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Adventure ends in lockdown

STORY: PAGES 4-5



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Welcome to the first May 2020 edition of *Whangamata* NEWS

– a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals



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For all genuine emergencies requiring Whangamata St John Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Coastguard, Surf Life Saving or Police, **DIAL 111 immediately.**

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07 865 0060

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FRONT COVER

Geoff & Sue March during happier times on the visit to South America.
SEE STORY P4-5

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We welcome your letters, articles, photos, news tips and advertising enquiries.

- We ask that articles be no more than 250 words although exceptions can be made.
- Photos should be at least 300dpi and in focus.

For editorial or photographic matters, phone Lesley on 021 664 784 or email whangamatanews@gmail.com

For advertising & advertorial information, phone Jennie on 021 0232 1661 or email jennieablack@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

GO LOCAL! is the catch-cry at the moment, aiming to get us all in our small town to support local businesses, rather than shop online from the bigger stores.

Whangamata NEWS is proud to say we have always, since our inception in January 2019, supported our town, with our slogan 'By Locals, For Locals, About Locals'

We are locally-owned and not driven or directed by an overseas conglomerate.

We, as directors of Whangamata NEWS, grew up in, and understand small communities so we know

the importance of 'going local', specially in a town like Whangamata (and surrounds) which becomes very quiet during winter.

For the past 10 years or so since we have lived here, we have always bought local and used local services wherever we can and we encourage everyone else to do it too.

In Covid-19 Level 3 many businesses are practising 'click and collect' or offering various ways of contactless business.

As we go into Level 2, we hope more and more locals

will get right behind our own local businesses.

There's an old saying: 'You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours...' In other words, 'If you support me, I'll support you' – and that's the way it should be.

As we head out of lockdown, we at Whangamata NEWS want to say a sincere 'thank you' to the businesses who have supported us throughout.

The very best to all our readers and stay safe out there.



Lesley Staniland
EDITOR



Jennie Black
SALES DIRECTOR

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Maori crime

I am of Tainui and Ngapuhi descent. My article is about the deep concerns I have regarding Maori crime.

The majority of Maori possess strong values and respect for their fellow citizens and so they have much loss of pride and shame due to those of our very own who defy the laws of this country and who ignore the rights of others.

We are fortunate to live in a smaller community where lower level crime takes place - mainly Whangamata.

However, in larger centres and places beyond, Maori, it seems, are involved in crime almost on a daily basis, including serious violence (confirmed by TV News and crime programmes).

With Maori representing 55 per cent of the prison population - yet making up only 17 per cent of our population, then the extent of Maori crime is explained.

Efforts and policies in place by the government have been ongoing to safeguard those at risk in society including mums and their children who are living in situations affected by crime and the environment created.

More needs to be done to make positive changes in reducing Maori crime.

Iwi must accept some responsibility for these offenders and innocent family involved.

They are members of whanau and iwi and are degrading our heritage and the achievements of our people.

Government alone can't alter this situation.

Iwi are in a 'financial' situation to do more for Maori in need and have an obligation to assist with the problems outlined.

Escalating serious Maori crime is how it is and needs to be urgently addressed.

A recent report that the cost of

violence in New Zealand currently exceeds that of our forestry income which has been, for some time, our third highest income earner.

And then, apart from the monetary cost of court and imprisonment, there's the effects to our citizens and family involved, caused by the physical and mental harm inflicted, and the help required.

Our predominantly Maori gangs continue their illicit and lucrative lifestyle, along with their violent activities and intimidating attitudes.

Ways to deal with drug and alcohol addiction, money management, unemployment, and with the increasing concerns of the safety of family members, are needed to effect important changes concerning us all.

I will forward a copy of this letter to my iwi - Tainui and Ngapuhi.

Eddie White
WHANGAMATA

Support what is truly local

I am impressed by the fine ideals promoted in the NZME Waihi Leader / Coastal News campaign 'to buy and support local' across NZME owned community mastheads.

It seems that NZME are in a foot-shooting exercise,

They are an 'Australian owned corporate', calling for readers and advertisers to support local entities. In essence, a fine plan in our recovery phase.

Please do support locals where you can, and you can by showing continued backing of our 'truly locally owned' Whangamata News, retail stores, commercial enterprise and trades.

M A James
WHANGAMATA

Open letter to the Whangamata Community from The Whangamata Community Health Inc

The Whangamata Community Health Inc is governed by a committee of equal numbers of health professionals and lay members from the Whangamata Community. The role of the Organisation is to promote activities that enhance the health care of the Whangamata Community.

With the rapidly changing situation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic it is important that everyone is up to speed with how this affects what we do to reduce the risk of community transmission of the virus.

To assist the community during

Covid Level 3, we asked the health providers in town to provide details of their current status.

Whangamata Medical Centre

The Whangamata Medical Centre remains open for business as usual - routine care, accident care or emergency care. We are here for you and we are able to meet all your and your family's health care needs whether residents or visitors.

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and Sun. A doctor is available 24/7.

For further details, to arrange an appointment, or to obtain advice please ring 07 865 8032.

We are able to accommodate all patients via telephone consultations or in face-to-face consults when applicable. Please call us first - do not just come down to the centre. If you are instructed to come down to the centre, you will be met at the front door by a member of staff, screened and directed to the appropriate area.

> MORE ON P12

WARNING:

We have been alerted to a potential scam going around relating to prescriptions.

Beware of any text you may receive saying your prescription has been sent to the 'local pharmacy' with a link to click on to 'check status'. **DO NOT CLICK ON THIS LINK.**

The Whangamata Medical Centre does not send any such text and will always identify themselves in any communication to patients.



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Sue and Geoff's adventure in lockdown

Whangamata RSA's hardworking president Geoff March (and District vice-president) and his wife Sue left New Zealand on March 9 for a trip to visit former exchange students in Argentina. With the advent of the Covid-19 virus, their travel plans were suddenly totally disrupted. Geoff and Sue, now holed up in a Mangere Hotel after a sudden and exhausting trip home, talk about their 'adventure'...

On the 9th of March, Sue and I headed to South America. This trip was to visit exchange students from Argentina we had hosted in the 90s.

We went through Buenos Aires to Santiago, Chile, on part of a tour package.

We were to finish this tour after visiting our students.

We toured around from two days ad then on the 11th March we flew to Cordoba to stay with the first student. Andrea took us around and about Cordoba before we flew to Viedma in Patagonia.

On arrival in Viedma we were met by Mariana who showed us around and took us to a hotel.

We stayed at a hotel because Mariana has a young family - and attitudes were changing towards foreigners and inter-country travel.

We were at the hotel for a few minutes and the police turned up with a medical person and a government official to place us in isolation because we had visited Chile.

We were very lucky that Mariana is well known and was able to reduce the isolation time to eight days as we had left Chile six days before.

Isolation meant we had to stay in our hotel room.

Luckily Mariana was able to get us access to Netflix.

She was our 'go-between' with the hotel staff as none of them spoke English and they were also afraid of us.

Five days dragged by and the hotel was empty except for us, so we were moved to a room that had a lounge and fridge for the last three days.

On the day of our isolation release we had another medical check over and were cleared.

During the time in isolation we discussed with Mariana and decided it was not fair for us to stay with her family.

They needed space and their own peace of mind, so having foreigners staying could make them and others feel uncomfortable.

We looked around for an apartment or Air B n B, there wasn't a big selection and when we enquired they didn't want to host foreigners.

What were we going to do? Then Mariana's husband Juan Paulo came up with an idea - one of Mariana's friends' parents owned a Summer Park out of Viedma.

Summer was over so it was empty other than the owners. This place has chattels and is on five acres, and they didn't mind foreigners, so we moved there.

We were able to roam the five acres at our leisure and we shopped for supplies for we were now able to fend for ourselves and get back into a normal routine.

We were been able to do chores for the owners - trimming hedges and painting which helped pass the time.

We had excellent support from our travel agent, [Coromandel MP] Scott Simpson and the NZ Embassy has been helping as well.

We could only wait. At least we were comfortable and well supplied, plus we got on well with the owners who gave us local meals and we communicated using a translator on our phones, which worked well.

Saturday 18th April, cut some firewood for the owners to help them get through winter, and sort a few things. While chopping the wood I was wondering what I could do so I could leave a reminder for the owners.

Whangamata RSA holds a Christmas Forest before Christmas each year. One of the displays features snowmen made out of rounds of wood. So I found suitable rounds and got to work, found some paint and put them together.

That looked good so I put them either side of the entry gate as welcoming critters. Happy with that I then had the idea to use rounds to make some kiwis. I made three, and two were given pride of place in front of the chalet we stayed in, the other one was special. With Mariana's birthday on the 30th, one was for her.

I worked with her husband to sneak it to him and he could present it to her on her birthday. Unfortunately her youngest son came running up to her and said 'mummy Geoff and Sue have left you a surprise, oops so he had to show her. It certainly put Mariana in tears. Well worth the effort.

Tuesday April 21, a special day.

> MORE ON P5

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> FROM P4

The New Zealand Embassy rang to say the Australian Embassy had chartered a QANTAS flight for Saturday 25th and there were places available, were we interested? YES. We got confirmation we were on the flight.

The embassy said they were arranging long range buses to collect those for the flight, wow what an enormous task.

For instance, our bus travelled 20 hours to collect two young Brazilians, then (two drivers) turned around and drove for nine hours to collect us then they drove 11 hours to Buenos Aires.

We were booked into apartments in the centre of Buenos Aires so we could be all be together for the early start on Saturday morning. Unfortunately we were limited to what we could do as most things were closed, just a few food places open.

Friday 24th April: Sue's birthday, so I went out and bought some local pastries for morning tea, yum. At 2pm the students we had come to visit set up a video conference for her birthday and sang happy birthday in Spanish as

they signed off - very emotional. At 3pm it was 6am in New Zealand on ANZAC DAY, so we logged on to watch STANDATDAWN.

We were also in video message with one of our RSA members to watch his effort of the morning. He recited the Ode and his 14 year old son played the Last Post on his guitar to the entertainment of their neighbours, was very impressive. Looks like the communities got behind the STANDATDAWN, which is heartening.

OK - back to our trip. Saturday morning, medical appointment at 7.30 at the Australian embassy, all clear so off the airport.

It took quite a while for everyone (150 Aussies and 20 Kiwis) to be processed.

We were escorted through the airport which was completely empty, the strangest feeling, nobody around.

The crew came into the terminal for photo opportunities, as they had volunteered to crew this flight.

The passengers erupted into applause of appreciation and plenty of photos were taken. We were loaded slowly row by row.

As this was a special flight it didn't have entertainment, and we had a very limited service, boxed lunch and breakfast, with plenty of ANZAC biscuits, snacks and water, no tea and coffee or other drinks.

So we settled in for a 16 hour flight to try and sleep most of the way to make time pass quickly. It was hard work, but we were going home.

We landed in Melbourne at 7.30pm and had to stay on the plane until the authorities arrived.

We were unloaded by row and had to maintain social distancing and go through medical checks and customs processing, then loaded onto buses and taken to the Pan Pacific Hotel at 11pm.

We were shattered by we still had to wait to book in which again took quite a while. Dinner was delivered to our room, chicken curry and dessert, a very welcome meal, plus plunger coffee and high class tea.

Next morning it was breakfast and off on the bus to the airport to go through the process again, checking questions and we were through and ready to go.

We were loaded on to the flight by

row again, but this flight only had 80 people on it, so we were well spread out.

We had entertainment, drink selection and more good food. A short flight and WE WERE HOME - what a great feeling after all that 'what if' and waiting.

Off the flight, through processing again and loaded on to buses and delivered to the Sebel Hotel at Manukau, more checks and check in to a nice room, again good food and plenty of it. We weren't allow to get alcohol delivered but they had discount wine and beer so we purchased some.

We went for a walk around the carpark and caught up with others in quarantine; a chance to exchange stories, some too bizarre to be real, but everyone was upbeat about their experience and we all said we would return once things got back on track again.

Oops, Sue started to get a sore throat so when we had a daily check she mentioned it and they moved us to another hotel - Jet Park Mangere, which is designated as the testing hotel so they could monitor all those with cold or flu symptoms and test them for the virus which requires a few days wait.

Wednesday 29th breakfast and waiting for the medical team to come to us, so we have had breakfast and ready for what comes next.

Would we do it again? YES! It has been an experience. At no time during the whole journey did we feel unsafe or threatened.

The people we met, who supported us and worked extremely hard in the background, made it such a memorable process and experience.

Whangamata has started putting things in place to reopen. Before the lockdown we (the RSA) had sorted replacing the carpet which is now able to be done. We have looked at ways to support social distancing and people control for our members and also their adjunct activities.

We are going to be back into a very strange and different way of running our RSAs.

Welcome to the new world of normal.

Geoff and Sue are hopefully returning to Whangamata on Monday, May 11 after their 14 days in isolation.

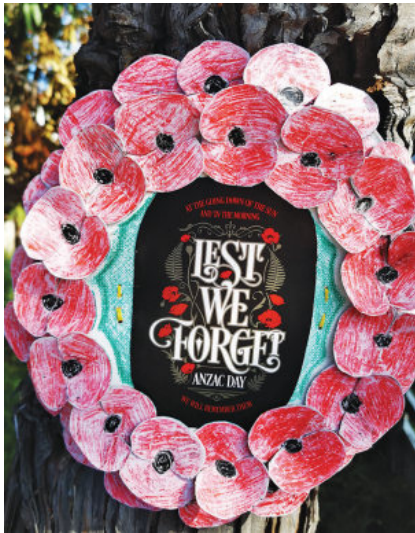
We remembered them – in lockdown

It was a surreal sort of Anzac Day over the whole country as we all remained in level 4 lockdown. Instead of the usual Dawn Service at the Whangamata Surf Club, neighbours came to their gates - some with candles, some wearing their uniforms (Fire Service, St John Ambulance etc) - to remember those who



have served or given their lives for our country, Aotearoa-New Zealand. Somewhere a piper played, elsewhere the Last Post and Reveille were played over the radio, followed by a reading of The Ode. Despite the lack of a crowd, April 25, Anzac Day, was a moving experience for many. We will remember them.

Photos: Matt Thompson, Peter West and Lesley Staniland



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Learning about, and from, their heroes



Whangamata Area School
Years 7/8 students with
local hero Dave Ryan.

Whangamata Area School years 7 and 8 students are working on their Heroes inquiry project.

This engaging project asks the students to choose a local person with valuable heroic qualities.

Also the students need to find information that shows the heroic nature of their chosen hero.

Then the students are to produce a case that their chosen hero deserves recognition over all others.

Once these tasks are completed the students can present their case in a number of ways.

It can be either a written presentation, a delivered speech,

a movie/drama production or a delivered slide show.

This learning challenge gets students thinking about heroes, what do they do, how do they do it and why they do it.

As Ed Hillary once said: "I have never regarded myself as a hero, but Tenzing undoubtedly was."

Year 7/8 teacher Amy Webb introduced the students to some local heroes – Simon Rogers and Janine van Marrewijk of Whangamata Scout Group and Dave Ryan of Whangamata Menz Shed.

These heroes shared their experiences with the students.

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Epic journey supports men’s cause

Heading off from Cape Reinga on the 3000km Tour Aotearoa trail, Steve Bagnall was looking forward to the epic journey and to seeing more of the country.

Twenty-six days down the track he was almost crying with pain in his hands and from a blistered bum - and he hadn’t seen much of the country despite the distance travelled.

Hanging on tight to the handlebars and riding many kilometres over corrugated and gravel roads in hot and freezing weather all took a toll on his body.

‘And we were on the road 10 to 12 hours a day so didn’t actually have the time to stop and look around.’

‘From when I started training to when I got back home I had

lost 10kgs. Now, 5 weeks after finishing, my body is just getting back to normal,’ the 68-year-old said.

So, why did he put himself through such a punishing, gruelling exercise?

‘To raise funds for and promote awareness of prostate cancer - an often lethal disease in men and a disease that needs to be highlighted more’, Steve said.

Speaking from experience, he urged men aged over 45 to have regular checks for prostate cancer.

He underwent radical surgery in 2012 to remove the cancer, and feels lucky to be alive.

‘Having the test can save your life and save the country billions

of dollars in medical and surgical costs. Prevention is essential,’ he said.

With the help of his daughter Merrin, Steve’s 26-day ride raised \$4500 for the cause.

Tour Aotearoa is a totally non-assisted ride - Steve took a small tent which, when he woke one morning at Mossburn in the deep south was frozen stiff.

‘I took the pegs out and it remained upright. I dragged it over to the campground kitchen area and put it under the lights but in the end I had to kick it to get the ice off.’

At the end of the journey, after facing strong head winds, chilly temperatures and grappling with stony roads, Steve completed his journey.

Distance travelled:
Approx 3000km

Diet: Healthy - 90 bananas, 60 oranges, iced coffee, toasted sandwiches and the odd meal of fish and chips.

Weight: Bike and paniers weighed 34kg - tough going uphill!

Swing bridges crossed: About 10.

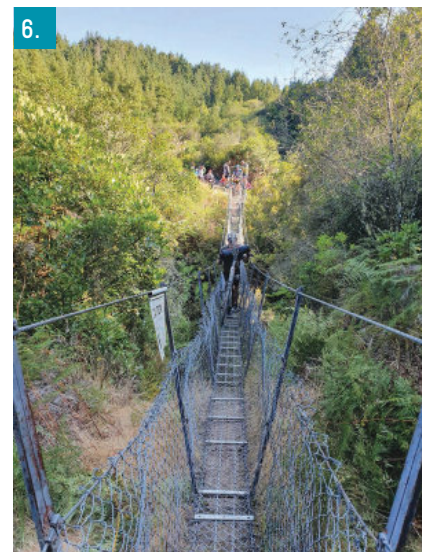
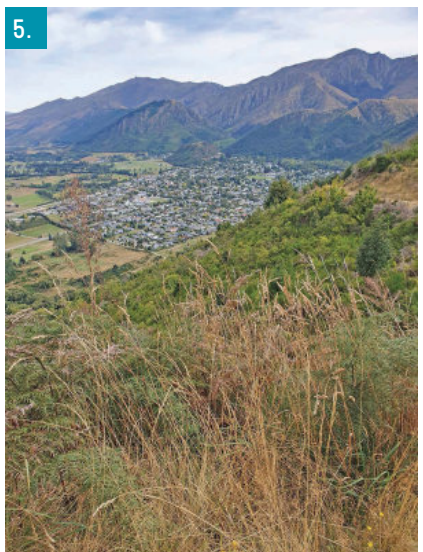
New achievements: First time down the South Island’s West Coast.

Previous achievements: Wellington to Auckland 7-day race.

Worst day: Temperatures, wind and road conditions meant just 110km in 12 hours.

Supporters: Whangamata RSA, Whangamata Club and Whangamata Ocean Sports Club members; Debbie and Noelene; Gaby and Grace; Whangamata RnR Club... ‘Thank you, I salute you all!’

AND - would you do it again?: ‘Not like this - if I could stop for 2 or 3 days in each town to check out what’s there I would do it.’



1. Done! Steve is handed a beer at the finish line in Bluff. 2. Cape Reinga - where the journey began. 3. Riding on 90 Mile Beach. 4. Walter Peak Station. 5. Looking down on Arrowtown. 6. Many of the cyclists had difficulties crossing this narrow swing bridge over a steep gorge near Mangakino. 7. There were many gravel roads to contend with like this one at the top of Von Hill near St Nicholas Station.



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See our menu - page 6



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Think before you act



Under level 4 lockdown, most of Whangamata obeyed the restrictions, with streets empty and few people out and about (pictured).

Under level 3, traffic seemed to increase quite considerably.
With levels 2 and 1 on the

horizon, we urge people to take care, don't rush into anything, and think what we've all achieved during these restricted times.

Look to the future and let's all be sensible and thoughtful before rushing ahead.

WHANGAMATA COASTGUARD



MARCH 2020 CALLOUTS

All assisted vessels and persons on board were returned safely to port.

2 March: Yacht. 9.2m. 2 POB. Near Slipper Island. The yachts skipper reported that a crew member being struck by the yachts boom was in ill-health and requested assistance to uplift the crew member and to be taken to shore for medical assessment. CRV GJ Gardner rescue was tasked to South Bay – Slipper Island where the crew member was transferred and then returned to Whangamata. The patient was met at the Boat ramp by St John staff, assessed and found to have no serious medical result of the incident with the boom.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 17 hrs.

12 March: Launch. 15m. 2 POB. Fuel problem. Near Slipper Island.

CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to the Whangamata wharf.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 24 hrs.

15 March: Yacht 9.5m. 1 POB. Engine problem. Near Onemana.

CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to the Whangamata wharf.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 13 hrs.

16 March: Yacht 9.5m. 1 POB. Engine problem. Near Whangamata entrance.

CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to the Whangamata Marina.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 11 hrs.

19 March: Launch 9.6m. 1 POB. Engine problem. 2nm NE of Clark Island.

CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to a Whangamata mooring.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 12 hrs.

24 March: Yacht 8.5m. 1 POB. Engine problem. South Bay – Slipper island.

CRV GJ Gardner Rescue responded and tow assisted the vessel to a Whangamata mooring.

Total Whangamata Coastguard involvement 18 hrs.

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OUR HEROES

Good Samaritan to the rescue



When Whangamata’s Cat Van, on a mission to rescue a stray cat, broke down in the wops, driver and owner Victoria Cordery was in despair.

‘Because we travel to our pet doctors in Waihi for all our services, it was a disaster when the transmission blew in our van and we needed rescuing.

‘A fellow cat advocate and heart-of-gold-genuine-as-the-day-is-long type of bloke, David Swap from Matamata, came to our rescue,’ Victoria said.

‘He sent a truck to pick up our undrivable van and had his own workshop mechanics fix it. Then David also made sure it was warranted and registered!

‘We pride ourselves in total self sufficiency, with our Kitschy CAT shop income but this repair would have been a heavy toll with the added pressure of no trading with lockdown.’

She said Whangamata CAT (Cat Adoption Trust) were the ones usually doing rescue work.

‘Our cat van is vital for the community neutering programme we offer for family pets, (only cats) and to date we have neutered 153,’ Victoria said.

She said locals had been wonderful with donations of cat food and funds to get the organisation through lockdown.

‘Thank you so much to all our Heroes who don’t wear capes!’

Here’s a wee poem i wrote:

Sometimes Heroes don’t wear capes, they wear cat fur!

Sometimes these Heroes are strangers walking amongst us, face a blur.

Be kind always, your hero and saving grace could be the stranger standing next to you.

POEM Covid 19 Virus

We’re in lockdown you
C
O it’s awful
Very
Insidious and
Dire, in fact
Like walking a Tight Rope or doing a Balancing Act
Wireless has been a boon
Catching up with Family on Zoom
Zoom, Zoom, my Mazda doesn’t go, sitting
in the driveway watching the Grass grow
Shank’s Pony or Pedal Power is the order of
the Day, good exercise wiles the time away.
My Life Time Lover walking beside me
out enjoying our wonderful scenery
There are those that are worse off than us
so I’m trying not to cause too much Fuss
So, keep your distance, Wash your Hands,
and discuss with each other your
Future plans

- Lin Street, April 2020.



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Wedding bells in the air

Lockdown's been an exciting time for Whangamata resident Anne Hunter who in April was appointed an Independent Marriage and Civil Union Celebrant by the Department of Internal Affairs.

Only those included in the Department's NZ Gazette List of Celebrants are permitted to officially solemnise marriages and civil unions in NZ.

'It was quite a challenging application process with a lot to learn about the protocols and legalities governing marriages and civil unions in NZ,' Anne said.

'References and support documents along with a clean conviction record all had to be ratified and processed. Finally, there's a test and an interview! So, after all that, I was relieved and thrilled to receive confirmation of my appointment.'

Anne reckons there'll be lots of wedding bells in the air after lockdown.

'After all, if couples have been

separately isolated - well, as the old saying goes, absence makes the heart grow fonder!' Anne said.

She said she wanted to be a celebrant because she loves working with people.

She felt that her background in journalism, acting and public speaking gave her the skills to help create a unique and memorable occasion.

'And it's not only weddings and civil unions but I'll also be doing funerals, renewal of vows, naming ceremonies... you name your ceremony and I'll be happy to help!'

She sings the praises of Whangamata as a popular wedding destination.

'We are so lucky here with a choice of wonderful venues in town, country and at the beach. That said, I'm happy to travel - anywhere and everywhere to help make that special occasion perfect.'

- Article supplied

Contact Anne anne.hunter@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 052 4957.

> FROM P3

Whangamata Medical Centre

Flu Vaccinations: We understand that people are anxious to get their flu vaccinations. Those eligible for a funded vaccine have largely been immunised.

All other patients are asked to phone for an appointment 07 865 8032.

For repeat prescription requests call via 07 865 8032 or email reception@wmcentre.co.nz and advise which pharmacy you would like this delivered to. Please allow 48-72 hours to process requests.

Covid-19 testing is available at the drive-through tunnel set up at the Memorial Hall, by appointment only. If you think you may require testing, call the medical centre 07 865 8032 for an appointment with your GP, who can arrange testing for you.

We encourage all our patients to join our online portal 'MyIndici' -Please contact reception staff at the Medical Centre for more information.

Whangamata Community Services Trust

Our services are fully operational. I have all staff working from

home and therapy sessions are conducted over the telephone or virtually on the computer.

Services available:

- Counselling
- Mental Health Support Services both adult and youth
- Budget services
- Whanau support
- Food parcels
- Personal Shopping service for vulnerable people, e.g. elderly, sole parents, pregnant mums, quarantined or immune compromised.

All services can be accessed by calling 07 865 7065 or email: manager@whangacst.co.nz

Monique is happy to be called for any enquiries, concerns or just a friendly chat.

Whangamata Pharmacy is open under level 3 conditions. Processes are in place for the safety of customers and staff. Opening hours are the same as usual. A clear partition is in place to separate customers and staff. If anyone is unwell with cold or flu symptoms they will be asked not to enter.

Entrance to the pharmacy is through the back door of the building where customers are greeted by staff and after

applying hand sanitizer they can enter one at a time for payment. PayWave is available.

Most prescriptions are emailed or faxed from your doctor and delivery is available.

Unichem Pharmacy

Unichem Pharmacy is open under level 3 conditions.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Monday-Friday | 8.30am-5.30pm |
| Saturday | 9.00am-3.00pm |
| Sunday | 9.30am-1.30pm |

Call or email ahead of time to arrange prescription repeats and any retail products you would like us to have ready for you. Come to front door as usual. Staff can attend to all your prescription and retail needs there.

PayWave is available.
Phone 07 865 9398 or email unichemwhangamata@gmail.com

Whangamata Ocean Dental

We are unable to treat emergency dental patients throughout level 3, but we hope to reopen for appointments on Monday, 11 May.

However, we can triage patients by phone and give scripts for pain killers or antibiotics and refer to Dental Specialists in Tauranga or Hamilton should this be required.

Contact number for any dental emergency is 021 223 8003.

Sophie Owston, Osteopathic Services

At the moment under level 3 I am unable to practice as an Osteopath. I am currently waiting to hear if at Level 2 we can, and if so what this will look like for us in terms of how we practice.

Moana House & Village

We provide services 24/7, but currently are on lockdown during at least Level 3 & 4, which makes it difficult without visitor access.

New admissions do need to be screened to ensure that we know their COVID-19 status.

Service personnel have access; deliveries are by arrangement

Phone contact is available 07 865 9643 for the facility or to contact the residents/patients. www.moanahouse.nz

Details for other Whangamata health providers are best accessed by their phone, email or website contact.

For more health information regarding COVID-19 please see www.healthnavigator.org.nz or visit the website: covid19.govt.nz

Looking back

In 1951: You could hire a 3-bedroom cabin from Hunt's Seaside Cabins (sleeping 4 people) for 6 guineas a week (6 pounds, 6 shillings). For that you had access to a wood stove, a bench block, cold water showers and hand basins (brrrrr) p.w.c's (whatever they are/were - maybe private water closet?). You had to supply your own linen blankets and cutlery. Available for communal use was a wash house, copper, tubs, a store, and hot and cold water shower. Camp site were free...

Source: 1951 Automobile Association Handbook, courtesy Sue Arthur

In 1962: Wally Groom was appointed the first president of the Whangamata Club after he, D.W. Millichip, P. Blackburn, J. Findlayson, L. Jamieson, T. Harlow, A. Aitchison and R.A. Houston gathered to get the ball rolling to establish the club (pictured right). The town then had a permanent population of about 500.

Source: Whangamata Club 50th Anniversary book. Compiled by Kel Munro.

We welcome your photos, articles or information relating to the history of our local area. Please email details to Lesley at whangamatanews@gmail.com



The Beginnings: The original Whangamata Club members, from left: A. Bowden, R. Blackburn, L. Jamieson, T. Harlow, D. Millichip and W. Groom.

Hikuai District Trust Chairman's Report 2019 – April 2020

Sadly this year's progress on the trail has been non-existent.

The Trail Committee has continued to meet monthly and have continued to maintain the trail to a very high standard. They have had an excellent tree planting programme under the guidance of Kim, Jeanette and Anne.

Peter and Linda Millen have been very diligent with their pest eradication programme and we are seeing a vast increase of birdlife because of their efforts.

The trust is most fortunate to have Bill Witt who keeps the finances in control. We are truly grateful for his work.

Peter Millen and John Mackenzie have had a very productive year selling firewood. I commend them and their team of willing workers.

Storm Waters has joined the trail team as our track construction expert. He has been doing this job for the last six years and is a valuable addition to our committee.

Terry Kingham from Tairua has

offered to take on the role of fund raising. I believe he will do an excellent job. The presence of someone from Tairua is also very important.

Once again I'm grateful for the many hours of pro bono work that is done by Tim Hart. Thank you so much for your wise counsel and support.

Work to progress Stage 3 of the Trail is currently stalled by a DoC decision which does not allow the construction along the Marginal Strip as detailed in our Resource Consent.

We feel they have been unduly influenced by Iwi and a small group of locals who form the Hikuai Liaison Group. This group has put their support behind the property owners at 403 & 345 Hikuai Settlement Road who oppose the consented trail route along the DoC administered public land between their properties and the river.

Doc has stated that this Marginal Strip is pristine wetland and needs protection. The irony of



this is that stock has grazed this land for many years. This practice continues unabated.

DOC and Iwi have been frustrating

to deal with and seem to be showing a lack of concern for the very thing they say they wish to protect.

The trail committee feel that, with the eventual completion of the trail, we will be able to encourage the protection and restoration of the natural environment of this area as outlined in DoC's own publication - "Magical Places - 40 Wetlands to visit in New Zealand"

Recent mediation arranged by TCDC between the affected parties has failed to find any agreement on an alternative route.

We are still hopeful a way forward will be found.


To try and remove some of the tension surrounding this stalemate I resigned as Chairman of the Trail Committee. I believed that new blood was needed. Gary Prince agreed to step up and was duly elected as the new Chairman. I'm really impressed with the way Gary has approached his new role.

- Chairman of the Hikuai District Trust, Gary Fowler



KAYAK

- Whenuakura Donut Island
- Country 2 Coast river kayak
- Whangamata Harbour



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Whangamata Garden Club

On St Patricks day, 17 March, Whangamata Garden Club, pictured above, had a successful bus trip visiting four gardens in Waihi Beach and Waihi, and then visited the Lily pond gardens just outside of Waihi.

Liz Claridge, pictured below, won the prize for the best dressed for the day.



SPORTS RESULTS

Whangamata Club, Indoor Bowls

INDOOR BOWLS ADJUNCT RESULTS

Sunday 8th March: The Thames Valley Centre held the opening tournament of the season. This was a progressive tournament with players playing for individual points.

11 players from the Whangamata Club entered this triples tournament and five of them succeeded.

Alex Steel came second in the skips; Trish Schultz winning and Ann Costar coming second in the two's and Pam Gray winning the leads competition. Having the overall highest number of points of 54 for the day saw Pam bring home the trophy to the Club. Well done all and especially Pam who is a new player.

Wednesday 11th March: 12 Club players attended the Tauranga Citizens Club March tournament. The team of Tim Jones, Peg Jones, Trish Schultz and Ann Purcell came equal first over wins ends and points. Both skips decided a one end playoff would decide which team took home the winners' prize. The end was decided on the last bowl with the Whangamata team coming second. Well done to you all. To win five out of five games

was an exceptionally good day.

Friday 13th March: Winners: Basil Johnstone, Don Gardner and Denese Braithwaite. Runners up: Norm Sayer and Marilyn Steel. Raffle winner: Brian Wyatt

Friday 20 March: Winners: Peter Gorrie and Betty Wilmer. Runners up: Norm Sayer, Joy O'Sullivan, Barbara Mathieson. Raffle winner: Basil Johnstone.

Golf

WHANGAMATA TITOKI LADIES 18 HOLE


10 March. Area Stableford Rd 2. 1st: Silver, Shelly Leversedge, 2nd: Chris Somerville, 3rd: Jaquie Hollard. Bronze, 1st; Pauline Pike, 2nd: Julie Haak, 3rd Bev West. Points Cup Stableford Rd 2. 1st, Pauline Pike, 2nd Julie Haak, 3rd Bev West. Club Teams Qualifying. Carolyn Kemp, Lynn Cruickshank, Lynne Saes, Jeanne Wilson. Haggie: Nett. 1ST: Pauline Pike, 2nd: Julie Haak, 3rd: Bev West, 4th: Val Turvey, 5th: Carolyn Kemp, 6th: Lynn Cruickshank, 7th: Lynne Saes, 8th: Joanne Somerville. TWOS: Lynn Cruickshank. NTP Hole 2: Sheryn VanGisbergen, LP Hole 4: Bev West, LP Hole 5, Raewyn Marshall. LP Hole 9, Chris Davenport. NTP Hole 11, Lynn Cruickshank. LP Hole 18, Bev West. GOLFER OF THE WEEK: Pauline Pike.



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Saving our Planet #7: Living with a better purpose

Let's come clean. We've all been cleaning. Stuck at home, the horrible truth of years of procrastination has been staring us in the face. But under strict "stay at home" orders, unpleasant layers of grease and cat fur, once easy to walk past, have finally been dealt with. And isn't it embarrassing how little time it took?

If, for some reason, you haven't yet been possessed by a cleaning frenzy, never fear - help is here and there is still time! Here are our top tips...

Get rid of boxes, shelves and furniture that serve no purpose other than storing stuff you haven't looked at for decades - your wedding photos, that magic vegetable slicer, empty CD cases.

Get rid of "dust collector" ornaments you don't love. The gifter is unlikely to be around, or even remember anymore, to make you feel guilty.

Stuff on the floor is fair game too. Be ruthless - once your house is bare, cleaning will be a breeze!

Now the hard part. Get everyone in the habit of tidying as they go. Easier said than done.

It seems that, even with a captive audience and hours of time on their hands, it's still not a done deal. If worst comes to worst, when things ease up, you can always create a job for someone else to do the housework. Just make sure your kids pay.

Here is a fab tip from the book 'Is there life after housework?' - the two-bucket method for attacking dirt.

One bucket with hot soapy water and one with clear water for rinsing the cloth. It's shocking, yet oddly thrilling, to see the water go black. Yep, it's day 29 of lockdown.



Now, dishes. The reality is, you're on your own at the sink. Nobody's going to butt in with "I'll do that". Even the beautiful "you wash, I'll dry" courtship has gone.

As for the dishwasher - if you find a way to get them to put dishes IN the dishwasher, instead of just in the Zone, let us know. Remind them that dinner doesn't cook if you put it next to the oven.

Easy solution - have less dishes. Ditch the annoying ones - the narrow glass, the scrapey plate, the excessively heavy pottery mug. Choose a cup and plate each for all day use and you'll be doing far less dishes, using less water and electricity.

And now for the best part - housework can save you money on gym fees! Done with enthusiasm, it can be a full body workout, no less. Sweeping/mopping for the core, cobwebs on the ceiling for lateral stretches, and picking up Lego for the glutes.

Music will motivate you, but don't spend two hours making a playlist first (you know who you are, Mr Window Cleaner!).

As Freddie Mercury would say "Don't stop me now, I'm having such a good time...!"

So ditch the clutter, enjoy your housework and you will be living with a better purpose.

OBITUARY



Patricia Jill Sharpe

March 28, 1941 to April 4, 2020

Known as Jill to everyone, this smiling, generous, gracious and talented woman died in Waikato Hospital on April 4, 2020.

Jill and husband Neville (Nev to his friends) met as teenagers when they both lived in Auckland.

Jill was 15 and a student at Epsom Girls Grammar School (otherwise known as EGGS) and Neville a 16-year-old student at Penrose High School, and a friend of Jill's brother.

The rest, as they say, is history!

Three years later they married and while Neville carried on his automotive work, they had three children - Steven, Wendy and the late Trudy.

Over the years, the couple also became grandparents to Chanelle, Brittany and Tyran and great grand-parents to twins Ella and Ivy, and Blake.

The couple moved to Whangamata 30 years ago when Neville had health issues.

Jill loved her time in Whangamata, becoming

involved in several groups as well as setting up a fitness class at the Whangamata Club, establishing the linedancing club.

Until recently, Jill and Neville were strong supporters and volunteers for Beach Hop, helping out each year with packing registration kits, helping with traffic direction and other functions.

Neville said Jill's great passion was tapestries and quilting, as well as designing and making costumes for the theatre society.

Throughout their Port Road house are framed pieces of intricate tapestry Jill completed.

'She was a very patient woman and made sure everything was perfect,' Neville said.

A quilt she was working on before she died will be finished, to honour her, by local patchwork and quilting friends.

'She had an infectious smile, and never harmed a fly,' Neville said. 'The world has lost a beautiful, caring person.'

- Lesley Staniland

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- The upper level boasts lovely views through mature Pohutukawas.
- Modern kitchen and combined lounge/dining flow to a sunny north facing deck.
- The lower level is semi self-contained for guests.
- The grounds are terraced and well-designed with a variety of fruit trees.
- View by appointment only.

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Chris Speedy
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- Gas fire, heat pump
- Private rear patio and yard, fully fenced and gated
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- Easy care gardens
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AUCTION: Saturday 6th June 2020, 2pm
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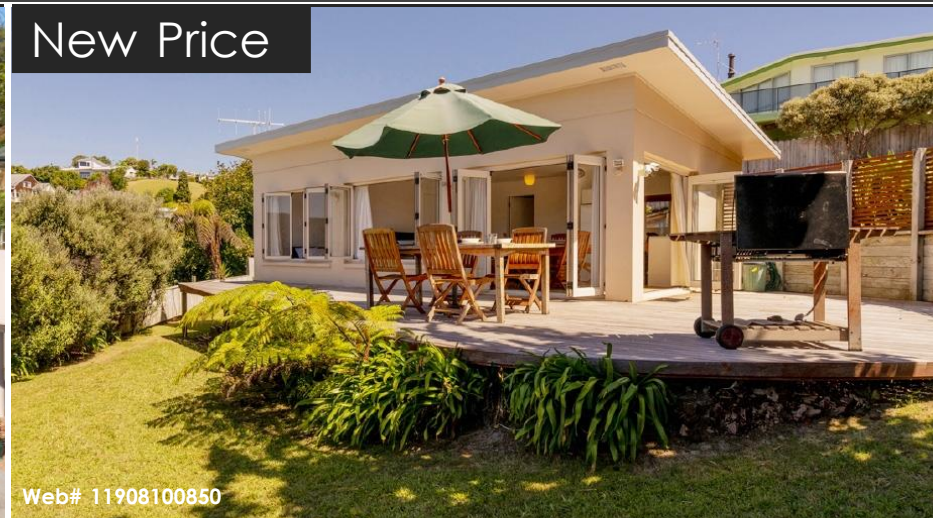
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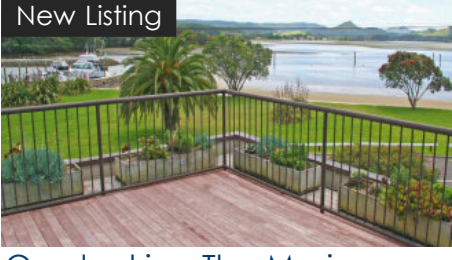
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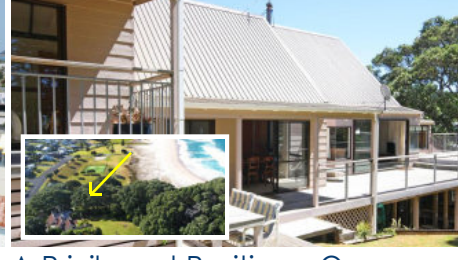
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Lovely two bedroom beach or permanent home. High stud, open plan living, dining & kitchen opens to patio areas to entertain & cook in the wood fired pizza oven. Modern sleepout for the extras. Fully fenced, private 667 sqm site. **\$550,000**

Chris & Liz

0274 500 022

chrisliz@whiritoabeach.co.nz



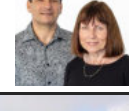
Great Size, Great Potential - Whiritoa

We have a wonderful opportunity for you to build your beach dream on this site. It sits on a gentle slope with an open northerly aspect & is approximately 600 metres to the sands of beautiful Whiritoa beach. **\$315,000**

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Section

Web# 11908100767

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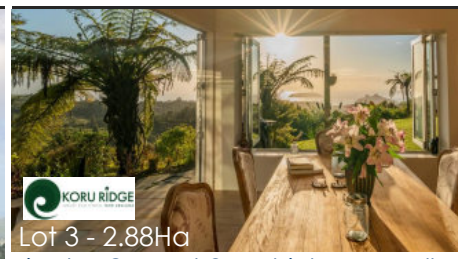
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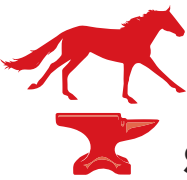


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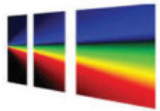
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Twilight Croquet 2019-2020 Season Final Night

On Monday 16 March 2020 Twilight Croquet concluded it's season with some hard fought semi finals and final games. There was much hilarity when the results were first equal and third equal! A very unusual result! Blame it on the Leap Year!

Well done to the winners Bridge Buddies and Cornerstone and to third place getters Bits & Pieces and Ramblers. It was left to the team leaders to sort out the prize pool and that produced even more laughter!

The Whangamata Croquet Club would like to thank our generous sponsors Arnold and Diane Weren. Whangamata Curtain and Blind has chalked up 31 years of Twilight sponsorship.

Thanks must also go to Ron and Anne Marie Slatter at Whangamata Cinemas who gave 4 movie tickets for spot prizes.

The Finals night is a sausage sizzle, finger food, lucky numbers and games. For those who didn't make the final there were games of Target Pole and Cat and Mouse



Generous sponsor, Diane Weren.

and these had prizes allocated. It was good to see birthday girl Coralie Auger take out the Target Pole prize. Prizes were also given for the Most and Least Hoops this season-well done Probus and Quizzers.

All teams have an evaluation sheet to see if changes need to be made before the start of next season.

My thanks for the camaraderie of all teams and a BIG thanks to those croquet members who volunteered to umpire the games.

Filly Buchanan, Twilight Convenor

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>DARE DEVILS: Sue Jurisich, Dawn Burgess, Jacquie Hollard, Colleen Besham, (ab) Yvonne Barr</p> |  <p>COME BACKS: Rosemarie Rutherford, Diane McGarald, Barbara Harold, Helen Cashen</p> |  <p>RAMBLERS: Marianne Buchanan, Pam Johnson, Heather Dansby-Scott, Daphne Inglis, (ab) Graham Walder</p> |  <p>BITS & PIECES: Brian Wyatt, Erin White, John Inglis, Ross Lee (ab) George & Pat McCartney</p> |
|  <p>BRIDGE BUDDIES: Frank & Mily Van Beck, Cushla & Ray Jarvis (ab) Jan Findlay</p> |  <p>QUIZZERS: Jenny Stewart, Coralie Auger, Gina Williams, Sue Traillie (ab) Janice Thorne</p> |  <p>CORNERSTONE: Betty Pran, Heather Ardley, Alison Shannon, Margaret Gillespie, (ab) Joan Hamilton</p> |  <p>PROBUS: Chris & Mike Sommerville, Lyn Plowright, Rosemary Medforth (ab) Judy Kenealy</p> |



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| COOKS BEACH | 90.3 |
| COROGLEN | 90.3 |
| THAMES COAST | 97.2 |
| THAMES | 97.2 |
| TAIRUA | 93.9 |
| PAUANUI | 93.9 |
| SEABIRD COAST | 97.2 |
| WHANGAMATA | 89.9 |
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