jacob
 POD: Alfie

Team Starts on a High

Whangamatā's First XV got their season underway on Saturday, 4 May, in emphatic style, with a resounding 64-0 trouncing of Te Aroha.

Coach Blair Leach told Whangamatā News that the coaching staff (Blair coaches the backs, Hayden Cullen the forwards) "are rapt with the team, they're nice to coach, they're keen and realise they could be a part of something special." Hayden Cullen comes with some impressive credentials, 50 plus games for Valley NPC, and stints playing overseas.

Next week is a big game vs Paeroa

at Paeroa, 11.15, a chance to gauge just how well the team is meshing.

"They stuck to their structure and all went to plan. I'm sure everyone would have enjoyed it!" Leach says that they are trying to instil some old school values, and emphasises the need to do the basics well, before the flash stuff.

Watching the game, defence played a large part of the victory. "They are coming up in a line, working well together, and coming up fast. Fitness is at a high level also, we put the whole bench on and were still scoring tries."

Standout players were Hunter Williams who scored three tries and was into everything, Hunter Ussher kicked seven conversions and had a strong game. Taylor Mainwaring scored a couple of tries with Lorenzo Takotohiwi having a good one.

According to Coach Leach "the whole team could have got player of the day" which is a remarkable statement.

The team's ultimate goal for the season is a first ever win of the Coulter Cup.

The next home game will be interesting, vs Hauraki Plains on 18 May, who have come back to the Valley competition from Counties.

Liam Rogers is managing the team. Liam is injured and can't play, so he has been brought in as Manager. All part of the whole team bonding process that is so strong with this group who are stacked with potential.

We all look forward to what evolves over the next few weeks.

- Story and photos by Mark James



Oceania Open Ju-Jitsu Competition

A very proud moment for Javier - a third place finish. There were 14 competitors in his division over four matches. An awesome achievement, Javier!



Theatre Society news



The Whangamata Theatre Society Committee assisting Waihi Theatre with a prop for their show.

'Bombshells' and were posing as a bunch of cacti enthusiasts!

We are looking for other like minded enthusiastic individuals to join us.

As advertised in this issue, The Whangamata Theatre Society Inc are having our AGM on 16 May and are after several new members to join our Committee, or simply the Theatre Society as a member. Try to get along at 7.30pm to Cornerstone. We would love to meet you.

You will find out about an exciting

new 'Pop Up Improv', initiative where the Society intends to take Improv around town where you can watch or join in.

You will also learn about upcoming plans for shows this year and upcoming auditions. We are needing both onstage and backstage crew. There is a role for everyone!

We hope to see you there. Any queries please contact Aisne Edwards (Acting President) on 0275247633 or by email aisne@xtra.co.nz

Poet's Corner

It's a long swim to the other side

As we swam through the river I started to laugh
We are right in the way, of the ship's path

How can I swim when I'm swallowing water?
Should of listened to Ma, and done what I oughta

Energy wasted laughing, so far yet to swim
As long as I don't see, a bloody fin

Tide going out, dragging me along
Swimming against it, of course it's wrong

If I look at him, I'll no doubt laugh.

Swimming in jeans, shirt and a scarf

Things we do when we're young and free
"Over here, yeah look at me"

Eventually we do get to shore
Stomach hurting, to the core

Now we're safe, and all okay
We'll do it again, another day

Pay the ferryman to the other side
And that'll be, when we decide

To catch a boat,
or do breaststroke...

By Loren (based on a true story).





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ANZAC Day – Whangamata remembers

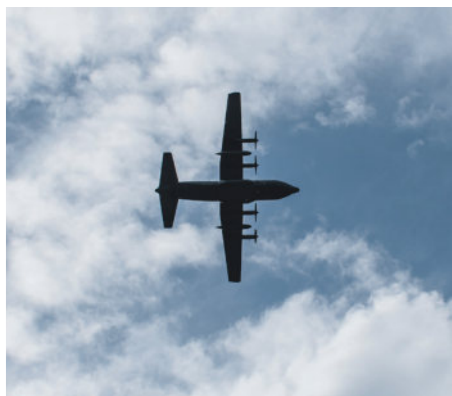
This year's service saw the largest turn out in a very long time, starting with the emotional dawn service, leading on to the majesty of the civic parade and then heading into the Whangamata Memorial Hall for the civic service.

With the Blessing from Padre Ross Falconer completed on the Remembrance Wall, the unveiling

revealed the new arboretum, adorned with flags and resplendent with the cortens steel soldier standing in silence.

With over 25 wreaths presented and the flyover of the Orion, it was a truly magnificent day.

– Jennie Black,
photos by Mark James





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Sports results

MAH JONG

3 May: We had 52 playing.
 1st Irene Burns, 49 points
 2nd Donna Lowrie, 48 points
 3rd Joyce Deeming, 46 points
 Very close scoring. Lucky number 12 was not drawn.

Just a reminder for you all and those who missed the notice: the hand 'Any Damn Thing' can now only be played once in each session.

RSA 500 CARD CLUB

1 May: The winner on the day was Snow Harris. Robert Watson won the raffle and Ann Jacob was awarded the chocolate bar.

TABLE TENNIS

2 May: Playing at the Whangamata Club were Roger Wolfe was our winner, winning 9 of 11 games. Wayne Broome was 2nd winning 8 games and in 3rd place Angie Dewhurst and Gary Small both won 7 games.

Name your craypots and nets or risk losing them

Fishery Officers say they've seized a range of illegal fishing equipment in the Coromandel and are urging fishers to properly name their gear.

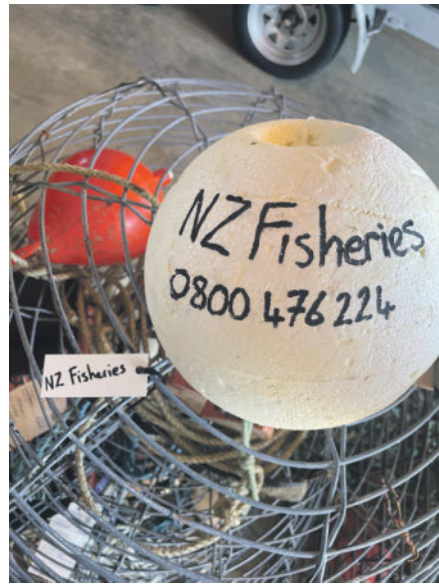
"We have over a dozen pieces of equipment - mostly craypots and set nets that we've seized because they were set illegally.

"If you are using craypots or set nets, mark your gear clearly with your initials and surname. Most of the gear we haul out of the ocean is seized because people failed to do this.

"We've seized a lot of gear and most of the owners never come forward to claim their equipment, so it is eventually destroyed," says Fisheries New Zealand Regional Manager, Fisheries Compliance, Andre Espinoza.

Fishery Officers patrolling the area actively encourage fishers they come across who are heading out to set craypots or nets, to mark their gear with the name and contact details.

"We talk with people, and even carry a marker pen, however fishers need to take responsibility. We're always there to help people understand the rules but will take action to protect the fishery including seizing illegal equipment and issuing infringement notices."



How to name your craypots or nets.

People are encouraged to download the free NZ Fishing Rules mobile app. Once downloaded, the app will also work in areas where you may not have mobile coverage, so you'll have the latest rules and regulations at your fingertips.

Fisheries New Zealand encourages people to report suspected fishing illegal activity through MPI's 0800 4 POACHER number (0800 47 62 24).

- Nick Butcher,
 Ministry for Primary Industries



Seized fishing equipment in storage.

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RAFFLE

Winners of the trip for two to the 2025 Masters in Augusta, Georgia

Winning ticket number was

#2938 Vance Richardson

from Gisborne, member of Poverty Bay Golf Club.

Congratulations!



WHANGAMATA THEATRE SOCIETY Inc

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Cornerstone House - 100 Ocean Road Thursday 16th May 2024

AGENDA

- Welcome & Apologies
- Minutes - AGM 2023
- President's Report
- Finance Report
- General Business
- Election of Officers

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

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

Whangamatā Tides 2024

MAY 2024		☾ New Moon: 8 th				☀ Full Moon: 24 th					
Date		High tide AM	Height (m)	High tide PM	Height (m)	Low tide AM	Height (m)	Low tide PM	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
10	Fri	8:26	2.0	20:59	2.0	2:12	0.3	14:34	0.2	07:04	17:20
11	Sat	9:17	2.0	21:48	2.0	3:04	0.3	15:23	0.2	07:04	17:19
12	Sun	10:07	1.9	22:38	2.0	3:55	0.4	16:11	0.3	07:05	17:18
13	Mon	10:57	1.8	23:27	1.9	4:46	0.4	16:58	0.4	07:06	17:17
14	Tue	11:46	1.8			5:37	0.5	17:47	0.5	07:07	17:16
15	Wed	0:17	1.8	12:37	1.7	6:28	0.5	18:37	0.5	07:08	17:15
16	Thu	1:07	1.8	13:29	1.7	7:19	0.6	19:29	0.6	07:09	17:14
17	Fri	1:57	1.7	14:23	1.6	8:11	0.6	20:23	0.6	07:10	17:13
18	Sat	2:47	1.7	15:17	1.6	9:02	0.6	21:17	0.6	07:10	17:13
19	Sun	3:36	1.7	16:09	1.7	9:52	0.6	22:09	0.6	07:11	17:12
20	Mon	4:23	1.7	17:00	1.7	10:39	0.6	22:57	0.6	07:12	17:11
21	Tue	5:09	1.7	17:47	1.7	11:24	0.5	23:43	0.6	07:13	17:11
22	Wed	5:53	1.7	18:31	1.8			12:08	0.5	07:14	17:10
23	Thu	6:37	1.8	19:15	1.8	0:28	0.6	12:50	0.4	07:14	17:09
24	Fri	7:21	1.8	19:57	1.9	1:11	0.5	13:32	0.4	07:15	17:09
25	Sat	8:05	1.8	20:41	1.9	1:56	0.5	14:14	0.4	07:16	17:08
26	Sun	8:50	1.8	21:26	1.9	2:41	0.5	14:58	0.3	07:17	17:08
27	Mon	9:37	1.8	22:12	1.9	3:28	0.5	15:43	0.3	07:17	17:07
28	Tue	10:25	1.8	23:01	1.9	4:17	0.5	16:30	0.3	07:18	17:07
29	Wed	11:16	1.8			5:07	0.4	17:20	0.4	07:19	17:06
30	Thu	11:52	1.9	12:09	1.8	5:59	0.4	18:13	0.4	07:20	17:06
31	Fri	0:44	1.9	13:05	1.8	6:53	0.4	19:09	0.4	07:20	17:05

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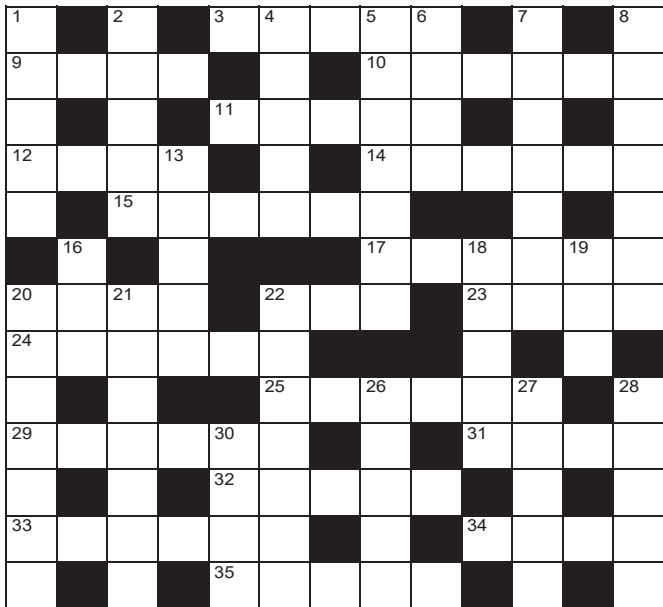


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- Across**
 3. Customary (5)
 9. Injure (4)
 10. Codeword for S (6)
 11. Lightweight wood (5)
 12. Problem or delay (4)
 14. Fleet of ships (6)
 15. Martial art (4,2)
 17. Extravagant (6)
 20. Mend (4)
 22. Flu or other illness (colloq) (3)
 23. A dull pain (4)
 24. Trying experience (6)
 25. Involve (6)
 29. Wriggle (6)
 31. Hand out cards (4)
 32. Passageway (5)
 33. Unnecessary extra (6)
 34. Smile (4)
 35. Call (colloq) (5)
- Down**
 1. Gulf (5)
 2. Unusual, unexpected event (5)
 4. Informal language (5)
 5. Attack (7)
 6. Fibber (4)
 7. Unpredictable (7)
 8. Style and flair (Fr) (7)
 13. Sly intelligence (5)
 16. For each (3)
 18. Inspid (5)
 19. Timid (3)
 20. Gun holder (7)
 21. Supplementary part (7)
 22. Flaw (7)
 26. Claw (5)
 27. Gain knowledge (5)
 28. Forthright (5)
 30. Coarse file (4)

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

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2	V	1	K	4	C	5	O	7	E	9	T	10	N	11	F	13	W
3	L	16	Y	17	M	20	R	21	L	22	M	22	X	22	P	24	O
4	A	26	G	13	W	13	F	13	W	13	F	13	W	13	F	13	W

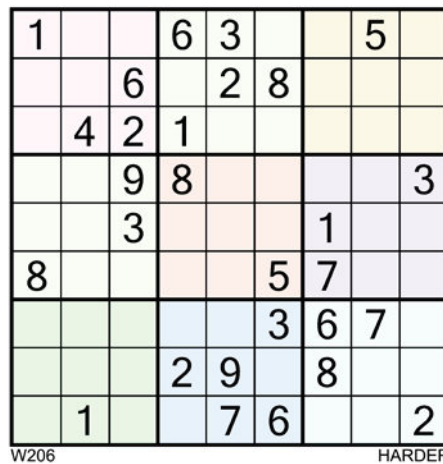
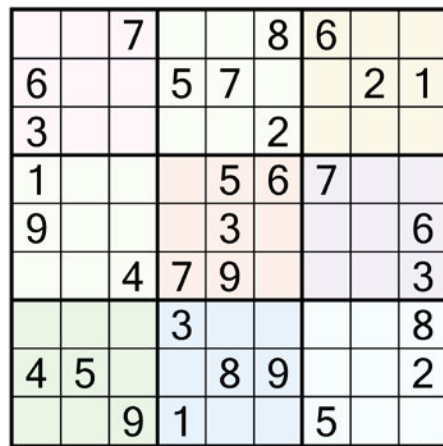
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Across: 1. Paraglider, 7. Orchid, 10. Laps, 11. Quality, 15. Gusto, 16. Dodge, 18. Abandon, 20. Sierra, 11. Balsa, 10. Stagna, 14. Armada, 12. Snag, 14. Armada, 15. Kung fu, 17. Lavish, 20. Heal, 22. Bot, 23. Ache, 24. Ordeal, 25. Entail, 29. Squirm, 31. Deal, 32. Aisle, 33. Excess, 34. Gln, 35. Phone.

Down: 1. Chasm, 2. Freak, 4. Stang, 5. Assault, 6. Liar, 7. Erratic, 8. Parache, 13. Guile, 16. Per, 18. Vapid, 19. Shy, 20. Holster, 21. Adjunct, 22. Blemish, 26. Talon, 27. Learn, 28. Blunt, 30. Rasp.

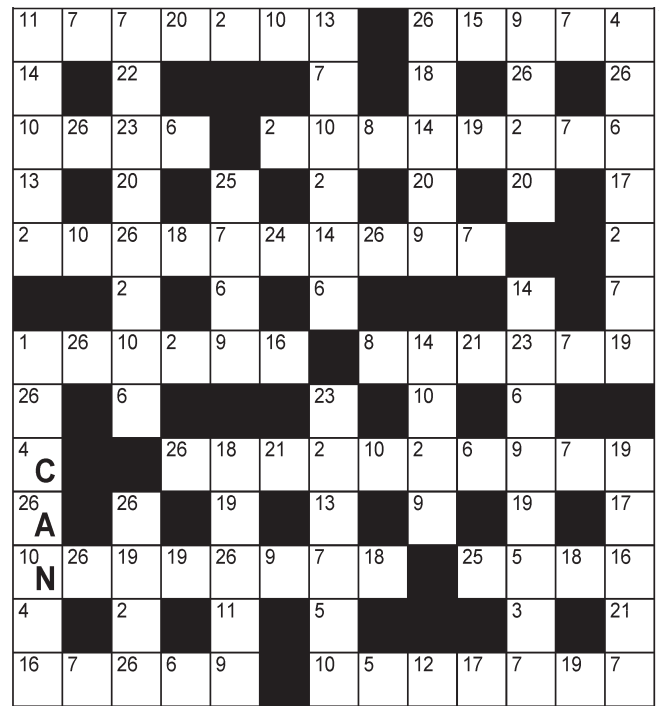
SUDOKU

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



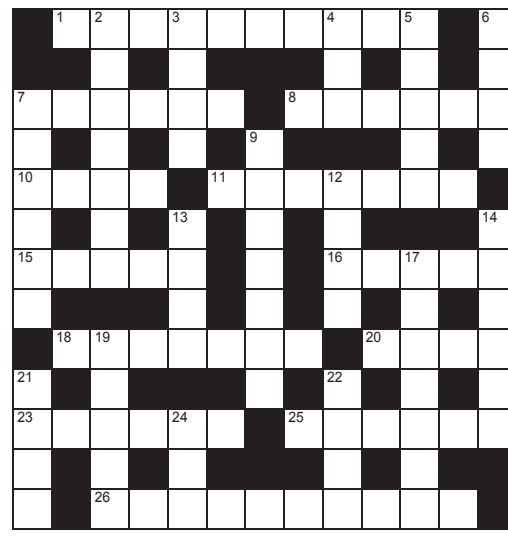
DECODER

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													
			C										N												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26												A	

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



- Across**
 1. The number of legs (10)
 7. Take the DNA from dichondra to make a flower (6)
 8. See 24 Down
 10. The number of legs (4)
 11. The excellence of timbre (7)
 15. Fergus, Tony and Tom are found demonstrating vigour (5)
 16. Evade the old car (5)
 18. German will leave the rag-and-bone man high and dry (7)
 20. Was winning on the first of February and escaped (4)
 23. Something found in the wren, tit, yellowhammer and finch (6)
 25. The number of legs (6)
 26. Lover found in the lolly centre (10)
- Down**
 2. Admits embraces (7)
 3. It's related to removing GST from takings (4)
 4. Ada leaves Uganda transporting an animal (3)
 5. The boundary of over-ambitiousness (5)
 6 & 21dn. Completely healthy? - OK then! (4,4)
 7. See 24
 9. In the nude, love on October 1st, mid-evening and be a clown about it (7)
 12. A black spotted red bird (4)
 13. Colour discovered in neuroanatomy (4)
 14. Meet face to face and then go on one's way (4,2)
 17. Come up with a baby (7)
 19. They are made out of eight bits (5)
 21. See 6
 22. Two French greetings we hear, one for a plant (4)
 24dn, 8ac & 7dn. Total stop-overs for the count (3,6,2,4)

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