

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2014-15
COMPLIMENTARY



COROMANDEL

life

THE MAJESTIC POHUTUKAWA

HERE COMES THE **SUN!**

HOLIDAY RECIPES & GIFT GUIDE

FAMILY FUN ON THE COROMANDEL

THE **COMET'S** BEEN LANDED!

Celebrating the people and places of the Coromandel Peninsula

COROMANDEL

WHAT'S INSIDE *life*

SPRING/HOLIDAY 2014

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Happy New Year!

Whew! It was five years ago we started *PakuViews* and over a year ago that we expanded under the new branding of *Coromandel Life* – more pages and more circulation to include the entire peninsula.

It has been gratifying to feel the momentum growing from your input, and we are excited about where it might lead us. Our fourth issue is now in your hands and we feel it is starting to take on a life of its own – like a child being 'raised by the village' of Coromandel, it's developing its own personality and soul.

The more we research our articles, the more we discover that we want to share. What started out as a three page piece about entertaining the kids this Summer – rain or shine – ended up a 16-pager. We hope you find it a valuable resource to save for future reference. We now feel excited to get out and experience these locations ourselves.

Our next issue will continue our popular "Road Trip" series with artist Charlotte Giblin, focusing next on Coromandel Town south to the Thames region where history and interest abounds.

Ending the year in gratitude

The new year is a time to be grateful for what we have and to move forward with hopes and dreams for the future. Although the magazine sometimes takes up more time than I want it to, I am thankful to be doing something I love, and as May West said – "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful".

And I get to wake each morning in one of the most beautiful places on earth with a terrific partner – working with fabulous people I enjoy, admire and respect. Even if I'd like to have a bit more time to explore the beaches and walk the trails, I do get to gaze at it every day from my desk.

Thanks for your support while we 'trim the sails' to set course for the new year. We appreciate so many of you taking the time to phone us to let us know we are "doing it right" and saying we are "the best thing that's happened to the Coromandel". It is 'food for our soul' to hear the glowing comments and know that we are on the right track and in the flow of life – *Coromandel Life*.

Wishing you a happy & fun holiday!

Greg and Tovi Daly



Photo by Greg Daly

In the happy spirit of Christmas, we wanted to share these clever song lyrics we fell in love with...

Sticky Beak the Kiwi

Now Sticky Beak the kiwi, that bird from way down under
He's caused a great commotion and it isn't any wonder
He's notified old Santa Claus to notify the deer
That he will pull the Christmas sleigh in the southern hemisphere.

Chorus:

Lots of toys for girls and boys load the Christmas sleigh
He will take the starlight trail along the Milky Way.
Hear the laughing children as they shout aloud with glee:
'Sticky Beak, Sticky Beak, be sure to call on me.'

Now every little kiwi, and every kangaroo, too,
The wallaby, the weka, and the platypus and emu,
Have made themselves a Christmas tree with stars and shining bright,
So Sticky Beak will see the way to guide the sleigh tonight.

Now Sticky Beak the kiwi, that Maori-land dictator,
Will not allow Rudolph's nose this side of the equator
So when you hear the sleigh bells ring you'll know that he's the boss,
And Sticky Beak will pull the sleigh beneath the Southern Cross.

Gisborne songwriter and folk singer Bob Edwards wrote the words in the hope of producing a Christmas song for NZ children. Another local, Neil Roberts, set the words to music. Gisborne's fourteen year old Julie Nelson was selected to be the vocalist and recorded the hit song in 1961.



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Our Cover Artist

Grant Simpson

"What more could a Kiwi wish for – sun, sand, beautiful blue water and Pohutukawa trees in bloom", says Grant.

In our cover painting, "Summer Feeling, Simpsons Beach", Motukorure (Centre) Island can be seen on the horizon through the pohutukawa blossoms we all love and recognise – iconic to the Coromandel. Grant is shown at right in his studio with the painting partially complete.

We at Coromandel Life have been ardent admirers of Grant's work for several years, attracted by the almost photographic realism of his coastal scenes. You feel as if you could walk right into his paintings and feel the glistening waves wash over your feet. His pohutukawa blossoms tempt you to touch them. So when Grant agreed to complete a 'custom' painting for our Holiday issue – something that screamed "Kiwi Summer Holiday" – we were rapt.

Every work shares an experience beyond the landmarks, "something that recalls a favourite place or a forgotten memory," says Grant. A recent work, "Naki Time", portrays a humorous display of sea beaten jandels, sure to remind the viewer of one lost long ago.

It's difficult to believe that Grant is a self taught artist with no formal training. We are pleased he has pursued this amazing natural gift so we all get to benefit.

His work has a cutting edge and distinctive flair that one might describe as 'overwhelming realism'. We've asked ourselves when viewing scans of Grant's paintings, oils on canvas, "Is this really a painting, and not a photograph?"

Grant's paintings have an arresting quality beyond the allure of the realism and exquisite technique – usually featuring well known scenic landmarks, yet sometimes having an overall abstract quality as well, with broad swaths of textures and colours. A large plain of rounded shore stones with shiny wet contrasts, set against a clear blue sky. The thousand petals of pohutakawa blossoms sparkling against shadowy depths, the rough bark, the warm sands, the spacious horizon.



Professor and artist Carole Shephard to launch 2015 Mercury Bay Art Escape

Dr Carole Shephard, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Auckland University and holder of ONZM for her contribution to the visual arts, is featured speaker to open the 2015 Mercury Bay Art Escape Open Studio Tour. The opening night fundraiser, at Hot Water Beach's Hot Waves Cafe, is slated for the 6th of March.

Carole is an artist, educator and writer living and working in Kawhia where she runs Te Puti Art Studio. Best known for printmaking, her work is held in national and international collections and presently exhibited in Sydney.

Carole enjoys being part of a small community and puts particular value on the work being done by artists outside large cities where she



Proof of Intent
(Media Print, 2013)



Summer Feeling,
Simpsons Beach

by Grant Simpson

The dramatic Manukau Harbour of Grant's hometown was a strong influence on the boy's love of the natural world, a love he expressed through art while in school in Auckland. Holidays at the beaches around Auckland including Waiheke Island as well as the Coromandel made Grant aware of the qualities displayed by nature and how they speak to the heart. "Awesome beauty, wisdom, and power can be seen in the natural environment, and even love can be seen, in that we ourselves have been given the ability to appreciate and enjoy these things."

Until 1998, Grant concentrated on his business career, but his move to the Coromandel rekindled his desire to paint, and to make this fulfilling activity his livelihood as well. From 2003, he didn't look back, and this self trained artist 'went pro'. His first exhibition in Harrison's at Whangamata in 2005 was a great success with almost all works on display selling on opening night.

Living in the Opoutere area, Grant works out of his home which is surrounded by orchards and farmland. (Look for the gallery sign just south of Opoutere Orchard on SH25). Grant is quick to credit the rich Coromandel art scene, as a key to his success here: "the many artists working away in their home studios, the art walks in Coromandel and Mercury Bay, and especially the galleries headed by such knowledgeable people."

Christine Rabarts, owner of Whitianga's Bread & Butter Gallery, has carried Grant's work at her gallery for years. "Grant uses a variety of skills with his brushwork, capturing the energy and movement of a windy day or the roundness and gnarliness of the pohutukawa or the warmth of a summer's day under a tree's shade. His consistent ability to capture colours, such as the turquoise of the sea, the depths of blues in the sky – and at times the softness of the setting sun or an early evening's gentleness – brings alive a special quality of beauty, a beauty that the Coromandel Peninsula is known for."

See a large selection of both originals and prints at the Bread & Butter Gallery, including the original of the cover art "Summer Feeling, Simpsons Beach", just completed for this issue. It will be available soon in limited edition prints. His work can also be seen at The Little Gallery of Fine Arts in Tairua, Heritage Gallery in Cambridge and Art Of This World in Devonport.

View Grant's website: gvsimpson.vc.net.nz/artist/gartsimp/Artworks/
Or contact him on 07 865 6113, E: gvsimpson@extra.co.nz

believes new energy is found and ideas are expressed in individual and challenging ways. Her beliefs fit well with the Art Escape Trust mission to promote and develop the growth of the visual arts in Mercury Bay.

About the Mercury Bay Art Escape Open Studio Tour

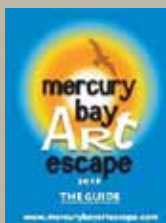
Over 50 established and emerging artists in the Eastern Coromandel open their studios the first two weekends of **March, 7-8 and 14-15**. It is a fabulous opportunity for residents and visitors to interact with the artists and purchase artwork direct.

The new edition of 'The Guide' is an expanded 156-page full-colour reference manual including bios of all 52 artists, including 12 new ones. This guide is a must whether you are attending or not – it offers maps, artists' profiles, galleries, cafés, B&B's and tours. Can't come this year? Contact artists for visits at other times. Following the Opening Night Party at Hot Waves, all artists will have a piece of work on display and for sale at the café through Easter Monday.

Purchase Guide and tickets to opening night (always a sell out!) at the MBAE website (or find local locations selling it).

See www.mercurybayartescape.com.

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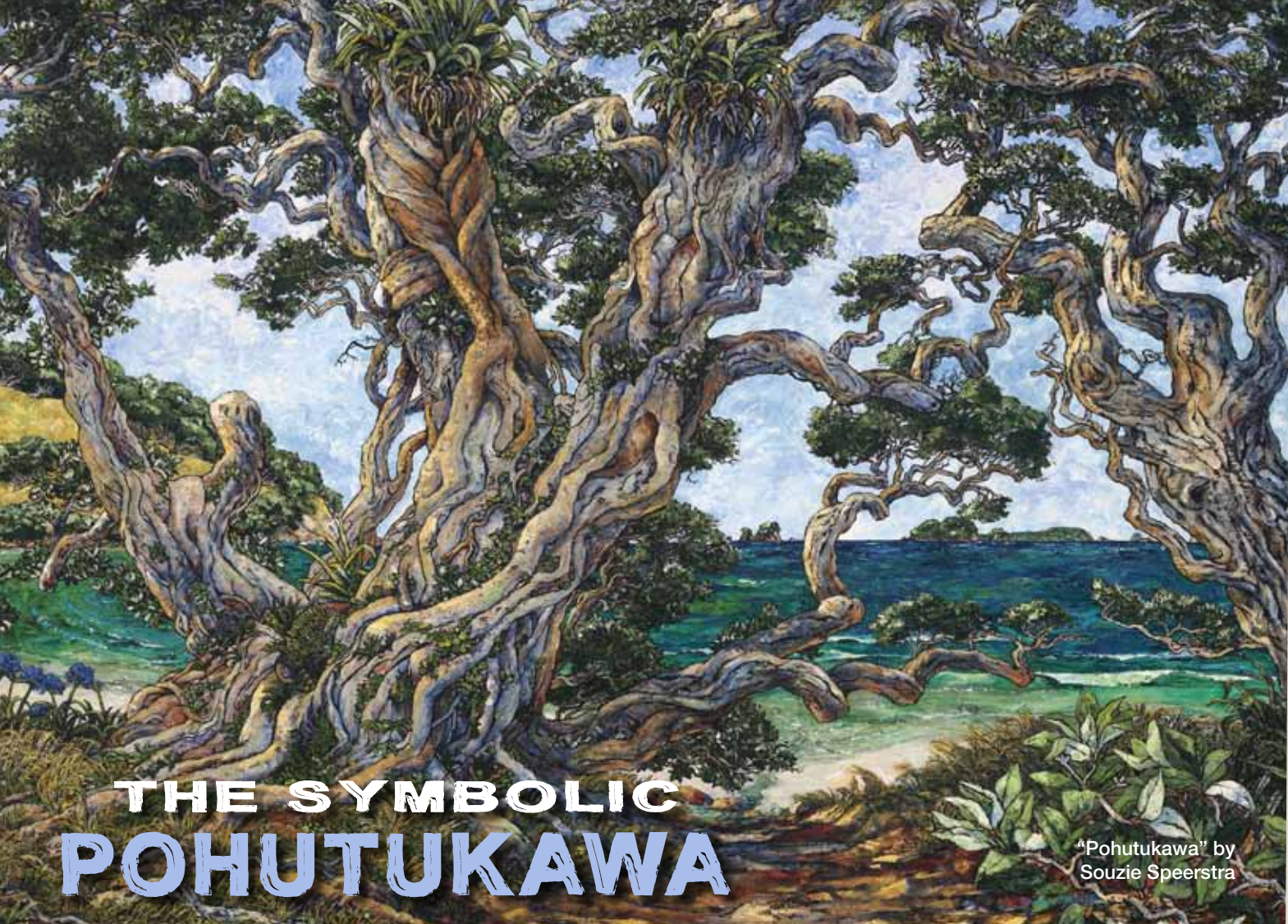


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THE SYMBOLIC POHUTUKAWA

"Pohutukawa" by Souzie Speerstra

The trunk of the Pohutukawa, so beautifully painted by Souzie Speerstra, has been compared to many Kiwis, a bit twisted, gnarled and tenacious – with aerial roots that reach out searching for new opportunities.

The Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) are at home on the Coromandel Coast, withstanding wind, storm and the spray of seawater. Appropriately, *pohutu* is the word given to geysers – a 'plume' of water or surf, and has been translated to mean 'drenched or splashed with spray' referencing its coastal habitat. Branches spread horizontally along the cliffs with a myriad of aerial roots in search of ground to cling to, preserving ground, rock and lava. They are capable of clinging over cliff tops, and a grove of them exists on Bay of Plenty's active volcano, White Island. Its Hawaiian cousin, the ohia tree with its lehua blossoms, is closely linked with Pele, the goddess associated with the Hawaii volcanoes and her legends. It is the first tree to sprout and grow on the fresh lava.

Known as the NZ Christmas tree, the Pohutukawa bursts into crimson display from October through the Christmas holiday period. Legend has it that if it flowers early, it will be a long hot summer. For most these scarlet, crimson or orangey flowers are the symbol of the NZ summer, but few realise there are examples of other blossom colours such as white and yellow. A few rarely seen yellow Pohutukawa are found in Kuaotunu. Photographer, Ian Patrick captured the one shown below flowering next to the red, just before press time.

MAORI MYTHOLOGY

It is believed these slow growing trees can live up to 1000 years. Holding a prominent place in Maori mythology, legends tell of the young warrior, Tawhaki, and his attempt to find help

in heaven to avenge his father's death. He subsequently fell to earth and the crimson flowers are said to represent his blood.

One of the most sacred is weather-beaten and small. This tree, reputed to be 800-1200 years old (two-three times the generally accepted lifespan

of a Pohutukawa), clings to the cliffs at Cape Reinga, the northernmost tip of NZ. Maori believe that after ceremonial burial, the body's spirit comes here, slides down the roots to enter the sea and then emerges onto Ohaua, the highest tip of the Three Kings Islands, for a final farewell before rejoining the ancestors. Thus, the tree is known as 'the place of leaping'.

Tairua Maori elder Moana Jones shared many stories about sacred and revered trees in the Tairua area in "Tales of the Trees", a two



Notable specimens

A local Pohutukawa giant was recently discovered in the bush at Puka Park Resort in Pauanui (see story on pages 34-35 for details). It may be a record-breaker! For scale, see size of Sarni's head at bottom. – Photo of tree trunk (and Sarni's head) by Willie Lochore

One of the rare yellow Pohutukawa in Kuaotunu. – Photos by Ian Patrick



part article we wrote in *PakuViews*. (See the online archived versions of Issues 1 and 2 for the stories at www.coromandelife.co.nz.)

One such tree is 'Kohatumaarakau' or 'Tree Holding Stone' on Tairua's Beach Road. It has entwined itself around a huge stone which was considered sacred. It was here many Maori buried the placenta or umbilical cord of their babies, as was custom, in any crevice that could be found. "If this stone could speak, the stories it must hold," suggested Moana.

The rich symbolism of the Pohutukawa embracing the beginning and end of life explains the celebrated spiritual significance and importance of this magnificent tree, and how it had such an easy time being adopted as the Kiwi Christmas tree, a stunning local equivalent for the traditional red berries and leaves of the holly branch. The tree even inspired "A Pohutukawa Carol," written by homesick WWII chaplain Ted Forsman in which he made reference to "your red tufts, our snow".

In his stunning book, *Pohutukawa and Rata, New Zealand's Iron-hearted Trees*, Philip Simpson celebrates the Pohutukawa and Rata, retelling many stories that have contributed to their becoming such "beloved symbols of Aotearoa..." He dubs them 'iron-hearted' due to their extraordinarily strong wood, and details the particular adaptations that enable their proliferation in our coastal margins and forests.

Simpson explains that "according to one whakapapa (genealogy), Pohutukawa is descended from Tangaroa, the god of the sea, and two of his offspring, Hutu... and Kawa. The tree is sometimes known as Hutukawa which is also the name for a ceremonial headdress made of red feathers, worn by esteemed leaders." (See bottom of page.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, ENDURING USES

Many Pohutukawa were planted by Maori to mark places of importance. At Tapu Point on the Whangarei Harbour, trees grow at a battle site, and more exist on the pa (fort) site at Butler Point at Whangaroa Harbour. The banks of Lake Tarawera have groves of some highly valued Pohutukawa and Tuhua (Mayor Island) is renowned for its huge specimens.

The density of the wood made Pohutukawa difficult for Maori to work with – too heavy to float and too hard to shape – but was traditionally used for weapons, anchors, tools, lintels, walking sticks, and fish hooks. There were also a multitude of medicinal uses, and Pohutukawa sawdust gives a sweet flavour and golden hue when smoking fish. It was a valuable firewood as it burns even when still green.

The wood was used by early colonists for a wide range of building projects, particularly where durability was required, which led to the common name of 'ironwood'. Pohutukawa wood has even been used in ship building; during World War II 45 tugboats were built for the US Navy and Army and 14 more for British and NZ forces.

Honey from Pohutukawa is mild with a salty taste and sets hard rapidly due to its very high glucose content. It must be removed from the comb on harvest day and creamed quickly. Queen Elizabeth was sent six five-pound tins on the event of her coronation by NZ beekeepers and it is rumoured that she still enjoys it on her toast for breakfast.

However, the symbolism most dear to the Kiwi heart is that the blossoms herald the holiday season, and its carpet of blossoms decorate our beaches for the long days of enjoying the Summer sun.



Souzie Speestra's paintings reflect a lifelong love affair with the sea and the Hahei area which she now calls home. Her use of lustrous bright colors captures the essence of NZ. View Souzie's popular art at *Bread & Butter* in Whitianga and *The Little Gallery of Fine Arts* in Tairua. Visit www.souziespeerstra.co.nz.

Vintage charmers

May Gibbs produced a comic strip (and later books) featuring two Pohutukawa fairy babies called Hutu and Kawa, who lived in the bush with friends such as Willy Weka and advisor Grandpa Kiwi.

Far ahead of their time, these 1950s Kiwi classics show a real concern for the preservation of our precious wildlife and the environment.



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The comet's been landed!

The European Space Agency (ESA) released the first image (seen right) from orbiter *Rosetta*'s plunky-bouncy lander *Philae*. The photo shows a sharp closeup of the actual ground of the comet with one of *Philae*'s three feet visible in the foreground. The lander performed 64 data-packed hours of experiments before being hibernated when the batteries ran low.

A half billion kilometers from Earth, a spacecraft the size of a car travelled 6 billion km hoping to rendezvous with an icy rock 4km across hurtling through space at 17km per second. And rendezvous it did.

Rosetta has been in space for ten years, but on Nov. 12, 2014 it did something no other spacecraft had ever attempted — it matched speed, orbited and landed a robotic probe on a comet!

HISTORIC COMET LANDING!

The weeks leading up to Christmas will see many amazing new images sent back from the *Rosetta* spacecraft currently orbiting the 4x2km Comet 67P. This historic mission was discussed in our last issue, and since then it successfully completed another aspect of one of the most audacious feats of science and technology – *Ever!*

After a ten year journey to catch up with the comet

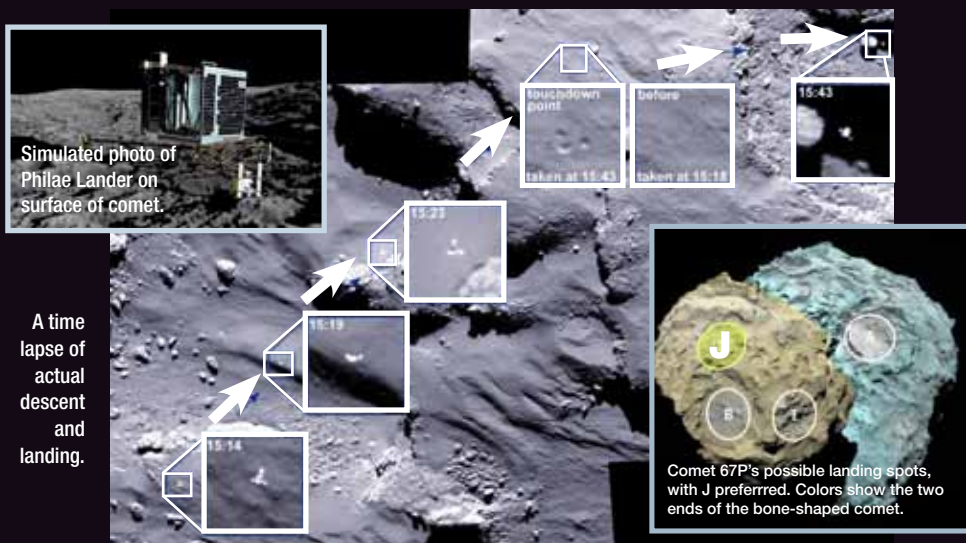
travelling through space at 17km a second (much of that time spent in a nailbiting, battery-saving forced hibernation), *Rosetta* dropped a fridge-sized probe, *Philae*, onto a sunny spot on the comet's icy surface.

Although *Philae* weighs 100kg on Earth, the gravity on the tiny comet is so weak that now, weighing only 1 gram, it actually bounced off the surface due to

failure of its anchoring harpoons. The lander then ricocheted 1km high and took 2 hours to fall back before bouncing slightly, finally lodging in some shadowy spot. Unfazed, *Philae* proceeded to send back 64 hours of priceless scientific data including stunning images of the icy and unexpectedly hard surface before its batteries ran out.

This continuing mission will carry on till at least August 2015 when the comet rounds the Sun and will heat up and develop huge and possibly violent jets of water vapour and gas. This material is what gives many comets the lovely long tail following them for thousands of km though space, and often making them visible to us on Earth. All will be keenly observed and photographed by *Rosetta*.

One of the experiments *Philae* carried out was made possible by high tech quartz oscillators supplied by Auckland company Rakon; so there is actually a piece of NZ scientific prowess orbiting



Rosetta's cameras captured a half hour of 'time-stamped' photos of the lander's location mid-air as it approached the "J" landing site. Landing where planned, evidenced by the impressions of the landers feet seen in the "touchdown point" photo, it then bounced to another location. The final shot shows it passing over a shadowy area after the first bounce.



Photo by Peter Drury

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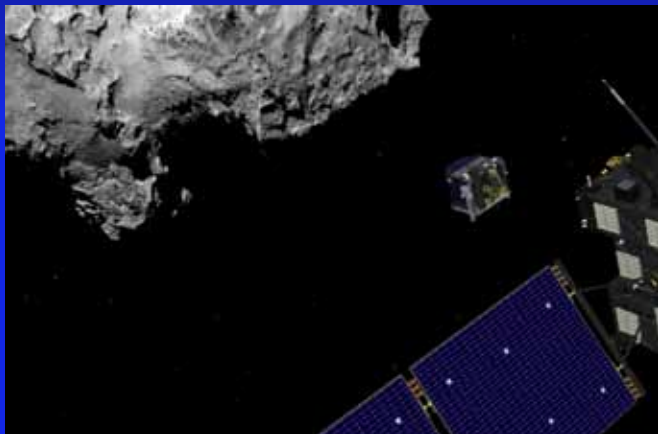
We highly recommend a visit to Stargazers B&B and Astronomy Tours for a 'tour of the skies'. Alastair has an impressive observatory and various telescopes, including the largest one on the Coromandel.



The Rosetta Mission lander, *Philae*, has safely landed on a comet! One of *Philae*'s feet appears at the bottom left of this spectacular image of the surface of C67/P Churyumov-Gerasimenko. A surface panorama suggests that the lander has come to rest tilted, near a shadowing ledge, with its solar panels getting less light than needed for continuous operation.

Below, an artist's rendition of what the lander would have looked like leaving the *Rosetta* spacecraft. An initial landing spot was chosen near the rim of a crater.

Once settled in, *Philae*'s science instruments worked as planned, and 64 hours of data was relayed back to Earth during communications windows, when *Rosetta* flew above the lander's new horizon. It is hoped that the comet itself will tilt and allow the solar panels to recharge the batteries.



around this comet! This experiment sent radio waves from the orbiting *Rosetta* spacecraft through the comet to *Philae* sitting on the other side which will allow us to find out Comet 67P's internal structure... is it a solid body or porous and loosely held together with many internal holes or cavities? This is very similar to the way a CAT scan uses X-rays to probe our body.

Comets have been described as dirty snowballs but it now seems they are more like snowy dirtballs with lots of carbonaceous dust and a little ice. Ice from comets is thought to have possibly been the source of the water in Earth's oceans, and this is one of the things *Rosetta* will tell us.

Comet 67P is actually darker than coal and weighs about the same as a (rather large) piece of wood! Some of the carbonaceous material in comets can be converted to small diamonds. One such comet, Hypatia, exploded over the Sahara Desert 28 million years ago and produced 'Libyan Desert Glass', some of which is on display for visitors to Stargazers Astronomy Tours. A piece of this glass was found in Tutenkahamen's tomb carved into the shape of a scarab beetle, so highly prized was it by the ancient Egyptians.

Experience *Rosetta*'s amazing journey here
http://sci.esa.int/where_is_rosetta/

Go here to view updates on the *Rosetta*: <http://sci.esa.int/rosetta/>
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Interesting things to watch out for in the early summer skies include the reappearance of Jupiter in the eastern sky in late December. Even a small telescope or powerful binoculars will show its four largest moons dancing around the planet from night to night.

Venus returns to the evening sky in December and may be visible low in the west just after the Sun sets. Over the next few months it will move further from the Sun in its orbit and will appear higher in the sky as the Summer progresses.

December 14, 16 and 20 may also see good displays of meteors if the weather is clear and the moon not too bright.

The huge constellation Orion with its famous 'Pot' in the centre rises higher each night in the east accompanied by the two brightest stars, Sirius and Canopus. To the left of Orion is the beautiful cluster of young stars known variously as the Seven Sisters, Pleiades, Subaru and of course, Matariki.

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HERE COMES A toast to Summer THE SUN



Photo by Tovi Daly

Staying healthy and happy as we embrace the sun

Whether you'll be stripping off or taking cover during high summer, there's no doubt that you'll burn more easily here in New Zealand than almost anywhere else on the planet. The sun is especially strong because the Earth's orbit takes the Southern Hemisphere closer to the sun (called the perihelion) during our January summer than it does in the northern hemisphere during their July summer. There is also less pollution in the atmosphere and less ozone to block the UV rays that cause sunburn.

While the best 'safe sun' practice suggests staying out of the sun between the peak hours of 11am to 2pm, our desire to make the most of our glorious summer means that's not realistic for most. So what's

the answer? We all know the mantra – shirt, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen before you step outside. But what's not so widely known is the possibility of being sun smart on the inside too!

Aim for the Antioxidants

Some experts suggest that food and supplements we consume influence how our bodies react to sunlight. Antioxidants automatically flood the areas under UV ray attack to help prevent damage to the cells' sensitive DNA. Over time, these damaged areas show signs of wrinkling, age spots (melatonin), and even skin cancers.

Antioxidant containing supplements are plentiful. Look to include these in your skin vitamin regime: Glutathione, Alpha Lipoic Acid

(ALA), CoQ10, vitamin C and E.

Among antioxidant rich 'super foods' are cocoa powder (yes, dark chocolate!), pecans, fruits (apples, pears, black plums), artichokes, cinnamon, and berries (blueberries, cranberries, goji and the undisputed winner – acai berries).

Astaxanthin – usually taken as a supplement but actually a food known as microalgae – seems to be the powerhouse. It is favoured by surfers and is considered an internal sunscreen. In the wild this microalgae is eaten by salmon, shrimp and crayfish, giving them their reddish colour. Commercially, it is grown in the intense Hawaiian sun and also shows promise as an anti-inflammatory for arthritis and other joint and muscle complaints.

Still reasons to be a sunlover



While we must be diligent in offsetting the harmful effects of too much sun exposure, it is worth remembering that our bodies do need sunlight for good health. The interaction of sunlight with skin produces vitamin D, a vital nutrient not found in most foods common in our modern diet. Even if it does occur naturally in foods, sunlight is needed to help the body synthesise the vitamin.

Studies show that ingredients in sunscreens interfere with the function of sunlight to prompt the skin to manufacture vitamin D. The blanket use of sunscreens may be contributing to the increase of vitamin D deficiency in NZ.

Author Debra Lynn Dadd points to the benefits of sunlight in her book *Debra's Guide to Choosing Natural Sun Protection*. "Prior to the discovery of penicillin in 1938, sunshine was used to treat many ills including tuberculosis, colitis, anaemia, gout, cystitis, arteriosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, eczema and asthma.

Modern studies show that exposure to sunlight can also help lower blood pressure, uplift mood, enhance the immune system, lower blood sugar, kill bacteria, increase sex hormones and help the body deal with stress."

Sunscreens were not designed to increase the amount of time spent in the sun, rather to protect us in the event that we are in the sun. "Ironically, our use of sunscreens as a licence to sun-worship for hours on end means we are actually increasing our risk of skin cancer."

While there is no question that UV light in large amounts is harmful, in trace amounts, natural sunlight is a 'life-supporting nutrient'. Many experts recommend at least 30 minutes of natural light per day, even if it's sitting by an open window or under the shade of a tree.

On the other hand, if you're hitting the beach, don't forget to slip-slap-and-slop as you embrace the wonderful gift that is the Kiwi summer.

KNOW YOUR SPF

Everyone knows by now about the SPF protection rating on skin creams, lip balms and sun lotions. The rating compares time it would take to sunburn if you were not wearing the sunscreen, as opposed to time it would take with the sunscreen. With the commonly recommended "SPF 15 and over", how much protection is offered by lotions rated 25+?

A WebMD feature discussed the ratings quoting dermatologist James M. Spencer, MD: "SPF is not a consumer-friendly number," he says. "It is logical to think that an SPF of 30 is twice as good as an SPF of 15 and so on. But that is not how it works."

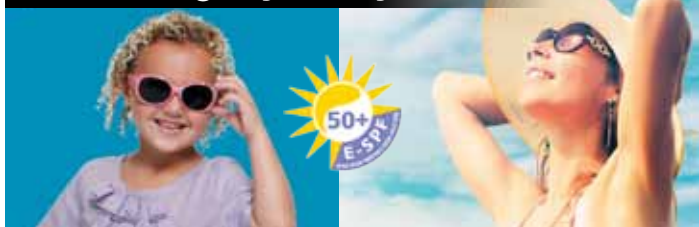
An SPF15 lotion product blocks about 94% of UVB rays; SPF 30, 97%; and SPF 45 about 98%. "After that, it just gets silly," he says. (However, E-SPF rated eyeglasses can add protection to lenses with polarisation. See next page.)

What to know about SPF lotions: Look for full spectrum, effective on both UVA and UVB rays. Apply 30 minutes before you go outside. Amount for full body protection: Adults apply 30-40g, child 20g. If going in water, use waterproof or water repellent lotion. Reapply every 1-2 hours.

SPF

Refers to more
than just skin.

Don't forget your eyes.



Did you know that sun exposure can also damage your eyes? We were intrigued at seeing a 50+ lens when we received the advert at right from Visique O'Hagan Vision Care Centre and asked the experts to share more about the new developments in protective lenses.

Sunglasses: beyond being cool

CAN EYES GET SUNBURNED? "Yes," says Heather O'Hagan, an optometrist from Visique. "The eyes can get sunburned (called photokeratitis), just like skin." Although invisible, UV rays are quite harmful to the eyes, so one cannot see the danger and avoid it. And less than 10% of people worldwide are even aware of sunray dangers.

These UV-A and UV-B rays can have serious long and short-term effects, she explains. "People with 'eye sunburn' experience symptoms including a gritty feeling in the eyes, dry and red eyes, excessive tearing and intense sensitivity to light. Although this is rarely permanent, long-term exposure to the sun without proper eye protection can be harmful, contributing toward the development of cataracts."

Sunburned eyes aren't the only concern: the Skin Cancer Foundation warns against cancer on the eyelid that accounts for 5-10% of skin cancers.

The Eye-Sun Protection Factor or E-SPF

E-SPF is the new international index rating system certifying the UV protection provided by your lens to your eyes and the sensitive skin around them. (Other glasses may be marked with different rating systems.)

All lenses are not equal in terms of UV protection. E-SPF values vary from 2 to a maximum of 25 for *clear* lenses and 50+ for *polarised* sunglass lenses. Visique O'Hagan Vision Care chooses to recommend the Xperio UV superior polarised sun lenses, which offer the most complete UV protection with the top E-SPF 50+ (meaning the eye is more than 50 times better protected than without a lens). "We were really impressed with how it handles glare," Heather explains, "especially from reflections off water and road surfaces. These revolutionary lenses make the experience of boating, and the drive to get there, much more pleasant with less eye fatigue."

The separate polarising aspect of the lens cuts out reflections from other bright surfaces such as snow, sand and streetlights by blocking the horizontally reflected glare.

Steer clear of cheap sunglasses, especially for kids!

Heather notes that the Visique offices offer protective sunglasses to new entrants. "Some primary schools have taken it a step further by now providing all students with sunglasses."

However, sunglasses that are 'dark ONLY' do not provide protection and can potentially cause more damage. Our Managing Editor Carol Wright remembers, "My father was an optometrist, and in the 1960s, told us about the then-new UV lens coatings, tossing in a science lesson. 'The UV rays burn your eyes,' he said. 'Cheap sunglasses do not have a coating to block these rays.' We kids knew that bright light made the iris's pupil smaller, while it enlarged when it was dark. 'So, if you put on dark glasses, your pupils get...what?' LARGER! 'Yes, and a larger pupil lets in MORE of these harmful rays. You THINK you are protected. But...you aren't!'"

Now, 50 years later, Heather agrees. "Don't buy your littlies novelty shades, which can potentially cause damage. Treat them to a lifetime of good vision."

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VISIQUE

ALOE VERA

The Sunbathers' Friend

Besides cooling and soothing a sunburn, aloe vera is a great healing agent for cuts, insect bites, inflammation and other skin irritations while acting as a natural protective bandage. Clinical studies show aloe actually speeds the healing process and fights bacteria that may cause infection.

Just slice off a leaf and apply the gel, or if you find you'd like to keep a quantity on hand, below is a great remedy recipe that will keep in the fridge for a few months.

- Peel an outer leaf of the plant and place approximately 1/4 cup of the gel in a blender.
- Add 1/2 teaspoon of essential Lavender Oil. (Lavender is a natural antibiotic, antiseptic, anti-depressant, sedative and detoxifier that promotes healing and prevents scarring – a must in any home remedy kit!)
- Optional: Add 500mg of powdered vitamin C and the contents of a capsule of vitamin E.
- Blend thoroughly and refrigerate in a clean glass jar (the darker the better to avoid contact with light).

A COOL TIP

Prefreeze aloe gel into ice cube trays, store cubes in a freezer bag, and grab an individual "aloe-cicle" when needed.



Nature may be turning up the heat, but thankfully she's also providing plenty of ways to cool down and stay safe, not to mention some rapid relief in the event of over-exposure, something most of us succumb to at some point during the summer season.

When it's hot outside, a good route to relief is staying cool inside. First and foremost, drink plenty of water – at least six glasses a day to replenish lost fluids and prevent dehydration. Water can also give relief through a refreshing cool shower or a dip in the cool ocean.

Cooling foods to the rescue

A variety of foods can cool the body. Some hydrate as well as release heat from the body – try eating watermelon, cucumber (there's something to that saying "cool as a cucumber"), cold tofu and yogurt. Try a delicious snack of shredded cucumber in yogurt; add cooling bitter greens (endive, arugula and parsley) to salads; and drink aloe vera juice, coconut water (it contains hydrating potassium-stacked, mega-electrolytes), or refreshing teas like chamomile, fennel or hibiscus.

If you do overdo it in the sun, yogurt also works topically. Mix it with a few drops of lavender essential oil to relieve and heal damaged skin. Pat or spray vinegar or cool, sugarless brewed tea (tannin is tea's active ingredient here) over the area, or apply via a soaked cloth or wet teabags. Drinking green tea helps give a protective boost to the skin in fighting off damaging rays, and applying a tea compress or refreshing skin spray helps reduce pain and inflammation.

Cooling plant remedies

Of course, one top cooling and sunburn remedy is fresh aloe vera (see recipe, left). Since aloe bottled lotions and gels can be pricey, one of the best investments you can make is an aloe plant for the garden.

Cut a leaf from the plant and rub its gel directly on the burn (seek medical advice if your skin is actually blistered). If buying commercial gel, select brands with pure aloe vera. Some advise avoiding aloe lotions that contain lanolin, as the oil may make the burned area hurt again once the oil is warm. Another effective topical oil for pain relief and to treat bites, abrasions, dry skin, and sunburns is tamanu oil.

Suffering from prickly heat?

This itchy annoyance happens when the skin's sweat glands over work and become blocked, creating a rash. This may happen to infants, whose sweat glands are not fully developed, on skin areas that touch (ie, under arms), on hot humid days, and on skin of overexerted athletes.

First, cool down, and wash skin thoroughly with mild soap. Then dry completely. Try applying a splash of the following: six drops each of lavender, eucalyptus and chamomile diluted in a cup of spring water; shake well. Organic hydrosols of these essentials can also be combined to create a cooling spray. Four drops of lavender oil added to a warm bath can be very soothing and placing this oil neat (undiluted) to the temples, back of the neck and solar plexus gives relief from heat exhaustion.

Chocolate? sunscreen?

Looking for more reasons to eat chocolate?



The heart-healthy properties of dark chocolate have been known for a while, but recently German researchers revealed the potential of the dark stuff's antioxidant flavonoids to protect the skin from damaging UV rays, from the inside out. (No, you don't have to smear chocolate sauce on your skin, unless you want to.)

Over time, the test subjects' skin became more resilient to cancer-causing UV ray damage, and the skin layer also became thicker and moister. To get the beneficial skin protection of the study however, one would have to eat about 3 ounces (85gr) of very dark chocolate daily. Great! But then there's calories to consider, perhaps 500!

For nearly a decade, the same group has conducted studies with cooked tomato products showing that their ingestion, too, can limit UV-induced skin reddening. Pigmented molecules called carotenoids – especially the one known as lycopene – appeared responsible for tomato's skin-protection benefit. Mars Inc. sponsored a small study (only 24 women), and has

since created a special flavonoid powder.

On hearing news of this study, a friend in Hawaii wondered if the flavonoid protective factor was why her chocoholic hubby never got sunburned. Pam and Bob Cooper own The Original Hawaiian Chocolate Factory in Kona. Pam tells us, "If Bob's not processing chocolate, he's outdoors with the cacao trees for hours, and he never gets sunburned." She's convinced he gets his daily quota. (They produce a delicious chocolate from Hawaiian grown cacao – easy access to that 3 oz.)

Many chocolate sweets contain both refined sugar and powdered milk, which counteract most of the health benefits of the cacao. Refined sugar depletes minerals in body, and causes weight gain, blood sugar disorders and dehydration. Powdered milk, used to produce the familiar milk chocolate, can block the healing antioxidant properties of cacao. So, for best results, keep on chocolate's good side – stick with the dark side! -TD

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is for **A**rnica
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Nature seems to have a cure for everything, and when it comes to bruising, sore muscles, and relief from pain and inflammation, *Arnica montana* may just be your perfect remedy. Keep some handy this Summer for your 'Family Fun' ...

This perennial plant resembles a yellow daisy, and is native to Europe and Siberia but also grows well in high mountain areas of North America. Several commercial growers are having success here in NZ, especially in the Otago region where the unique landscape and climate contribute to a high quality *Arnica montana* which thrives on the temperature extremes. In winter the plants spend most of the time under snow, while in summer the hot Central Otago sun ensures the flowers contain the high quality medicinal oil. Low pollution levels ensure a toxin free, clean green product rated as being among the best in the world.

These high quality arnica products include creams, ointments and gels as well as massage oils for topical use; homeopathic pellets, liquids and sprays are available for oral use.

Health 2000 in Whitianga has a large selection of arnica products to choose from. "People like the sprays", says owner Allayne Thomas. "They are handy and perfect for the little ones, the sensitive skin of the elderly, and on pets."

Arnica Plus, by the Kiwi firm Naturo Plus, is a family favourite. Here is a typical comment by a user: "Arnica Plus is amazing, when our daughter has a fall or bumps her head we give her 2 sprays and it calms her down within seconds, the bruising is less and doesn't last as long. We keep it in our baby bag at all times."

Arnica's claim to fame for most users is in its treatment of bruises, thus it's commonly used as a topical deep massage tissue oil. When applied promptly after an injury, the arnica helps stop the capillaries from bleeding, helping to prevent the formation of bruises. It also stimulates white blood cell activity and disperses trapped fluids from joints and muscles.

On top of the muscle relief, arnica also has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial qualities. These qualities can help aid in reducing pain and swelling and wound healing (not recommended on open wounds – always check the directions carefully before applying).

Of course, homoeopathic remedies work in an entirely different fashion than direct application of the oil based treatments, but here again, it is recommended for helping recovery from bruising.






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www.health2000.co.nz

Hot Time, Summer in the Coromandel

We love our summer and the activities that go with it. Where better to enjoy it than right here where we have it all!

Sea, land and sky, skateparks and waterparks, trails and trains, museums and...GASP...even libraries beckon. All teeming with activities for all ages and abilities.

Sure, hit the beach and the BBQ, but also use these summer months to experience new activities, master new skills, build strong muscles...and view new horizons.



Photo from Hart Family



Photo by Ian Given



Photo by Gail New

Family fun!



The 'Brett and Liz Hart' Family



Kid-Friendly Beaches

From splashing and wading, to wave riding and sailing...from flowing streams and shoreline caves to warm estuaries and cool ocean currents...whether on it or in it...young or old...our Coromandel coastline offers a myriad of possibilities on either side of the tideline and it's ours to enjoy!

What to do? The best surfing waves are on the peninsula's east coast. Camping can be bare-bones or luxurious, from back country bush to bach on the beach. Numerous places to launch your boat. Tours, trekking and sightseeing, scuba and snorkelling, shoreline and wharf fishing or heading out for that trophy game fish.

Hire kayaks, surf, sup and body boards, fishing or diving gear. Plenty of parks, playgrounds and petting zoo's. Many estuaries and harbours offer safe, warmer water fun for littlies. To find 'family' beaches check out www.thecoromandel.co.nz or www.coromandelfun.co.nz.



Hot Water Beach deserves special mention, a unique favourite for all ages, rain or shine. The entire family can enjoy digging their own shallow sand hole together and then join the crowd to soak in the natural warm mineral springs that fill it.



Photo by Ian Given

Surfing & Boogie Boarding

If you and your young ones don't yet know how to surf, try boogie boarding. Ride in the gentle surf, or paddle out to the larger waves for more excitement.

Learn all about it...

The East Coast is known for some great surf spots. Want to try the waves? All the surf shops offer lessons at all levels.

If there is one stellar surf destination on the Coromandel, it would be Whangamata (hometown of world champ Ella Williams), rated in the top ten on the planet. See next pages for suggestions for surf and paddleboard lessons and hires.



Photo by Ian Patrick

Blokarts!

Many Coromandel beaches offer perfect conditions for BloKarts at low tide.

Pauanui Summer Series

see www.pauanuisummerseries.co.nz



Frisbee Golf and the Sand Castle Building Competition (a great rainy day activity), are just two of the kid friendly events at this summer festival. Mud runs, art classes, kids duathlon, market day and family sports days are just a few of these fun events.



Photos by Pat Courtney



Matarangi Beach Summer Festival

27 Dec - 11 Jan

(See p44 for schedule)

Sandcastle Competition, it all happens 5 January.

Photo by Ian Patrick

fun with the kids!

These kids are having a blast with Kennedy Bay Kayak and Paddleboard Hires. Don't miss out on the fun for the entire family!

Photo above by Amanda Forsyth of Kennedy Bay Kayak & Paddleboard Hires.



Getting close to the action aboard the Hahei Explorer's pontoon boat.



Snorkeling from the Glass Bottom Boat out of Whitianga.



Sightseeing, Paddle Boards & Kayaks

Cathedral Cove Excursions and East Coast

Most kayaking, sightseeing or diving/snorkelling trips to this famous area will originate from either the Hahei/Hot Water Beach area or from Whitianga.

The Hahei Explorer. Depart from the beach at Hahei to experience the area aboard a sturdy pontoon boat in a location-packed one-hour tour. See the many caves and rugged terrain of the region, and encounter a lot of wildlife. Highly recommended! See haheieexplorer.co.nz.

Cathedral Cove Kayak Tours. Paddle power your way to the cove from the beach at Hahei. See photos next page, and see more photos on Facebook, Cathedral Cove Kayaks.

Cathedral Cove Water Taxi will scoot you out to the cove quickly. Look for them at Hahei Beach.

The Glass Bottom Boat. See beneath the water through the large windows of the glass bottom boat. Leaves the Whitianga Wharf, with several stops throughout Mercury Bay. Learn more at www.glassbottomboatwhitianga.co.nz.

Hires

Dive Zone, Whitianga. Scuba lessons, dive trips, kayak and scuba hires. PADI dive specialists. 7 Blacksmith Lane. See www.divezone.co.nz.

Kennedy Bay Kayak and Paddleboard Hires. Check with owner Amanda Forsyth about reasonable hires in the beautiful Kennedy and surrounding calm waters of the estuary area. See her on Facebook or visit www.kbaykayaksuphire.nz

Coromandel Kayak Adventures specializes in fishing from one's kayak, and they stock a full line of fishing gear, kayaks, and advice. They even have a Kayak Fishing Club.

In Whangamata. Paddle out to nearby Donut Island (Whenuakura); paddle through caves to its central fairy cove.

Hire paddleboards, kayaks, bikes, and outdoor gear from **Pedal and Paddle.** Lessons, too, from SurfSUP! 100 Hunts Road. • **The Estuary Store** offers hires of tandem bikes, kayaks, paddle boards and scooters.

Tairua Dive & Marine offers fills, diving/fishing kit, scuba/kayak hires, diving/fishing trips and scuba lessons. www.tairuadiveandmarine.co.nz



Young kayakers will get to paddle around the caves and rock formations or the Cathedral Cove area. Below two kids are given a shove from shore by a Cathedral Cove Kayak Tours instructor/guide. Kayaking is easy to learn, and the double kayaks make it easy to paddle long distances. They offer the "Family Classic" tours, specially paced using stable safe kayaks. They meet on Hahei Beach in front of the main car park. See www.seakayaktours.co.nz



The Ferries & Easy Fishing

The Three Ferries

Want to get the kids out on the water without making a big deal of it? Consider a ride on the region's ferry shuttles. The BIG ferry adventure is the service by Discover 360 Cruises between Auckland and Coromandel Town (courtesy van shuttle into town). See www.360discovery.co.nz.

Pauaui/Tairua. A smaller passenger ferry operates between Tairua Wharf, the Paku jetty and Pauanui. (Irregular schedule: Call the Tairua Information Centre 07 864 7575 for timetable.) Roundtrip fares are reasonable for this short trip.

Cooks Beach/Whitianga. You can also choose to take ferry between Cooks Beach ferry landing and the Wharf at Whitianga, which is near the museum and shops. Roundtrip fares are reasonable, but it's a short trip. See www.whitiangaferry.co.nz

Mussel Reef Fishing

The commercial mussel buoys are located in sheltered areas, and the shellfish operation provides plenty of feed for fish, particularly snapper. So, a boat fishing trip is usually a safe bet for kids who might get seasick in deeper waters. And, you can SEE the fish over the side of the boat.



The Mussel Barge Safari is one surefire place to catch fish for your dinner. Located on Hannafords Wharf on Te Kouma Rd. south of Coromandel town. www.musselbargesafaris.co.nz.

In Kennedy Bay, you can kayak out to the mussel reefs to fish.

Fishing lodges will also taxi you to a fishing location and pick you up later in the day.

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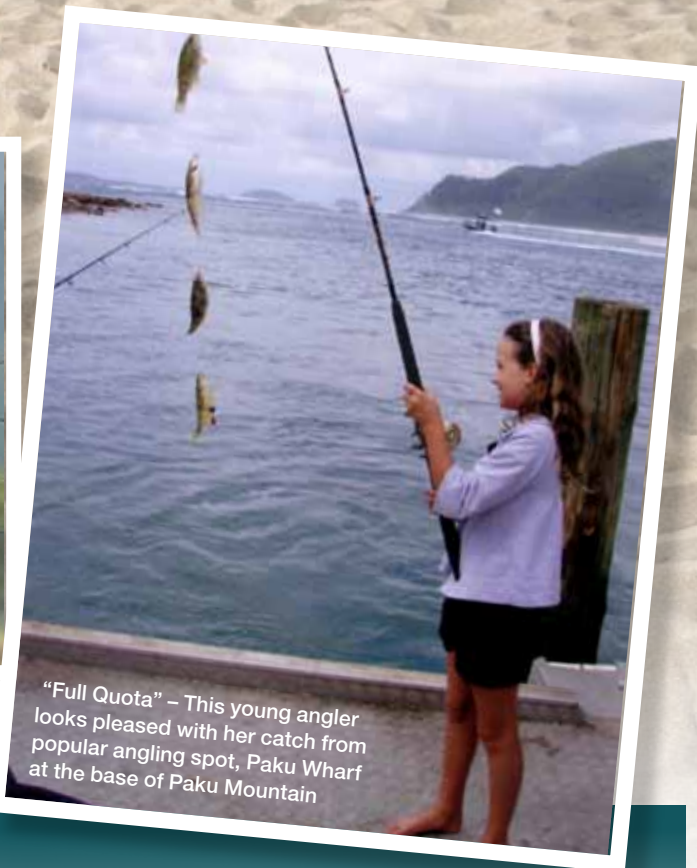
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Wharf Fishing



A kids fishing tournament at the Matarangi Wharf, estuary side.
- Photo Ian Patrick



"Full Quota" – This young angler looks pleased with her catch from popular angling spot, Paku Wharf at the base of Paku Mountain

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The good thing about most wharves is that
they are often near public toilets.
Several are wharves used by ferry shuttles

A list of some fishing wharves on the Coromandel

Whangamata Wharf, Whangamata Estuary
Tairua Wharf, Tairua Estuary
Paku Wharf, base of Paku, Tairua Estuary
Pauanui Wharf, End of Vista Point, Pauanui
Whitianga Wharf, Whitianga Harbour
Ferry Landing, Whitianga Harbour
Whangapoua Jetty, Whangapoua Harbour
Matarangi Jetty, Whangapoua Harbour
Granite Jetty, Coromandel Harbour
Hannafords Wharf, South Coromandel Harbour



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Playgrounds & Challenge Equipment

Hahei

Hahei Community Centre Playground and Tennis Courts. Children's Playground has climbing frames, swings, see saws, etc. Nearby are the Hahei Tennis Courts: two astro turf, fenced courts are available to anyone wanting a game. There is a small charge, so call into the adjoining Dive Shop for bookings/keys. 52 Hahei Beach Road, at the fire station.

Whenuakite

Colenso Cafe. Have a nice meal while the kids play on the playset and seek out the resident critters and donkeys! SH25, Whenuakite, Tairua-Whitianga Rd, Ph 07 866 3725.

Whitianga

Whitianga Wharf Playground. This long established playground has swings, slides, monkey bars, and a big yellow ship called The Jolly Roger.

Whangapoua

Playground opposite the Whangapoua Store, along Tangiora Road. Play structures. This is near the beach also.

Coromandel Town

Coromandel Town Park. This lovely park offers nice variety of playground equipment, plenty of grass areas to run in, picnic tables and small creek for exploring. And it is literally in the middle of town on Kapanga Rd.

Thames

Victoria Park Playground. A simple playground, with picnic tables is located at this grassy park near the Firth, and the courts of the Thames Squash Club. The Thames Small Gauge Railway track runs alongside this park near the water. On Brown St.

Queen Street Playground. A large playground between the Goldfields Shopping Centre and Danby Field, with slides, swings, climbing equipment, public toilets, a climbing boat, and shade trees. Take the kids when you go shopping or hit McDonald's for a burger. Planned for the area is another skatepark (there is one already near Pollen), and BMX bike track.

Whangamata

This east coast surfing mecca also offers three playgrounds: **Island View Reserve** on Rangi Avenue (new, has flying fox, adventure area, swings, near beach, etc.), **Beach Road Playground** (swings, adventure area, seesaws, swimming, near boat launch ramp, etc.), and the **Port Road Playground** behind Fire Station (not near beach, has adventure areas).



Students of Tairua School helped design the new Pepe Reserve Playground. Above, they try out their new equipment at the opening ceremony.

The Youth Zone. This cutting edge equipment was installed to appeal to the surfer/skateboard crowd, with novel apparatus that simulates these activities, while providing plenty of exercise. Some will be thrilling, others will develop balance and strength. For those over 10. Located at the tennis courts of Cory Park Domain, near the sports field.



Tairua

The Pepe Reserve Playground. This is a newly renovated play area with better than usual toys: included in the equipment selected by students of Tairua School is a 'rocktopus' with tyres that spin and bounce, swings, a curved slide, climbing frames and spinning seats that proved a huge hit with the under age 2 crowd. Adults can relax next door at the Pepe Café while the kids play. Nearby, All Things Organic delights all with their yummy ice-creams. On Main Road, near the bridge.

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Fax: 07 866 5132 • Email: shane@cbth.co.nz

Horses, Ponies & Animal Parks

Kids inhale the spectacular Coroglen vistas on a Rangihau Ranch horse trek.

Whitianga Area

Rangihau Ranch. Horse treks, day camps with a picnic, or half hour pony rides for the young ones. Even take your mount swimming in the river! Experienced guides for the day are Shannon and Ngaio. Both have grown up on the farm and will tailor the day to suit all abilities, ensuring a safe, happy day. Also nice bach for hire. 111 Rangihau Rd, Coroglen (south of Whitianga). 07 866 3875, www.rangihauranch.co.nz

Wairakau Horse Treks and Pony Rides. Lessons, pony party, hour and 1.5 hour horse treks, BBQ wild food horse trek, take your horse swimming in the river!

Mercury Bay Pony Club. A members only club that trains for equestrian competitions. Serious about jumping and horsemanship? Inquire via their website about membership. Or attend an event as observer, just for fun.

Colville

Colville Farm Holidays, Horse Trekking. Sixth generation sheep/cattle farm. Relax, listen to birds and farm sounds. Or tramp through bush to waterfalls, climb hills to glow worms and panoramic mountain views... Go horse trekking for 1-5 hours, or help with farm animals. Stay in cosy cottage or camp near creek's swimming hole. Reasonable rates!



Animal Parks & Petting Zoos

THE CHEESE BARN in Matatoki, south of Thames

This popular spot has it all - licensed cafe, cheese factory, gift shop and a great 'little' petting farm. Little goats (see above), sheep, flop ear bunnies, guinea pigs and lots of babies. It's also home of Champion award winning cheese since 1994, making organic cheeses, yoghurt and butter that are unhomogenised, gluten free, GE free, with no artificial additives, no antibiotics or growth hormones, and no chemical sprays. Even yummy fudge and ice cream. Located on SH26 & Wainui Rd, near the famous Hauraki Rail Trail bike route.



Near Whitianga

Mill Creek Bird, Reptile and RV Park. Stay at their RV park or B&B...or just visit for the critters: piggies, emus, horses, donkeys, reptiles galore, and birds (400 of them). Picnic/BBQ, cafe, pony rides, playground.

Colenso Cafe in Whenuakite has some resident critters to pet and a few donkeys, while parents relax with a meal or coffee.

Whiti Farm Animal Park (below). Over 40 species of animals to interact with, plus kitties for sale! Located south of Whitianga on SH25.



Bullswool Farm Park, Paeroa

Experience an unforgettable slice of Kiwi rural life. Meet, feed, and interact with our friendly population of interesting and exotic farm animals, set in a unique natural environment of farmland and bush. Visit for an hour or an afternoon! Alpaca fibre gifts. \$8 adults, \$6 children. Hours 10.30am - 5.00pm.



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Whitianga
Bike Park
Skill Zone 1
feature



Thames

Thames Skatepark. There is already a decent skatepark between Pollen & Mackay St on SH25 near the TCDC pool, see www.facebook.com/ThamesSkatepark. A new one is being designed by Premium Skate Designs company. This will be near the existing playground by Goldfields Shopping Centre on Queen Street.

Whitianga

Check out the online version of our *Road Trip* section where artist Charlotte Giblen guides us through the town and some of its parks and attractions. See www.coromandellife.co.nz/filpview/summer_road_trip_2014/

Whitianga Skate Park. This skatepark offers the kids a fun place to enjoy skating or scootering. Check out the new graffiti art created by the Whitianga youth group. Location: South end of Mill Rd off Monk St.



Whitianga Bike Park. A park with a Skill Zone, paths, bridges, boardwalks, and challenges for BMX bikers of all levels, created and maintained by the Whitianga Bike Club. Offers about 3 hours riding at various grades. Drinking fountain and toilets available. Located on Moewai Road, off SH25 past the airfield.

The Bike Man. Sales and rentals of bikes and accessories. 16 Coghill Road.

Whangamata

Whangamata Skateboard Park. A complex bowl design with many variations of dips, levels, and rails. "Compact but well thought out addition to the old bowl. Everything skates pretty well and a good variety of features will keep you happy on those flat days." Location: Martyn Rd off Heatherington Rd.

Tairua

The Youth Zone. See page 21.

Pauanui

Pauanui Skatepark. A concrete bowl park, on Sheppard Ave. Located near facilities of the Pauanui Club (a paid members club), which has tennis courts, the bowling fields, golf and other activities. There is also mini golf course, all located near end of the airfield's runway.

Coromandel Town

Coromandel Skateboard Park. A simple half-pipe form ramp, located near the basketball courts on Wharf Road.

Near Whitianga

The High Zone Adventure Rope Course, nine cable/rope/trapeze/bridge challenges for all ages. Do one or all of them! High Zone Adventure Ropes Course. 49 Kaimarama Rd (near 309 Rd, near SH25), Whitianga.

The Combat Zone, paintball combat and target shooting, laser clay shooting, archery, argo rides, with playground and petting zoo. 108 Kaimarama Rd, Whitianga.



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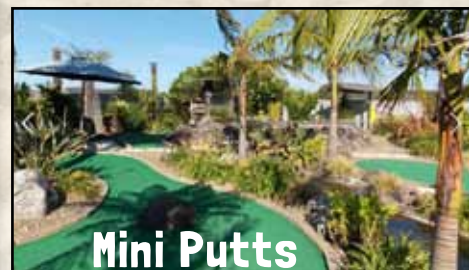
Thames Small Gauge Railway



Mini Railways

Thames

Thames Small Gauge Railway. This miniature railway scores points for total cuteness. Hidden behind the A&G price building, the tracks run along the Thames waterfront for 900 metres, starting and finishing at the old Grahamstown railway station. There are two small bridges, and a twenty metre long tunnel. Open only Sundays from 11:30–3. And at a pintsize price of only \$2 per ride.



Mini Putts

Whitianga

Birdwood Springs Mini Putt (above). This 18 hole course was voted one of the best mini putts in New Zealand. 101 Joan Gaskill Dr. Family package rate.

Pauanui Mini Putt

Pauanui Mini Putt. One of New Zealand's original 'Crazy Golf' courses, established 1975. On Sheppard Ave. near the end of the airstrip.

Whangamata

Golf Park – Mini Golf. 626 Port Road, next to the TCDC offices. This mini-putt park has a sedate Zen garden design.



Victoria Battery Tramway & Museum in Waikino. Learn local gold mining history while taking a tram ride. They are on the Historic Karangahake Gorge Walkway – walk through the subway from the Waikino Rail Station or drive up metal road after turning left off Owharoa/Ohinemuri river bridge. Open Wed – Sun 10am–3pm

Major Attractions & Parks



Near Coromandel

The Waterworks, over 70 whacky tributes to Kiwi inventiveness...water powered sculptures, music boxes, and water fight attractions...and a real stream. Enjoy their cafe, BBQ/picnic areas, playground, and watering hole. The perfect outing for a hot day, and it's dog friendly!

Driving Creek Railway. This is perhaps the best train ride in the country, not just a kiddie ride, but an hour adventure that takes you through tunnels, across bridges and through complex territory, much of it decorated with tile and pottery artwork by owner/creator Barry Brickell. The Eye Full Tower offers panoramic view, and there is a nature preserve, an art gallery and gift shop. 380 Driving Creek Rd, Coromandel. Tickets are pricey, but worth it, advance booking recommended.



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Tairua School kindergarten took a bus trip to Thames last year to experience the wonder and magic of the Thames Butterfly and Orchid Garden.

There was great delight amongst the children when the butterflies landed on some of their heads. Here, Keisha Knight is amazed when a butterfly, attracted by the red flower in her right hand, allows itself to be held in her left.

Beauty...Peace...Lovely Attractions

Thames

Butterfly & Orchid Garden. Be surrounded by enchantment...flittering finches and over 400 butterflies in a fully sheltered orchid wonderland. It's hot and humid so great for a chilly day. Who says fun has to be hectic! An hours worth of enchantment. Bring your cameras! 115 Victoria Street.

Rapaura Water Gardens. This private 64-acre garden estate offers meandering paths, waterfalls, lily ponds, peace and serenity. They offer 'boutique' accommodations, lovely cafe, and gift shop. A half hour north of Thames, 586 Tapu-Coroglen Road.

Ngatea Water Gardens. This private estate was built in the No.8 Wire tradition by owners Roger and Emma Blake. Roger, a mechanical engineer, (now gardener) has displayed his engineering skills creating a contoured array of ponds, paths, bridges, and gazebos. You'll find waterfalls, streams, geese to feed, souvenir shop, playground, picnic area, and a Can Museum. Yep, 10,000 cans. Kids are given cards to find unusual items in estate. Located off SH2 south of Thames at Bratlie Place Ngatea.

The John William Hall Reserve is a former private nursery, which was operated in the early 1900s by John William Hall, a botanist and chemist. William Hall Reserve contains an incredible collection of nationally – and internationally – significant trees that were grown from seedlings in the early 1870s. The elevated site affords sea views over the Firth of Thames and a network of walks through these giant treasures. Dogs are welcome, on a lead to wander the tracks, beside the stream in this nine acre reserve. Arboretum address: 121 Brunton St, Thames.



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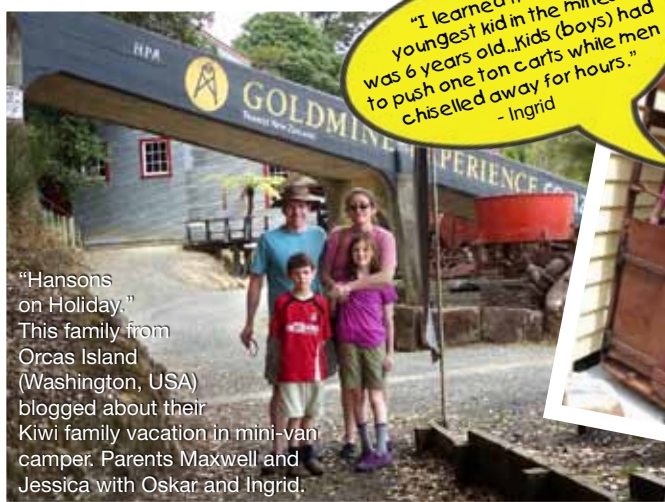
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"Hansons on Holiday." This family from Orcas Island (Washington, USA) blogged about their Kiwi family vacation in mini-van camper. Parents Maxwell and Jessica with Oskar and Ingrid.



See next page for more "Hansons on Holiday"

Oskar's Notes:
- Miners tended to die at 40-45 years old
- They mined for gold and silver
- Gold was found in the quartz veins
- The stamper machine was for crushing rocks

Museums & Goldfield Attractions

Whitianga

Mercury Bay Museum. This general museum is a short walk from the ferry shuttle (if leaving your car on the Cooks Beach side). Here you will find displays, photos and murals about Captain Cook, the wreck of the HMS *Buffalo*, the gold mining and logging days, life as an early settler, and wildlife. The building was originally a dairy, built in 1937. 11a The Esplanade, Whitianga. Family price \$15, kids 50 cents, under 5 free. Ph 07-866 0730, www.mercurybaymuseum.co.nz.



Coromandel

Coromandel Goldfield Centre and Stamper Battery

This gold stamping battery operation was established in 1900 to process quartz ore from 60 area gold mines. It was originally powered by a water wheel (still turning), then engines. Learn about the history, see the stamper in operation, and pan for gold. (This is near the Driving Creek Railway, if you want to combine attractions.) 410 Buffalo Rd, Coromandel Town. See www.coromandelstamperbattery.weebly.com



Coromandel School of Mines and Historical Museum

The life of mining and its impact on a small town are at the heart of this comprehensive village museum housed in the historic Coromandel School of Mines building (1897). The well-presented collection covers early goldmining, kauri logging, geological specimens, photographs and local history. Rings Road, 07 866 7251. Adult \$3, Child 50 cents. Open daily over summer 10am-4pm.

Thames

Thames School of Mines & Mineralogical Museum

This was the largest of some 30 schools formed in the 1880s to assist goldminers working on the goldfields. You can almost smell the miners in its well preserved classrooms. It houses a huge display of rocks and minerals. Corner of Brown and Cochrane Streets. Hours: 11am-3pm Wed-Sun (Mar-Dec); 11am-3 pm daily Jan-Feb). Adults \$10.



The Goldmine Experience. This attraction is located at three Thames gold claims - Caledonian-Golden Crown-Manukau. You can tour these working mine shafts, stamping batteries, settling ponds, the educational centre, and...you can pan for gold. This wonderful restoration (still ongoing) is thanks to forty years labour of love (and Kiwi resourcefulness) by the Hauraki Prospectors Association. Located on SH25 north of Thames. \$15 Adults, \$5 Kids under 13. Allow 40 min to see it all. Website offers site maps and photos, www.goldmine-experience.co.nz

Thames Historical Museum. Travel back in time while wandering the room recreations and artifacts of a barber shop, sweet shop and grocers. See items from farming, mining, beekeeping, dressmaking, plus select Maori artifacts. There is also a section on early hospital/medicine and schools of early times. Extensive photo collection. 503 Cochrane St,

Grahamstown. Daily 1-4pm, Ph 07 868 8509, Adult \$5, Child \$2, Family \$10, www.thamesmuseum@xtra.co.nz.

Read Bros. Hardware. This is a real hardware store that has been operating as a family business since the goldmining days: 1867. "They have EVERYthing!" Including those shovels, picks and gold pans you might need. 308 Pollen Street. See ad next page.

The Bella Street Pumphouse. This building housed steam engines and massive gears and pulleys intended to pump water from a shaft that could have reached 600m (the actual shaft stopped at 237m). The structures were also so massive because of the lift power needed to install the thick kauri support beams and heavy pump equipment needed below. Be inspired by both the time and financial investment needed to pull off this engineering feat. The plant stopped operation in 1918, and much of the machinery was auctioned off. Here, see a working model and many giant parts. Volunteers are involved in restoration and tours. Located in Grahamstown, Waioakaraka Rd and Bella St. Open Sat & Sun. 10am - 3pm. Admission: Adult \$5, Child \$2, Family \$10. Visit www.bellastreetpumphouse.com



Other area goldfield related attractions:

Saxon Mine Shaft. This is another mine pumping station building located on Pollen Street in Thames

Rocky's Goldmine Trail. A three hour bush walk. Take Victoria Street to Dickson Holiday Park where the walk starts.

Wilderness Gems. A huge warehouse in Ngatea that sells gemstones, kauri gum, petrified wood, mineral samples, lapidary machines, etc.

Waihi and Waikino

Goldfields Railway. (See photo next page) This working train is not kiddie size. It is full size, built to service the explosive growth of the Martha Mine (now an open pit mine) in the early 1900s, connecting to the North Island rail network, the 'end of the line'. Now you can ride 6.5km of track, between Waihi and Waikino, 3 round trips per day during holiday months, and enjoy the cafe on the Waikino end. The 30-minute trip travels on the original rail bed alongside the Ohinemuri River with views not only of fabulous scenery, but many of the original mining historical sites not visible from SH2. See www.waihirail.co.nz, Ph 07 863 9020.

Victoria Battery Tramway & Museum, Waikino. Former largest gold ore processing site in Australasia. Tramway rides, guided museum tours, see the underground roasting ore kilns. Group bookings by arrangement - try a summer twilight tramway trip! On the Historic Karangahake Gorge Walkway - walk through the subway from the Waikino Rail Station or drive up metal road after turning left off Owaroa/Ohinemuri river bridge. Open Wed-Sun 10am-3pm

Hauraki Rail Trail is one of two major bike trails on the north island that follows railroad lines, generally flat, easy rides. The "trust" that maintains the trails and bridges has organized six day rides, and a 2-3 day bike ride, much of which goes directly past old gold mines, inside tunnels, along rivers, and through the dramatic, steep Karangahake Gorge. See www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz for route maps, history, to arrange trips and equipment hire.





Railroad buffs will love the restored train and station buildings at the Goldfields Railway in Waihi.

Don't Forget our Libraries!

"Toddler Time" storytelling, art programmes, and author events are some of the activities available at Coromandel peninsula libraries. Look also for any market fairs or book sales they may sponsor. Here you may also find wifi and computers you may use.

As a family project, you can contribute scans of old family scrapbook photos, remembrances, documents, keepsakes... and record oral histories of life on the Coromandel via the **Kete Hauraki Coromandel Project**. You can use the library's scanner and computers, or work from home online. See keteaurakicoromandel.peoplesnetworknz.info to register, view existing contributions, comment on photos, etc.

Give your local **TCDC library** a ring or search online at www.tcdc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Events-Meeting-Calendar/

Thames Library. 503 Mackay St. Ph 07 868 6616, thameslibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

Tairua Library. 2 Manaia Rd. Ph 07 864 7960, tairualibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

Mercury Bay Library. 22 Victoria St, Whitianga. Ph 07 866 4776, mblibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

Whangamata Library. Port Rd. Ph 07 865 7416,

COROMANDEL COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

Hahei Library (Florence Harsant Library). 52 Hahei Beach Road, Whitianga. Ph +64 7-866 3385. FB Hahei Library.

Hauraki District Community Libraries. For info about libraries in Ngatea, Kaiaua, Paeroa, Turua, Waihi, and Whiritoa see www.library.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/where

The Treasury in Thames. History buffs of the area will want to take advantage of the resources of this ever-growing research library located in the historic Thames Library building, with new adjacent archive. Some photos and articles can be researched online, and for a fee, researchers can do the work for you. Kudos to the many volunteers that have made this remarkable resource a state of the art operation. If you have an oral history to relate...or old photos, newspapers, business documents, inquire about donating them. Members \$5 hr, nonmembers \$15 hr. 705-9 Queen St, Ph (07) 868 8827. 11am - 3pm Mon, Thur - Sat. See www.thetreasury.org.nz. Read our story about it here www.coromandellife.com/flipview/summer_easter_2014



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Pupils of the Thames School of Mines at a gold mining shaft

Photo: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19011212-9-3

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Get the Kids Amongst Nature

Moehau Environment Group have another exciting Summer Programme planned for January, with nature activities for all ages and abilities. Events include a series of guided walks, Kiwi Listening and Junior Ranger days in local campgrounds. The line-up also boasts a Starlight Cinema event at Waikawau Bay, Upclose Kiwi Encounters in Port Charles, a family fun run and a coastal clean-up at Waitete Bay.

For Natalie Collicott, the group's Coordinator, the jewel in this year's programme are three one day trips to Cuvier Island on the 8, 9 and 10th of January. "We are super excited to be able to offer these trips, in partnership with DOC, as Cuvier is usually off-limits to the public." Participants travel by launch to the predator free island, encounter resident endangered species and learn about the island's fascinating history. Numbers limited so book quick to reserve a spot. 07 866 6903.

To find out what's on, visit www.meg.org.nz or pick up a booklet from any Info Centre on the Coromandel.



Illustration by Miriam Silvester
from the guidebook



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Ingrid and Oskar valiantly build a sand wall barrier to keep the incoming surf out of their hot water hole at Hot Water Beach.

"HANSONS ON HOLIDAY"

Max and Jessica Hanson from Orcas Island, Washington came to NZ from the US and rented a vacation mini-van. They visited much of both islands, and parts of Australia, photo blogging as they went.

Left, they are at Hot Water Beach building a sand barricade to keep out the incoming tide. (Note, surf swimming for littles not recommended at Hot Water Beach).

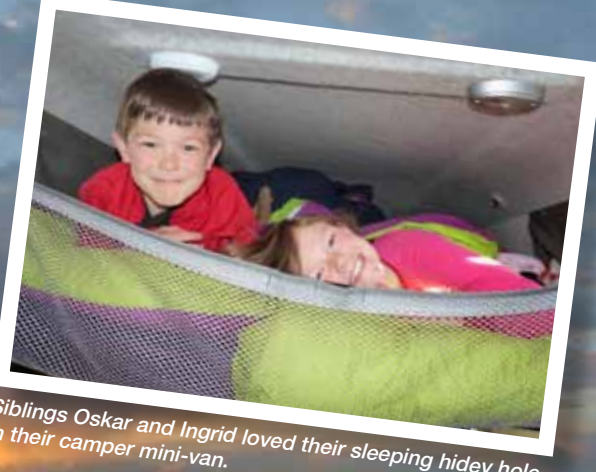
Locally, they also visited the Goldmine Experience in Thames (see previous pages). Their blog is truly impressive, with packing list, Kiwi word list, "what I learned", musings on creating a Top Ten list, and an essay on being part of the world community. Besides hitting the tourist attractions, the kids spent a day in a Christchurch school.

We enjoyed reading their blog and decided to contact them. What a delight to find they are from 'our' island. Greg and I, and managing editor Carol Wright, all lived and worked together on Orcas Island many years ago!

Read more: www.hansonsonholiday.blogspot.com



The family made their trip an educational adventure, including pre- trip research and compiling a Kiwi word list that included (after much heated debate!) the word 'rubbish'.



Siblings Oskar and Ingrid loved their sleeping hidey hole in their camper mini-van.

How to live your dream and enjoy a cycling holiday

Monett Johnston
Travel Options
United Travel Whitianga



Left: Cycling 'light' in the Italian Alps, the Dolomites vineyards' region. Her heavy side bags? Transported by the group's support van. And if she gets tired, she is welcome to jump aboard and sit out some kms.

Right: "Are we there yet?"

Many options allow the travelling cyclist to include the littlies. Here, one mum tows a hidey tent trailer (a trail-a-bike), and the helmeted tot is getting a map lesson.

Can't get abroad? Why not hire this setup from a Coromandel bike shop and bike our local trails?



If you've always wanted to experience the 'world behind handlebars', dreamed of leisurely cycling with the sun on your back, the sights and the smells up close, being able to stop and enjoy the scenery when it suits you...but held back from making the ultimate commitment, maybe it's time to revisit this wonderful way of travelling.

You only need a reasonable level of fitness and health for the introductory level, with a gradual increase in fitness dependent on one's daily activity, hours of cycling, and terrain. The more challenging trips might include some walking and hiking. Or consider the magic of a 'heli-cycle', being air transported to some special area with your return journey by cycle.

Most introductory and moderate level trips involve cycling at a slow and steady pace and could be up to 4-5 hours in one day. Most trips use well graded paths, trails and sealed roads. In general, main or busy roads are avoided, but from time to time these thoroughfares may need to be used. So experience riding on these roads is beneficial.

Cycle touring bikes provided are comfortable, modern 21-27 speed hybrid vehicles with good road wheels – or mountain bikes, suited to the conditions you are likely to encounter. A range of different sizes for male and female ensure you ride the correct fitting bike. Certain guided trips have electric bikes, perfect for those who want to participate but are concerned about their level of fitness or ability to stay with the group.

GUIDED OR SELF-GUIDED BICYCLE ADVENTURES

Each guided trip has a local guide, a back-up vehicle, driver and a support driver. And if you feel like it, you can opt out at any time and travel in the support vehicle. So you're still enjoying and participating in what the cycling group are doing that day. Or, organise a cycle trip that is centre based, so that those of you who do not want to cycle, can do your own daily exploring, cooking schools, visiting gardens, markets or brocante fairs, whilst the cyclists can ride. If you want to make it a family holiday, there are vehicle free cycle trails in Europe. There are children's bikes, bike trailers for the littlies and trail-a-bikes that can be attached to your bike, so your child can cycle with you.

Guided trips are designed for small groups, encouraging shared experiences, riding support and sometimes nurture life-long friendships. There are self-guided trips for those wanting greater flexibility, with route maps, instruction manuals and information on the local places of interest. Wineries and historical sites and along the way the routes are way-marked, making your itinerary easy to navigate.

Private groups are another great way to travel, make up your own party, choose your own destination. The route and best itinerary features can be designed for you, self-guided or guided, with back up vehicle and pre-booked accommodation and sightseeing.

Cycling holidays are designed around the regions visited, seasonality and the best time to experience them. There are opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture, experience majestic scenery, from iconic trails to history packed pathways. Enjoy gourmet treats, art studios and picturesque villages. Cycle from the seaside to the mountains. Combine your cycle trip with walking or trekking. Or indulge in a Bike and Boat holiday. Relax on board a barge or small ship after your day's cycling, the perfect match when your partner is not a cyclist and wants to relax, but your idea of a holiday is a bit more active.

Best of all can be here at home, where we can cycle 'our Place at our Pace'. Ride the new cycle trails of New Zealand, along disused railway lines, old coach roads, coastal tracks, quiet back country lanes and off-road trails. Cycle independently, create your own group or join a guided trail, such as the Otago Rail Trail. Bikes and equipment are widely available to hire. There's a cycle trail for all ages and ability from the North to the South Island.

There's a whole world of cycling, and it's all only a pedal push away!

Monett Johnston, an award winning travel agent, has owned Travel Options United Travel in Whitianga for over 30 years. (Winner of Marketer of the Year 2013, Diploma in Unique experiences and this year, United Travel Agency of the Year and Cruise Agency of the year.) See her or one of the knowledgeable team to plan your cycle adventure or holiday – here or overseas. Travel is their passion!



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COROMANDEL life

calendar

PURE SUMMER by Peter Latham

DECEMBER

SAT 13 DEC

SANTA - Tairua's Santa on the Pepe & Christmas in the Park, 10am. In the evening bring a picnic, a blanket & join in the singing with combined churches & musicians. Info: 07 864 7575

SUN 14 DEC

EXHIBITION - Christmas Lights Extravaganza, 14-31 Dec, 8:30-10pm, Paeroa Maritime Museum & Park, 6894 Puke Rd. Bring the family & experience the light show. \$7 per adult, \$20 per family. Info: www.paeroachristmas.com

FRI 19 DEC

MUSIC - Riff Raff AC/DC Tribute Show, Whitianga Hotel, 1 Blacksmith Lane, 10pm, \$10. NZ's Top AC/DC Tribute Band. Info: www.toplineentertainment.co.nz



THR 25 DEC

Merry Christmas
from the crew at Coromandel Life!

FRI 26 DEC

SUMMER FESTIVAL - Pauanui Summer Series, 26 Dec - 30 January. Loaded with holiday events. Info: 07 864 8695 • info@pauanuiclub.co.nz • www.pauanuiclub.co.nz • www.pauanisummerseries.co.nz

MUSIC - 10 Day Weekend, Whitianga Hotel, 1 Blacksmith Lane. 10 days of Live music every night from 9pm. Info: 07 866 5818 • www.whitiangahotel.co.nz

MUSIC - Black Seeds, Katchafire & Sons of Zion, Coroglen Tavern, 1937 State Highway 25, 6pm, R18. Info: www.eventticketing.co.nz/event

SAT 27 DEC

FUNDRAISER - Summer Youth Group Mart, Tairua Community Hall, 210 Main Rd, 9am-1pm. Fundraiser for Tairua Youth Group. Variety of stalls & fun. Info: Maxine 07 864 8882

FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER - Whangamata Summer Fest, 27 Dec-17 Jan, Williamson Park. Concerts, competitions, kids programme & huge craft market. Info: Renee 07 865 6698 • whangasummerfestival@gmail.com • www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest

SPORT/FUNDRAISER - Whangamata Week, 27 Dec-2 Jan. Running, swimming & walking in various locations & featuring annual Miss Whangamata. Fundraiser for Whangamata Surf Club. Info: wslsc@xtra.co.nz • www.whangamatasurf.co.nz

FISHING - Snapper Classic/Fred Dickson Cup. Tairua Pauanui Sport Fishing Club, 11 Tui Terrace, Tairua. Info: 07 864 8361(after 4pm) • tairuafish@xtra.co.nz

FISHING - Big Snapper Fishing, Pauanui. Everyone welcome. Prize givings at Pauanui Club. Enter at Pauanui Service Station or Pauanui Marine. Info: 07 864 8695 • 021 966 153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

SUN 28 DEC

MARKET - Whitianga Health & Wellbeing Fair, 28 Dec-10 Jan, Town Hall, 10am-5pm. All things natural, free daily talks & free entry! Info: 09 361 6677 • peace@angels.co.nz • www.healthandwellbeingfair.co.nz

MUSIC - Shihad Fve Tour with Datsuns, I Am Giant & Cairo Knife Fight, The Coroglen Tavern, 1937 State Highway 25, 7pm, R18, booking at www.ticketmaster.co.nz Info: www.shihad.com

FISHING - Kid's Tournament. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07-866-4121, mbgfc@xtra.co.nz • www.mbgfc.co.nz

MON 29 DEC

FISHING - Kids Fishing off the Wharf, Pauanui. Everyone welcome. Prize giving at Pauanui Club. Enter at Pauanui Service Station or Pauanui Marine. Info: 07 864 8695 • 021 966 153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

PAGEANT - Miss Whangamata, Williamson Park. A Whanga Week event, 2pm, (Back up day 30th). Info: wslsc@xtra.co.nz • www.whangamatasurf.co.nz/about-us

TUE 30 DEC

FESTIVAL - Prana New Year Festival, 30 Dec-3 Jan, Prana Eco Retreat, Ohui Rd, Oputere. Extensive program & special events including New Years Eve celebration. Info: 07 865 7669 • tom@prana.co.nz • www.prana.co.nz

WED 31 DEC - NEW YEARS EVE



FIREWORKS - Pauanui/Tairua New Year's Eve Fireworks Display at midnight. To make a donation contact: Pauanui Info Centre 07 864 7101 • Tairua Info Centre 07 864 7575 • Paul Schrader 027 498 8056 • paul@theelectrician.co.nz

MUSIC - Rocky Rhodes - New Years, Thames Workingmen's Club, 407 Cochrane St, 8pm-1am. Info: Mike 027 621 4207 • 07 828 7329 • Neil 027 450 0630 • 07 868 2978 • www.thamesworkingmensclub.co.nz

MUSIC - Cassasally and The Pistols, Punters Bar & Grill, 226 Main Rd, Tairua, 8pm-12:30am, Free entry, R-18. Info: www.facebook.com/puntersbarandgrill

JANUARY 2015

THR 1 JAN

NEW YEARS DAY - Our Best Wishes for the New Year!



FAIR - Original Gypsy Fair, 1-4 January, 9am-5pm, Whangamata Area School. Crafts, tarot reading, palm reading, crystals, concerts... lots more. Free entry! Info: www.gypsyfair.co.nz

FRI 2 JAN

FAIR - Keltic Fair, Coromandel Town. Full day of entertainment, kids rides, yummy food & world of arts & crafts! Entry \$2. Info: Thomas Everth, info@kelticfair.co.nz • www.kelticfair.co.nz

PAGEANT - Miss Pauanui, 4pm, Pauanui Club. (Rain date: 3 Jan). Food & drink available purchase (No BYO). Categories for everyone. Info: 07 864 8695 • info@pauanuiclub.co.nz • www.pauanuiclub.co.nz

MUSIC - Kara Gordon and Kelsie Lovell at Punters Bar & Grill, Tairua from 8pm-12:30am. Free entry, R-18! Info: www.facebook.com/puntersbarandgrill

FISHING - Kids Day. Tairua Pauanui Sport Fishing Club, 11 Tui Terrace, Tairua. Info: 07 864 8361(after 4pm) • tairuafish@xtra.co.nz

FISHING - Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club Competition, 6am. Info: Harry Karl • 07 866 5915

SAT 3 JAN

SPORT - Kiwi Tri Series, Island View Reserve, Whangamata, 8am-1pm. Whole family can be involved, from kids in the 1:2:1, thru to 1500m sea swim, 40k bike & 10k run. Info: triseriess@triathlon.org.nz • www.triseriess.co.nz

SPORT - Interislander Summer Festival Races, Thames Race Course, Parawai Rd, 9am. Range of kids activities & giveaways for adults. Food, wine & live music! Free! Info: 021 245 3963 • don@trac.co.nz • www.trac.co.nz

MUSIC - The Recliner Rockers, Punters Bar & Grill, 226 Main Rd, Tairua, 8:30pm-12am, Free entry, R-18. Info: www.facebook.com/puntersbarandgrill

FISHING - Valley Toyota Top Ten Tuna Tournament, Sat/Sun 3/4 Jan. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07 866 4121 • mbgfc@xtra.co.nz • www.mbgfc.co.nz

YOUTH - Mud, Splash 'n Dash & Scruffs Dog Show, Tairua. Muddy races on the harbour flats at low tide, teams & individual, plus venue to show off your pooch. Mad fun for the whole family from 10:30am. Info: 07 864 7575

MARKET - Pauanui Market Day, Kennedy Park. Fantastic way to spend the day. Info: 07 864 8695 • info@pauanuiclub.co.nz

FUNDRAISER - Hahei Big Library Book Sale. Community Centre 10am-1pm.

SUN 4 JAN

cooks beach summer gala

FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER - Cooks Beach Summer Gala, Central Reserve, Banks St, 9am-3pm. Raise funds for Whenuakite School. Over 100 stalls & activities for young & old. Info: 07 867 1004 • www.cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz

FISHING - Ladies Mad Hatter, Pauanui. Everyone welcome. Prize givings at Pauanui Club. Enter at Pauanui SS or Pauanui Marine. Info: 07 864 8695 • 021 966 153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

MON 5 JAN

FILM FESTIVAL - Show Me Shorts Film Festival-Whitianga:

5-11 Jan, Monkey House Theatre, Coghill St, \$10. Part of NZ's annual film festival showcasing best new short films from NZ & the world. Tickets: 07 866 5115. Info: www.showmeshorts.co.nz

MARKET/FUNDRAISER - Hahei Market, Kotare Domain, Pa Rd, 9am-3pm. Annual summer fundraiser for Hahei Community Library. Info: 021 554 442 • haheimarketday@gmail.com

FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER - The Great Outdoors Expo: Kennedy Park, Pauanui, 9am-4pm. Around 100 local & national suppliers. Fundraiser for Hikua School. Free! Info: 021 334 525 • expo@hikua.school.nz • www.thegreatoutdoorsexpo.co.nz

WED 7 JAN

MARKET - Thames Goldrush Market Day, 8am-4pm. Come enjoy a day on Pollen St. Loads of stalls, kids amusements, buskers & great food. Free! Info: ptreenursery@xtra.co.nz

THUR 8 JAN



FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER - Mercury Bay Seaside Carnival, Buffalo Beach Reserve, Whitianga, 9am-3pm. Over 120 stalls, rides, games & food. Raising funds for Mercury Bay School. Info: www.mercurybayseasidecarnival.co.nz

FRI 9 JAN

FESTIVAL - Coromandel Town Summer Festival, Coro Sonic Lab, 23 Colville Road. A summer party! Live music, BYO picnic, dancing, gypsy brass band mayhem & more! Tickets: Adult: \$25, 12-18 \$11 & under 12. Free! Info: www.facebook.com/events/353232468190727

SAT 10 JAN

FESTIVAL/FUNDRAISER - Tairua Wine & Food Festival, Tairua School, 110 Main Rd, 9am - 4pm. One of Coromandel's biggest one-day summer festivals. Tairua School fundraiser. Info: info@tairuawineandfood.com • www.tairuawineandfood.com

FISHING - Pauanui Classic Snapper Catch. Everyone welcome. Prize givings at Pauanui Club. Enter at Pauanui Service Station or Pauanui Marine. Info: 07 864 8695 • 021 966 153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

PAGEANT - Miss Matarangi Beach 2015 Pageant, at the Village Green, Matarangi Beach. Info: Bronwyn Burkhart 027 221 2881

SAT 10 JAN

PAGEANT - Miss Coromandel Peninsula 2015 Pageant, Town beauties compete for big prizes. Matarangi Beach Fire Station. Info: Bronwyn Burkhart 027 221 2881

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SAT 24 JAN

MARKET/FUNDRAISER - Summer Mart, Tairua Community Hall, 210 Main Rd, 9am-1pm. Fundraiser for Tairua Information Centre. Variety of stalls & more. Info: Maxine 07 864 8882

MARKET - Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market, Memorial Hall, Port Rd, 8am-3pm. 100 stalls offering craft, food & produce. Info: 07 865 6007 • jhahares@xtra.co.nz • www.facebook.com/WhangamataLionsMarket



MUSIC/FUNDRAISER - Concert in the Vines, Mercury Bay Estate & Lonely Bay Vineyards, Purangi Rd, Cooks Beach, 3pm-9pm. Iconic local concert. Benefits Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Entry fee (under 12 free). Info: Nathan Turley 09 950 7261 • www.concertinthevines.org.nz

MUSIC - Tattletale Saints Summer Tour, 8-10:30pm, Eggsentric Cafe, Cooks Beach. \$20, all ages. Info: 07 866 0307 • www.eggsentriccafe.co.nz • www.tattletalesaints.co

MUSIC - Radio Baby, Punters Bar & Grill, 226 Main Rd, Tairua, 8pm-12am, Free entry. Info: www.facebook.com/puntersbarandgrill

SPORT - Fast25s Thames, Centennial Pools, 105 Mackay St, 3pm-12am. Coromandel's newest swimming/summer party event! Prize money, sunshine, entertainment, & FAST 25m races. Info: 07 868 8441 • fast25sthamas@gmail.com • www.fast25sthamas.weebly.com

FISHING - Ladies Tournament. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07-866-4121 • mbgfc@xtra.co.nz • www.mbgfc.co.nz

FISHING - Shimano Standup, 24-25 Jan. Tairua Pauanui Sport Fishing Club, 11 Tui Terrace, Tairua. Info: 07 864 8361(after 4pm) • tairuafish@xtra.co.nz

FISHING - Big Snapper Catch, Pauanui. Enter at Pauanui SS or Pauanui Marine. Info: 07 864 8695 • 021 966 153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

SUN 25 JAN



MUSIC - Heart, Foreigner & Three Dog Night, Whitianga Waterways, 11am - 6:30pm. Three iconic classic rock artists. \$89-\$99+. Tickets: 0800 TICKETEK (842 538) & local info centres. Info: www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz



MARKETS AROUND THE COROMANDEL SUMMER 2014-15

THAMES MARKET - Every Saturday, 10-12pm. Pollen St. Crafts, goods & produce. Info: Angelika & Peter 07 868 9841 • 21 566 460 • thamesmarket@xtra.co.nz

COROMANDEL FARMERS MARKET - Sundays, 9:30am-1pm, Labour Weekend till Queens Birthday. Local produce from Coromandel farms. Info: 07 866 3315 or teohu@xtra.co.nz



MARKET - Pauanui Summer Fun Market, Kennedy Park. Set to be a Huge event! Info: 07 864 8695 • info@pauanuiclub.co.nz

FEBRUARY

THR 5 FEB

FISHING - Bonze Skins Tournament, Thr/Fri/Sat 5-7 Feb. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07-866-4121, mbgfc@xtra.co.nz • www.mbgfc.co.nz

FRI 6 FEB

FESTIVAL - Leadfoot Festival, 280 Link Rd, Hahei, 6-8 Feb. Unique motorsport event attracting international attention. Gate open 7am. Info: info@leadfootfestival.com • Tickets: www.leadfootfestival.com

SAT 7 FEB



FESTIVAL - Coromandel Mussel Festival. Try our craft beer with a lusty pot of mussels. the Coromandel Mussel Kitchen, 309 Road (corner with SH25), Coromandel Town. Info: 07 866 7245 • www.musselkitchen.co.nz

MON 9 FEB

EDUCATION - Pakaraka Permaculture Design Course & Practical Homesteading, 9-20 Feb, 10am, Pakaraka Farm, 80 Pakaraka, Kauaeranga. Course, covers the The 72 hours PDC certificate plus many hands-on practical skills. Info: www.growingwithmothernature.com

FRI 13 FEB

SPORT - Tairua Pipe Masters, Pepe Reserve, 220 Main Rd, 13-15 Feb. Top wakeboarders from around the world descend on Tairua for full-on action, sliding big rails, kickers & other obstacles. Info: Tairua Pipe Masters

SAT 14 FEB

FESTIVAL - Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo, Paeroa Domain, 9am-9pm. One of 7 in NZ. Info: 07 862 7320 • www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

SAT 21 FEB

SPORT - Tairua Wet 'n' Wild, 21-22 Feb. In conjunction with NZ Jet Sports Association. Jet ski, wakeboard, flyboard & freestyle races. On shore activities also. Free! Info: mvseahorse1@xtra.co.nz • www.tairuawetandwild.com

SUN 22 FEB



MOTORSPORTS - Paeroa Battle of the Streets. Going for over 17 years & runs like a well-oiled machine. Tickets: www.iticket.co.nz/events. Info: 07 862 8000 • pptrust@xtra.co.nz • www.battleofthestreets.co.nz

ARTS - Mercury Bay Art Escape, 6-8 & 14-15 March. This annual art event over the first two weekends in March. Showcases a diverse group of working artist studios. Tour is launched at Hot Waves Café, on Friday 6. Free event; a comprehensive Guide is also available for purchase. Info: admin@mercurybayartescape.com • www.mercurybayartescape.com

FRI 13 MAR

FESTIVAL - Thames Heritage Festival, celebration of the rich history - a week of entertainment, tours, and activities. Info: Rex Simpson • 021.2650900 • rexsimpson@hotmail.com • www.thamesheritage.co.nz

SAT 14 MAR

ARTS - Art Escape Mercury Bay, 14-15 March. See 6 March for info.

SAT 21 MAR

FESTIVAL - Paeroa's Wine & Food Festival. Boutique wines & beers & variety of delicious food to sample, tasteful music, \$15. Info: 07 862 6999 • www.paeroa.org.nz



WED 25 MAR

FESTIVAL - Beach Hop Whangamata, 25-29 March. New Zealand's BIGGEST celebration of the 50s & 60s. Free event. Info: Graeme Watt info@beachhop.co.nz • www.beachhop.co.nz

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Sat 10th Jan

**22nd Annual Paeroa
Highland Games
& Tattoo**
Sat 14th Feb

**V8 & Motorcycle
Show & Swap Meet**
Sat 21st Feb

**24th Annual
Battle of the Streets**
Sun 22nd Feb

**Paeroa's
Day in the Domain**
Sat 21st Mar

**ECHO Walking
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Sat 21st Mar -
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Be in to win this dream home, two overseas holidays, a Toyota and \$10,000 in cash as the Heart Foundation Lottery celebrates its 21st birthday, returning to where it all began – PAUANUI.

The Heart Foundation Lottery is celebrating its 21st birthday by offering the biggest ever prize pool yet, worth \$720,000.

Grand prize is the Jennian dream home above. "We've returned to Pauanui where we gave away our first home 21 years ago," says Lottery Manager Gail McIntyre, who admits she must have the world's best job. Six times a year, she picks up the phone to tell someone they've won a new home valued at over \$500,000.

Over the last two decades, the Lottery has given away 90 amazing homes, 180 overseas escapes and more than \$900,000 in cash.

"Our biggest prize pool yet!"

The first prize Pauanui home, with beautiful water views, is a stunning fully-furnished 3-bedroom (plus study) Jennian home with a registered valuation of \$650,000. The open plan design, offering a lovely indoor-outdoor flow, is perfect for entertaining. The master bedroom, with ensuite, features sliding doors to the deck. Other prizes include two overseas trips, a new Toyota and \$10,000 in cash.

Winners decide whether to move in right away, keep as a holiday home, or, if the location is too far, sell – the choice is yours! Whatever you choose, "winning a Jennian dream home is a life changer".



James and Christine Green won their Whangamata home in 2012.

In 2012, however, luck and location went hand in hand. The 'Lottery No. 74' prize home was in Whangamata, and Christine and James Green of Whiritoa lived close enough to relocate. (They learned of their win via email while on a cruise.)

Gail has handed over the keys to some incredibly wonderful and deserving winners over the years. One such couple is Blenheim's Rex and Adrienne Handley, who claimed ownership of their prize Jennian home near Wanaka. "It's as if we are still dreaming and need convincing this has really happened," Rex shares.

He found out about the Heart Foundation and its Lottery programme while recovering from a heart

attack about 20 years ago. He has been buying two tickets every draw since. "I believe it to be a worthwhile cause, particularly for the research."

The Heart Foundation launched its Lottery programme in 1993 to raise funds to fight the country's single biggest killer – heart disease. One person dies of heart disease every 90 minutes, the equivalent of 330 rugby teams dying each year. The Lottery helps fund vital heart research, heart health programmes, education, prevention and care.

"Phoning the winners and telling them they've just won a fully-furnished home is simply amazing. I reckon it's the closest thing you get to being Santa Claus – but six times a year!" says Gail.

Get an order form by phone, online or visit the open home on weekends.

Phone Gail's team at **0800 750 150** or visit www.heartfoundation.org.nz/get-involved/Lottery/order-tickets. You'll be posted everything you need to order at just \$12.50 a ticket. The website also offers a way to order tickets as Christmas gifts.

Lottery ticket order forms are also on site at the Open Home in Pauanui at 15 Panorama Parade every Sat. and Sun., 10am–12pm, until Jan. 11.

(Due to the Gambling Act 2003, the Heart Foundation cannot accept ticket sales by phone, fax or internet.)



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No. 91**

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Photo: R. F. HUFFMAN



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PUKA PARK

Restored Resort



The central fireplace and 'wine walls' are new features of a spacious yet cozy Miha Restaurant.



Nestled amongst the trees, the chalets offer a sense of tranquility yet stylish comfort.



The chalets combine timber warmth with smart contemporary furnishings.

The feel of a Mountain Lodge while offering luxurious comfort

Situated above Pauanui Beach on an elevated, lush, green hillside, the 25-acre Grand Mercure Puka Park offers a private sanctuary for the perfect getaway. The resort has recently completed a massive refurbishment, just in time for the summer's influx of holiday makers and overseas visitors.

The 8-year project, planned to celebrate the resort's 25th anniversary, entailed all public areas – the lodge and the Miha Restaurant as well as the chalets – all done while keeping the resort open.

"We wanted to maintain the ambiance of a mountain lodge," says general manager Scott Harley, "while bringing a fresh upscale contemporary look and feel to the resort.

"We renewed all of our 48 chalets to a new and luxurious comfort level," shares Scott, "complete with on-trend fashion elements, fabrics, artwork, dramatic lighting, and even some units with fires and deep-style freestanding baths for long relaxing soaks."

The chalets nestled amongst the trees offer a unique experience for guests, providing a sense of tranquility while being serenaded by songs of native birds (many say they hear the distinctive kiwi calls throughout the night).

The draw of the wood fire in the Lodge's main lounge continues to be a welcoming feature whilst the recent addition of a central fireplace in the restaurant adds to the overall ambience and dining experience, "giving a welcoming social feel, yet instilling a warm sense of intimacy". A semi-private dining area located within the restaurant, lined by a new 'wine wall', provides an intimate space for secluded dining.

An outdoor solar heated swimming pool, spa, gym and tennis courts offer guests the opportunity of some 'active' leisure time.

Treasure Discovered in the Bush

During the renovations, the property itself got an assessment, not for potential landscaping, but for preservation. And this property had

some special stars, which were pointed out by Sarni Hart and Willie Lochore of Coromandel Adventures. The pair knows their trees as they had previously run their own native nursery.

The couple noted the extent of the property's native bush while staying at the resort, and returned later to identify the trees on the property, which is near the protective buffer of a DOC Preserve.

Through their discovery, the resort found it had a treasure trove of natural species within its boundaries, including some hefty specimen trees. "There are at least four handsome Kauri and large Pohutukawa throughout the property," states Willie. "The largest of the Pohutukawa is a real beauty."

"We catalogued at least 150 native tree species," he points out, "which is amazing for a recovering forest; many of the main species are well represented with good sized trees and vast numbers of final canopy seedlings."



PHOTOS BY ALAN DUFF WWW.CREP.CO.NZ



New bathrooms offer the extensive use of stone, luxurious rainforest showers and, in selected rooms, deep, free-standing baths.

Manager Scott now plans to turn his attention to the refurb of the outdoors including the preservation of the trees. "Who would have known that these heritage trees were nestled in the depths of our property?"

Precautions will be taken to protect the kauri and other valuable trees. Scott envisions a path or boardwalk to take guests through a journey into the property's native bush.

The park is already home for the endemic tui, kaka and kereru (wood pigeons), and Scott notes, "With restoration of the many native tree species will come the return of more native birds and other animals, resulting in a truly authentic bush experience for our guests."

To book contact:

Reservations on 07 864 8088 or
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Guitarist Nancy Wilson and vocalist Ann Wilson



COROMANDEL'S HOTTEST TICKET OF THE SUMMER!

Whitianga is bracing for what promises to be the concert of the year featuring rock power houses Foreigner, Three Dog Night, and the sister duo Heart starring Ann and Nancy Wilson – plus Kiwis David Shanahun and Simon Claxton. The **Whitianga Summer Concert** is Sunday, January 25 on the Whitianga Waterways.

It would be hard to choose a "headliner" for this day-long family event. But...consider Heart. This Seattle sister act has been a force in the rock world since the 1970s, and they have not slowed down one bit. Nor have they ever stooped to "sexuality" as part of their act. "Artistry" carries them, and has for decades.

Last year they were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and have just been nominated to the Songwriter Hall of Fame. Two years ago, they rocked out "Stairway to Heaven" in the Kennedy Centre televised concert honouring Led Zepplin (view it on YouTube). Also, look for their new album just released, *Heart & Friends: Home for the Holidays*.

And they "tour tour tour!" Heart last toured down under in 2012, with dates in Australia and then New Zealand. Vocalist Ann Wilson is looking forward to New Zealand 'summer' dates. "We are going to be 'rawking' out," Ann says in and an interview with Vicki Anderson of Stuff.co.nz. "Nancy and I will play some of the old hits and some newer stuff and some surprising covers. The whole band is coming. My son is coming along too."

And that is just one of three iconic rock groups!

Greenstone Entertainment put together this star-studded tour, in what they consider their top concert yet. CEO Amanda Calvert shares, "To have Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, Jukebox heroes Foreigner, and Grammy-nominated Three Dog Night on the bill – quite honestly, it's a can't-miss concert for classic-rock lovers. We can't wait to show them what Whitianga and the Coromandel has to offer!"

With a strong family connection at Cooks Beach, Amanda adds, "Whitianga has the same holiday feel of our other venues in Taupo and Queenstown. It's a big thanks to Peter Abrahamson and the rest of the fantastic group at Whitianga Waterways who made this venue possible."

What you should know about the concert

Tickets are selling briskly. Cost is under \$100 for the whole day; kids 14 and under admitted free with accompanying adult. "This concert is meant for ALL members of the family," says Amanda. "Bring your picnic and non-alcoholic beverages." Food and beverage will be available for purchase at the concert and will include a range of beer and Gibbston Valley Wines.

The parking lot opens at 10am, gates at 11. For those who don't want to deal with parking, transport options are also available through Ticketek once tickets have been purchased.

BOOKINGS : \$99 (plus booking fee) through www.ticketek.co.nz (0800 TICKETEK). Strictly limited local tickets – \$89 (plus BF) are available through the area's many iSites and info centres. Visit www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz for more info about SUMMER CONCERT TOUR 2015.

Schedule

11 am
Kiwis David Shanahun
and Simon Claxton

1 pm
Three Dog Night

3 pm
Foreigner

5 pm
Heart

The concert is slated to end at 6:30.



The picnic-friendly Whitianga Waterways concert venue. Park on site, or take advantage of the bus transport shuttle option.

A TOAST

to COROMANDEL COUPLES

PHOTO BY ALAN DUFF



Entrepreneurial couples – partners who share a home and a company – make up one of the most dynamic and unexpected forces in small business today. Successful couples running businesses together seem to enjoy the different perspective – many not only deal well with those differences, they thrive on them.

BRIAN AND FIONA BRAKENRIDGE

From famed wool to fine real estate

Brian and Fiona Brakenridge have brought Sotheby's to Cooks Beach. No, not the elegant historic auction house, world renowned for the sale of some of the world's most precious items, but their International Realty division, founded in 1976 with the same commitment to exceptional service. It is also known for the distinctive properties it represents.

Brian and Canadian born wife Fiona joined the Sotheby's Sales Office at Clearwater Resort in Christchurch six years ago where they sold over 120 premium resort and lifestyle properties. Early this year the couple moved to the Coromandel to make Cooks Beach their new home and to open the Realty's newest office.

The Sotheby's Realty brand has long been synonymous with the 'extraordinary'. "Some city properties highlight exclusive luxury selling points, but we like to focus on uniqueness and accessibility. To us, anything on the Coromandel has a special appeal, whether it's a humble bach or a contemporary coastal estate. We keep it personal, maintaining the fine features of the area's scenery and laid back lifestyle."

A HANDS-ON KIWI START

Kiwi born Brian first met Fiona in the early 1980s when she was in NZ on her OE shearing for a contractor in Waikaretu, near Port Waikato.

Canadian born Fiona was raised on a sheep farm in Nova Scotia and was taught to shear by her father. In 1980, wanting a break from studies Fiona made her first trip to NZ. Three years later Fiona returned to Canada to complete her

university studies and worked shearing the local flocks to help pay for her degree.

Brian's first job out of school was working for Peter Simpson at Simpson's Beach. After completing a Diploma in Agriculture at Lincoln University, Brian went share milking then became involved in rural property development.

In 1988, Fiona returned to NZ to compete at the Golden Shears and World Shearing Championships and made history by becoming the first woman to win a Golden Shears title. In 1989, she was offered the job of redeveloping the farm and holiday accommodation on Pohnuui, a 6000 acre, privately owned island in the outer Pelorus Sounds.

Soon after this, while visiting friends in Waikaretu, Brian and Fiona bumped into one another and exchanged farm development stories. Fiona encouraged Brian to visit Pohnuui.

"Once I arrived, Fiona wouldn't let me leave!" admits Brian. "And truthfully, I didn't want to – it was a spectacular part of the world." The rest is history. They married in 1990, produced two sons and spent the next 13 years living and working together, with their nearest neighbours 30 minutes away, by boat!

FOUNDERS OF ICEBREAKER

"As part of the redevelopment of the farm at Pohnuui, we introduced merino sheep to the property", explains Brian, "and that started a long love affair with merino wool".

"We were dissatisfied with the returns we were getting for our wool and had developed

some prototype thermal garments which were being trialled by people like Sir Peter Blake and mountaineer Graeme Dingle." Based on a growing list of endorsements from some serious outdoor adventurers, we registered a start-up company called Ice Breakers. We then teamed up with a young marketing graduate, Jeremy Moon, who bought into the fledgling company. Rebranded as Icebreaker, Jeremy has grown the business with sales in excess of \$150m around the world."

The couple left Pohnuui in 2002 and soon bought a lifestyle block north of Christchurch and joined the real estate profession. "For the first time in our married life we were not tied to tourists and the busy summer season and could join the rest of the family for summer holidays on the Coromandel." This was the start of their annual trek to Pauanui where Brian's parents have lived for the past thirty years.

Brian's family ties to the area go back even further. "My grandfather, Bill Linden, upon returning from WW1, worked as a sales rep for Arthur Yates and Co, visiting remote Coromandel farms on horseback in the 1920s.

"The Coromandel has been an important part of our lives, there are so many memories for us as a family."

Brian and Fiona have just finished building a new home at Cooks Beach so the ties to the Coromandel are now reinforced, and they plan to become even more integrated into local life.



Brian and Fiona with sons Ben and Sam.

SHANE OSBORNE AND VANESSA COORY
AMBITIOUS COUPLE
 NOW OWNS TWO STORES



Shane and Vanessa were born and bred Kiwis who took a life detour to Australia. While in Oz, Shane managed meat departments of a major supermarket chain, while Vanessa managed a vet practice.

By the time they were thirty, these keen DIYers had bought and renovated three houses, racking up hands-on experience that gave them insight into the hardware business. "We've always taken pleasure in turning something rather feral into something beautiful," Vanessa chuckles.

After 11 years the couple boomeranged back to NZ in 2011 with a lot of retail experience, and a daughter Tahlia, now five. The family packed up – "house, kid, horse, and dog" – and barrelled it home to Cooks Beach, where they bought shares in Cooks Beach Timber and Hardware. They also took over the day-to-day management.

MORE THAN JUST A HARDWARE STORE

After listening to the locals, they expanded beyond hardware and building supplies. "We added services like dive bottle and kayak hire plus air fills, and stocked more fishing, boating and diving gear – which proved popular."

They doubled the floor stock and become more 'user friendly' to the community with goods to cater to both holiday makers or bach owners, and 'tradies'. (Buying power under 'BuildLink' has allowed them to offer very competitive pricing to the trades.)

In 2013 they were able to gain 100% ownership and decided to expand even more. "An increase in our deliveries to the Tairua area prompted us to purchase the Tairua Home Hardware store," shares Vanessa, and they are now the proud new owners.

How do they do all this as a couple, and manage to stay sane? "Just as with the home renovations in Oz, we keep areas of responsibility very separate," explains Vanessa. "And now with the two stores, we are even in separate towns. I manage Tairua and Shane handles Cooks Beach. Of course, we do come together to discuss and coordinate."

"Our plan with the Tairua store, for instance, is much the same as it was with Cooks Beach," explains Shane. "We will rebrand this store to 'BuildLink', offering a bigger and better range of supplies for not only the DIYers but also the holiday makers and tradesman." Both stores offer free quotes off the plans as well as free delivery in the area.

"We have added a dive compressor and dive bottle hire to complement the existing stock of good quality fishing and boating supplies." They work with Dive Zone in Whitianga to provide a full range of services including Hydro

Testing, all dive gear repairs, and much more. "The locals and business owners in Tairua are super friendly – a delight to work alongside." Call in and introduce yourself. Don't forget to tell Shane and Vanessa you saw them in *Coromandel Life*!



Shane taking a break to enjoy life on their lifestyle block with daughter Tahlia.

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SEAS AND GREETINGS

Holiday Recipes

Keryn Drummond of Tairua knew how much I loved pumpkin pie and soon after our move to NZ, she prepared this yummy one for me, reminding me of my mum's back in America.

Pumpkin Pie

600 gm pumpkin
1 400 gm can evaporated milk
2 eggs beaten
185 gm (1 cup) dark brown soft sugar
¾ tsp ground cinnamon
¾ tsp ground ginger
¾ tsp ground nutmeg
½ tsp salt

For the pastry

375 gm (3 cups) plain flour
1 tsp salt
220 gm butter
125 ml (1/2 cup) milk

Preheat oven to 200 C. Remove seeds from pumpkin. Cut into chunks. In a saucepan over medium heat, cover the pumpkin with water and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 30 mins until tender. Drain, cool, peel away skin. Mash pumpkin.

Prepare pastry by mixing together the flour and salt. Rub butter into flour, add 1 tbs cold water to mixture at a time. Mix and repeat until the pastry is moist enough to hold together. Shape into a ball. On lightly floured board roll out to 5mm thickness. Transfer to a 23 cm pie dish, pressing pastry to base and sides. Cut off extra and pinch pastry securely around the edge.

In a large bowl with mixer speed on medium, beat the pumpkin with evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. Mix well.

Pour into prepared pie dish. Bake in preheated oven 40 mins or until a knife inserted in the centre comes out clean.



Lee Lee's Seafood Chowder

1 Onion finely chopped
1 teaspoon crushed garlic
1.5L milk
2 tablespoon flour
1 cup shrimps
1 cup chopped surimi
1 cup chopped mussels
1 cup blended mussels
1 cup prawns
250ml cream
Salt and pepper
Finely chopped parsley



Alyce and Mum Leann Rowe from Thames share this Christmas family tradition.

Brown the onion in butter and add the crushed garlic. Add the flour into the milk (put flour into the milk bottle) and shake well. Put the onion and milk mixture together into a crock pot and let simmer adding curry powder. Once slightly thickened add the seafood and leave on medium until seafood is cooked. Pour in cream and stir through, let it heat through and then serve garnishing with salt, pepper and parsley.

Tip: Add more seafood and curry as you like!

The family secret is the mussels – having one cup of chopped mussels plus another cup blended which adds lots of flavour without using fish sauce.

Alyce is a Realtor with Harcourt's. Her family tree dates back at least five generations on the Coromandel and includes Charlie & Mary Beach (owners of Tairua's Beach store in early 1900s) and great-grandparents Bill & Eva (Beach) Darrah. (At 94, Bill is the oldest horse conditioner in NZ.)

Gluten Free Chocolate Orange Cake

Mary Channings, Hot Waves Café

Celebrate Hot Waves 10th year and treat yourself to a slice of this decadent dessert.

150 gm dark chocolate
180 gm butter
6 eggs
250 gm sugar
100 gm ground almond
6 tps sifted cocoa
Zest and juice of 1 orange

Ice with Choc Orange icing

30 gm Butter
2 C icing sugar
3 tbs cocoa
Orange juice to mix to smooth consistency

Filling

2 C white chocolate
1/4 C cream
1C ground hazelnuts

Melt chocolate and butter, cool slightly. Beat eggs and sugar till fluffy. Mix almond and cocoa together and fold into egg mixture. Then fold in chocolate mixture. Add orange zest and juice. Bake in greased tin at 180 C for 40 minutes. Cake should have a slight wobble and top of cake firm. Cool with tea towel over top. For the filling, melt white chocolate with cream. Whip till fluffy. Fold in the ground hazelnuts.



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From
the
staff:



Holiday Cooking with Bronwyn

Choose appropriate outfit.
Pour glass of favourite wine and drink
until the urge to cook passes.
Decide what restaurant to go to.
"Better not to be too good a cook
...or you'll never be taken out for dinner."

Carol's German Pancakes

This is the dish my mom,
now 94 and in nursing
home, made for Easter and
Christmas brunches.
The pans? Pie pans with
slanted sides...or similar
slant side frying pan.

Slather with melted butter, sprinkle
with lots of powdered sugar, then
squeeze on fresh lemon juice.



Here's what's cookin' **German Pancakes** Serves 2

Recipe from the kitchen of Shirley Wright

3 EGGS 1/2 c. flour
1/2 c. milk 4 T. Butter
Salt

Mix EGGS and FLOUR. Add MILK and BUTTER and SALT.

Butter pans.

BAKE : 400° 10 min. then
350° 5 min.

Eat with Lemon wedges and powdered sug.&butter.

and Melted

Tovi's Manuka Turkey

They say everything is better with bacon, so why not keep both
flavour and moisture into your turkey by wrapping it in some bacon.
NZ turkeys tend to be a bit lean, so I wrapped ours last year in award
winning manuka smoked bacon from Brett, the Tairua butcher.

Preheat oven to 180°C. Fill the
cavity with your favourite stuffing.
Prepare a soft butter mixture with
fresh or dried sage and rub under
and over the skin. Season to taste.

Lay overlapping uncooked rashers
of bacon across the turkey until
the meat is completely covered in
bacon. (Fortunately, they tend to
stick onto the buttered turkey.)



Place in a roasting pan and use foil
to tent the uncooked turkey. Pour some apple juice and/or water into the base of the
pan. Check on the liquid level during cooking and keep topped up as needed.

Plan for about 1 hr per kilo. Remove foil tent for last hour of cooking. Continue to let
bacon cook on Turkey for an additional 15 minutes, then remove. (OPTIONAL - Bacon
can then also be served or chopped and placed in a separate dish of your choice.)

Remove turkey from oven once an internal temperature of 160 degrees is reached.
Allow to rest for 20-30 minutes, then carve and serve (during the rest period, turkey
will continue to cook to 165 degrees).

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These always stylish, unique designer fashion boutiques **MILLY'S** and **KAYLA'S** are the go-to stores for expert advice on the best in season fashion. Delivering classics with a twist that take you from work to winebar in style. The experienced staff will help you find the ideal gift for that special woman in your life, or a gift voucher so she can choose on her own. How about that perfect party dress for the holidays? **Millys on Main Rd in Tairua or Kayla on Pollen St in Thames**



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THE LITTLE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS. Find a collection of some of the finest art created by premier artists on the Coromandel. Discover gems to adorn your entire home: Original paintings, limited edition prints, hand crafted jewellery, impressive sculptures, and carvings will help create lasting memories. Drop by to view the frequently changing artwork – you just might meet one of our resident artists. **Main Rd, Tairua.**



BREAD & BUTTER GALLERY. Come in and enjoy an impressive collection of handmade New Zealand art. Original fine art paintings from local master artists and emerging artists. A great selection of fine art prints, wood sculpture, beautiful fused glass works, handmade one off ceramic works with interesting glazes, silver and gold jewellery, and local weaving. Bread & Butter Gallery – exceptional gallery for exceptional handmade art. **Albert St, Whitianga.**

You can't go into **BEACH HABITAT** in Hahei without purchasing something, or at least wanting to. A great place to browse – great treasures everywhere you look. Summer hats, cards Great items for the kitchen, artisan cheeses and condiments. New things arriving all the time and complimentary gift wrapping. **Shop 3, Grange Rd, Hahei.**



MINT is not just a hair salon, set in a beautifully appointed building with a secluded garden courtyard, it has a friendly, quirky vibe and a welcoming atmosphere. Spoil yourself and get the Mint experience or buy a voucher for someone who deserves a special treat. **Coghill St, Whitianga, 07 869 5000.**

COLENSO CAFE. This popular cafe also offers unique art and gift items. Pet the donkeys! **Whenuakite.**

HOT WAVES CAFE is a popular spot for both visitors and locals. A great selection of local art, gifts and crafts. **Hot Water Beach.**

HAHEI BEACH CAFE for breakfast and lunch, with hot and cold espresso drinks, plus gluten free/organic options. Open 7 days from 8am in Summer. **Hahei.**

SALT. Dine at one of the best restaurants on the Coromandel at one of the best locations – the **Whitianga marina.**



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The endangered fernbird makes its home in the wetlands in the middle of the sanctuary.

RINGS BEACH TRACK WELCOMES NATURE LOVERS

Photos and story by Ian Patrick

This August, Random House published a significant book titled "Paradise Saved," authored by Dave Butler, Tony Lindsay and Janet Hunt. This inspirational story pays homage to the more than 100 wildlife sanctuaries established throughout New Zealand, all playing a vital role in preserving and restoring our diversity and protecting and nurturing endangered species.

Several are fenced at vast expense; all utilise predator control equipment and are ably supported by willing volunteers

Here on the Coromandel there are many similar groups and individuals, mostly unheralded, mostly constantly scrambling for funding to continue their important work.

One such group, typical of the dedication required to achieve meaningful results, is the Rings Beach Wetlands project, working under the umbrella of the Coromandel Peninsula Coastal Walkways Society. This was started in 2006 by Bruce Smith of Kuaotunu, who had just retired and was looking for a project to give something back to the community.

Bruce discussed his vision with another local, Ian MacDonald who was in a similar situation, and with the permission of DOC (who hold the 267Ha in the Conservation estate) they proceeded to blaze a trail and start forming



Above: Kauri 2000's Sarah Cooper works with Ian MacDonald to clear some of the 4.7km of stubborn bush to create the Rings Beach Wetlands Project track.

At left is a view of the wetlands from track.



a 4.7km back country walking track, now a comfortable 2 hour round trip.

With the help of other volunteers, notably Sarah Cooper (a trustee of Kauri 2000), thousands of hours went into completing the track.

There is a small stream discharging onto the western end of Rings Beach, and the team discovered the origin of this stream: a wetland spanning 4.5Ha, which was home to 3 pairs of the endangered fernbird.

SHIFT TO WILDLIFE PROTECTION

With the track nearing completion the focus

shifted to the birdlife and the regenerating bush. At that stage, Kauri 2000 had already planted several thousand trees on the hill, which had been clear felled of ancient kauri, mined, then farmed by the 'matchbox method' right up until the 1950s.

Bruce and Ian identified an area within a 100 metre perimeter of the wetland, created a network of three parallel tracks and placed traps for possum, stoats, rats and mice. Supported with funding predominately from Waikato Regional Council, an annual program of tree planting kick-started the regeneration of a diversity of native species in the area adjacent to the wetland.

Participation by local schools in the planting, and a keen network of volunteers to monitor the traplines, has seen over 4000 trees planted since 2009 with 3000 predators eliminated.

Not only is the birdlife benefitting, but wetas, lizards and invertebrates are recovering. Several hundred wilding pines have been felled with support from DOC, which encouraged small native trees to spring up wherever they gained sunlight. The birdlife is recovering and, as new trees grow, more species will make this their home again.

Sadly, in December 2012, Bruce Smith passed away, however, the foundations of his vision were solidly established; and Ian MacDonald, assisted by Kuaotunu locals, has maintained and extended the dream.

The walking track is accessible from Matarangi, and both ends of Rings Beach (along Bluff Road). It is a pleasant easy walk on the main track, and a loop around the wetland on a trapping track presents a further option to explore the area.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Ian Patrick at igdmp@xtra.co.nz or 07 866 0751.



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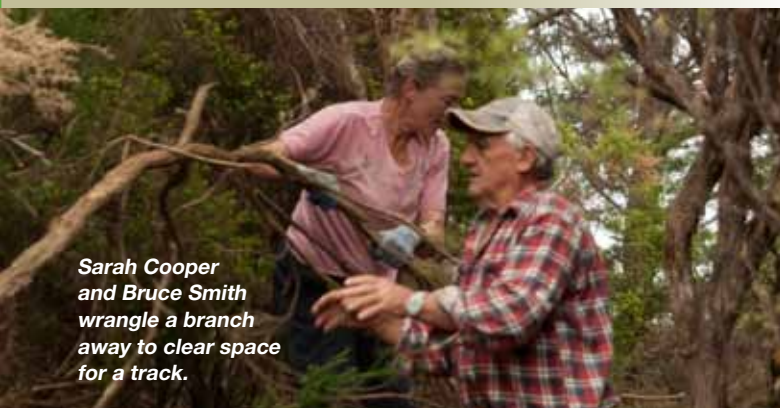
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Aine Barton and Sheridan O'Keeffe from Te Rerenga School carefully plant a small rimu tree.



Sarah Cooper and Bruce Smith wrangle a branch away to clear space for a track.



Students from the Year 10 horticulture class from Mercury Bay Area School planted various native trees in an upper valley of the Rings Beach Wetland reserve. Shown are Zane Fitzgerald-Brown, Dane Mathew, Cameron Richards, Moesha Pourau, and Tessa McQuoid, Blake Wilkins

Rings Beach Wetlands Project Tracks Map



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"Miss Coromandel Peninsula" competition caps off the 2015 Summer Beach Festival

On 11th January Matarangi Beach will host Miss Coromandel Peninsula 2015 thanks to the support of Flight Centre Thames and Coromandel FM.

The winning contestants and the runners up from several Coromandel communities will compete for the Peninsula-wide crown. In addition a few other competitions will be held including one for the littlies...boys and girls!

The winning beauty will receive a trip for two to the Gold Coast, which includes return airfares for two, three nights' accommodation in Surfers Paradise and return airport transfers from Flight Centre Thames.

Organiser Bronwyn Burkhart tells us that the newly renovated Puka Park in Pauanui was delighted to offer the runner-up two nights accommodation in a Tawa Tree Hut. "It's a romantic luxurious chalet with breakfast and dinner at their Miha Restaurant. Other prizes and sponsors are looking impressive, too."

Bronwyn says the judging panel thus far includes "a fashion designer, an international model and a well-known sports personality".



The pageant activities start at 1pm at the Matarangi Beach Fire Station. For more info contact Bronwyn at 027 221 2881.

Be sure to attend your own area's competition to cheer on the local beauties:

- Miss Whangamata**, 29th December 2pm, Surf Club
- Miss Whitianga**, 30th December, 4pm, Whitianga Hotel
- Miss Pauanui**, 2nd January, 4pm Pauanui Club
- Miss Waihi Beach**, 3rd January, 4.30pm, Pohutukawa Park, Main End, Waihi Beach
- Miss Matarangi Beach Girl**, 10th January, 4pm, Village Green, Matarangi



There are actually a handful of competitions that day. Kids have their own turn on the runway. Here littlies vie for Master Matarangi and Miss Junior Matarangi. - Photos by Ian Patrick

For a rush!

Thundercat Racing is a high adrenalin, high action sport with explosive wave jumping and tight competitive surf racing in a tunnel hulled inflatable boat. The crew consists of a driver and co-pilot who use their weight to stabilise the craft. **See them race on Saturday, 3rd Jan at Matarangi Beach, 10 am.**

Learn more: www.thundercatracing.co.nz

- Photo by Ian Patrick



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MATARANGI BEACH SUMMER FESTIVAL

Dec 2014 / Jan 2015

- Sat, 27 Dec** – Open Day, 11am-1pm
- Sat, 27 Dec** – Tractor & Quad Bike Decorating Comp 3pm, Village Green, 4pm parade.
- Sun, 28 Dec** – Scavenger Hunt, 10am, The Village Green & around Matarangi.
- Mon, 29 Dec** – Kids Disco, 4:30-6:30pm.
- Tue, 30 Dec** – The Big Dig, 10:30am, Matarangi Beach.
- Fri, 2 Jan** – Fishing Comp., 6am in the Ocean.
- Sat, 3 Jan** – Thunder Cat Boat Racing, 10am, Prizegiving 4pm, Matarangi Beach.
- Sat, 3 Jan** – Sausage Sizzle, 10am-4pm, The Village Green Beach Entrance.
- Sun, 4 Jan** – The Rings to Matarangi Beach Swim, 6:45am register, 7:30am start in the Ocean. Info: 027 474 3541 • Hilton Brown
- Mon, 5 Jan** – Sandcastle Comp, 1pm, Matarangi Beach. Info: 07 866 5566
- Tue, 6 Jan** – Cardboard Cup 4pm, The Matarangi Boat Ramp.
- Wed, 7 Jan** – Family Sports Day, TBC, The Village Green.
- Thr, 8 Jan** – Bike Decorating Comp 3pm, Matarangi Shopping Centre.
- Thr, 8 Jan** – Bingo, PM - TBC, Matarangi Fire Station.
- Fri, 9 Jan** Kids – Fishing Comp, 9:30-11am, Matarangi Wharf.
- Sat, 10 Jan** – Miss Matarangi Beach 2015, 3pm, The Village Green.
- Sun, 11 Jan** – Miss Coromandel Peninsula, 1pm, Matarangi Fire Station.



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Last issue we reported on the progress Andy had made since his vehicle accident in July, which left him confined to a wheelchair and undergoing rehabilitation.

We are pleased to report that he returned home for good on November 13, having learnt the skills necessary to cope with day to day activities at the Otara Spinal unit.

He says that with a little bit of help from his wife Shelley he is learning to transfer from the chair to the car as strength builds in his arms. They are now using a van provided by ACC but are deciding on a suitable car to buy for the future.

In the meantime, with encouraging support from the community, the **Castle Rock Café** is enjoying good patronage, to the extent that on Labour weekend the manager, Dyon ran out of all supplies, including coffee on Monday.

Andy wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the unwavering support and generous contributions from the local community, which has given them peace of mind and the comfort of moving forward with confidence.

Please keep patronising Castle Rock Café and consider supporting Andy's recovery through the www.Givealittle/TheCorlesFamily.co.nz to keep them progressing. -lan Patrick



Friends gather at the Castle Rock Cafe to welcome Andy Corles home.

11th April 2015: A fabulous day of food, wine & music by the beach

A Taste of Matarangi



Crowd favourites Jessica Matthews and her sister, Georgina are now performing as Daughters of Alley. And they'll be back. The ten-piece funk soul Hypstamatics band promises to bring down the house.

The 'A Taste of Matarangi' committee members have been busy organising and can promise the 2015 event will be even more action packed with lots more great things to see, taste and experience.

Event Coordinator Bronwyn Ririnui says the main act of the day has been locked in, and it's "out with the ole truck and in with a real stage – a big one too, because the Hypstamatics are coming to town!"

"If you haven't heard of these musos then make sure you attend. They have an infectious stage show and will be a dynamic end to the festival." The Hypstamatics are a ten piece band full of high energy, soul and funk, playing remixes of well known tunes in their own authentic style.

Jessica Matthews and her sister, Georgina were at the last event – and due to popular demand, they are back, now branded as 'Daughters of Alley'. These sisters are powerhouses, love performing and are taking the New Zealand music scene by storm.

Other local musicians from the region taking the stage include, Toya Fleetwood & Keyes, Dylan Wade and The Mercury Bay Big band ... plus more.

"Oh, and there's FOOD!"

In addition to the superb stage line up, the festival will serve up great food and beverages throughout the day. "And it's not all about picnicking on the grass and basking in the hot sun while the music plays", assures Bronwyn, "as there will be plenty of activities this year for families, including the ever popular Cook Off, a fancy dress competition, pony rides for the young ones ... plus MORE!"

A Taste of Matarangi is a charitable event to support the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust. Donations will be received to support this charity on the event day, and the Westpac Rescue crew will be supplying free rides on their Helicopter Simulator.

A special thanks to all the sponsors who have come on board so quickly. If it wasn't for these wonderful businesses we simply couldn't put the festival together.

Tickets on sale now

Prices remain the same: \$15 adult, \$5 a child or \$30 for a family (2 kids and 2 adults). You can buy your tickets at Richardson's Real Estate Matarangi, at the Whitianga I-Site or online at www.atateofmatarangi.co.nz.

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PAEROA, known as 'the best little town in the middle of everything', has a terrific line-up of events this Summer (see calendar page 30-31) and the 'Battle of the Streets' is one of them.

This full day of motorcycle circuit racing began as a daydream in 1991, 'over a pint', when Bob Jeffery suggested to friends Colin Lynch and Sharland Waikato that the streets of Paeroa could be turned into a street circuit. They enrolled other friends in the scheme and now over 350 community members are volunteers or sponsors of this ambitious event. The 1.52km circuit starts near the centre of town on SH2 (Belmont/ Normanby Road) and takes a 'hacksaw' shape as it rounds back. Riders reach speeds of 280kph and sidecars close to 220kph along the main straight. Wow!

Practice starts around 8am, followed by races in 11 classes. Purchase tickets here: www.battleofthestreets.co.nz.

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Through the eyes of a falcon...



The launch of Bruce Gilbert's book, *Ka the Falcon*, drew many to the Tairua Library in November to hear him speak.

This unique story is told through the eyes and memory of Ka, a New Zealand Falcon. The reader is taken through a history of the formation and settlement of Aotearoa and in particular the Coromandel Peninsula and Tairua, where Bruce resides.

Although the book is intended for 8-10 year olds, it will be enjoyed by all ages with the insightful and educational footnotes provided throughout the narrative. Illustrations are by Marco Dela Torre.



With Bruce at the book launch was Ka, his puppet, who will be travelling with him to help tell the falcon's story to students as he visits Coromandel schools.

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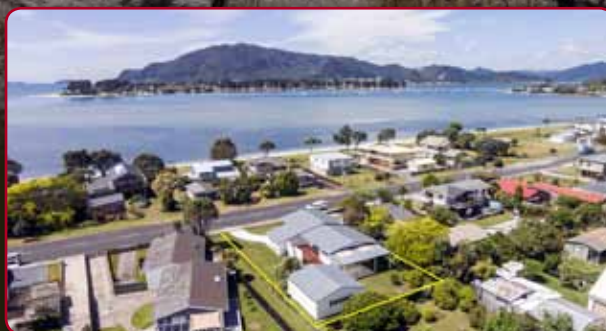
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The trig atop Paku Mountain. Photo by Gillian McNabb



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