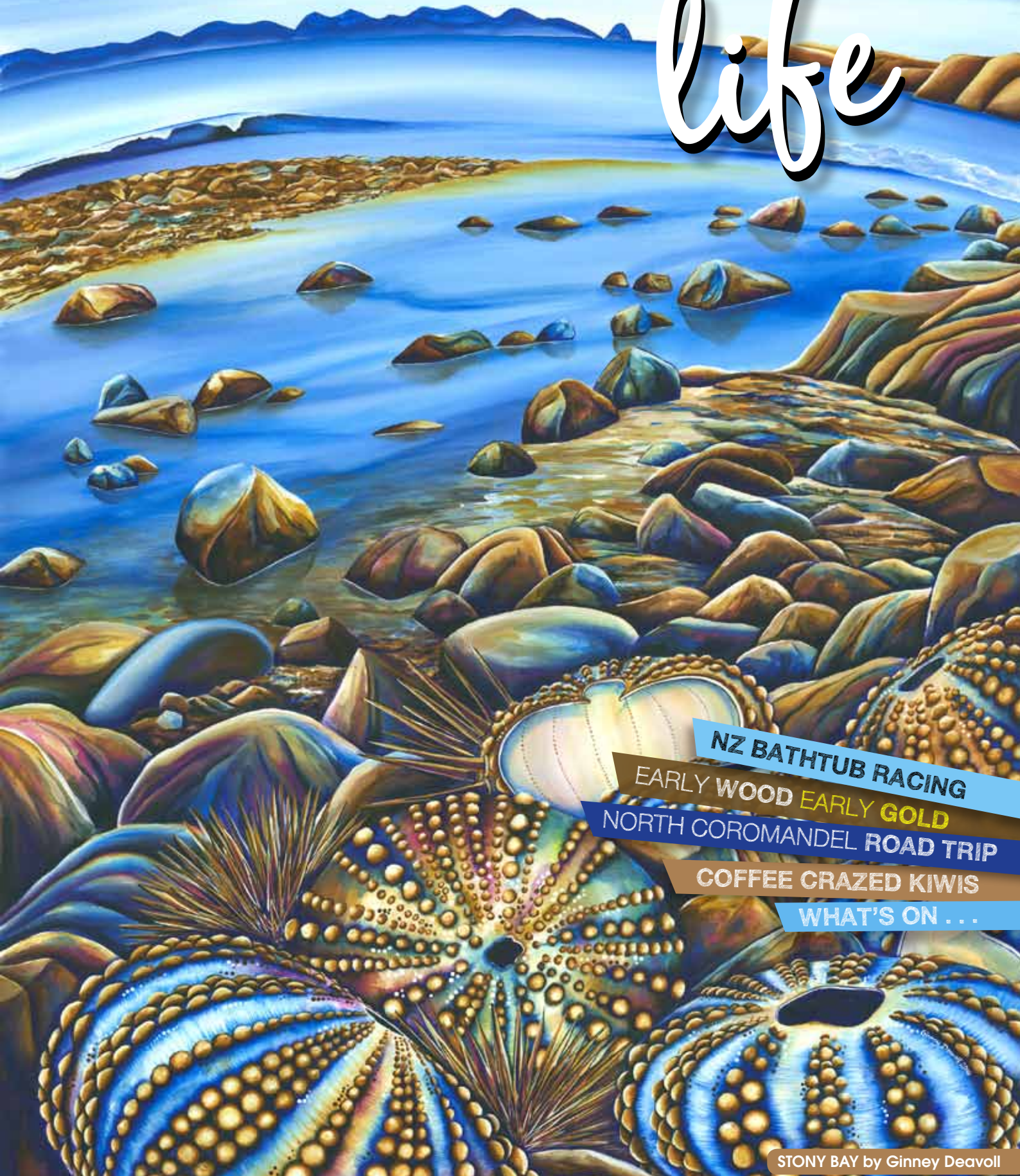


LATE SPRING/HOLIDAY ISSUE 2014
COMPLIMENTARY



COROMANDEL

life



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COFFEE CRAZED KIWIS
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STONY BAY by Ginney Deavoll

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COROMANDEL

WHAT'S INSIDE *life*

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Painter

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Winner of
"Artists' Choice" Award
Mercury Bay Art Escape 2014-15



"Looking"



"Space Journey"



"Reading the Map"

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www.verenatagmann.co.nz

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& Illustrator**

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Artist

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Mercury Bay
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2015

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Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant 2014-15



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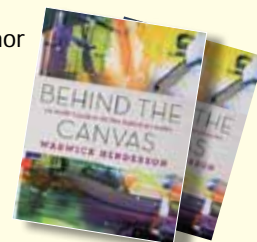
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"Summer Vase"



"Portofino"

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Kia Ora

Introducing...

BRONWYN BURKHART

*Coromandel Life's
sales & marketing
director*

*Bronwyn relaxes
at right during a
mini vacation to
Raratonga.*

*She got a well
deserved short break
before coming back
to the Coromandel,
hitting the ground
running to help us
complete this issue.*

*Look for Bronwyn
at the Labour Day
Bathtub Races in
Whitianga, where
her partner Kevin
Shaw is both a racer
and a co-sponsor.*

*This busy gal is
also organizing the
upcoming
Miss Coromandel
2015 competition.*

*See our Community
Spotlight for details.*



Photo by Kevin Shaw
Photoshop effects – CW

We are 'over the moon' to be welcoming Bronwyn Burkhart to the *Coromandel Life* team. For advertising sales, sales of any kind...either you are 'the type' and really into it or you just aren't. So, when I met Bronwyn for the first time and she said "I just love sales when I'm passionate about and believe in the product I'm selling," it was music to my ears. Especially since she loved *Coromandel Life* and saw its benefit to businesses, the community and readers. We were totally ecstatic when this experienced (and award winning) sales wiz agreed to come on board.

Bronny's filled with great ideas to make the magazine better and provide even more services for our advertisers, and we are now running to keep up with her. With her support we are already planning to increase the print run and the number of pages at no additional costs to our advertisers. We also agreed to do an additional holiday supplement to saturate the market over the busy Summer.

She's all about developing relationships and looks forward to meeting you, our advertisers, readers, and contributors. Finally, those "why haven't I been contacted about advertising?" comments will fade away! It's perfect having her centrally located to cover our expanding distribution base, the entire Coromandel. After living in Thames while working for Coromandel FM the past eight years, Bronny is pleased to have relocated in Whitianga last year.

Switching from selling air time to selling print space, she's quickly learning the lingo and mastering the minutiae required for effective print advertising. She's even taking photos (a smartphone really can take great shots!) and coming with article suggestions. She's already teaching us a few things as well!

Greg and Tovi Daly

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Our Cover Artist

Ginney Deavoll

"Stony Bay is an incredibly picturesque bay that not too many people venture to. It holds a special place in my memory as it was from here that Tyrell and I left to attempt our first open water crossing by kayak. We paddled from Stony Bay to Tryphena Harbour on Great Barrier Island but not without incident.

"Half way across Tyrell noticed a plume of water in the distance. It was gone before I caught a glimpse so I didn't think much of it. That was, not until it appeared again, right between our kayaks, erupting from the back of a Bryde's Whale." - *Ginney Deavoll*



I met Ginney and partner Tyrell during the Mercury Bay Art Escape and was impressed with both her and her work. When I looked around their small flat I asked where she painted. "On the floor", she answered. Wow – she really does.



Ginney has lived a lot in her short life which is reflected in the essence of life she portrays in her art. When we discovered the painting of Stony Bay and heard the story behind it, we knew it was perfect – reflecting her bold originality as well as the locale of our Road Trip in this issue.

The trip she shares above is one of many. Ginney and Tyrell also did an extensive kayak, hiking and

biking trip on South Island, which Ginney relates through photos, art and writing in a coffee table art book "the long way" (see next page).

"Since deciding to seriously follow a life of painting I have had incredible support from the Coromandel arts community," shares a grateful Ginney. Her originals and a range of prints are in Bread and Butter Gallery in Whitianga and a selection of prints in Moko or Hot Waves Café. See her at the Mercury Bay Art Escape tour, at ginneydeavoll.com and on her Facebook page.

Having an awareness of the natural world has always been important to me. As a teenager I would stand at the beach admiring the changeability of the colours, the shapes in the waves and clouds and the feeling of depth as I gazed out at the horizon. I spent much of my teenage years trying to capture this in watercolours, later in murals around the city and acrylics on canvas.

It's only recently that I've found my Turangawaewae, my place to stand. The place that gives me more energy than I put in. Looking back, it's blaringly obvious that this is where my journey would lead me. From an early age I knew that I would be an artist. I also knew that I felt at home in the outdoors and that the thought of adventure made me shiver with excitement and anticipation.

And so after school, my world was filled with adventure and travel. I spent years overseas exploring the world, working in strange jobs in obscure locations. My painting took a back seat, but was never forgotten. I found that nowhere – not even Rome, the French Alps or the Whitsundays – inspired me to paint in the way that New Zealand does.

Seeing something of the world has given me a greater understanding of how lucky we are to be of this land. Once I returned to NZ, I moved to Hahei to work as a sea kayak guide. Here, I picked up a paintbrush again and began a journey that would realise my dream.

At first, I mostly painted landscape from life but soon started to illustrate the stories

of the area through my artwork. The design element in these paintings caused my artwork to take on a different look. This style was developing well but took a huge leap forward after an incredible trip with my partner Tyrell: sea kayak journey up the coast of the Coromandel, out to Great Barrier Island, then up the East Coast of Northland to Houhora.

The duration of the journey was five weeks, and by the end I was brimming with inspiration.

My intention was to share the places we'd seen, like Stony Bay. Places that take your breath away – to capture the moments that were funny, scary or beautiful – memorable moments that shaped our experience. I wanted to pass on the feeling of elation from seeing a whale cruise by under my kayak and the pleasure of watching every sunrise and sunset and admiring the Milky Way each night. Most of all I wanted to share the simplicity of enjoying life one day at a time, feeling completely content.

This series about our adventure was my first exhibition and a total success but more importantly I had found my Turangawaewae and what it was that I wanted to do with my painting. I had discovered how to combine my passion for painting with my journeys in the outdoors and make them my world.

Since then I've been on more journeys into the wild and extreme places of New Zealand and the need to share those experiences through my artwork is stronger than ever. - *Ginney Deavoll*



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Ginney Deavoll ...the long way



Ginney wrote “...the long way” using photos and paintings. Tyrell Browne took most of the photographs. (Aries Publishing, \$49.95). The couple, above, shown during their self-propelled journey up the South Island coast.

At the beginning of 2012 my partner Tyrell and I began a self-propelled, three-month journey covering the length of the South Island. The calm water beyond the ferocious waves at Te Waewae Bay was the start of our journey by paddle, pedal and foot leading to Cape Farewell, the most northerly point of the South Island.

...The series of paintings that I have created from reminiscing about our journey share the significant moments of ‘...the long way’. They are designed from memory and constructed using details from photos taken on the journey.

When I gaze at these paintings ...I feel the sea spray in my face, the cold alpine air, taste the fresh seafood dinner, and hear the cascading rivers.



Ginney's painted surfboard won People's Choice Award – Mercury Bay Art Escape 2014

Other Featured Artists & Photographers...

Painter Ian Given

Ian Given, cover artist of the last *Coromandel Life*, captured the perfect still mood of the wharf in McGregor Bay with his painting, ‘Tied-Up’, as seen on the centre pages of Road Trip section.

Now retired, Ian enjoys devoting his time to days at the bach in Whangapoua, golfing and ‘plein aire’ painting. His landscapes can be seen at Mosaic Gallery in Whitianga, Little Gallery in Tairua, Castle Rock Cafe in Te Rerenga, Weta Gallery in Coromandel Town, and online at www.iangiven.com.



Painter Susan Dunster

Susan, also a practicing psychotherapist, trained as a painter in London and Melbourne. These two interests lead her to seek meaning behind the surface – partially abstracted, spontaneous and intense. She has exhibited regularly in New Zealand for the last 10 years.



We were jazzed that coffee was an ongoing theme for Susan and decided to share several of her works in our coffee feature.

She notes that her work recently has been influenced, colour-wise, by a trip to France, where she took in a Matisse exhibit.

You can see Susan's paintings at Tairua's Little Gallery of Fine Arts, online at www.susandunster.vc.net.nz or at her studio.

Painter Paula McNeill

Popular Tairua artist Paula McNeill works in a variety of mediums, surprising the viewer with her diverse use of colour and subject matter. There is a familiar sort of abstraction in colour, line, and form – yet one discovers detailed works of intrigue and intimacy.



Paula's compelling rendition of Paku Mountain was chosen as the cover image for a past issue of our *PakuViews*. This issue, she offers paintings about our favourite beverage – coffee!

See her work at Tairua's Little Gallery of Fine Art, and view online at thelittlegalleryoffinearts.co.nz.

See Road Trip for info about Painter **Charlotte Giblin**.

Photographer Ian Patrick

Ian Patrick, based in Matarangi, is one of the Coromandel's premiere landscape photographers.



This community-minded photographer has the eye and patience for catching amazing moments of extreme beauty, from blossoms and birds to spectacular scenics and retirement has provided more time to indulge his passion. His travels both inside NZ and abroad have provided plenty of fodder for his impressive portfolio.

Ian's coffee table book *Matarangi Moods* includes stunning images taken from Opito to Whangapoua, a 'must have' if you live in the area or want a cherished keepsake. Purchase at the Matarangi Beach Store, Luke's Kitchen & Gallery in Kuaotunu or Castle Rock Cafe in Te Rerenga. They also carry some of his photographs as prints or you may special order any that you see in Coromandel Life or on his website.

We discovered Ian has another talent – writing. He wrote the article about Castle Rock Cafe's Andy Corles and his accident recovery in this issue (p 52) and the Rings Beach Wetlands project for next issue. Ian's donated prints were a popular item at a benefit auction held at The Dunes Golf Resort for Andy's family.

Contact Ian at 07 866 0751, igdmp@xtra.co.nz or visit www.ianpatrick.co.nz.

Photographer Michelle McEwan

Michelle is now working at Hikuai School school where she is able to indulge her passion for photography (see p 56). She has a Diploma in Digital Photography with the Southern Institute of Technology; and our last issue contributed stunning photos of pets, a youth rugby game, the Tairua Marina, and the wall montage at Shells Restaurant. See more at www.michellemcewanphotography.com.



Aerial photos Alan Duff



Alan Duff has specialised in real estate photography for over three decades, capturing images of interiors, exteriors, and overhead aerials.

Alan has taken to the skies snapping aerial photographs of our coastline, scenic features, and towns. He also uses a drone that transmits a video in real time down to his controller that shows him exactly what the drone is looking at. He can then manoeuvre it to get the best angle to take a photograph or shoot a video.

Alan previously used a blimp, but now remote control drones (he has three!) are just the thing. He keeps his drone within sight, but if it does get a bit lost "the drone has a homing return program, and will fly back." Alan notes that he is careful of wires and all aviation regulations, keeping flights below aircraft flying altitudes.

Many of Alan's aerial images are available for purchase on Trade Me or you can contact him directly to order or inquire about custom real estate photos and aerial video/photography. See www.crep.co.nz or call 0211 116 2266.

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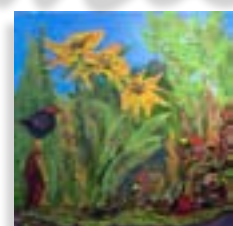


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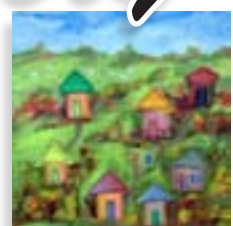


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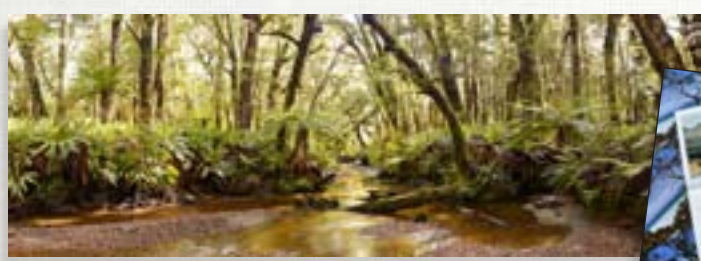
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STARGAZERS TREATS

from Alastair Brickell

A Gaggle of Comets

Comet 67P Churyumov Gerasimenko

History is being made on the comet scene. Alastair Brickell, astronomy buff and owner of Stargazers B&B and Astronomy Tours in Kuaotunu shares below.

One of the most exciting things to happen in the history of space science is the European Space Agency's Rosetta probe that, after a 10 year journey, finally caught up with Comet 67P on August 6! This has never been done before...probes flew rapidly by Halley's comet in 1986 but never dared to get closer than about 600 kilometres due to fears about damage to the spacecraft from the comet's tail and dust.

However Rosetta is now in orbiting around this 4km diameter dumbbell-shaped comet at a distance of only 25 km. There are some wonderful photos available on the ESA website (www.esa.int/ESA) of things the human race has never seen before and only barely understands.

Rosetta will continue to orbit the comet for a year as 67P swings around the Sun and starts to form its tail as it heats up. The first signs of the tail have already appeared, and it will be spectacular to watch it develop as we now have an unprecedented ring-side viewpoint. As if

that were not enough, Rosetta will also attempt to land a small probe onto the comet's surface on about November 12. This is an incredibly risky venture but if successful, the lander will provide an extraordinary view of the comet's surface and will even drill into it so we can discover just what it is made of.

By Christmas we will be able to rewrite all the astronomy texts on the nature of comets as there is going to be a torrent of new and unexpected information coming our way.

COMET C2013 A1 VISIBLE

Coincidentally on October 19, another comet will be passing very close to Mars and may just be visible in binoculars or a small telescope...we will certainly be looking out for it at Stargazers Astronomy Tours! It will be interesting to follow it as it passes by the planet which is expected to actually pass through its faint tail. Reddish Mars will be about half way down the western sky after dusk in October...

be careful not to confuse it with the bright reddish star Antares which will lie below Mars but above yellowish Saturn which will itself be low in the west at the same time.

While here at Stargazers we can't actually show you a piece of a comet, we can do the next best thing and show you a piece of Libyan desert glass. This was formed 28 million years ago when a comet exploded above the Sahara desert and melted the sand to form a unique and beautiful glass, a piece of which was found in Tutankhamun's tomb carved into the shape of a sacred scarab beetle.

SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORERS

It is absolutely amazing how the human race has spread its wings throughout our solar system in only a few short decades. Here are currently active space missions:

- Rovers *Opportunity* and *Curiosity* running around on the surface of Mars; several orbiting it (including one from India)
- *Cassini* orbiting Saturn, having earlier dropped off a lander to its moon Titan
- *Venus Express* and *Akatsuki* orbiting Venus
- *Messenger* orbiting Mercury
- Several orbiting the Moon, with one from China on the surface with a rover
- *Dawn* orbiting an asteroid
- *Rosetta* about to land a probe on a comet
- *Voyagers 1* and *2* leaving the solar system
- The first craft to ever visit Pluto, now only months away after a 10 year voyage

We live in interesting times!



Comet 67P
4km diameter

Comet 67P
smiles for its closeup,
taken from 25 km



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, for those who want to learn more about the heavens.

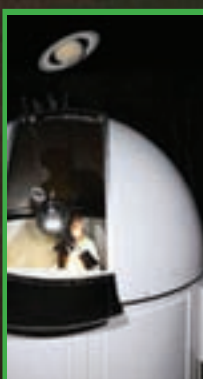


Photo by Peter Drury

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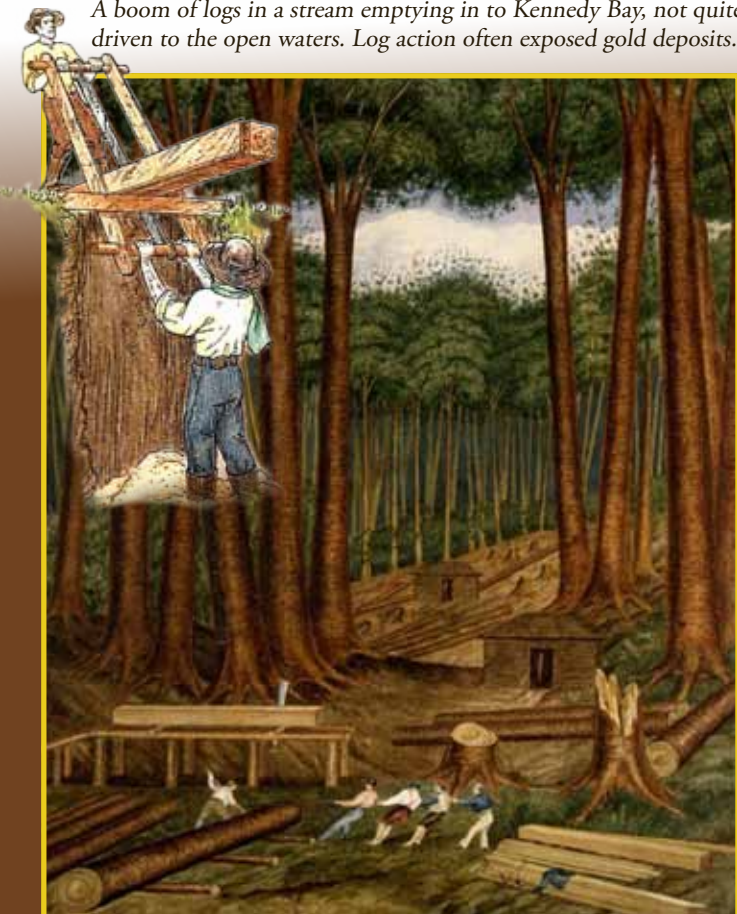
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The Excelsior loading unmilled kauri logs at Kennedy Bay.



A boom of logs in a stream emptying in to Kennedy Bay, not quite driven to the open waters. Log action often exposed gold deposits.



Early kauri logging meant hand sawing timbers, one worker standing above, the other pulling the saw from below. Above shows primitive pit saw. Later, sawmills were built, powered by waterwheels or steam engines.

- Painting by artist/surveyor Charles Heaphy (1839). Image courtesy Alexander Turnbull Library



Kauri merchant John Kennedy: His success cost him his life

One sees Kennedy Bay on the map and thinks to drive there, a simple coastal drive north from the Whangapoua area...But, where is the road up the coast? Isn't one! You have to access this east coast spot by starting on the west side of the peninsula, coming through Coromandel town's Kapanga Road and then continue as it changes its name to Rings Road, Driving Creek Road and finally over the mountains of Kennedy Bay Road. (See page 36 for Road Trip of area.)

So who is this Kennedy of Kennedy Bay?

John Kennedy's family owned a castle in Scotland, but John chose a life devoted to the sea. He helped secure timber for the British admiralty, and was aboard the famous HMS *Buffalo* when, after dropping off convicts in Australia, it headed to the kauri timber forests of New Zealand.



John arrived on the boat in 1837, and stayed with the ship as the crew itself felled and shaped the kauri into spars and yardarms. Before the days of established mills and workforce, the sailors/timbermen would stay in the area for up to a year.

When the *Buffalo's* hold was filled with kauri, the boat set sail back to England; and John stayed, moving north in 1839, where he bought 242 acres of kauri land from the Maori chief. He established a trading post, whaling station, and mill. He hired men to keep timber operations going while awaiting the return of the next ship. The bay, originally named Harataunga, was thus named for him. As for the *Buffalo*, on a return trip in 1840, she was beached off Whitianga in a storm. (Read story online in our Summer/ Easter 2013 issue.)

Kennedy had excellent rapport with the local Maori, who worked as bushmen, mill workers, whalers, fishermen and produce suppliers. He even directed the building of his own cutter, *The Three Bees*.

Long before the land treaties were officially established between the crown and Maori, Kennedy traded goods for some land from the Ngati Tamatera under Chief Paora Te Putu, who later also offered the Ngati Porou tribe shelter and land in the Bay. Kennedy married Rangirauwaka (aka Katerina Taurangi) of Ngati Porou and with her had four sons and a daughter who died young.

Kennedy's business helped load many a ship (including the *Tortoise* of the "Sailor's Grave" fame) with kauri and other supplies. By all accounts he was a "hard working and industrious trader."

(continued on page 14)



One of the few surviving photos of the Kennedy Bay kauri lumber milling complex, located up the hill to take advantage of the rushing waters to power the sawmills.

EARLY GOLD



The Ring brothers and the discovery of Driving Creek's gold

Gold mining in the Coromandel began in earnest – after some fits and starts – in 1852 when the Auckland Provincial Council offered a £500 reward for a 'payable' gold find on the north island.

Enter one Charles Ring (born 1816) who came to Auckland via Australia where he had opened a store which sadly burned (one of many business disasters he survived). He then tried his luck in Auckland, where he managed to informally purchase a few farms for raising sheep from a local Maori chief. With his brother Frederick, they imported several hundred head of cattle, but that venture did not work out as they could then buy no pasture land for the herd.

In 1849, news came of the California gold rush, and they sold the cattle at a loss and sailed off to seek their fortunes. After a successful stint of prospecting, Charles bought goods for opening another store, but he lost that stock in a shipwreck.

He and Frederick booked passage back to Australia, but ill fate visited once again. Their ship tangled with a reef off Fiji. The shipwrecked passengers (many fellow prospectors) survived, trying then to complete the voyage in an open boat with little provisions. Luckily, an American whaler caught sight of the stranded crew, rescued them all and transported them back to familiar territory, Auckland.

THE RINGS GET A FOOTHOLD IN THE COROMANDEL

The Rings managed to secure land northeast of Coromandel town, and opened a kauri sawmill on Kapanga Stream. By this time the Coromandel's kauri timber operations had already been in overdrive for decades from the many visiting timber-harvesting ships (such as 1820 arrival of the HMS *Coromandel*), and European settlers from the 1830s. Many local Maori were already working for the newcomers – growing potatoes and peaches for them, or trading fish and game.

Because of their experience in the California gold fields, the Ring brothers took notice of the area's geology and realized it had gold potential, not just in their stream, but through the promising quartz veins found through most of the Coromandel territory.



Early gold mining meant hard work. The simplest method was panning the stream's gravel bed for flakes of gold. Easy pickings for first-comers. Next was the use of a sluice box, where gravel and sand were shoveled into the top grate where the smaller bits would be washed over the lower trough. The heavier gravel and gold flakes would lodge against stick barriers called 'riffles'. In the longer sluice trays, gravel was shoved right into the trough and larger rocks removed by hand.

Note the man rocking the sluice box is using a simple water scoop. An improvement was to instead direct stream water through a pipe or wooden channel, and to use the longer trays. The pan came out later to swirl away the lighter sand, leaving just the gold flakes. Often men would merge their claims and work as a team, as is seen here.

Prospecting expeditions through Maori land were undertaken. Some Maori tribes were welcoming and gracious, but others attacked the gold seekers. Escorted by a European settler who had experience with the natives (and presumably because of the brothers' legendary graciousness), they managed to traverse a lot of territory 'just looking' for signs of quartz veins and gold in the alluvial streambeds. Charles became especially proficient as a Maori linguist.

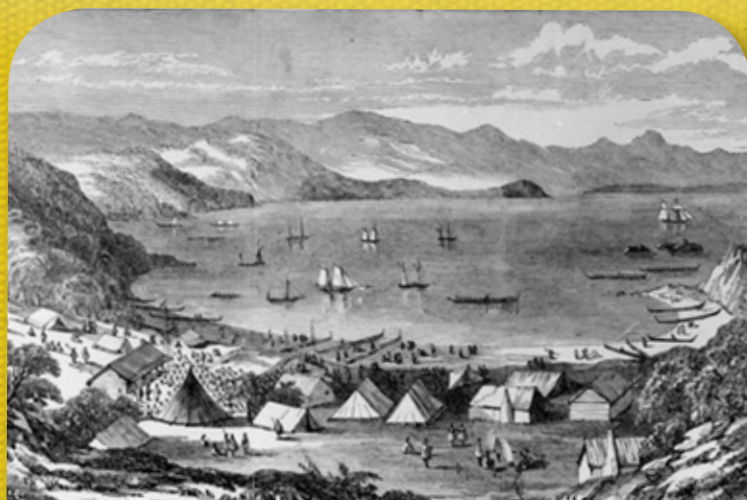
In 1852, Auckland Provincial Council offered a £500 reward for a 'payable' gold find, and Charles Ring was ready with samples from their Kapanga Stream area which was fed by Driving Creek. The origins of this name came from the practice of using a header or 'driving' dam to store felled timber. When the dam was released, the kauri logs travelled down the 'driving' creek to McGregor Bay at Coromandel Town.

The council members dutifully trekked three miles upstream to the Ring brothers' mill, and their find looked promising. However, because of the complexity of the Maori land ownership, not much of their reported finds were actually workable yet, thus they were paid only £200 reward money.

The government did settle mining licensing fees with the Maori for the 'Crown's Kapanga block', and it was not long before the area was

(continued on page 15)

MEETING WITH THE MAORI FOR THE 1852 GOLD FIELD AGREEMENT



Within one month of the land use agreement, over 3,000 men arrived on the Coromandel field to mine for gold, but the rush lasted just a few months.

Land use agreements for logging, gold mining, and pastureland between the Crown and Maori tribes were made in stages over decades. Some individuals, were also able to secure rights for land use or for outright purchase.

The Ring's Driving Creek discovery cash reward was not fully honoured because there was not (yet) Maori agreement for permission to mine in vast areas.

However, in October of 1852, Lieutenant-Governor Wynyard met with Maori chiefs at Coromandel Harbour, and Heaphy illustrated the variety of Maori longboats and European ships assembled.

Showing NZ's early history depends on artist's sketches and watercolours, in this case those of artist/surveyor Charles Heaphy.

Details of Hauraki Peninsula land use agreement of November 30, 1852 between the Crown and Maori landowners.

Area: Between Cape Coleville and Kauaeranga (Shortland, Thames).

"Under this agreement, the Government pledges itself to pay per annum to the Maoris: For less than 500 men digging £600, for 1000 to 1500 men digging £1500, for 1,500 to 2,000 men digging £1500: and in addition, 2s for each miner's license issued. To meet this and other expenses, a tax of £1 10 s per month per man was imposed on the miners."

CRIME OF THE 'FORTIES RECALLED

CALLOUS MURDER AT SEA.

[BY TELEGRAPH—SPECIAL TO THE POST.]

AUCKLAND, This Day.

A vivid story of the 'forties has been recalled by the recent death of Captain Joseph Kennedy, a pioneer of Poverty Bay. His father was murdered, and the discovery of the authors of the crime forms a strange story, related by Mr. A. A. Preece, of Coromandel.

The motive of the murder was callously mercenary. About the year 1848 Kennedy built a small cutter at the bay ten miles from Coromandel which now bears his name. He manned the *Three Bees*, as the craft was named, with a crew of fugitive convicts from Botany Bay—a Frenchman, an Italian, and "Red-headed Geordie," a picturesque character who maintained a reasonable reticence regarding his legal name. The cutter was sailed to Auckland, where Kennedy found profitable employment in lightering a ship. The venture realised £40 clear—a respectable sum in those days of cheap living. A return was then made to Kennedy's Bay, where a cargo of native produce was secured, and the vessel sailed again for Auckland, but without the company of "Red-headed Geordie."

The second voyage was uneventful until the Hauraki Gulf was reached, but the crew had meditated longingly upon the skipper's profit from his lightering contract. Off Tiritiri Island the Frenchman and the Italian fell upon the master and murdered him. They scuttled the cutter and then made their way in a dinghy to Whangaparaoa, thirty miles north of Auckland. The boat was hauled ashore and set on fire, but it was not completely burned. The remains of the boat were afterwards found and formed a clue to the fate of Kennedy.

The strangest chapter of this story is in the sequel. About thirty years ago, and many years after the murder on the *Three Bees*, a waterman waited for a fare on the Sydney waterfront. He was approached by a foreigner, who bargained for a passage to the North Shore. In his hand he carried a box, from which came a strange odour that raised suspicion in the mind of the boatman. Making an excuse that he had forgotten his rowlocks, he left his passenger waiting while he went to fetch them. Presently the boatman returned instead with a policeman, who asked to see the contents of the box. This request the passenger refused, so the policeman opened the box himself. Its contents were portions of a human body that had been partially smoke dried. The man was arrested, tried, and hanged for murder. From his confession the story of Kennedy's death was learned. He was the Frenchman of the *Three Bees*. The box contained portions of his Italian accomplice, and he admitted that they were the authors of the murder off Tiritiri Island.



The main streams were used by the lumber companies to float the huge kauri logs into the estuary and then into Kennedy Bay's deep north end where the tall ships were anchored for loading. The bay's beach is larger, with long expanse of sandy shoreline. - Photo by Alan Duff

Kennedy murder details revealed...

(continued from page 12)

KENNEDY MEETS VIOLENT END

In 1843, aboard *The Three Bees*, Kennedy was robbed and then killed by three convict crewmembers (a Frenchman, an Italian, and a "Red-headed Geordie"). His body was dumped overboard near Tiritiri Island and the cutter scuttled. The killers escaped in a dinghy and set it afire on the beach. However, it did not burn completely, and when discovered, it became evidence of wrongdoing and the disappearance of Kennedy and his cutter.

His wife Katerina was home with the children, and when he did not return, she apparently left her sons to be raised by others, and it is assumed she returned to her tribe.

Back at Kennedy Bay, this tragedy did not bode well for his family's inheritance. Because of Kennedy's death, his land purchases could not be verified. Eventually though, after some time, the Kennedy boys were ceded some 1250 acres at the north portion of the bay, land they eventually sold.

One of John Kennedy's sons, Joe, became quite the master seaman, and in 1874, was appointed harbour master and pilot at Gisborne. He also founded the firm of

Kennedy, Evans & Co, the "company comprised of Timber Merchants, Carriers, Lightermen, Shipping and Insurance Agents."

In fleshing out the history, we stumbled upon an *Evening Post* 1913 article about details of Kennedy's murderers, published upon the death of John's son Joseph. (See left.)

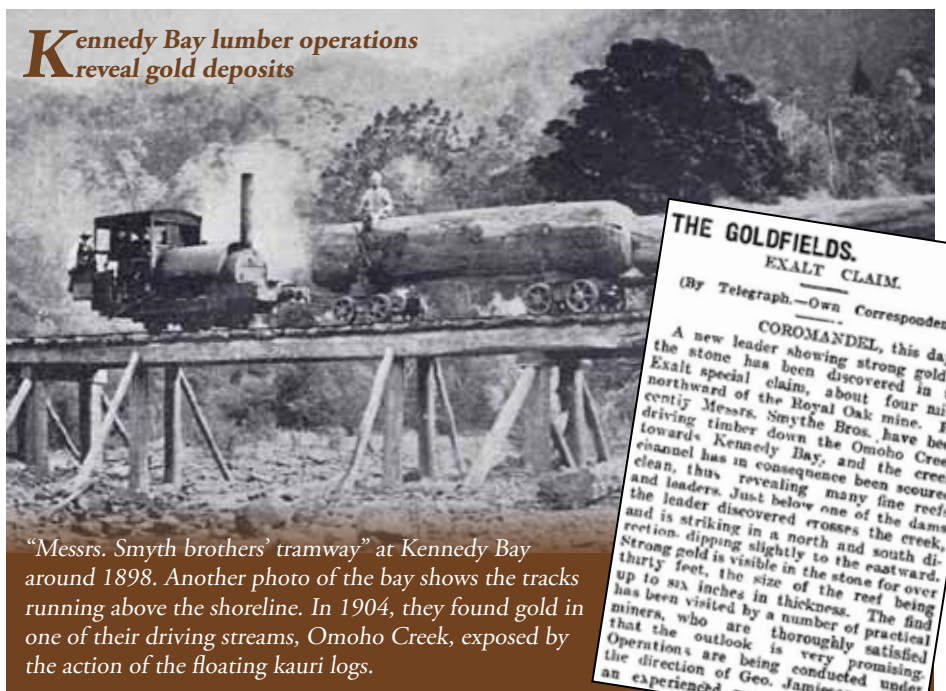
LATER KENNEDY BAY LUMBER AND GOLD

Mechanized lumber mills were built in the region for sawn lumber rather than just masts and yard arms. In 1862, a mill complex at the deep water north side of the bay was built by Alexander McGregor (of McGregor's Bay in Coromandel Town), Frederick Atkinson and Charles Broadbent. The operation changed hands a few times, eventually landing with the Kauri Timber Company in 1888.

Milling ceased in early 1891, and after working out the remaining trees, the tramway and machinery up the Mataiterangi Creek were removed, though a few kauri timber operations still continued along the south side of the bay.

There were some gold mines in the Kennedy Bay Block, but they do not seem to have paid out much; and certainly the area did not develop the complex of hotels, government, and commercial buildings that sprung up around Thames, Kuaotunu and Coromandel.

Today, Kennedy Bay is a laidback remote non-commercial area, with strong Maori presence. The region's industry now? Harvesting mussels.



**Kennedy Bay lumber operations
reveal gold deposits**

"Messrs. Smyth brothers' tramway" at Kennedy Bay around 1898. Another photo of the bay shows the tracks running above the shoreline. In 1904, they found gold in one of their driving streams, Omoho Creek, exposed by the action of the floating kauri logs.

**THE GOLDFIELDS.
EXALT CLAIM.**
(By Telegraph.—Own Correspondent.)
COROMANDEL, this day.
A new leader showing strong gold in the stone has been discovered in the northward of the Royal Oak mine. Recently Messrs. Smyth Bros. have been driving timber down the Omoho Creek towards Kennedy Bay, and the creek channel has in consequence been scoured clean, thus revealing many fine reefs and leaders. Just below one of the dams and is striking in a north and south direction, dipping slightly to the eastward. Strong gold is visible in the stone for over thirty feet, the size of the reef being up to six inches in thickness. The find has been visited by a number of practical miners, who are thoroughly satisfied that the outlook is very promising. Operations are being conducted under the direction of Geo. Jamieson, who is an experienced prospector.

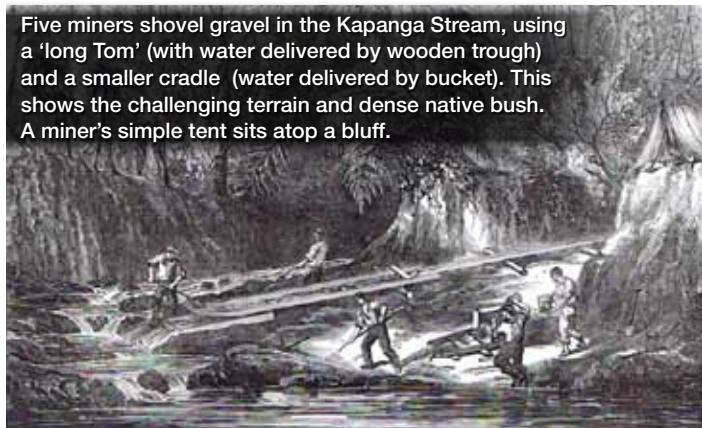
GOLD

of the Kapanga region

(continued from p.13)

flooded with miners. Over 3,000 had claims in the region, working the alluvial gravel deposits with pans and sluice boxes, but generally the area was not lucrative. Within six months, the rush was over, but the Kapanga mine itself was successful, and its stamping battery can be seen drawn on the Kennedy Bay gold fields map at bottom.

Five miners shovel gravel in the Kapanga Stream, using a 'long Tom' (with water delivered by wooden trough) and a smaller cradle (water delivered by bucket). This shows the challenging terrain and dense native bush. A miner's simple tent sits atop a bluff.



In 1857, Charles Heaphy surveyed the region and reported that gold was in the quartz reefs, which meant digging, tunnels, roads, stampers, etc. All needing major money investors. (Heaphy's illustrations are shown on two previous pages and above.)

All these years, adventurous North Island prospectors played 'cat and mouse', trespassing on land owned by local Maori. It was not until 1867, after the 'Maori Wars', that much of this area was officially opened to gold mining. This gave the beleaguered Auckland area relief from the unemployed men, as they streamed onto the Coromandel looking to prospect, work for wages in the mines or other support services like road building, supplying stores, etc.

An ironic twist to this tale of the mining agreement with the Maori is that the pre-existing land use agreement for the Rings' kauri operation gave them rights to the stream to power their sawmill, thus preventing other miners from using the creek's water. Miners having affected claims then sued the government. Well, as they say "it's complicated".

Frederick's funeral notice mentions that mining continued at Kapanga until 1863, when 'troubles with Maori' broke out. Even Coromandel town was deserted. However, mining operations resumed again in 1865.

The Ring brothers lived primarily in Auckland, where both were held in high esteem as founding pioneers and because of their innate decency. Frederick died in 1887, with Charles (shown) passing in 1906 at age 90.

Travelling the region, you will find Rings Road, Driving Creek and Kapanga Road (the original name of Driving Creek). Going northeast is Kennedy Bay Road, named for kauri merchant John Kennedy. (See Road Trip this issue.)



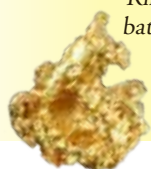
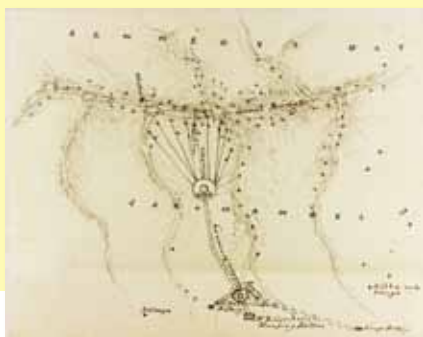
Mine Maps

New Hauraki Gold Properties Map

The small grid lower left says Bay View Township and Rings Road.

Kennedy Bay and Coromandel mine maps

Ring's stamping battery is shown lower right



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NEW ZEALANDERS EMBRACE the BREW



Top, a sign from
Auckland's
D. Stephenson & Co.
Coffee and Spice Mills.

Above, Tairua artist
Paula McNeill's painting
"Over Coffee".

NOT LONG AGO, when someone offered you a 'cuppa', you could be sure they meant tea. No more – it's now official, New Zealander's official caffeine fix now comes from coffee. And we aren't talkin' instant, but pulled. Welcome to the new Kiwi Coffee Culture: Espresso all the way.

When did the tide turn from tea to coffee? In the 1980s, coffee and tea ran neck and neck, even at 2kg per person. Since then coffee has charged to the lead, but not particularly because of the taste – some growth is due to embracing our Kiwi café culture.

Our self-reliant spirit wants to grow-our-own, but we are too far south for commercial farms. Our beans are imported, raw and unroasted, but we have developed roasting to a fine art, as we have glorified the baristas who pull our drinks with that extra special care.

The ever hopeful do give coffee plants a go, however. *Coffea arabica* plants can be grown here, given the right conditions. But extra prayers will be needed to harvest a decent bean. (See page 23 for details.)

KIWI COFFEE'S BEGINNINGS

It wasn't just gold being discovered in the 1860s. W Gregg & Co, founded by Irish emigrant William Gregg, started roasting and distributing coffee beans at its Dunedin location in 1861.

In 1889, 'instant' coffee arrived on the scene. David Strang, based in Invercargill, invented and patented "Strang's Patent Soluble Dry Coffee-powder". His 'tin' coffee (see image) was on the shelves in 1889, 12 years before Chicago chemist Satori Kato, who had long been credited with the invention, turned in his patent.



Described at the time in the *Otago Daily Times* as "an economical and flavoursome solution for coffee drinkers", Strang's coffee was 'instantly' a hit in NZ because of its ease of preparation. The addition of chicory powder may not appeal to today's coffee drinkers, but Strang's process of drying the instant is similar to methods used today: It was "roasted by a current of hot air which develops the flavour more thoroughly".

Gregg's started making their instant brand in 1925, although had previously made a popular liquid coffee/chicory extract. Still a strong player in the instant coffee, herb, and dessert market, Gregg's is now the only facility currently manufacturing instant in the country. Nestle's Nescafé (they developed their own instant process in 1938) brand claims to be the top seller of instant in NZ.

For a hit of nostalgia, visit YouTube's *GreggsNewZealand* channel to view both vintage and recent commercials (featuring the hilarious Topp Twins).

Below, two companies led the
early coffee scene, Strang's
and Gregg's.

Before I go Shopping.

—I Always make a Cup of Strang's Soluble!

It refreshes one so, and acts as a stimulant in hot, sultry weather!



Strang's Soluble Coffee

Holiday Makers!

The most enjoyable drink you can have at Picnics, Camps, and Out of Doors is this delicious Coffee. Made in a minute, milk and sugar to taste. Far superior to any so-called coffee essence.

D. STRANG, LTD., INVERCARGILL,
Sole Manufacturers.

Wholesale Agents,
Tait, Bagrie Coy., Limited,
Bedford Row, Christchurch.

Send us Some More!

The Boys in the Trenches do enjoy a cup of this refreshing Beverage



SEND YOUR SON AT THE FRONT from time to time, a tin of **STRANG'S SOLUBLE COFFEE**. It is a Stimulant, a "Pick-me-up," and soothes the "ragged nerves." Don't neglect YOUR boy. Be sure you get Strang's "Soluble" Coffee Powder.

Eagle Essence of Coffee & Chicory



MADE IN A MOMENT
Goes further
Cost. less per cup

SUPREME IN QUALITY, FLAVOUR, VALUE
Manufactured by **W. GREGG & Co. Ltd.**
Pure Food Specialists
— DUNEDIN.

I put instant coffee in a microwave oven and almost went back in time.

Steven Wright
American Comedian

COFFEE CAPTURES KIWIS

Coffee started its splash to favoured status through the combined influence of American servicemen stationed here during WWII (fueled by endless rations of instant coffee), and the arrival of European immigrants and settlers who longed to recreate their espresso cafés, with real pulled espresso.

While Kiwis were sticking overall to their cuppa tea, two coffee brewing methods were historically popular in the States: the bottom heated percolator and top down drip brewing. The bottom heating elements scorched the brew to such an extent it was hard to really get a 'fresh' cup. In Europe, the French coffee press was popular with the grounds steeped in boiling water and then pressed to the bottom of the flask, with coffee at the top.

Now, however, our taste in coffee is becoming more refined, with a growing fixation on perfectly roasted beans, pricier caffeinated concoctions, and artisan coffee brewers. Yet a surprisingly big part of the world is going in the opposite direction. Traditional tea drinkers, especially in India and China, are turning toward the convenience of instant coffee which now accounts for more than 34% of all the coffee consumed around the world.

In Australia and New Zealand, instant still accounts for over 75% of coffee consumed, the highest percentage registered for any region. Europeans might favour fresh beans, but also appreciate the occasional instant; they consume 40% of the world's supply.

The only real exception to the instant coffee craze is America, which is entirely unique in its aversion to it. Sales of instant have hardly budged since 2008, and virtually all growth in the US coffee market comes from fresh coffee and beans.

Even Starbuck's, which launched its own premium instant coffee line called Via in 2009, was so successful globally that they are looking to expand everywhere *except* in America where even they haven't been able to overcome its 'instant' aversion.



World War II servicemen, whose appetite for milk was intensified by the lack of drinkable coffee and their dislike of tea, queue up at a milk bar in Wellington. The caffè Americano was also a drink from WWII; American servicemen did not like the strong Italian espressos, so they watered it down to their accustomed strength.

KIWI CAFES START WITH MILK

Our café tradition actually began in Wellington with the appearance of milk bars in the 1930s. They started during Prohibition in the US and flourished throughout the 20s. Their success here was fueled by the stationing of American troops in Wellington during WWII.

Milk bars became places for young people to meet. Women would also wait there while their partners were at the pub, still a male preserve. And they became, notoriously, an after-school gathering place for secondary school students. From the 1920s to the 1950s, 'coffee', to most Wellingtonians, meant 'coffee essence' - liquid coffee with chicory flavouring served in hot milk. This created the culture of a sophisticated café scene, hangouts open late like pubs, but without spirits.

During the 1950s, European style coffee houses, powered by Italian espresso machines,

multiplied, mirroring the Italian/beatnik coffee houses of San Francisco's North Beach and New York's Greenwich Village. Wellington's Monde Marie, Harry Seresin's Coffee Gallery, and Suzy's Coffee Lounge - and Christchurch's Attic Coffee House - hosted writers, poets, artists, intellectuals and cool jazz musicians.

And a mystique grew up around the café's quasi-industrial design and architecture, with some establishments sharing space with the likes of a bike repair shop, a tailor, or a cobbler. Wellington's Flight Coffee, owned by New Zealand barista champ Nick Clark is specialising in the 'steam punk' retro look.

Meanwhile, the general Kiwi population, still seemed to favour their instant. The café scene deflated somewhat during the 1960s and '70s, but has since grown in popularity and snobification.

Wellington continues to be the focal point for the increasingly sophisticated coffee culture. Located there are highly specialized micro coffee roasters, distributors of espresso machines/grinders/roasters, trainings, and the Caffeination expo/competition.

The Coromandel hosts its own specialty roaster, Coffee LaLa, and boasts many fine cafés, which often double as gift shops, restaurants, art galleries, or garden centres. Learn more about the big part owners and baristas play in establishing a café culture on the following pages.



There were only one or two coffee houses in Wellington in the 1940s, including the classic French Maid in Lambton Quay above. The local scene was still dominated by the long-established tea rooms, milk bars and pubs. A menu gives an idea as to what was on offer at the time. Even then art lined the walls.

NOW LET'S SEE	
COFFEE, with Real Cream & Biscuits	6d.
COFFEE, with Tarts	6d.
COFFEE, with Crumpets & Butterworth	6d.
<i>(these are extremely delicious)</i>	
COFFEE, with Canadian Doughnuts & Cream	6d.
COFFEE, with Special Mocha Pie & Bread	1/-
COFFEE, and 2 Cakes	6d.
COFFEE, and Homemade Continental Biscuits	6d.
COFFEE, and Tarts	6d.
COFFEE, and Sandwiches (practically all sandwiches are 1d. each)	
<i>(We take special pride in the variety and quality of these. Every day there is something entirely new in sandwiches.)</i>	
<i>We would like you to know that all our Cakes are definitely Home-made.</i>	
<i>Also from time to time you will find exclusive new items on this menu and you can rest assured quality.</i>	
<i>TEA is also available with any of the above items at the same prices.</i>	
<i>Another recommendation of our COFFEE from Mr. Hargreaves, Chief Coffee Expert for Goulburn House, Ltd., Coffee Merchants, Sydney - "Unless an announcement change your kind of "French Maid" Coffee, it is excellent!"</i>	

**In the beginning
there was darkness.
Then God made a good
strong pot of coffee
and got to work.**



COROMANDEL'S Café CRAZE

Kiwi coffee connoisseurs will go a long way to get their daily caffeine fix, and favourite cafés can be anything from a 'hole-in-the-wall' or mobile outlet to stylish venues with lounge-style seating serving gourmet treats and meals.

Coromandel peninsula may not have the long history of coffee houses that Wellington does, but cafés here are making their mark, serving that special memorable something to their customers.

It's seems that a bit of lovin' is the only thing that beats a cup of coffee for starting off the day.



Don't miss seeing this unique Peninsula attraction . . .
THE COWSHED SHOP AND COFFEE BAR



Pottery
Paintings
Gemstones
Leatherwork
Homespun
Weaving

MAIN ROAD,
TAIRUA

Open weekends
and holidays

The old Tairua Cow Shed was once a craft shop that served tea, coffee and muffins – perhaps one of the area's first coffee hangouts.

However, we hear that the coffee was instant. This ad ran in the early fifties.

Historically coffee cafés have done double duty, acting as coffee hangout and art gallery showcasing paintings from local artists.

Coffee and pots inspire many artists like **Susan Dunster**, who has painted numerous coffee themed works. See her art at Colenso Café and the Little Gallery of Fine Arts in Tairua.



COLENZO CAFE, Whenuakite Early to Make the Leap to Espresso

Ruth Pettitt, previous owner of the award-winning Colenso Café for 25 years, tells us they were one of the first on the Coromandel to 'go espresso' over 20 years ago. They initially served Ruth's fine tea blends and fresh roasted French pressed coffee. She shakes her head. "Oh no! We never did serve instant."

The Pettitts recently sold Colenso to Judy and Gary Inglis, who relish the challenge of keeping the allure of this well known establishment alive. "I look forward to the arrival of my daughter, a trained chef," says Judy, "who'll join the team later in the year."

The café and gift shop also features outdoor dining, artwork on the walls – and for the kiddies, a playground and two donkeys, Mollie-Rose and Katie, (shown with the Inglis') to interact with – while the parents enjoy the view and their flat whites. A fabulous property that would make an ideal venue for a celebration of any kind.

Colenso has served Auckland's Atomic Coffee for the past six years. An established roaster for 21 years; they also offer equipment and staff training. This beans-and-training is common among café owners who take coffee seriously.

Open everyday. See www.colensocafe.co.nz or like them on FB.



THE PEPE, Tairua

This café is known for its good food at a great value. Also enjoy an expertly made espresso from Aaron Dunn (left), using fresh roasted beans from the Coromandel's local roaster, Coffee LaLa. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with both cabinet foods and daily board specials from the grill.

Located near the bridge, at the edge of the Pepe Reserve, you'll enjoy views of the harbour and a convenient new playground. What else would keep you coming back? Well, if it only had free wifi! Oh, it does! Entertainment? Check! Wine and beer? Yep. Tapas? Come Friday and Saturday nights. They even do wedding parties and community charity events.



THE OLD MILL CAFE, Tairua

Linda Crozier, owner of The Old Mill Café, has seen many changes in coffee preferences in Tairua over her 18 years of serving coffee. Over a year she gets maybe one request for instant now, whereas it was a regular thing when she owned 'Out of the Blue'.

"Many factors affect the taste of a cup of coffee, including quality of beans, roast, grind, and the care you take in preparation." Their house roast? AllPress, who provided extensive training to ensure that perfect coffee. And husband Jimmy makes one of the best, as well as a decadent hot chocolate....

Linda's exquisite espresso corner adds to the café's appeal, and the artistic display of fine gifts make this a 'linger at' café destination. Located on the waterfront at the base of Paku Mountain, they are open breakfast through dinner. Find them at www.theoldmillcafetairua.com and FB to see photos of their mouthwatering gourmet fare.





LUKE'S KITCHEN & CAFE/ GALLERY, Kuaotunu

Pizza | Art Gallery | Coffee | Bands | Surf!

Luke Reilly, owner and chef of Luke's Kitchen, the popular Kuaotunu hangout, is expanding his vision beyond the small successful restaurant with the 'wood fired pizza'. He's taken over the café next door, and gearing up for a full-on Labour Day opening of the art gallery portion.

The café serves Coffee LaLa, and the expanded menu includes takeaway food for the summer's beach and surfing crowds. Known for being 'the place to gather' – Luke has lined up bands, too! Here is a recent Facebook banter accompanying this deckview photo.

lukes_kitchen: Lovely day in Ktown. I'm on the coffee machine today.

heatherjanet: Sweet! You can make me a coffee

roryeli: I miss you too luuuuuuka! Soy flatty whitening please!



HOT WAVES, Hot Water Beach

A licensed café and gallery, Hot Waves is only a minute walk from the renowned Hot Water Beach. The café, a popular spot for both visitors and locals, has established a reputation as 'one of the best eateries on The Coromandel' – call in and you'll find out why.

They serve delicious homemade food, several vegetarian options and, their choice of coffee, Allpress. Asian style poached chicken is one of their popular specials. Dine inside or out.

The grounds feature one acre of natural plantings, attracting a lively collection of wild birds. Don't forget Friday nights Open Mic and Pizza night. Open 7 days from 8:30am, dinner Friday and Saturday nights.



HAHEI BEACH CAFE, Hahei

After much research, Hahei Beach Café chose to partner with Coffee Supreme as their supplier. They were impressed by how Supreme carefully sourced its coffee, spending time with the farmers, then carefully roasting the beans to ensure all the farmer's hard work and flavour ends up in your cup.

Hahei Beach Café uses the Supreme Blend, a medium dark roast with full-bodied richness, complexity and depth, with a lingering cocoa finish. Not only are all their coffees double shots, they use organic milk. As it's not always hot drink weather in the sunny Coromandel, try their amazing and refreshing iced coffees. By the way, their decaf roast is Swiss water processed, not chemically decaffeinated.

A licenced café, Summer hours are 7 days from 8am, for breakfast and lunch with their gluten-free menu options becoming quite popular. See more at www.haheibeachcafe.com or like them on Facebook.

When Admiral Josephus "Joe" Daniels became Chief of Naval Operations in 1913, he outlawed alcohol on board ships.

He ordered coffee become the beverage of service on the ships, hence the term "Cup of Joe."



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LOCAL

Roasters

Winner of 14 awards, Coffee LaLa is the Coromandel's only commercial roaster. Located in Kuaotunu, owners Mark Tugendhaft and Nedilka Radojkovich started roasting coffee for themselves and friends in 2002, using improvised popcorn makers. A friend helped them make custom roasters from spare parts, and these unique roasters inspired unique methods of roasting. Their motto of "We take our time and do it right" has resulted in a boom for their 'homegrown' business.

Mark explains his custom approach, "We have learned how to roast individual coffee origins separately so that so that each reaches its full potential of flavour and character. We then blend different origins to create a full bodied coffee with a complex and rich taste. This is the secret to creating our 'insanely good' coffee. Not every coffee company does it this way. It is more difficult & takes longer."

Like other coffee roasters, LaLa provides a full service outlook, not only delivering freshly roasted coffee, but selling/leasing/installing espresso machines, backed up with staff training and maintenance. Order online at www.coffeelala.com.



THE LOST SPRING LICENSED CAFÉ & RESTAURANT, Whitianga

Visit The Lost Spring for a truly unique experience. Imagine being transported to Shangri-La, a tropical paradise of palm trees, enchanted caverns, and soothing hot healing mineral springs. Throw in a few water slides, spa treatments and delicious food. You will never want to leave.

The stunning views of the lagoons from the dining room brightens the dreariest of days. Each time I visit, I feel like I've been transported back to Hawaii. Owner Alan Hopping told me he was actually inspired by the design of a resort on Maui. The restaurant specialises in delicious Pacifica cuisine incorporating top quality ingredients from local suppliers. The Wagu Beef (grass fed) salad we ordered was beyond yum! Can't get more local than their coffee and they make a good one – fresh from nearby roasters Coffee LaLa, a fair trade organic blend!

Pamper yourself ... Come for a meal, soak in their natural spring geothermal pools, make a spa day of it, or plan your own retreat.

The spa resort is set back from Whitianga's Buffalo Beach. From Buffalo Beach Rd, turn into Halligan, left into Cook Drive. The Lost Spring is on your left at 121A Cook Drive. See www.thelostspring.co.nz. -TD



JANDALS CAFE, Whitianga

This Albert Street beachside café is a favourite of many locals (including our featured Road Trip artist Charlotte Giblin). Open for "early morning brekkie to late lunch", it has a youthful exuberance that is quite infectious. Yummy variety of gourmet food and unique baked goods. Beer, wine, milkshakes! And their coffee is from Celcius in Wellington. Ring them for your next party – they're great caterers, too. See www.jandalscafe.co.nz for photos and menu.



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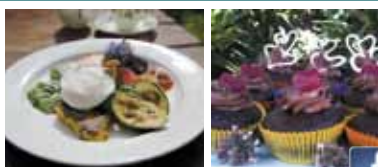
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A favourite of locals and visitors, Hot Waves is just a minute's stroll from Hot Water Beach. Enjoy gourmet dining inside or out on this one-acre native garden teaming with bird life.



07 866 3887 • 8 Pye Place • Hot Water Beach • Whitianga

... in Thames



GRAHAMSTOWN BAR & DINER, Thames

Drop into the 'GBD' within the historic Junction Hotel in Thames. Historic? It's Kiwi-owned since 1869 – the Gold Rush days!

This colourful establishment features a full board of hot and iced espresso drinks, so do not let the "bar" name stop you. (Actually, the bar gives you the option of liqueur coffee drinks as well!) You may pop in for a cuppa – yep, great breakfast menu – but might also be drawn back for their creative lineup of special events like Quiz Nights, bands, art displays, and other special nights like Thursdays for Movie Night. \$25 gets you a meal from the evening's board plus a ticket to the movie house next door.

The Junction Hotel still operates as a hotel, by the way, and the GBD has a function room for meetings, receptions, etc.

Won't take long before you too are a regular! See them on Facebook (GBD Thames Ltd) and online at www.thejunction.net.nz



THE CHEESE BARN in Matatoki near Thames

This working organic cheese factory owned by Kelvin and Cathy Haigh offers a tranquil rustic atmosphere that will be a hit with the kids. They have an animal farm, so the young at heart will be charmed by the critters as you savor the organic goodness of Coffee LaLa espresso in their café. Here you can enjoy yummy cheese platters, kids snack platters, pizza, ice cream, cakes, fudge, yoghurt, deli foods and more.

And of course all manner of certified organic dairy products are available to purchase, and they do Children's birthday parties.

Find them about 11km south of Thames on SH26 Wainui Road in Matatoki. See www.thecheesebarn.co.nz to check mouthwatering menu and cute animal pics. Open daily. Hours usually 10am-4pm.

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OUR DAILY

FIX

A COSTLY ADDICTION INSPIRES HOME BARISTAS

Kiwi coffee connoisseurs will go a long way to get their daily fix. Many we talked to call daily into their favourite café, exiting with cup in hand – which can mean spending over \$1800 per year!

That makes me feel much better about the \$1000 investment recently made on a Rancilio Silvia home espresso machine. Many coffee lovers are following suit; the 'home barista' is on the rise!

Actually, Greg and I have been doing home espressos for over 15 years. We have gone through all those regular coffee... burnt-perked-drip-pressed... methods. Then we landed squarely on espresso and have been enjoying lattes at home ever since.

Preparing a 'good' espresso requires the combination of an excellent machine and the skill to operate it. Greg had been yearning for the Rancilio for years and was pleased when, after purchasing the machine from homebaristashop, owner Neville Morgan himself arrived in Tairua to give Greg a personal lesson. We were very impressed with his knowledge – he has been in the coffee supply business for over 30 years – and he agreed to share more with us the latest about the rise of the home barista.

Statistics of New Zealand sales of hot beverage makers from a few years ago saw a marked decrease in tea makers and percolators, and a double digit rise in sales of espresso makers. The average price of these machines was then \$400.

Lately on the scene are the capsule coffee machines with their gourmet coffee pods. Handy, yes, but they are still a drip method for the most part, and they do not reach the heights of real pressurised espresso machines. The cost per capsule can top \$2. (We are hearing rave reviews about the Nespresso, a pressure driven capsule machine, but coffee capsules are again very pricey.) – Tovi Daly



Grind beans fresh. Brew it yourself. What next? Roasting green beans yourself! Roast in 15 minutes and save money too with this Imex CR100 Home Coffee Roaster, recommended by Neville Morgan. (16 stages of various roasts shown at left.)



A Life in Coffee...

Neville Morgan of **homebaristashop** brings a world of experience to his expertise: everything about the world of coffee. World, literally! In the 1980s, Neville and his wife Elaine hitch hiked through the coffee mountains of Central America, gathering first hand experience of coffee plantations and developing an interest in the industry.

On returning to NZ Neville joined the management team to establish the Robert Harris Coffee Shops. "Back then the challenge was to convince the café owners to start serving fresh coffee," Neville says. "They didn't want to risk losing those customers loyal to Red Ribbon Roast and Nescafé. However, in the 1990s, there was a revolution in coffee preferences; the public got hooked on the flavours and aromas of the real deal and the coffee house scene has never looked back."

In the early 1990's Neville and Elaine started a nationwide coffee distribution business and they began importing home coffee roasters, marketing them with green coffee bean packs. In 2004 they took four years off. "We travelled the world in our caravan, and home schooled our son Alan", shares Neville, "We sought out brewing techniques and coffee secrets everywhere: around the campfire, in hotel kitchens, Italian cafes and even North of the Arctic Circle in Lapland."

In 2008, they returned to Tauranga. They expanded this business to service over 80 restaurants and cafés with equipment, beans, and training in the Coromandel, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

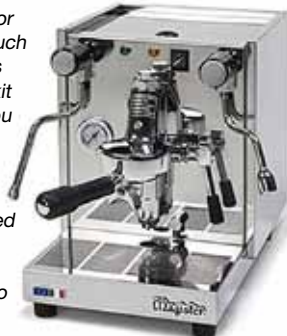
Earlier this year they sold the business and are now focusing on the growing home barista market. After considerable research at worldwide coffee expos, they have introduced to the NZ market a range of espresso machines and grinders from Magister of Milan, Italy. They also import a wide range of coffee accessories.

Besides supplying roasted coffee and green beans they also offer barista training and workshops. Neville is loving this personal touch. He conducts regular trips to the Coromandel to demonstrate his equipment and provide home barista training. "The training is specifically to help you to produce café quality coffee in your own home", he explains. Contact Neville on 07 576 4800 or visit www.homebaristashop.co.nz to discuss equipment options, try their coffee blends or to arrange training.



The right tool for the right job, such as the 10 items in this barista kit – everything you need to get started.

At right is the highly acclaimed Magister Stella Professional Home Espresso Machine.



Espresso just for you!



ESPRESSO MACHINES were common in Italy before WWII, but they did not arrive in Wellington until the 1950s. The early espresso machine shown is from the Cafe L'Affaire on College Street in Wellington.

For many Kiwi coffee drinkers, coffee means espresso. It is the purest distillation of the coffee bean, the literal essence of a bean – and the machines to capture this essence have been evolving since the 1800s. Louis Bernard Rabaut used steam to force hot water through grounds, creating the first 'espresso' machine in 1822.

A steam brewing machine shown at the 1896 World's Fair held claim to brewing 3000 cups per hour. However the temperature of direct steam is too hot for a good brew: 90-96°C is best. And, with the correct pressure, the water penetrates the grounds rather than just flowing around them. More oils! More crema!

Luigi Bezzerà then came up with an improvement, and Pavoni manufactured this design starting in 1905. The early designs



Pulling the Brew

Want to produce an espresso like your favourite barista? You can get everything you need here in NZ. Usually coffee drinkers will upgrade from instant to pre-ground beans. Then up the ante to packed whole beans and a burr 'doser' grinder.

Brewing methods have also improved, instant to perc to drip or French press plunger. Perhaps you use a two-tiered stovetop espresso maker...talk about boiled! Some, though, set their sights on "the promised land," and that's where Neville comes in.

If you want to hit the bulls eye with coffee, you will not stop until you have a real professional style espresso machine with milk steamer. You can even buy green beans and roast them yourself. And no more blade grinder for you! The best bet is a burr grinder, easily adjusted for a consistent grind. Some models will dispense the perfect dose. To complete the package, the home barista will need a barista kit. This kit is customised for the NZ home barista. It contains all you need: tamper, thermometer, milk jug, dump box and other items (see bottom left).

Probably topping the obsessive's wish list will be your own coffee roaster, a real step up from the inconsistency of using an electric popcorn popper. You can purchase an Imex Home Coffee Roaster. Full instructions are provided along with customised green bean blending. (See www.homebaristashop.co.nz for a video demo of the roaster.)

As Coromandel roaster Coffee LaLa says, "Each type of bean has its own roasting needs to reveal its best. "Some tell by the numbers of 'crack' sounds the beans make," he says. (See roast chart bottom left.)

The espresso machine is the big allure. It is a very hands-on device, with knobs, and precision fit elements. Don't know how to use it? Or how to steam that milk? Not to worry, help is at hand. Neville will train all of us 'wannabe' baristas. Just as he has for hundreds of café baristas throughout NZ. Individual or group sessions.

Neville Morgan conducting one of his many café barista trainings.

Left is the high end burr grinder we purchased – a Magister MMD6.



were sometimes a recipe for mishap; the units featured a tall boiling chamber, and scalding blowouts did happen.

Direct steam could deliver only a fraction of the 112-126 psi needed. One of the many design improvements featured an air piston to create the pressure to force hot water through the coffee. The piston was directly pulled or had the assist of a spring mechanism. When you see a barista pulling down on the lever, they are usually activating the spring, which then powers the piston.

Hot water is forced through the sturdy metal filter holder, which is tightly sealed to prevent hot grounds from shooting out. There is only one place for that coffee to go: through the spout and into the cup.

Achille Gaggia developed one of his first machines in 1938, with design improvements on the piston/lever and optimum water temperature, creating a luscious oily rich crema. After supplying Milan's coffee houses for a decade, Gaggia marketed his espresso machines worldwide, including Wellington. However, they were hard to keep going, given the lack of replacement parts.

There are now dozens of variations of the boilers and methods for powering the pistons, including carbon dioxide cannisters for a personal version. And the designs? Some machines are copper clad and knobby, steampunk style. Others are a slick as an iPod.

Oh, and about that word. Espresso? The term café-espress has been used since the 1880s, well before espresso machines existed. It meant coffee made to order, especially for the person ordering it.

GROUNDS FOR



RECYCLING

Considered a 'green' or a nitrogen source, coffee grounds are a very good addition to your compost. While it is thought that grounds are acidic, most of this acidity is removed in the brewing process.

Compost with your other kitchen and garden scraps or add directly to soil around acid loving plants like roses and tomatoes.

We encourage you gardeners to collect grounds from your local cafés and recycle in your 'grounds'.

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Ever wondered about the origins of the coffee that makes your favourite brew? The best beans come from the tropical zone (or coffee belt). What's so special about this area?

The coffee belt enjoys a relatively moderate climate. The trees are grown at high elevations for the cycle of warm days, cooler nights, and a balance of shade and sun. Most plantations have either tall shade trees and/or afternoon clouds. The top growing regions, like Hawaii's Kona Coast, also offer rich volcanic soil.

Not exactly Kiwi conditions, but yes, the *Coffea arabica* variety can grow here, more successfully in the warmer north. The coffee tree has value in its own right with a lush leafy appearance and delightful fragrant white blossoms, and those 'just in time for Christmas' red cherries. But getting those cherries to ripen is the tough for us here in NZ.

And of course, after all that, will the roasted beans produce a good cuppa? One way to find out: plant trees and wait three or four years for the mature plants to produce a crop.

KIWI COFFEE PLANTATION?

In New Zealand, there are a few small but promising commercial test plots, like those of Rob and Carol Schluter of Kaitia's Ikarus Coffee Roasters. According to this Northland coffee grower, the plants will grow well in just about anyone's frost-free garden, will flower and even produce cherries. "But there's often a problem with bean-set within the fruit. The plants need lots of heat for the beans to harden inside the cherry and become usable."

After a handful of test trees showed promise, they started over 600 coffee plants in greenhouses, and then planted the established seedlings in the ground. They will keep working on optimum fertilization, irrigation, wind protection, etc, in this ambitious experiment, hoping for a coffee harvest in four years or so.

TIPS TO GROW YOUR OWN

People do grow coffee plants on the Coromandel. At your garden centre, look for established plants from Incredible Edibles.

Paul Green, owner of Aeroview, the largest nursery on the Coromandel, promises to have plenty of coffee plants on hand. "Surprisingly, I sell quite a few, which we provide with detailed

growing instructions." It does make a unique gift for someone you are struggling to find the right present for.

Plants do not like frost, nor to be sunburnt. They prefer warm dappled shade. Pests: Mealy bug, passion vine hoppers, scale and aphids. Coffee does not react well to oil-based sprays.

To avoid the possibility of damaging your coffee plant through frost or sun, it is recommended to grow it indoors as a pot plant. If growing in pots, fertilise a few times a year or more frequently during the growing season. Use a quality potting mix combined with extra pumice or sand to prevent a soggy growing medium. To prevent the roots sitting in water, place pebbles between the pot and saucer. Coffee dislikes wet feet, which result in blackened leaf tips.

The coffee tree can grow between two to four metres in size. Account for this if using a container. Do place the plant outside in summer for pollination, and look for filtered sunlight.

GROW YOUR OWN FROM BEANS... THEY ARE SEEDS, AFTER ALL

Can you grow from beans? Yes, you can. Use unroasted fresh green beans. Soak them overnight in warm water in a warm spot. Press into moist seed-raising mix, cover with plastic and place in a warm spot with good light – either on a heat pad or a sunny windowsill – until germination occurs.

This can take several weeks, but it's a great way to produce lots of plants cheaply. Plant out when about 20cm tall and only during the warmer months. Just like the taller trees, coffee seedlings are susceptible to sunburn and root rot, and should be kept warm but well shaded, moist but not wet.

GOT CHERRIES! ON TO THE BEANS...

Harvest the cherries when dark red. Soak the pulp beans mass in warm water overnight. Remove all the slimy pulp using your hands, sieve, etc.

Dry the cleaned beans and roast in your oven or a coffee roaster. Once completely cool, they're ready for grinding to make your test brew and enjoy!



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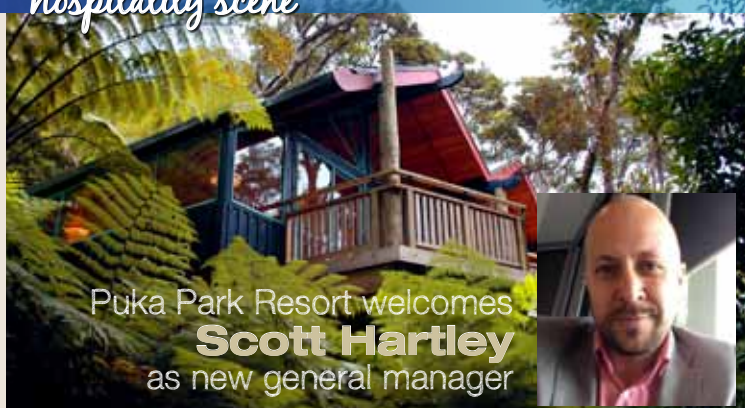


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Puka Park Resort welcomes
Scott Hartley
as new general manager

Scott Hartley takes the helm of Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort in Pauanui just as their "25th anniversary" \$3.5 million of renovations and improvements head to completion. Scott – who hosted guests at the Sebel Busselton resort in Australia's Margaret River wine region for eight years – immediately jumped at the opportunity to come on board.

"Nestled in 25 acres of native, subtropical New Zealand forest, looking out across the volcanic mountainous landscape, my new home is truly spectacular. The feeling of complete tranquility as you immerse yourself amongst the trees on the mountainside – this will never grow old for me."

Stylish and modern, the newly refurbished chalets are in contrast to the rugged beauty that surrounds them. "And I can certainly see myself enjoying a wine or two with our guests in front of the new open fire in the lounge, or dining around our stunning fireplace (like no other I have seen), in the Miha Restaurant." The newly renovated rooms and chalets are now finished to the delight of many guests, and they are moving ahead to finish the lobby areas for the holidays.

"My journey to this point in my career has been exciting, but the opportunity that is in front of me is truly inspiring. The new look Grand Mercure Puka Park is an experience we hope our locals will enjoy with friends. I certainly look forward to sharing my amazing destination with our friends from the Coromandel and around the world."

Scott was quick to connect with the Pauanui community, and is bringing the resort into the town's Summer Festival. See www.pukapark.co.nz.



Hot Water Brewing's Dave Kurth
samples one of his beers.

Three Brews Honoured by Guild

Hot Water Brewing Company brewer Dave Kurth's eyes immediately light up once you start talking 'beer'. The stubby-wearing beer fanatic has good reason to be excited after claiming three medals at the recent Brewers Guild of New Zealand awards.

They received a gold medal for their 'Barley Wine'. "Don't let the name confuse you," explains Dave. "It is a beer, made with all the same ingredients – but a lot more malt, kind of sweet, but still balanced with the hops. A lot of complex alcohol flavours, a bit like a full bodied red wine as it ages."

'About Time IPA (Indian Pale Ale)' took a silver in the US Ale category, while their chocolaty 'Walker's Porter' took a bronze in Stout and Porter. And the name behind 'About Time'? "Everyone makes IPA, and I was holding off... But finally just figured it was 'about time' so I made one."

Dave adds, "Being up against 84 breweries, you get really good feedback. This will help me improve my beers and is one of the main reasons to enter."

RISEING CANS BEER FESTIVAL ON 8th NOV

The Brewery will host this celebration of the canned brew on 8 November, between 2-7pm. Several breweries will participate – expect great food, and live entertainment headlined by Hamilton County Bluegrass Band. Tickets \$30. They are located in the Seabreeze Holiday Park complex on SH25 just south of the Hot Water Beach Road turnoff. See www.hotwaterbrewingco.com.

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WINE WORD

by Gary Barker
Manager of
Goldiggers in Tairua

DISCOVERING GEMS with the TAIRUA WINE CLUB

As the year draws to a close, I thought it would be great to share what the Tairua Wine Club has been up to throughout the year! The Club meets monthly at Shells Restaurant in Tairua – wine tasting paired with a fantastic courses prepared specially by Chef Nathaniel Blomfield.

Most recently in September, we were privileged to have Misha and Andy Wilkinson (shown above) present a stunning array of wines from **Misha's Vineyard** located in Central Otago's Bendigo region. While Misha's early aspirations of ballerina stardom may have failed when she grew too tall, nothing failed with the range of wine we tried that night. With expert winemaker Olly Masters on board, all the Misha's Vineyard wines 'performed' with distinction.

Wine of the night was the 2012 medium dry Limelight Riesling, with a tightly fought contest for second between The Starlet Sav Blanc and Dress Circle Pinot Gris. With three Pinot Noirs to sample, members were spoiled for choice, with Verismo living up to its stunning reputation – their 2010 Verismo Pinot Noir picked up a Gold Outstanding medal at the 2013 International Wine and Spirit competition in London where only 2 medals of this calibre were awarded!! (Note how Misha's theatrical background is revealed through the choice of names for the wines.)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We started off in February with a visit from Heather Stewart of Marlborough's **St Clair Winery** showcasing their Pioneer Block range. Their Gruner Veltliner is a lovely textural wine

with flavours of peach nectar and orange blossom which had a lovely lingering finish. The wine of the night was the Block 10, 2012 Chardonnay. Our members loved this wine, worthy of its gold awards from Air NZ Wine Awards and the NZ International Wine show.

In March, we tasted wines side-by-side from **Tiki Estate**. This was an excellent exercise between the Tiki Estate and their Single Vineyard wines. Tiki uses fruit from Central Otago, Marlborough and Waipara, so we tasted the regional variances with their Pinot Gris and Pinot Noirs. Wine of the night was the very elegant Koro Central Otago Pinot Noir with its bright red fruit and spicy aromatics.

April's Wine Club was the much anticipated visit from Hawkes Bays winery, **Elephant Hill**.



Elegant design instills all aspects of this Hawkes Bay winery.



Gary Barker, Wine Club organiser (right), recaps a successful evening in September with Andy and Misha Wilkinson of Misha's Vineyard (at left), located in the Central Otago region of South Island unique in the use of fabric fences to block winds that rail down the river valley (above).

Presenter Steve Olley was very passionate about his product – with good reason! Three wines vied for wine of the night with the stunning 2011 Chardonnay just winning over the Le Phant Blanc (a mixture of Viognier, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer) and the Le Phant Rouge – a classic blend of Merlot, Malbec, Cab Sav and Cab Franc. Also special was Elephant Hill's Viognie, which has since picked up 5 stars from both *Winestate* and *Cuisine* magazines.

Babich Winery was on for May, with a tightly fought contest between the 2011 Hawkes Bay Irongate Chardonnay and the off-dry 2011 Marlborough Cowslip Valley Riesling. Both wines have been well awarded by the wine industry, and it was easy to see why upon sampling. The Riesling had great acid balance, was crisp and lingered in the mouth; and the Chardonnay was great on the nose and offered the palate a luscious and textured mouthfeel with members pining for more!

Aromatic fans were in heaven in June when the delightful Anna Flowerday from Marlborough's oldest boutique winery, **Te Whare Ra**, paid us a visit. I have always rated the wines from this winery and was not disappointed with what we sampled. This time, four wines competed for top honours with the 2012 Gewurztraminer just holding off the juicy 2013 Sav Blanc, the finely structured 2013 Pinot Gris and the fabulous 2013 Dry Riesling. Anna got us thinking when she asked to liken their wines to a famous person ... fancy having your chardonnay described as an Anna Nicole Smith!

Having to top Anna Flowerday's presentation in July was Marlborough's larger-than-life Brian Bicknell from **Mahi Winery** – with his two Chardonnay offerings triumphing over another Gewurztraminer! Brian had a wee surprise for our members when he offered up 8 different tank samples of Sav Blanc and then got the tables to blend their signature Sav's for judging. Seriously, there are a lot of people out there who shouldn't give up their day jobs!

In August Olivia Herbert came to present wines from Central Otago's **Amisfield Winery**. Club members did a side-by-side tasting exercise with wines from the Amisfield and Lake Hayes range. The 2012 Amisfield Dry Riesling was the stand-out performer, with the barrel-influenced Amisfield Pinot Gris coming in second.

With two more Wine Club meetings yet to come this year, I want to thank Chef Nathaniel and his team at Shells, who month-after-month deliver delicious food matches and terrific table service.

Christmas is looming – an opportune time to buy some of these wines, suitable gifts for those important people in your life! And keep your eyes on the *Cuisine* stand for offerings of top rated, newly released, 2014 vintage wines to try.

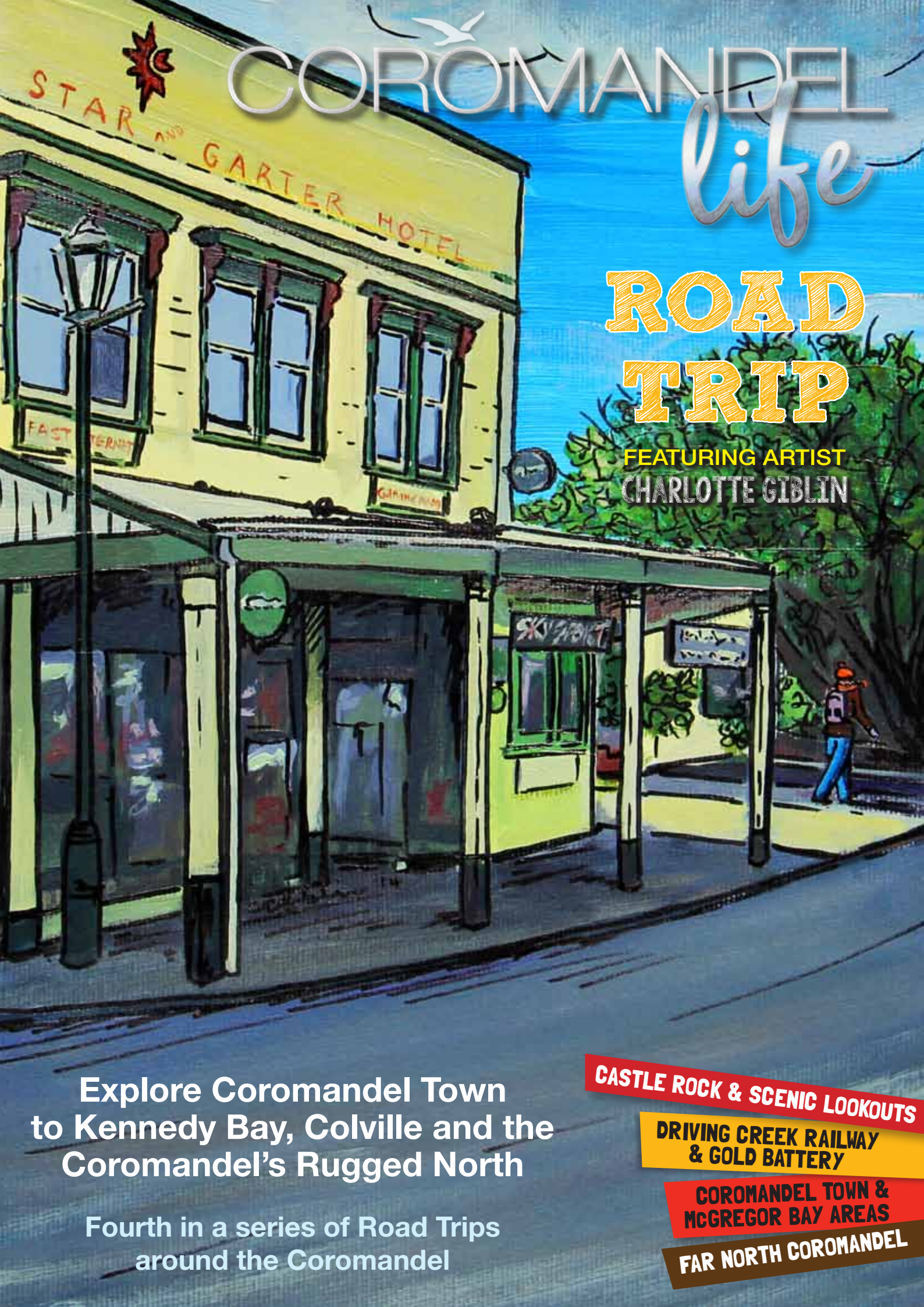
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COROMANDEL *life*

ROAD TRIP

FEATURING ARTIST
CHARLOTTE GIBLIN

Explore Coromandel Town
to Kennedy Bay, Colville and the
Coromandel's Rugged North

Fourth in a series of Road Trips
around the Coromandel

CASTLE ROCK & SCENIC LOOKOUTS

**DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY
& GOLD BATTERY**

**COROMANDEL TOWN &
MCGREGOR BAY AREAS**

FAR NORTH COROMANDEL



ROAD TRIP

This Road Trip visits areas highlighted in yellow: Coromandel Town areas and the more remote northern peninsula.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Artist Charlotte Giblin again leads our trek around the Coromandel. Her charming acrylic paintings and wistful musings that honour the peninsula have adorned the first three of our Road Trip series. Follow her illustrations as she guides you to and through Coromandel Town and the surrounding areas...

We left our last Road Trip heading west from Te Rerenga on SH25. Although hilly and winding, it offers stops to take in views in all directions – back to Matarangi and Whangapoua, west to Coromandel and distant islands, and the always majestic Castle Rock to the south. Look north to see ghosts of historic gold mines and kauri forests.

SH25 takes a sharp left near the peninsula's west coast which leads you south to Thames. To enjoy historical Coromandel Town, however, take a right on Tiki Road.

Within a few blocks, you are transported back in time, as building after building sports that colonial NZ town look with square facades and large covered porches. At the end of Tiki Road, the Star & Garter Hotel holds court (see the 3 on map).

Turn right on Kapanga to view the town ... or head north (inland) to see the gold stamper, an intriguing railway, then north to the more remote regions of the northern Coromandel: Kennedy Bay, Port Charles (on the east) and Colville north to Fletcher's Bay along the west coast.

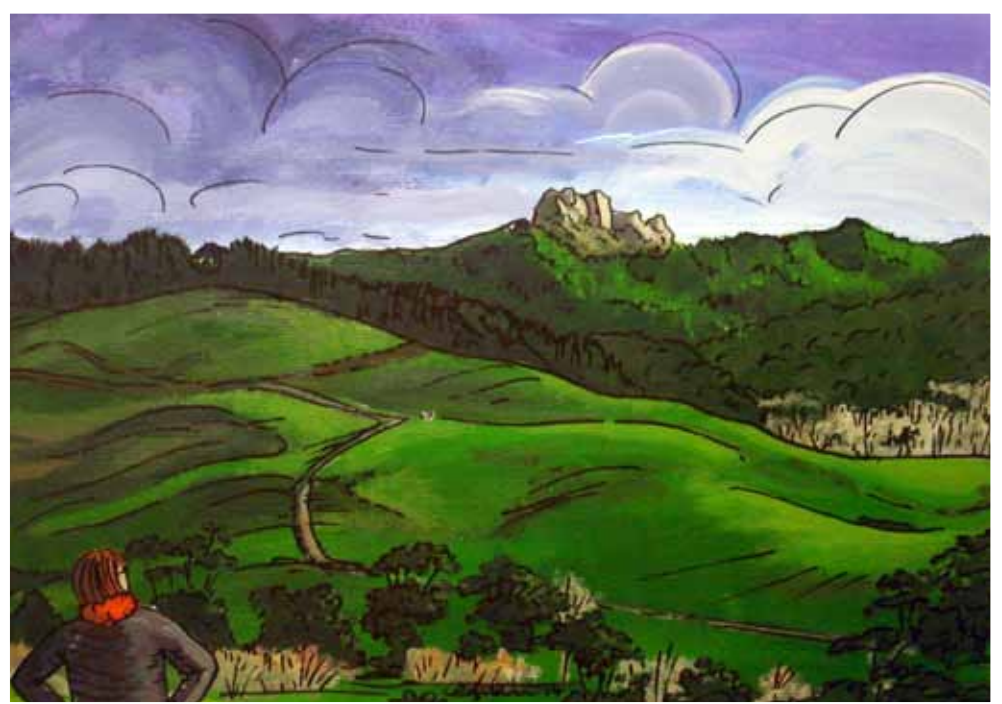
THE VISTA DRIVE HEADING WEST

Castle Rock from SH25C between Matarangi & Te Rerenga

1 When Pete and I set off for a day trip to Coromandel Town, the sky was clear and bright blue in one direction, but threatened with dark clouds in the other. I bundled my coat, hat and scarf into the car to guard against the Winter wind that was billowing the rain clouds toward us at a fast pace, and we left Whitianga, knowing we would have a great day whatever the weather threw at us.

Leaving Matarangi behind on SH25 we were approaching Te Rerenga when the vista suddenly opened up on our left and Castle Rock loomed up against the skyline. We were able to pull over on the side of the road and marvel at the rolling fields before us which culminated in the craggy natural formation, which is an impressive sight and worth stopping to look at.

As we gazed across the landscape, Castle Rock 'transformed' before us into a face, which seems to stare up at the sky, mouth agape. This landmark is really striking, even from such a distance, and I made a mental note to walk nearer to it, as soon as the weather improves!



DESTINATION: COROMANDEL TOWN AREAS, KENNEDY BAY AND NORTH PENINSULA

Want to Climb Castle Rock?

You'll begin your trek on the south side of this volcanic feature. Drive south of Coromandel Town and then east on the 309 Road. After a few km's take a left down Castle Rock Road. Park on the right side of the road just after it takes a sharp right. It is about a 30-40 min walk one way. The track/terrain is not well marked, and it's a varied climb, with lots of boulders, bush and trees to climb through. Everyone says the view is worth the effort, but best be in shape for this one. There is real rock climbing, but ropes not necessary.

This early image by geologist Alexander McKay shows Castle Rock, and its 'gaping mouth' as viewed from the southwest.

Photo of Castle Rock
by Ian Patrick

Coromandel Town and McGregor Bay from the scenic viewpoint on SH25

2 You are given plenty of warning about the Scenic Viewpoint on SH25 as you start to wind up through the hills that separate Coromandel town from Te Rerenga, and it's really worth stopping! There are viewing platforms facing in both directions, so you can look back toward Matarangi, which seems tiny in the distance, and onward to Coromandel and the islands which spread out along the coastline. It's an impressive view, and on this particular day the sun was flashing through the rolling banks of clouds, boldly illuminating the houses down below. The colours of the water and fields changed dramatically in the different kinds of light, and I found myself standing there for quite a while watching the scenery glow brightly one minute and diminish the next.

As you descend to Coromandel, you get increasingly larger glimpses of the landscape you're heading toward, which makes a really exciting and striking entrance-way!



JOIN OUR FEATURED ARTIST ...

PAINTER CHARLOTTE GIBLIN



Charlotte Giblin, seen above at August's Whitianga Arts Fair, shares new illustrations and musings with us from a recent "Road Trip" to Coromandel Town.

Charlotte also plans to assemble her musings, paintings and illustrations into at least one book of her own, but in the meantime she will customise one just for you. Have you also visited the locations featured in the Road Trips? Charlotte will create your art book featuring her paintings and musings along with your own personal photographs, sure to be a treasured keepsake of your holiday or favourite locations (perhaps near your home or bach).

Charlotte is a multi-talented lady. After completing a BA (Hons) in Ceramics at University of Wales Institute in 1997, she spent the next ten years throwing over 25,000 mugs, bowls, and plates through her business, Bouncing Pig Pottery. Charlotte shifted from art to marketing and, when relocating from the UK to NZ (with partner Pete), she set up and ran the Wallace Gallery in Morrinsville, organised arts festivals, and was administrator of the Mercury Bay Art Escape which she just stepped aside from in April to devote her time to painting and illustrating children's books. She also teaches "How to See" drawing workshops in multiple locations on the Coromandel.

Find her work as originals, prints and even her popular cushions, displayed in the Little Gallery of Fine Arts (Tairua), Mosaic Gallery (Whitianga), Beach Habitat (Hahei) and Bread & Butter Gallery (Whitianga). She is preparing for a large October exhibition of her works at the Wallace Gallery in Morrinsville. Contact her at charlotte.giblin@hotmail.co.nz, friend her on Facebook and visit www.bouncingpig.co.nz.

Charlotte is joined on this Road Trip by painter Ian Given and photographers Ian Patrick and Alan Duff. See page 8 for information about them. Willie Lochere provided stunning photos of the rugged north (see page 38).

HISTORIC COROMANDEL TOWN THE STAR AND GARTER HOTEL AND RESTAURANT



3 Driving into Coromandel Town, you can't miss the historic Star and Garter Hotel, as shown on the Road Trip cover. Originally built in 1877 by Thomas Carroll, its current size is but a shadow of its former glory, as one can see in this historic photograph. The room windows faced the impressive vista of the harbour. The hotel was furnished in the most elaborate style with bathrooms, cosy bedrooms, smoking-rooms and lounging parlours – considered one of the premier hotels of the goldfields, and its spacious hall hosted many a banquet.

On Christmas Eve 1895, a fire that started in the original Star and Garter Hotel destroyed much of the business district. It was quickly rebuilt. A news brief of the day mentions that it was also partially burned in 1915.

"Karen and I opened the bar in 2003," says current owner Brian McMillan who notes that it was not always a hotel. "It was a general store for the miners and then a drapery shop for over 80 years. We joined the three original kauri counters – that the bolts of fabric were thrown over – and turned them into one long bar. This magnificent building is constructed all in heart kauri. We still have two of the original vaults that were used to store gold!"

Today Brian and Karen keep this landmark humming, as a 'bike-friendly' bar and restaurant, with craft beers, music, and indoor-outdoor dining.

Getting your bearings

Turn left at the hotel to drive along Wharf Road which leads to Long Bay and Wyuna Bay Roads where the roads end.

A right turn on Kapanga Road takes you north through town and its enticing collection of historic commercial buildings.

On the right, look for a lovely small park at Grove Street. It offers public restrooms, kiddie playground, and a creek.



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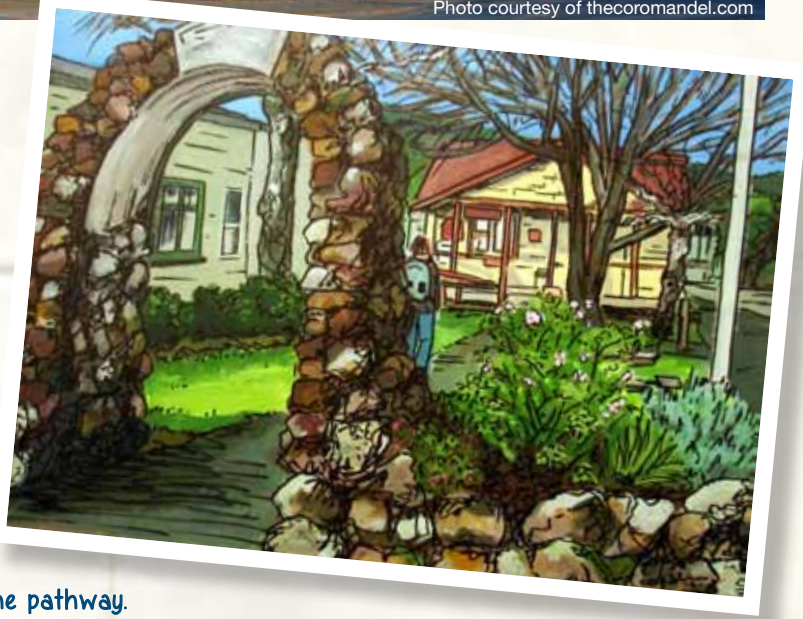
Photo courtesy of thecoromandel.com

THE INFO CENTRE & STONE ARCH...

4 At the historic Star & Garter, we turned right along Kapanga Road to find a parking spot along the street (and I needed to stretch my legs and get a little fresh air after the winding twisting road!). It's wonderful to see the town's gold mining history reflected in the well-kept commercial buildings. The square-topped shop facades and solid, pillared awning that covers large

sections of the pavement seem friendly as well as looking grand. This style of building seems so familiar to me from the days when I studied the Gold Rush at school ... and from seeing Hollywood westerns! One building that stands out on the main street is the i-Site, with its intriguing stone arch at the end the pathway.

Not only does it create a special entrance, but (to carry on with a film theme) it also has shades of "Lord of the Rings" to its look ... it definitely encourages you to enter the i-Site and the lovely little garden area in front. I've been to Coromandel many times before ... and I can never resist ducking through it!

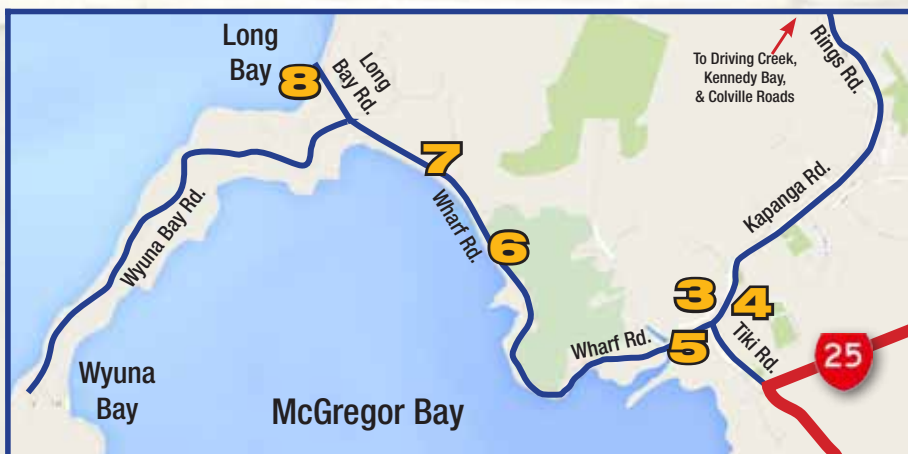


THE INLET BRIDGE ON WHARF ROAD

The Bench on the Whangarahi Reserve.

5 Meandering along Coromandel's main street, we poked our heads into all the interesting little shops and stopped for a fabulous lunch at Umu. We retrieved our car to explore west. A very short distance from the Star & Garter Hotel, Kapanga Road becomes Wharf Road which passes over a small bridge which straddles an inlet into McGregor Bay.

There was a bench positioned perfectly in Whangarahi Reserve, where I could sit and gaze at the collection of boats settled on the tarmac opposite. Pete went for his own little wandering walk, and I soaked up some welcome sun, sheltered from the wind by large trees behind me. A really peaceful setting with such a rich palette of green and blue! We then drove west along Wharf Road, leaving the Coromandel centre behind us.



*Kilometres are shorter than miles.
Save gas, take your next trip
in kilometres.*



AMERICAN COMEDIAN
george carlin

COROMANDEL TOWN'S FISHING BOAT WHARF

6 With Coromandel just out of sight in the rear-view mirror, the wharf suddenly unfolds ahead, spearing right out into the harbour. I was just in time to see a mussel boat land, loaded heavily with its cargo, at the southern tip of McGregor Bay.

Then, rounding the last curve of the bay, my focus shifted to the boats lining the wharf in a stripe of colour parallel to the rumpled landscape in the distance. I loved the variety of colours, shapes and sizes of the boats lined up against the wooden struts, and wondered about their stories ...

I was particularly drawn to the bright red vessel which stood out boldly in the midst of the other more neutral hues.



McGregor Bay (going northwest along the coast, toward Wyuna Bay Rd)



The Pacific Oyster



7 Wharf Road soon morphs into Long Bay Road, and here you drive right next to a lovely sandy beach with McGregor Bay unfolding to the west. The sun was out and the sky a bright blue again, and I walked along this narrow stretch of sand, thoroughly enjoying the patterns of light and shade cast by the shadows of the trees which line the grass verge.

The houses up on Wyuna Bay Road sparkled in the sun ahead of me, and the upturned dingy on the beach made the scene feel picture-perfect. The water lapped enthusiastically to my left, covering the commercial oysterbeds in the shallows 400 feet offshore.





BEDS OF PACIFIC OYSTERS



– Photo by Ian Patrick

FISHING FOR SNAPPER



Above left: Low tide at the neatly organized oyster beds. Above right: Kids try their luck at the calm waters of the mussel farms aboard one of the barges from Mussel Barge Snapper Safari located Te Kouma Bay at the south edge of McGregor Bay.

MUSSEL BARGE FISHIN' & MUSSEL BUCKET EATIN'

Commercial mussel fishing in the Waikato region area is done by reeling in mussel encrusted ropes suspended on floats. Several companies will take fishermen to the areas, but not to bring back mussels. Snapper is the preferred catch, attracted to those lines for an easy meal. Rent a kayak or fish aboard a boat or barge. See www.coromandelaquaculture.co.nz/musselbarge-fishing.

Now, to eat those local oysters, mussels and other seafood, most local restaurants serve offerings from the fresh bounty found nearby, but a few specialise. On Tiki Road near town, stock up on your smoked seafood favourites at the **Coromandel Smoked Co.**

South on SH25 at the corner of the 309 Road is the renowned and popular **Coromandel Mussel Kitchen**, unique in that they collect, cultivate, harvest, cook and serve their own green-lipped mussels – guaranteeing freshness that is full of flavour and quality. By the bucket in a sauce of your liking! Mouthwatering! Open from 9:30 everyday, but not for dinner till January.

Just a bit further on SH25 find **Coromandel Oyster Co** at Te Kouma Harbour offering freshly harvested oysters from their own farms at gate prices. Nothing better than an oyster that's just come from the sea!

Also stock up on green-lipped mussels, local flounder and scallops (when in season). Eat in, take out or they'll courier anywhere in NZ.





ISLANDS SEEN FROM LONG BAY

8 Continuing on to the Motor Camp, it was amazing to see Long Bay unfold ... just a few minutes' drive from McGregor Bay and the landscape seemed so different! The cluster of Islands off the coast here (Motuoruhi, Motukopake and Waimate) breaks up the horizon with interesting shapes and shades of green, and this Bay felt really secluded and calm - a perfect location for the Motor Camp and Cabins. Pete and I stopped here to admire the view and I enjoyed the movement of clouds across the sky in the brisk wind. I'm always transfixed by the evolving colours of water on a fast-moving sunny/cloudy day like this, as well as the tones of the trees and bushes clinging to Wyuna Bay Road, which went from bright to dull greens in the blink of an eye.

Wyuna Bay Road creates a 'divider' between Long Bay and McGregor Bay, and there are spectacular views in both directions if you drive up the hill. The flax rustled along the bank; the water splashed on the shore ... it was a feast for the senses!

Long Bay, home of snapper charters and breathtaking sunset views

LONG BAY is just 3 km northwest of Coromandel Town. The Long Bay Motor Camp and Fishing Charters park offers a great spot for budget holiday makers to stay right along water's edge and inhale the stunning sunsets. There's a boat ramp, fish cleaning area, boat washup, and grassy spaces for caravans, motorhomes, and tents, powered and unpowered. Rent a cabin or arrange for a snapper charter, or fish off the rocks.

The bay is hugged by a valley of wild bush, perfect for short hikes. And that short dash to town will keep you well stocked and civilized with groceries and flat whites.



Alan Duff's aerial view of Coromandel town captures the essence of this village that is so tied to the sea and the land. The town is reached by SH25, the straight stretch across the bottom left corner.

The town is nestled into the Kapanga lowlands with Kapanga Stream, seen at McGregor Bay's lower left. McGregor Bay is protected by the narrow Wyuna peninsula; islands seen distant are Motukakarikitahi, Waimate, Motukopake, and Motukamea. To the right of the land finger is Long Bay, its entire length a camping and motor park.

Take the Ferry between Auckland & Coromandel



360 Discovery Cruises operates the ferry service from downtown Auckland, year round. Sailings also depart from Orapiu on Waiheke Island. This scenic 2 hour journey cruises through the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park offering stunning scenery of the coast and the islands, home to an amazing variety of wildlife.

Fare includes shuttle bus from Hannaford's Wharf to the centre of Coromandel Town (approx 20 min). The bus (operated by Coromandel Adventures) also departs from Samuel James Reserve carpark, behind the medical centre, 30 minutes prior to the ferry departure times. Daily during peak season. See www.360discovery.co.nz for timetable & fares.

Sunset from Coromandel Town over Waiheke Island, the first stop on the 360 Discovery cruise to Auckland.

- Photo by Ian Patrick

COROMANDEL TOWN "MUST SEES"

History awaits just north of Coromandel Town

Continue from town on Kapanga Road, which becomes Rings Road, where you can visit the historic **School of Mines**, now a museum. The buildings in the countryside now show stately restored homes, sporting ornate wooden trim and inviting verandas.



Visit Gold Stamper Battery and the Driving Creek Railway and Potteries

For an experiential mining adventure, visit the **Coromandel Goldfield Centre and Stamper Battery**, just off Rings Road on Buffalo Road. Pan for gold at this one hundred year old and fully operational water powered plant for processing gold from rock. Also a museum, this is one of three stamper batteries still working in NZ, complete with the biggest working water wheel. (See page 13 for story about the area's gold mining days.)

A bit further is the famous **Driving Creek Railway and Potteries** on Driving Creek Road. This train is not a circular kiddie ride, but a narrow gauge mountain railway climbing over hilly terrain, through tunnels, and across bridges, all bedecked with artistic pottery and tiles. You'll get a full 60 minutes of track time (not to mention photo opportunities) on these uniquely designed trains. Potter Barry Brickell began laying the track (and installing art works) in 1975.

The train ride includes a stop at the Eyefull Tower for spectacular views out over the island-studded Hauraki Gulf. This is one of the most popular attractions in NZ, so avoid disappointment – book in advance.

And there is more! Visit the pottery shop, bookshop and Art Gallery. Barry is actively replanting a kauri forest and there is also a fenced wildlife sanctuary on the property.



Two attractions await just a few km north of Coromandel town. Above, pan for gold at the fully functional Coromandel Goldfield Centre Battery Stamper. Nearby is the famous Driving Creek Railway & Potteries. Train ride includes a stop at the 'Eyefull' Tower lookout (below).



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DESTINATION: KENNEDY BAY, COLVILLE AND THE WILD NORTH

DRIVING NORTH? There are no shops nor petrol stations in this northern region, beyond the town of Colville on the west side. Check road conditions and be prepared with enough petrol, supplies, food, and water. You will encounter mostly unsealed roads, and some may be under repair. Many of the roads you can preview by 'driving' on Google Maps, and even there we encountered road repair crews.

Rental cars may not be allowed on these roads. You may want to just park your car and let our guest photographer, Willie Lochore of Coromandel Adventures, drive you north. Sit back, get a narrated history of the area, and fully enjoy the breathtaking scenery.

Campgrounds and motor parks range from fully powered spots to "water available only from creek". Wifi and phone important? Check availability. Of course, one can find baches for hire, and a variety of accommodation options from hostel beds to retreat facilities, motel rooms to campsites.

Surfers will want to visit the east side bays, while fishing charters and motor lodges are available on the peninsula's west side along Colville Road. Inland, just south of Port Charles, the **Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat** offers lodging and a café. Search online, you will find plenty of resources.

Note: Depending on the geographic area unsealed roads can be gravel (sometimes called 'loose metal'), clay or pumice. These roads tend to be minor roads in rural areas. Caution is advised.



"View from Tokatea Hill" - Photo by Ian Patrick

The Kennedy Bay Road drive, vista point and beach

From the Driving Creek Railway, you can head east to Kennedy Bay, originally called *Harataunga*. Driving Creek Road becomes Kennedy Bay Road, leading to this relatively remote northern bay along the east coast. At the crest of this unsealed road is Tokatea Hill and its spectacular viewpoint. Coromandel Town to the bay is about 15km (much unsealed), perhaps a 20 minute drive.

Kennedy Bay is a non-commercial area (hint, bring it all with you!). To

access Kennedy Bay's beach, take Beach Road (the left of two identical unsealed roads) located about 500 feet south of the estuary bridge. The right road leads to beachfront bach rental, **Pukeko Retreat**.

Down Beach Road find a flat beach for fishing, beach boat launching, and other water sports. Standing paddle boards and kayaks are for hire from **K Bay Kayak and Paddle Board Hire**. Find holiday baches and campgrounds, and in the swampy grassland areas, you might just see the stunning blue and black pukeko or dolphins frolicking in the surf! Sunrise from the beach? "Paradise!"



Lady kayakers from a K Bay Kayak and Paddle Board Hire paddle explore Kennedy Bay estuary, looking south at the mighty Konake Hill. In summer, Amanda Forsyth leads a fortnightly kayak paddle for the local gals, "just to get them out there having some fun and exercise while enjoying our own backyard. This helps get the community together, even the dolphins!" She has also started a local 'family paddle' to involve the kids.

Rental rates are affordable, and Amanda will suggest options for all abilities. She even leads long distance paddles to such places as New Chum. Check out her Facebook page for photos.

To reserve DOC campsites & learn about road/weather conditions:
www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/conservation-campsites-by-region/

KENNEDY BAY TODAY: STILL ANCESTRAL LAND

The Kennedy Bay area on the east coast (Maori name Harataunga) is not commercially developed, but it has a few houses, farms and holiday rentals.

Tread respectfully, the residents here consider the land ancestral, and some may well be descendants of kauri merchant John Kennedy and his Maori wife, Rangirauwaka. John Kennedy was an early colonialist (arrived aboard the HMS *Buffalo*) and kauri merchant who was robbed and killed aboard his boat in 1846. (See "Early Wood" story pages 12 and 14)

Harataunga is the largest area of Maori land in Hauraki. Land ownership, water rights, and tribal/crown issues and treaties (some predating even European arrival) continue to play out right till the present day. The marae, opened in 1996, is located on Kennedy Bay Road across from the fire station. It has a red roof and carved gateway. The stunning beam carvings are by the late Pakariki Harrison, seen in this photo from his biography on www.thearts.co.nz.



Pakariki Harrison (left) carved the pillars of the Maori Marae. The stunning ceiling was painted by the recently departed John Hovell.



The colourful pukeko bird. - Photo by Ian Patrick

Winding north from Kennedy Bay

The Kennedy Bay Road north leads to Tuatawa, an elevated coastal development, with expansive views across to Kuaotunu, Matarangi and the Mercury Islands. The road cuts inland through pleasant bush clad hills

until returning to the coast at Little Bay with its nestled cluster of houses.

The road then becomes Waikawau Road. Waikawau Bay offers a long beach, ringed by rugged rocks for exploring, and one of NZ's most popular DOC campgrounds with 350 powered/unpowered sites, cold showers and toilets. The bay features a typical awesome 'white-sand-east-coast' Coromandel surf beach, popular with surfers.

Waikawau Beach Road leads to Port Charles Road which goes either west to Colville or climbs north on to more of the lovely eastern bays. And surprise – a chance to indulge yourself! Head north just a few km and have a fine meal at the lovely **Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat**. Even spend the night and enjoy a hot tub soak with a massage – Wifi? Yes!

About 1km NE of the retreat centre is Port Charles Bay. You can use nearby Sandy Bay, one of the prettiest of the northern bays, for easy boat launching. Next bay north is the stunning 132-site **Stony Bay Conservation Campsite**, which is pictured on our cover. A bit 'stone' but fun for swimming or snorkelling.

That's the end of the road, literally. For bikers and hikers, Stony Bay does connect to the peninsula's northern most tip, Fletcher Bay, by the two-segment **Coromandel Walkway**: the 3 hour, 10km coastal route, and the more challenging inland track traversing both mountains and farmland.

To drive to the peninsula's tip, return south to where the Port Charles Road veers west to Colville, then drive north on Port Jackson Road.

Want to return to Coromandel town? Rather than backtrack through Kennedy Bay, you may find the Colville route preferable. The village has a store, petrol, and café – and part of your drive will be on sealed roads.

THE WESTERN ROUTE NORTH

Coromandel Town to Colville (25 km)

Starting at Coromandel Town, the route north is along the west side's Colville Road. Rings Road turns into Colville Road just past Driving Creek Road. Travelling north, you'll find two fishing-centered facilities, **Anglers Lodge** and **Papa Aroha Park** offering lodging options, launch ramps, fishing charters, fuel, small stores, hot water, power ...

Drive north to Colville, which has the trendy **Green Snapper Café** ... and the **Colville General Store** with petrol pumps. This is the only store in the north! Well provisioned, you are ready to see the upper peninsula.

A bit north, Colville Road ends; follow the signs – east to Port Charles or west onto the vista-rich, coast-hugging Port Jackson Road and the spectacular northern region. Here you'll find **Otautu Bay Farm Camp** offering launch, powered spaces, apartment rental and backpacker lodge.

You will find campgrounds, some with limited facilities, and even some holiday rentals further north, but plan your trip well.

Coromandel to Colville, 25km. Colville to Port Jackson, add another 28km of narrow unsealed road, then another 6km to Fletcher Bay. (Double that...you will need to drive back!)

Sunset from Big Bay in Colville



"Sunsets anywhere on Coromandel's west coast are special! Here, looking across the Hauraki Gulf and seeing from the Hunua Ranges almost to Whangarei." -Willie Lochore

"Looking across the seaward end of Stony Bay and showing the first 2/3 of the Coastal Walkway. Increasingly, this 10km walk is being ranked among the very best coastal walks in the world." - Photo and comment by Willie Lochore, www.coromandeladventures.co.nz

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Driving on Port Jackson Road to the far north

Driving north along the western coastline, you will come to Fantail Bay, with its campsite and trailhead which leads into the mysterious mountainous inland area.

These two remote bays are Jackson Bay Conservation and Fletcher Bay campsites (pictured right), where the road stops. Both offer generally calm beaches and dramatic views and hiking experiences – steep cliff-top tracks, rugged rocks, windswept hilly pastureland, and expansive views of Great Barrier Island and the endless Pacific.

Although Coromandel Adventures' Willie Lochore loves both these spots, he admits that Fletcher Bay is one of his favourites. "A great campground, sheltered from all but northerly winds with the best snorkelling options in the north – magic at the end of the road!" The beach may not be quite as nice as Port Jackson, but the campground is more relaxed and spacious..

Mt. Moehau, the peninsula's highest mountain, is a sacred Maori burial ground, and cross country treks over the 900m summit are no longer allowed. However, look for the Moehau Man, the area's legendary hairy giant similar to 'Bigfoot' or the Yeti!

Though we have given advice about driving, many adventurers have covered great distances on foot, mountain bike or kayak, reaching Port Jackson and Fletcher filled with much gratitude for the majesty of what they have experienced.



Fantail Bay



Fletcher Bay

Photos by Willie Lochore, www.coromandeladventures.co.nz

WILLIE LOCHORE

Our Northern Coromandel photographer

Willie first came to live on a 12 acre near Coromandel Town 36 years ago. Stockmarket trader turned 'mountain man', he and wife Sarni Hart own and operate Coromandel Adventures where they share their passion about the history, the beauty and the fun of the Coromandel.

WILLIE'S COMMENTS ON PHOTOS ABOVE:

Port Jackson. "This shows the Great Barrier Island in the background – always the postcard shot of any trip to the West Coast of Northern Coromandel!"

Stones at Fantail Bay. "Fantail Bay, located halfway up Port Jackson Road, is a very popular DOC camp among fishing folk. It has a small stony beach, but on a very beautiful section of the West coast."

Fletcher Bay. "Fletcher Bay looking towards the final third of the Coastal Walkway track. This shows the extensive reefs which make the area a diving mecca."

See more stunning photos and info at www.coromandeladventures.co.nz

Vista of Port Jackson,
Great Barrier Island and the endless Pacific.

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3 classic rock powerhouses at Whitianga Summer Concert



Heart, Foreigner and Three Dog Night will join forces for one super packed day of music at the Whitianga Summer Concert on the Whitianga Waterways Arena.

The concert, presented by Greenstone Entertainment, is on Sunday 25 January, Auckland Anniversary Weekend.

These iconic classic rock artists will pump out some of their legendary hits including Heart's chart toppers ("Alone," "Barracuda", and "These Dreams") Foreigner's enduring anthems ("Juke Box Hero", "I Want to Know What Love Is", and "Waiting for a Girl Like You"), plus Three Dog Night's #1 Billboard hits ("Mama Told Me [Not to Come]", "Black and White", and "Joy To The World").

Opening the Whitianga Summer Concert will be NZ duo Simon Claxton and David Shanhun.

WHITIANGA SUMMER CONCERT

Whitianga Waterways Arena
Sunday 25 January 2015

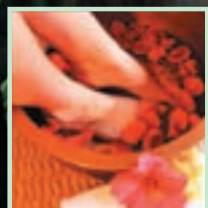
10am	Car Park Open
11am	Gates Open
11.30am	Simon Claxton & David Shanhun
1pm	Three Dog Night
3pm	Foreigner
5pm	Heart
6.30pm	Concert finishes

Families welcome; children under 14 free with accompanying adult. Bring your own picnic and non-alcoholic beverages, although there will be a wide range of food and beverages including beer, wine and cider for purchase. Cash out facilities also available. Buses available to concert, but must be pre-booked through Ticketek.

Limited tickets for locals are only \$89 (plus booking fee) at Whitianga i-Site, Thames i-Site, i-Site Te Aroha, Tairua Info Centre, Pauanui Info Centre & Info Plus Whangamata; or \$99 (plus booking fee) through www.ticketek.co.nz (0800 TICKETEK).

See www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz or find them on Facebook

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Bathtub Races

Labour Weekend

by Carol Wright

Sunday 26th October • 10.30am - 2pm

This 'duckie' buoy is displayed atop Kevin Shaw's Whitianga Plumbing shop sign. Here duckie dons a winter scarf, but soon will change to more suitable attire for the Labour Weekend race. Kevin, a keen racer himself, organised the first Whitianga races in 2010.

Rubba dub tub!

Why would anyone ever race bathtubs? Lest you think this is something like a madcap rubber ducky paddfest (and there are such races), think again. These small craft, built around the bulk of a real bathtub have supportive hulls similar to a jetski, with hefty outboard motors that can send a bathtub flying.

However, one cannot get over the innate silliness of it all, with costumes likely to be encouraged as they were for September's 'poker fun run' to Coroglen as racers dressed in Western outfits. And not to leave out the rubber ducky; kingsize versions of the noble bird have been drafted as racing buoys, but it is a serious business and seriously good

fun. Many Whitianga businesses have gotten involved as this becomes quite the latest craze round town!! New Zealand Bath Tub Racing could well become a future competitive sport!

TUBS, AHOY! IN WHITIANGA

How did this come to be on the Coromandel? Kevin Shaw, organised the original Whitianga bathtub race in 2010, after going to a racing event in Waihi. Kevin is owner of Whitianga Plumbing & Drainage, so sponsorship was a no brainer.

The first local bathtub race was held over Labour Weekend 2010 at Whitianga Waterways. "We had at least 12 men entered and 6 women," says Kevin. "Now we expect 20-30 entries from the regions – Bay of Islands, Auckland, Whitianga, Hamilton, Waihi and Tauranga."

Races were held Anniversary Weekend 2011 at Waihi Beach; Easter 2011 at Brophy's Beach, then in June 2011 a Winter Poker Run was held. Each of those dates have become annual events, along with the Whitianga Labour weekend races.

And now... new bathtub vessels are being built in workshops all around town as others improve upon theirs, preparing to join in on the fun.

"Our race is now a NZ National Series", explains Kevin, "with the final championship held in the Bay of Islands. The winner goes on to Canada

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A SOGGY COROGLLEN POKER RUN

The official bathtub race is not the only event for tubbers. There are some events just for fun. The Coroglen Poker Run took place on a rainy September 14th – "45 km of Bathtub Fun" – from the Robinson Road Boat Ramp, over the estuary, and up the Waiwawa River to Coroglen. Costume theme was Cowboys and Indians, and soggy racers combined cowboy outfits and war bonnets with foul weather gear.

With a few capsizes along the way, especially in the rapids near Gumtown Hall in Coroglen, wet racers made their way to checkpoints along the river where they collected cards for their poker hand. The cash prize went to Kevin Shaw who finished with the best hand – a straight!



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Bathtub Racing NZ



to represent NZ". Englefield is now the major sponsor of the annual Labour Weekend races with Pacific Coast Marine and Whitianga Plumbing supporting sponsors.

JOHN BOOKER COMPETES IN NANAIMO, CANADA

This year was the first time NZ sent a racer to Nanaimo's Great International World Championship Bathtub Race, and John Booker of Pacific Coast Marine won the honour when he claimed victory at the Bay of Islands

Bathtub Racing Classic (shown right).

Although bathtub racing is relatively new to Kiwis, this summer (well, summer if you were in Canada!) saw the 49th historic year of this endurance race in British Columbia's Nanaimo. "Well," explained one brain rattled racer at the finish, "bathtub racing is for Nanaimo like the Calgary Stampede is for Calgary, or maybe the World's Cup of soccer is for Brazil."

Air NZ flew John and family to Canada, where he spent several days prepping a 'loaner tub'



Continued next page.

turbo tubbies



Kevin Shaw guns it



Soggy racer Tui Slater from Opuia secured a loaner for the Coroglen race. Here, she collects a card at the mangrove swamp. Tui got hooked on tubs when partner Mark Williamson raced against John Booker last May. Above: Tui sports a cow hat costume.

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Continued from previous page.

for the bone-shaking punishment it would endure in the competition, thanks to the generous support from the Canadians. Kiwi races are as short as ten minutes, but this Nanaimo 57-59 km ocean race weaves up the coast and around some islands.

The operator sits in the tub, ups the throttle and the boat flies over the water, kicking up a keen spray and often going airborne when hitting a wave or wake. Each racer is escorted by a personal chase boat and wife Chrissie was aboard John's (bedecked with the NZ flag) ready to aid and assist.

Booker swept up to shore with his Stock Class racer, stumbling on shaky sea legs



(as most racers did) uphill to ring the bell on the finish platform. He trailed the overall winner Nathan Barlow (in the speedier Super Modified class) by 37 minutes. He was told in most races over half of the competitors don't finish. John tells TV interviewers at the finish line (above) that he had fuel line problems and

had to bail the boat out twice during the race. John jokingly added that he stole the tub from his wife's bathroom for his first boat because, as John shared, "In NZ, competitors must use a real bathtub and its base has to stick through the bottom of the hull." (Regulations for the Nanaimo race allow tub 'shapes' to be made from fibreglass and the hull can cover the tub itself.)

When asked "why the heck did you come all the way from New Zealand for this!?" John answered "I'm addicted."

Plans are in the works to build a boat and have it stored in Nanaimo for Kiwi champs to use every year.




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11TH ANNUAL WHITIANGA DIVE FESTIVAL • 28-30 NOVEMBER

Celebrating Whitianga's Water World

Dive Zone Whitianga, organiser once again for the Whitianga Dive Festival, has planned a number of different underwater events for divers of all levels, as well as a full schedule of contests, challenges, food, fun, sun, socializing, networking, education, and even treasure hunting.

The festival spans three days, Friday through Sunday, but participants can choose to come for a day, one event, one party. "And awesome prizes will be given – over \$20,000 worth", says Dive Zone's Linda Bird, "including diving Niue in 2015!"

Kicking off on Friday will be a two division Underwater Photography Competition. Entrants can shoot with a disposable (cameras provided) or a digital camera. The flora and fauna of the Mercury Bay always provides plenty of amazing photography opportunities.



For those not into picture taking there is the Great Cray Hunt or the Spearfishing competition. Prizes awarded for closest to the "mystery" weight for male and female cray and the NZUA trophy event for the biggest cray.



Saturday's Cray Hunt (see above) and Spearfishing Competitions



SHARKMAN RILEY ELLIOTT SPEAKS AT FRIDAY'S GATHERING

There is no charge for this social evening held at the Dive Zone Store on Blacksmith Lane. Network

with fellow attendees while enjoying a sausage and cold bevvie. TV's "Sharkman" Riley Elliott will speak. (Riley was recently featured at a TEDx lecture in Auckland and in *Coromandel Life's* Summer 2014 issue.)

SATURDAY EVENTS AT BUFFALO BEACH IN WHITIANGA

A great day for the family to bring a picnic and rug to enjoy the games in the sunshine.

Sponsor companies Mares, Beuchat and Apollo will be on hand to prize the treasure hunts – one on the sand for the kids and the other in the water for adults.

The highly competitive trophy event, the Scuba Olympic challenge, will take place in the afternoon. Major prizes will be awarded in the Mares Prize Stand on the beach.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER AND DANCING AT SALT RESTAURANT

A great evening follows with the Pacific Voyager fancy dress dinner and dancing on the Marina Deck at Salt Restaurant. Awesome prizes for best dressed so use your imagination and dress using this marine based theme.

SUNDAY MORNING BBQ BREAKFAST AND PRIZE GIVING

It's back to the Marina Deck at Salt Restaurant for the major prize give-aways and BBQ Breakfast. "We have some wicked major prizes to be given away including the grand prize of a dive trip for two to somewhere warm and tropical", says Linda.

Dive Zone Whitianga acknowledges the support of Mares, Beuchat, Apollo, NZ Underwater Association and Mission Kayaks, whose participation helps make this event such a great weekend of fun for divers and their families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See www.divefestival.co.nz for the detailed programme or contact Linda at Dive Zone on 07-8671580 or mobile 0274-827273 for reservations and details.

Saturday's Olympic Scuba Challenge Competition on Whitianga's Buffalo Beach



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11th Annual

WHITIANGA DIVE FESTIVAL 2014

Fri - Sun • 28-30 November

Festival at a Glance

Check details at www.divefestival.co.nz

FRIDAY - Competitions:

Underwater Photography
Crayfish Hunt & Spearfishing.

Evening: Social Gathering at Dive Zone
with speaker Sharkman Riley Elliott

SATURDAY - Buffalo Beach
Beach and water treasure hunts
Olympic Scuba Challenge

Evening: "Pacific Voyagers" Gala
Dinner and Dancing at Salt Restaurant

SUNDAY - BBQ Breakfast and Prize
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the adjacent world famous Cathedral Cove. Hahei is close to Hot Water
Beach, where you can dig your own hot tub in the sand.

Explore the hidden caves along the scenic coastline or snorkel and kayak
in the Hahei Marine Reserve. Ashore, savour Hahei's fine restaurants
and cafes, browse galleries, gift shops, and farmers markets. You'll find
accommodation for every budget.



*"Cathedral Cove" by Gary Burrett, a descendant of the Harsants, one of the
first families to settle the area. His mum is Joan Harsant Burrett, daughter
of Florence Marie Harsant (see below). View his work at Mosaic Gallery in
Whitianga and www.mercurybayartescape.com/artists/gary-burrett*

More than just a meeting hall...

HAHEI COMMUNITY CENTRE and LIBRARY



Easter marked the Hahei celebration of the 're-opening'
of a newly renovated and fully refurbished Centre and
Library. This \$250,000 renovation was a 5 year project.

Judy Russell, who spearheaded the fundraising efforts, says, "Thanks
to efforts of all involved, we are now able to accommodate 5-95 for
weddings, meetings, workshops and events of all sorts. Besides a new
kitchen and toilets, we've extended both the hall and library. We've also
built a larger deck which opens onto Council reserve." She notes that
there is even space for a marquee.

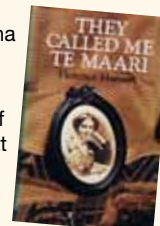
The centre is located at 50 Hahei Beach Road behind the Fire Station.
Contact Judy on 07 866 3599 for all enquiries.

HAHEI FLORENCE HARSANT LIBRARY

The newly expanded library adjoins the centre and is named in honour of
Florence Marie Harsant...nurse (tangling with both smallpox and influenza
epidemics), teacher, author, friend of and advocate for the Maori, and a
WCTU campaigner against the drink. Florence died in 1994 at
age 102, and to honour her rich life, she was given both a Pakeha
service and a tangihanga at Matai Whetu marae near Thames.

After the Wigmore family, the Harsant clan settled the Hahei
lands. See our Summer 2014 *Coromandel Life* online for story of
these pioneers. (Read her fascinating autobiography, available at
the library, or find her biography online.)

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CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND and HAHEI TENNIS COURTS

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Centre. It has climbing frames, swings, and seesaws. The ground is fully
barked for your child's safety.

Two AstroTurf®, fully fenced courts are next to the Community Centre
and available to anyone. There is a small charge, so call the adjoining
Cathedral Cove Dive & Snorkle for bookings and keys on 07 866 3955.

A hidden gem: Opoutere Beach



OPOUTERE BEACH has long been a haven for artists, writers and others wanting a bit of 'real Coromandel' living – no beachside developments in sight of this pristine 5 km stretch of white sand and surf. Its intense natural beauty has an appeal that draws people from everywhere wanting to soak in the laid back tranquility of the surf beach and indulge in the varied water activities in the Wharekawa Harbour.

The beach is perfect for surfing or surf fishing, while nature lovers will enjoy visiting the Wharekawa Harbour and Wildlife Refuge, breeding grounds for several endangered bird species including the NZ Dotterel shown above and the Variable Oystercatcher.



Roberta Huffman



In addition to the harbour and reserve walks there are easy strolls along the beach to Ohui rock pools at the northern end of the beach and into the state forest to visit the historic Phoenix goldmine.

Opoutere Beach is only 10 minutes north of Whangamata, 25 minutes south of Tairua. Reach it via the cross peninsula road, 25A.

FIREWORKS EXTRAVANZA! Friday 31st October in Opoutere



The Opoutere School PTA puts on quite a show each year around the time of Guy Fawkes Day. This historic holiday features fireworks and bonfires to celebrate the foiling of a 5 November, 1605 plot to blow up Parliament. Guy Fawkes was the first conspirator caught with the powder barrels, and residents celebrated his capture with bonfires.

Opoutere School's big fundraiser is planned for Friday 31st October at the school, starting at 5.30pm with a reserve date of November 1st.

This 'Fireworks Extravaganza', one of the biggest professional fireworks displays on the Coromandel, is thanks to the very generous support of Jennian Homes Coromandel, Carters Whangamata, and Corocon. Expect live music, a huge bonfire, gala games, and other entertainment, including the DJ, leading up to dark when the fireworks go off.

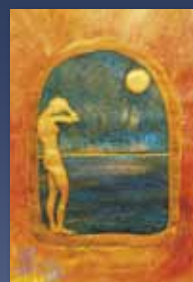
The fair will feature a range of delicious food and, for those with a sweet tooth, there is the ever popular candy floss and the Whangamata Kindergarten will be providing delicious desserts.

This fun and popular alcohol free family event supports both Opoutere School and Whangamata Kindergarten. Family tickets are only \$25 (2 adults and 3 kids), Adults \$10, Kids \$5. Available from Opoutere School, Saltwater Surf Shop, and Whangamata Kindergarten. See the Coromandel Life calendar p 48 for more details.

TOPADAHIL ART STUDIOS IN OPOUTERE BEACH



Moonsong



La Reveuse



La Muse de Provence

GUITY EVELYN

View fine art by renowned contemporary French/New Zealand painter Guity Evelyn at the artist's home/studio overlooking unspoilt Opoutere Beach and Wharekawa Harbour.

Guity's unique art and distinctive style exude the beauty of The Coromandel tinged with hints of Provence and the Cote d'Azur, from where she originates. These contrasting reflections of where the Pacific meets the Mediterranean express a character all of their own. Guity's boldness of colour and an affinity for both the figurative and abstract have made her art sought by national and international collectors.

"...Guity's canvas surfaces defy optical logic, playing tricks with their depth with their shifting patterns and melting colours ... They strike a chord with people from all over the world, many of whom come back to collect more of Guity's art. Visitors at Topadahil Studios watching the changing colours of the sea and the movement of light across the sky, understand..."

(excerpts courtesy of Kath Webster, Art News NZ)



View Also
One-off jewellery
by David Evelyn



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BREAD & BUTTER GALLERY | Whitianga

MICHAEL SMITHER'S 'REFLECTIONS' EXHIBIT

Gallery showcases its
expanded, renovated space

Sixteen original works of Michael Smither's 'Reflections' collection are now showcased at Bread & Butter Gallery on Albert Street in Whitianga. The show can be seen until 20th November.

"Michael has been working on these originals over a period of ten years", says gallery owner Christine Rabarts, "and Bread & Butter Gallery is pleased to celebrate the occasion by featuring them in our newly expanded gallery space. We took over the



Shown at the 'Reflections' opening with gallery owner Christine Rabarts (R) is CL Road Trip artist Charlotte Giblin, whose work is also in the gallery. A former gallery operator, she praised Christine's renovation efforts – "An amazing job! It is such a professional looking space, the new extension could easily have been lifted from a gallery in central Auckland."



The expansion includes a new storefront for the gallery.



Michael Smither enjoys the opening of his exhibit of reflection-theme paintings.

next shop and renovated both spaces with a grand opening on 20 September."

Smither's signature look for this show entails bold geometric shapes of harmonic sequences of colour.

"These works recall my experiences of a young boy with a hand-line fishing for mackerel!", says Michael. "In the early morning shadows of the ships' steel hulls, gazing down into their luminous 'reflections'."

Smither paints – and creates screen prints – in many styles, from deep watery pools and rock strewn landscapes to surrealistic imagery and figures.

The exhibit also features works by Te Aroha fused glass artist Dermot Kelly (right) and floral installation pieces by Te Rerenga's Justine Davie of Divine Flowers (below). "Dermot and Justine have been working inspired by Michael's Reflections collection", adds Christine.



Glass works by Dermot Kelly



Justine Davie's floral installations at left grace the gallery room with its airy new glass display case, shown above.

See www.breadandbutter.co.nz and view the photos of the gala opening reception and new pieces added to the gallery on Bread & Butter Gallery's Facebook page.





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LITTLE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS | Tairua

THE COLLECTOR'S COLLECTION EXHIBITION



Reception Lecture By Warwick Henderson



Keep up to date with the New Zealand art scene by going to the Warwick Henderson Gallery page on Facebook.

Henderson also specializes in valuation of art pieces and collections for insurance and sale purposes.

The Little Gallery of Fine Arts in Tairua is hosting another exciting exhibition, The Collector's Collection, with a special night lecture on Sunday 26 October at 5 pm.

This interactive and insightful exhibition allows you to choose your favourite art pieces and then compare your taste to the choice of the collector.

Warwick Henderson, from The Warwick Henderson Gallery and author of 'Behind the Canvas: An Insider's Guide to the New Zealand Art Market', will review work available in the gallery.

Warwick put together a selection of paintings, sculpture and jewellery pieces he believes to be collectable. He will then write a paper about why he chose those pieces and what to

look for when buying New Zealand art in general.

"I'm very proud of the art we have in The Little Gallery", says gallery owner Sarah Holden, "and this exhibition will give our clients a great insight into the high calibre of work we have available."

Warwick's choices will be unveiled at a drinks reception for the exhibition, but the show itself runs from 1 October.

"Come in and make your own choices", Sarah says, "and vote for your favourite. All entrants will go into a draw for an art hamper, with the winning vote drawn at the reception."

The Little Gallery of Fine Arts is located at 228 Main Road in Tairua. Visit them at thelittlegalleryoffinearts.co.nz and keep up to date via their Facebook page.



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GALLERIES TAKE IT UP A NOTCH



MOSAIC GALLERY IN WHITIANGA



Mosaic Gallery has transformed as well. Owner Morag Yates has painted and modernised the venue – it looks fabulous and really shows off the art as you can see in these panoramics taken by photographer Peter Latham of his exhibit.



LUKE'S KITCHEN GALLERY & CAFE IN KUAOTUNU

Luke's Kitchen in Kuaotunu has expanded into the art gallery and cafe next door. Luke sent us this 'sneak peek' of the renovated cafe/gallery space boasting new windows to light the artwork and expose the ocean view. The gallery will host many talented local artists. Open for Labour Weekend; and check out their band lineup! See Luke's FB page for schedule.

COROMANDEL life calendar

Please visit www.coromandelife.co.nz to view past issues of Coromandel Life and PakuViews

HOLIDAY DREAMS
by Peter Latham

OCTOBER 2014

ONGOING THROUGHOUT MONTH

FESTIVAL - Waihi Goldfest, 1 - 31 Oct. Running thru Oct with events & activities for all ages. Info: Brian Gentil 07 863 3030 or info@waihi.org.nz • www.waihi.org.nz/events

ART - Reflections Exhibition, Michael D Smither, Original paintings. Bread & Butter Gallery, 26 Albert St, Whitianga, Thru 20 Nov, 10am-4pm. Info: 07 8664927 • chris@breadandbutter.co.nz • www.breadandbutter.co.nz

FRI 17 OCT

WORKSHOP/MIND/BODY - Weekend Retreat with Kelvin Cruickshank, 17-20 Oct. Starts Fri 2pm, ends Monday breakfast. Puka Park Resort, 42 Mt Ave, Pauanui. Info: Erin - nz@kelvincruickshank.co.nz • www.kelvincruickshank.com/retreats

SAT 18 OCT

GARAGE SALE - Ngatea Garage Sale - New Zealand's biggest, 9am-2pm, Main St. Info: Adrienne Jordan 07 867 7800 • sales@ngatea.richardsons.co.nz



FUNDRAISER/BALL - Whitianga Gothic Glam Ball, 60 Racecourse Rd, 7:30pm-1am, \$65, cash bar. Superb entertainment, cocktail & nibbles at fundraiser for Mercury Bay Community Swimming Pool. Tickets at Peninsula Party Hire, 07 866 5141 • Info: 07 866 5239 • nnrevents@hotmail.com

FUNDRAISER/RALLY - Cansurf Motorcycle Rally, Gourmet Gala & After Party, Waihi Beach Community Centre, 9am. Fundraiser for CanSurf & CanTeen. Tickets: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849) Info: www.facebook.com/cansurfz

SUN 19 OCT

MUSIC - North Shore Male Voice Choir Concert. All-male choir from Auckland's North Shore at Whitianga Town Hall, 2pm. Tickets \$20 (\$15 unwaged & \$40 for families). Info: www.thamescoromandel.sunlive.co.nz



LEISURE - Twilight Spa Night at The Lost Spring, 121A Cook Drive, Whitianga, 7:30pm. Kick start the Labour Weekend! R-18, \$36. Info: 07 866 0456 • www.thelostspring.co.nz

SAT 25 OCT (LABOUR WEEKEND)

MARKET - Tairua Firemen's Market, 233 Main Rd, 9am - 1pm. Free annual event raises funds for Volunteer Fire Brigade.

MARKET - Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market, Memorial Hall Complex, 326 Port Rd, 8am - 3pm. Nearly 100 stalls, huge variety of craft, food & produce. Info: John Hares 07 865 6007 • jjhares@xtra.co.nz • www.facebook.com/WhangamataLionsMarket



SPORT - Whangamata Adventure Race, 25-26 Oct. An exciting & challenging team sport with 6-12-24 hour race options. Info: Ryan Thompson 027 428 7258 • ryant@whangamata.school.nz • www.whangamataevents.co.nz

ARTS - Art Sale & Exhibition, 25-27 Oct, 20 School Rd, Whitianga, 10am-4pm, free. Diverse range of fabulous art by local artists at affordable prices. Info: Kay Evison 021 265 6239

TRADE SHOW - Mercury Bay Home & Trade Show, Whitianga Town Hall, 24 Monk St, 9am - 4pm, Free entry. Redecorating, renovating, landscaping or building? This is the place to be! Info: homeshow@whitianga.co.nz • www.whitianga.co.nz/events



MUSIC - The International Elton John and Billy Joel Tribute Show, Whangamata RSA, 324 Port Rd, 8pm. In NZ for the first time, \$20. Info: 07 865 8510 • www.toplineentertainment.co.nz

ARTS/FUNDRAISER - ART Waikino, 25-27 Oct, Victoria Hall, SH2, Waikino, (7km west of Waihi). The 14th annual exhibition showcasing local art. Proceeds to maintenance of community hall. Info: Helen Wilson 07 863 6974 • artwaikino@gmail.com

FAIR/FUNDRAISER - Waihi Beach School Fun Fair, 2:30-6:30pm. Help raise funds for new technologies. Info: Heather Guptill 07 863 4446

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

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

SUN 26 OCT (LABOUR WEEKEND)

SPORT/FUN - Whitianga Bathub Races, Brophys Beach, races start 10:30am. (see story page 40)

FUNDRAISER/SCHOOL - Kiwi Spring Festival, Tangaroa Kiwi Retreat, 1299 Port Charles Rd, Port Charles, 11am-1am. Food, entertainment, arts/crafts, auction, kids activities. Auction is fundraiser for Colville School. Gold coin entry fee goes to Colville Community Health Trust. Info: 07 8666 614 • www.kiwiretreat.co.nz

FRI 31 OCT

HALLOWEEN - Halloween Carnival, Pauanui Club, 4:30pm. Halloween fun for the family! Info: 021 966 6153 • patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

FIREWORKS/FUNDRAISER - Opoutere PTA Fireworks Extravaganza. Evening gala, activities for whole family, 6.00pm onwards. Opoutere School, SH25, Whangamata. Info: James Lovegrove/Opoutere School 07 865 9077 • lovegrovej@mac.com



NOVEMBER

SAT 1 NOV

SPORT - Cranleigh K2 Cycle Race. The 13th anniversary of K2 starts in Coromandel, travels anticlockwise through Thames, Tairua, Whitianga & back to Coromandel.

Info: Keith & Rita Stephenson 07-866-8613 • Andy Reid 0274-921-348 • assay@xtra.co.nz • www.arcevents.co.nz



FIREWORKS - Paeroa Lions Fireworks Display. Lions Club provides a professional display. Info: Positive Paeroa 07 862 6999 • enquiries@paeroa.org.nz • www.paeroa.org.nz

SAT 8 NOV

FESTIVAL - Rising Can Beer Festival, 2-7pm, Hot Water Brewing Co, 1043 SH25, Whenuakite. Craft beer from HWBC, Garage Project, Baylands, Sawmill & Three Boys Breweries. Food from gourmet American style hotdogs to pizza. Music from Hamilton County Blue Grass Band & other locals. Info: 07 866 3830 • 027 509 1172 • dave@hotwaterbrewingco.co.nz

SAT 15 NOV

WINE TASTING - Pauanui Launch & Wine Trail, 11.30am - 4pm. Cruise Pauanui Waterways, taste food & NZ wines. Free entry to Coro Flavours (see below). Info: Paul Schrader- 027 498 8056 • paul@theelectrician.co.nz • www.pauanuiwinetrail.co.nz (see p59)

FESTIVAL - Coro Flavours @ the Quays, 3:30-7:30pm. Relax to live music eating fine food, with quality wine or boutique beers in Pauanui Waterways. Info: Paul- 027 498 8056, www.pauanuiwinetrail.co.nz

SUN 16 NOV

SPORT/FUN - Thames Save the Children Fun Run, 8.00am. Great day for the family! 5k, 10k & Half Marathon options. Thames Rugby & Sports Club, Rhodes Park, Thames. Info: mikeandlynhopkins@xtra.co.nz

MUSIC - Graham Wardrop Concert, Bella St Pump House, Thames, 7:30-10pm. Tickets \$20.00, from GBD hotel or Lotus Realm in Grahams town, Thames.

TUE 18 NOV

SEMINAR - The Truth about Weight Loss with Jason Shon Bennett, Whangamata Baptist Church, 301 Port Rd, 7pm-9pm. Dispelling myths surrounding weight loss. Info: www.jasonshonbennett.com

WED 19 NOV

SEMINAR - The Truth about Weight Loss, Equippers Church, 507 Mackay St, Thames, 6:30pm - 8:30pm. (See 18 Nov listing)

FRI 21 NOV

ARTS/FESTIVAL - Thames Arts Festival Beside the Seaside, 21 Nov-07 Dec. Show off your arty best. Treats in store for steam punkers & fine art aficionados. Info: thamesartsfestival@xtra.co.nz • www.thamesocietyofarts.org.nz

YOUTH - Mt Karangahake Children's Climb. If interested, please contact Debbie- 07 862 9105 or 021 906 618, Clark- 021 444 • sales@firestop.co.nz • Hauraki Resource Centre- 07 862 6110 • www.paeroa.org.nz

SAT 22 NOV

SPORT - Great Cranleigh Kauri Run, Coromandel Town. 11th Annual, off road trail runs & walks. Kauri tree will be planted along trail for each person participating. Info: assay@xtra.co.nz • www.arcevents.co.nz

FISHING - Troy Wheeler Contracting Ice Breaker Tournament. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07-866-4121, mbgfc@xtra.co.nz or www.mbgfc.co.nz

FRI 28 NOV



SPORT/FESTIVAL - Whitianga Dive Festival, 28-30 Nov. Based in Whitianga for dive enthusiasts. Info: Dive Zone Whitianga 07 867 1580 • info@divethecoromandel.co.nz • www.divefestival.co.nz

SPORT/FLYING - Northern Regional Flying Competitions, Mercury Bay Aero Club, Whitianga, 28-30 Nov, 10am. Competitions, aerobatics, precision landings & streamer cutting. Info: Auckland Aero Club 09 299 8590

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IN WHITIANGA THIS SUMMER • BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BIKER RALLY- Thunderbeach, 28-30 Nov. NZ's largest Summer Motorcycle Rally. 3 days of fun, riding & entertainment. Info: events@whitianga.co.nz • www.shop.thunderbeach.co.nz

SAT 29 NOV

KIDS/FUNDRAISER- Paddle for Humanity, Tairua School. In cooperation with SurfAid International. Info: Tairua School 07 84 8590 • 07 864 7575

ARTS- Pohutukawa Wearable Arts, Thames Civic Centre, 7pm. Contestants celebrate their amazing creations. Info: www.totallythames.co.nz

SPORT- Whangamata Multisport Challenge, Beach Rd Reserve, 9am-3pm, team or individual. Run, walk, kayak, SUP & mountain bike. Info: Ryan Thompson 027 428 7258 • ryant@whangamata.school.nz • www.whangamataevents.co.nz

DECEMBER

SAT 6 DEC

SANTA- Lions Santa Parade - Whangamata, 3-4:30pm. Celebrating kiwi summer with floats & fun! Starts Lincoln Rd, finishes at Williamson Park for Prize Giving & Night Market.

SANTA- Santa Parade, Pollen St, Thames, 1-3pm. Full of fun, floats & surprises. Info: www.totallythames.co.nz/events

DANCING- Steam Punk Circus Dance Party, Bella St Pump House, corner Bella & Cochrane St. Prizes for best costume. Tickets: Thames i-Site Info: thamesartsfestival@xtra.co.nz

FRI 12 DEC



SANTA- Paeroa Santa Parade. Prizes for best floats, best dressed fairies & elves. Info: 07 862 6999 • 07 862 8636 • enquiries@paeroa.org.nz • www.paeroa.org.nz

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.totallyentertainment.co.nz



THR 25 DEC

Merry Christmas

from the crew at Coromandel Life!

FRI 26 DEC

SUMMER FESTIVAL- Pauanui Summer Series 2014/15. Pauanui Summer Series is dedicated to providing a fun & interesting holiday for everyone this summer. Over 30 events to keep everyone entertained. From the King of the Mountain, to fishing comps & quiz nights. Info: www.pauanuisummerseries.co.nz/

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. For young & old, locals & holiday makers, concerts, competitions, kids programme & huge craft market. Info: Renee 07 865 6698 • whangasummerfestival@gmail.com • www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest



SPORT/FUNDRAISER- Whanga Week, 27 Dec-2 Jan. Fun week of running, swimming & walking in various locations & featuring annual Miss Whangamata. Fundraiser for Whanga 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: 093616677 • peace@angels.co.nz • www.healthandwellbeingfair.co.nz

MUSIC- Shihad with Airbourne, 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

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Whitianga: 22 Victoria St • 07 866 4776



MARKETS AROUND THE COROMANDEL SPRING 2014

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

COROGLEN 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

WHITIANGA CRAFT & FARM MARKET - 8:30am-1pm in Soldiers Park. 21&29 Oct, 6&20&27 Dec, and every Sat, Boxing Day to Mid March. Info: Doreen 07 866 5237

WAIHI BEACH MARKET - Sundays, Labour Weekend to Queens Birthday. Waihi Beach Community Centre. Info: Niria 07 863 4270



TAIRUA MARKET DAY - 1st Saturday every month, 9am-1pm. Crafts with goods & produce. Tairua Town Hall, Main Rd. Info: 07 864 7575

WAIHI MARKET - 3rd Saturday each month, 8:30am-1pm, Memorial Hall, Main Street, Waihi (Lions Community support market). Info: Michael Hayden 07 863 7292

PAEROA FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays, 8am-12pm, Old Regent Theatre Building, 84 Normanby Rd. Info: Norman Roderick - earthnorm@hotmail.com

COROMANDEL TOWN MARKET - Fridays, 8am-12pm, 10 Oct - End of May, Pepper Tree Restaurant. Info: Glenda 07 866 6747

KARANGAHAKE MARKET - 2nd & 4th Sunday, 10am-2pm. Karangahake Hall burned, moved to Paeroa's Belmont Rd until rebuild, (BNZ block). Info: Moira 07 862 9233



KUAOTUNU MARKET - Saturday mornings weather permitting. Next to Luke's Kitchen & Gallery. Local produce, product & craft.

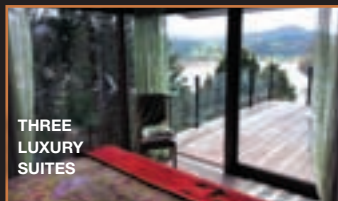
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FISHING- Kid's Tournament. The Mercury Bay Gamefishing Club. Info: 07-866-4121, mbgfc@xtra.co.nz • www.mbgfc.co.nz

MON 29 DEC

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

TUE 30 DEC

FESTIVAL- Prana New Year Festival, 30 Dec-03 Jan 2015, Prana Eco Retreat, Ohui Rd - Opoutere. Extensive program & special events including New Years Eve celebration. Info: Tom Meijer 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 or 07 828 7329 • Neil 027 450 0630 or 07 868 2978 • www.thamesworkingmensclub.co.nz

JANUARY 2015

THR 1 JAN

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

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

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

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: triseries@triathlon.org.nz • www.triseries.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



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 or 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

SUN 4 JAN

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 Service Station 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

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 from local businesses & visitors, 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

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.co.nz



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patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

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 Complex, 326 Port Rd, 8am-3pm. Nearly 100 stalls offering huge variety of craft, food & produce. Info: John Hares 07 865 6007 • jhahares@xtra.co.nz • www.facebook.com/WhangamataLionsMarket



MUSIC/FUNDRAISER- Concert in the Vines, Mercury Bay Estate & Lonely Bay Vineyards, 761A Purangi Rd, Cooks Beach, 3pm-9pm. Iconic local concert. Proceeds to Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Entry fee (under 12 free). Info: Nathan Turley- 09 950 7261 • www.concertinthevines.org.nz

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 • fast25sthames@gmail.com • www.fast25sthames.weebly.com

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

FISHING- Anniversary Big Snapper Catch, 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 25 JAN



MUSIC- Heart, Foreigner & Three Dog Night, Whitianga Waterways, 16 Leeward Dr, 11am - 6:30pm. Three iconic classic rock artists. \$89-\$99+. Tickets: 0800 TICKETEK (842 538) & local info centres. Info: www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz

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

FEBRUARY

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



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 seven in NZ, & only one to hold an Evening Tattoo. Info: 07 862 7320 • secretary@paeroahighlandgames.co.nz • 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



SPORT- The Colville Connection. Three different mountain bike rides available, plus 3 run/walk events, starting & finishing from Colville school. Info: graeme@gbg.co.nz • www.colvilleconnection.co.nz



AUTO- V8 Swap Meet & Show. V8 cars & motorcycles gather at Puke Bridge, by 10.30am, before the parade through Paeroa to the racecourse. Info: enquiries@paeroa.org.nz • www.paeroa.org.nz/Events

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



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MATARANGI FOLKS TO THE RESCUE

A COMMUNITY RALLIES SUPPORT FOR CASTLE ROCK CAFE'S ANDY CORLES



By Ian Patrick

Many learned of Andy's accident suddenly, via Shelley's shocking Facebook entry of July 2. She has kept wellwishers informed with daily posts.



Castle Rock Café
July 2

Although it breaks my heart to say this my beautiful Andy was in a horrific car crash on Tuesday afternoon. He has a broken back and severed cord. At present we are not 100% sure of the future although the café will not be closing.
Thank you all for your business.
Shelley

Like · Comment · Share

11 20 2 Shares

In our last issue, we featured popular local chef Andy Corles, owner of **Castle Rock Café** at Te Rerenga, in both the Coastal Road Trip, and the reporting of the bake-off competition at the 'Taste of Matarangi' Food Festival.

The first of July, shortly after the issue was released, Andy suffered a devastating accident, which has dramatically changed most aspects of life for him as well as for his wife Shelley and their little girl Maddie.

In appalling wet weather, while Andy was driving to pick up Maddie in Coromandel, his car aquaplaned, hit a bank, overturned, and he suffered a broken neck.

With prompt attention from his friends at the Matarangi and Whangapoua Volunteer Rural Fire Force first response teams, and an airlift to Auckland Hospital in the Westpac helicopter, he was then transferred to Middlemore where he spent 29 days in intensive care.

His fracture was successfully operated on to fuse vertebrae in his neck, but during recovery he survived several cardiac arrests. Andy recovered from the initial trauma but has become tetraplegic, paralysed from the chest down, with full use of both arms and the left hand and 30% function in the right hand.

Currently residing in the Spinal unit at Otara and undergoing intensive rehabilitation he is expected home by the 15th of October. Renovations are being made to both his home and café.

In a typical display of the quiet and sincere support, common amongst rural communities, initiatives sprang into life to give Andy and his family hope and courage in moving forward.

Anna Yates, Te Rerenga Primary School Principal and Shelley's employer, set up a collection centre at the school and created a website page on the 'Givealittle' site. By the end of August the website had received over \$23,000 in generous donations.

Andy's mate Wayne "Puku" Stevens at the Matarangi Beach Store set up a bucket collection in his shop, which has raised over \$3000 so far, and then proceeded to organise a golf tournament followed by an auction at The Dunes Golf Resort.

In his inimitable style Puku managed to acquire a huge range of quality goods for the bidding, the golf event was well supported and the day raised over \$14,000 for the cause. The Dunes Golf Resort made the course and clubhouse available free and donated a generous percentage of their bar profits to the cause.

Andy's mother-in-law, Margaret Briggs thanked everyone present on his behalf for their generosity and told the crowd that the money raised would take care of their business mortgage for the next year and had taken away the pressure of any immediate financial worries.

Meantime, Andy and Shelley's nephew Dyon, a trained chef that returned from Melbourne, has taken over the kitchen at Castle Rock Café. So it is business as usual and in due course with some adaptations to the layout, Andy should be



Castle Rock Café
August 15

Holy crap! Puk just phoned to tell me how much money he raised. Andy cried, Puk cried. One things for sure - the café has got manyyears in it to come. This community ROCKS!!

Like · Comment · Share

1 Share

129 people like this.

View 5 more comments



Sharon Walker It was a great atmosphere yesterday, everyone there to show their love and support xxxxxx
August 15 at 8:06pm · Like · 2



Leanne Katherine Rich It was such a great day at Omaras yesterday. What a Community feeling very humble. Love to you all xx
August 15 at 9:22pm · Like · 1



WHITIANGA'S MERCURY BAY AREA SCHOOL

Mercury Bay Area School in Whitianga is surrounded by an abundance of natural beauty, from the Kauaeranga Kauri Trail and Pinnacles Walk to the pristine Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve – all right on our doorstep. The school offers classes in Outdoor Education to help students more fully engage with the challenges of nature, and perhaps even set them up for future careers. Learn more at www.mbas.ac.nz.



Against the Wall...

New additions to MBAS are a gym housing a basketball court and a rock climbing wall with handholds and ropes.

For Years 7-10, the wall is used to teach students an understanding of their physical condition while strengthening their mental and emotional resolve. Lessons cover warming up to maximize performance while reducing risk of injury, problem solving the route, checking equipment, leadership, perseverance, and offering mutual support.

For Years 11-13, the indoor climbing wall is used to teach more advanced skills in movement, anatomy assessment, biomechanics and physiology, risk management, management strategy, and mentoring and training. Outdoor Education enables these students to gain a number of NCEA credits through outdoor activities.

Since these assessments are recognised by tertiary institutes, it allows students to gain entrance into a range of courses and qualifications – foundations for careers such as sports science and outdoor education.

Under the Waves...

MBAS students are also experiencing sea life close up. Starting with Year 8, students snorkel and kayak at Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve. This introduction lays the foundation for Year 12-13 students who join the Marine Academy run by Whitianga based Dive Zone. They are provided the necessary equipment and training, gaining both PADI certification and NCEA credits.



Students follow courses on night diving, deep diving, underwater navigation, and even rescue diving which can lead to careers in diving, eco-tourism, and research.

Up in the Sky...

Learn more about the MBAS plane building programme. Y12 student Kyla McLean's 74 page book about the restoration of ZK-MBA, **The Plane Project**, has just been released.



Kyla followed the initial project for two years, documenting progress & interviewing participants. Copies were distributed to all involved and the remaining are for sale at \$30 each. Proceeds benefit ongoing projects, such as the current restoration of the "Old Coot" sea plane.



43 STUDENTS TO THE CHALLENGE RISE

Stage Challenge is a dance, drama and design spectacular where the students are the stars.

It is part of a global event reflecting the personalities, concerns, hopes, dreams and interests of students. Each team may have up to 140 students from a school or community group working together with parents, teachers and their local community to create their performance. A school's entry into Stage Challenge is about experiencing the natural high of being part of a team in a 100% tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment.

This years stage challenge was choreographed and directed by Y13 student arts leader, Lia Hockley. "We envisioned the dance performance

centred around youth party culture", she says, "and we address the sometimes frightening consequences of the misuse of social media."



However, Lia explains that the performance has a positive message. "Instead of competing against one another and being cruel, it's about respecting each other and sticking together."

The students, a group of 43 Y9-13 students from MBAS performed before an audience of over one thousand at Bay Court Theatre in Tauranga. They had rehearsed their seven-minute Stage Challenge entry since the beginning of Term One, and travelled to Tauranga in June to compete against five other schools.

The effort was entirely student-led and participants have already begun to experience the benefits of working with their peers. "The dancers have expressed how much they are enjoying getting to know students that they would never normally mix with" says Lia. "Senior students commented that they appreciate this opportunity to work together with the younger students."

The diversity of the students involved certainly posed challenges. Performers ranged in experience from those who have been dancing most of their lives, to those for whom this was their first ever stage experience. The choreography was a collaborative process that evolved in response to the strengths and abilities of the dancers. "The boys have been particularly enthusiastic in making suggestions for their parts."

Although Stage Challenge is a competition, Lia comments that there is more to it than winning.

"We've made so many new friends; we're like a big family. We have ups and downs but everyone's just had such a good time!"



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TE RERENGA SCHOOL ...

'LEARNING, IT'S WHAT WE DO...'

Nurturing a Community of Lifelong Learners

From Principal Anna Yates... At our small, family-focussed, rural school, we love to see our students taking responsible risks in their learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Taking a risk pushes them out of their comfort zones; and for all our students this is an important part of their play and the development of themselves as confident, life-long learners.



Kids for Kids Concert

23 of our Te Rerenga School students travelled to Thames in August for World Vision's Kids for Kids concert. This concert was a special opportunity for our students to actually perform with Jackie Clarke in front of a large audience. In the lead-up to the event our students practised 18 NZ songs which was a large repertoire.

On the night, different schools from around the area combined to form a huge choir and they were amazing. Our students loved every moment. Our head students were motivated by the event to raise some money for World Vision. They are planning a disco in term 4 to start their funding for this goal.

Cember and Paige want this event to be their lasting legacy within our school as they recognise how incredibly fortunate we are to live in our beautiful corner of the Coromandel.

New Chum Beach School Trip



Students enjoy the serenity of New Chum beach, spelled out in shells and seaweed, right.

6km down the road from our school is Whangapoua Beach and from there we are able to walk to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world...New Chum Beach. Earlier this year two of our classes visited the beach for the day to enjoy and experience this local treasure. It is a place that we love, treasure and value as an untouched paradise. Our students used our visit as a stimulus for writing persuasively through formal letters and then descriptively to create a movie. Room 4 posted the movie they made combining their thoughts with images taken from our trip. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxkNm5qX3Uc

See more at www.tererenga.school.nz

KUAOTUNU KINDERGARTEN

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Pizza Chefs in Training!

This July, Luke's Kitchen in Kuaotunu invited the local kindy kids to a pizza party where they got to assemble their own on heart shaped dough.

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HIKUI SCHOOL ...

STAND TALL – STAND STRONG

www.hikuai.school.nz



Photos by Michelle McEwan

HIKUI SCHOOL "BOOK FAIR DAY" CHARACTER PARADE

Students dressed up as their favourite character and paraded before their parents. Best dressed characters were given a prize and lots of fun was had by all.

'ACTIVE LEARNERS'

FROM PRINCIPAL SIMON COULING...

Nestled in the Puketui Valley, our small rural school uses its incredible environment to give children stimulating 'hands-on' experiences to learn a wide range of subjects – from math and science to environmental sustainability. For instance, in working with different environmental groups and government organisations such as DOC, the children have built a conscientious caring approach to the world in which they live.

The children at Hikuai School love to lead their own learning and have a direct say in running the school, regularly having multi days and sports competitions to raise money for different causes such as the SPCA and Child Cancer.

The school has a fantastic reputation for achieving in sports. Last year, our middle class team represented Thames district the NZ National Touch Sevens in Wellington. This experience included meeting the All Blacks at an organised team-building afternoon.

Hikuai School may be small in size, but it certainly is big in heart. Academically, more than 85% of our students achieving at or above in National Standards. What's coming up? Our Science Fair with the theme of "Change."



Cirque De Hikuai

Our little ones entertained with an excellent performance of 'Cirque De Hikuai'. They did a wonderful job, along with Y3 teacher Mrs. Hunter, designing and making their own circus acts including a tight rope walk (with no safety net). All the kids were stars, with some secret talents unleashed!

TAIRUA SCHOOL ...

DEVELOPING GLOBAL CITIZENS



The Tairua School student leadership team (Rhea Schmidt, Vita Rowe-Smith, James Wightman-Gould, Harry Evans, Caleb Hogarth and Ahi Garrick) recently met with Ed Elliot, the founder of FEI (Friends of East Indonesia), a Charitable Trust working to improve the health and well being of kids in East Indonesia. This year's Paddle for Humanity will take place on **Saturday, November the 29**, and the student leaders are looking at ways to expand and diversify the lives of the East Indonesian children.



MARK THE DATE!

SAT. 10 OF JAN

Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

- Great Music
- Arts & Crafts
- Food & Wine
- Kids Space

Admission

\$10, over 18 (includes festival glass)

Kids are Free!

MOANATAIARI SCHOOL IN THAMES



12 year old Cailee Dollard takes another plant from TCDC Parks and Reserve Manager Derek Thompson.

Students plant 300 to beautify old landfill

Ditching maths to plant trees equals happy school children. Rooms 7, 8 and 9 at Moanataiari School planted 300 plants one morning in late August, beautifying the old land-fill behind the dump.

Whaea Maria, Room 7 teacher, said, "It's an awesome experience for the kids to be able to give back to the environment. Many of the children have planted before, and they showed great enthusiasm in the planting process."

All plants are natives and have been grown locally. Howard Saunders from Smart Environmental Limited is an ace at sourcing native plants for a great price, including some grown in the Trees for Survival programme. Howard is no stranger to planting trees; he remembers planting with fellow school student Peter Blake when he was five.

"Every planting day I watch the kids and wonder – is the next Peter Blake amongst them?" says Howard. "I want these days to be a success, so the children can continue to come back and look at the planting and see the difference they are making. The coolest thing is the kids get an understanding that they can make a difference."

Community involvement is a large component of Howard's role. Smart Environmental pays for Howard's time to be part of planting days like this, and he is keen for them to be seen as more than just a rubbish collection service.

This is the sixth planting this season and with one more to go it has been one of the most successful planting seasons to date.

Press release provided by Thames Coromandel District Council.



Amy Kruger, 9, and Faith Wilson, age 10, add their planting skills to the day.

Ignacio Marquez-Bernal 8, Alex Williams, 9, and Riley McCasgill, 8, work together to plant a legacy.

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TAIRUA BUSINESS NETWORK OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES

Business owners got together in September at the Tairua-Pauanui Sports Fishing Club for the launch of the Tairua Business Network, the official result of many informal regular meetings.

The launch event was catered by Feast and featured two speakers. Successful Olympic kayaking coach (now business coach) Mark Sutherland shared about transforming behaviours to achieve business goals.

Carl Muir, founder of tourism fishing business Epic Adventures, also spoke about the amount of drive, hard work and business acumen required to transform an idea into a successful enterprise like Epic Adventures is today.

A big thanks to Donna Brooke, for not only planning this gathering, but for spearheading



the formation of the network and evolving it to the professional rewarding group it is today.

The Tairua Business Network is affiliated with the Waikato Chamber of Commerce, which gives members access to its training, events and information provided by the chamber. Membership provides several other benefits as well. Find more info at www.destinationtairua.co.nz/tairua-business-network-2/ or contact Donna at donna@sunlover.co.nz.



The official launch of the Tairua Business Network was held at the Tairua-Pauanui Sportsfishing Club, where speaker Carl Muir shared about starting his tourist fishing business.

Above, the August meeting was held at The Pepe. Generous owner Steve Morris provided platters laden with both cold and hot yummy starters to the delight of those attending.



SPEND A DAY AT TAIRUA'S EXOTIC 'CARPET BAZAAR'

Have a yearning to 'up your inner exotic'? Well, look no farther than Tairua's Talk of Turkey Rugs, with their Moroccan style home and showroom. The Mediterranean blue plaster walls set off the deep antique patinas of the handwoven carpets and rugs, decor pieces, cushions, runners, and textiles with "every piece handpicked from markets in the Middle East and central Asia."

Elley and Phil Smith are holding open houses on the last Sunday of every month from 10am-4pm in their home at 129 Ocean Beach Road. Phil tells us, "Browsers are welcome to come and enjoy our hospitality – no sales pressure here!"

Also view by appointment. Phone on 07 864-9846 and see www.talkofturkeyrugs.co.nz.

SAMMY THE SEAL SAFELY OUT TO SEA

Alex Harris of Tairua Dive & Marine found this cutie, affectionately named Sammy, out on their deck in early September.

DOC came out and examined Sammy, "and said he's fit and healthy, about 12 months old and would have left its mum as she will have had new pups by now."

Sammy hung around for 3 weeks, fishing in marina and sleeping on a sunny wall opposite the shop. Fat and healthy – not much competition for food in the marina – Sammy has grown enough to make his way out to the big ocean.

Bon Voyage, Sammy!

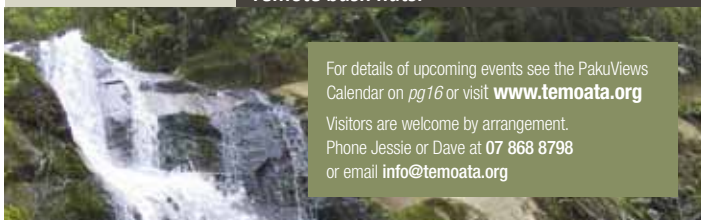


Te Moata
Retreat Centre

No description does justice to the powerful presence of nature at Te Moata. Set in 344 hectares of native bush just north of Tairua, this sanctuary hosts a variety of residential retreats and workshops. A network of walking tracks leads to streams, the labyrinth, waterfalls and beautiful stands of native trees including ancient Kauri.

Experience Te Moata for yourself. Enrol in a retreat or book a stay in one of our cottages or remote bush huts.

For details of upcoming events see the PakuViews Calendar on pg16 or visit www.temoata.org
Visitors are welcome by arrangement.
Phone Jessie or Dave at 07 868 8798
or email info@temoata.org



PEACE, LOVE & PRIZEGIVING. The Woodstock party in September was a prize giving for the Tairua soccer and netball teams at the Rugby Club. About 80 attendees dressed in theme – and what – no one nude? Fuller and the Empties entertained and Marg Chick put on an excellent feast.

Photographer Michelle McEwan set up a 'pre-selfies' photo corner. From left to right: Emily Stephens, Emily Ratcliffe, Shannon Kirkcaldie, Stephanie Mowat and Emma Harding. From the netball team, Shannon won player of the year & Steph sportsperson of the year.

Wine on the waters

PAUANUI LAUNCH & WINE TRAIL AND CORO FLAVOURS Saturday, 15 November

Lucky ticket holders for Pauanui Launch & Wine Trail (it is undoubtedly sold out by now) will experience cruising the Pauanui Waterways on luxury launches to exclusive properties while tasting some of New Zealand's top wines, including Seleni, Redmetal Vineyards, Ohinemure Estate Winery, Terra Sancta, and Mercury Bay Estates.

At each property, the wine tasters are offered top quality nibbles, food and wine matching, and glass classes. Catering for the launch is by Feast NZ. Launch guests also receive free entry into the Coro Flavours held at the Quays. Don't miss out on this unique event for next year! (LIKE Pauanui Launch & Wine Trail on Facebook for timely notices.)

Coro Flavours @ the Quays

Coro Flavours is the landlover's food and wine showcase. This year there will be a choice of quality wine and boutique beers as well as fines foods – all reasonably priced.

Other stalls will feature local produce and Kiwi merchandise. Listen to live music by Our Locals and Double Xposure. Relax on the banks of the waterways, sipping wine, eating good food and relaxing with friends.



The Coro Flavours runs 3.30-7.30pm. A courtesy bus will run an hourly continuous loop of Pauanui, and the Tairua ferry will be running hourly as well.

Tickets are limited to ensure an enjoyable event, \$25 advance (\$30 on the day) and available at Pauanui Info Centre, 07 864 7101.



See www.pauanuiwinetrail.co.nz. This year proceeds will go to the Hikui School. Contact family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PAUANUI CENTRE

RE-USE IS WHAT'S NEW

"Ever heard of 'Re Sale Therapy'?" asks Tracey Salkeld. That's what she and Carole Williams are calling their new shop at Pauanui Centre. It's an eclectic mix of new and used goods from lace hankies, aprons and wool to dining suites, art and even a saddle.

"It is all about re-use and re-cycle. If it's too good for the dump and you don't want to use Trade Me or have a garage sale, pop in and see

PARDON OUR DUST!!

The Centre is receiving a 'Spring' makeover - fresh paint completed just in time for the busy holiday season.

us." They will gladly take your donated goods or will sell on behalf for a commission. The items need to be in a good, clean condition and in working order. So have a clear out and turn your old treasures into cash.

Located around the back near the Hairdressers and Beauty Therapist, the shop is now open every Friday, Saturday and Monday, 10am – 2pm, but look for increased hours as summer approaches.

Everywhere you look in **Re Sale Therapy**, you'll see treasures just looking for a new home.



Look for updates about Holiday Happenings at the Centre in Coromandel Life's special holiday supplement, out the first part of December.



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The town of Coromandel made winter 'light up and lighten up' with their **Coromandel Illume Festival of Lights**, a winter festival held for a week in July. More than 500 people gathered for opening night which included a brief explosion of fireworks while historical buildings were illuminated.

Moving projections turned some of the town's walls into large colourful screens – telling stories of the town's culture and artistic heritage. The festival also included a lighted parade, Lanterns in the Park and entertainment.

One of the events was a double treat, a night-time ride on the Driving Creek Railway up to the Eyefull Tower, where our "Stargazer" columnist Alastair Brickell lectured about astronomy and then let folks peer through his telescope at the Moon and Saturn.

"It was cloudy," said Alastair, "but the 50-60 people attending did get to see them. And they were enchanted on the trainride back by the display of glowworms."

To see more about July's Winter Fest go to www.illumefest.co.nz

MISS COROMANDEL PENINSULA RETURNS

Some of you may remember the Miss Coromandel competition during the summer festival many years ago (winners shown at left).



Well it's back! On January 11th, Matarangi Beach will present the **Miss Coromandel Peninsula 2015** competition.

Competing for the Peninsula-wide crown will be the winning contestants and runners up from pageants in Whangamata, Whitianga, Waihi, Matarangi and Pauanui.

How does it work?... "The contestants will do three rounds on the catwalk: swimwear, day wear and a cocktail/evening dress", explains Event Manager Bronwyn Burkhart (yes, it's Coromandel Life's own sales & marketing beauty). "They will then answer a number of questions presented by the celebrity judges who will crown their pick." The winner may go onto Miss Waikato (or her home region) and perhaps on to vie for Miss New Zealand.

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

The event, part of the Matarangi Summer Festival, has received major support from Flight Centre Thames and Coromandel FM. For more info contact Bronwyn on 027 221 2881.

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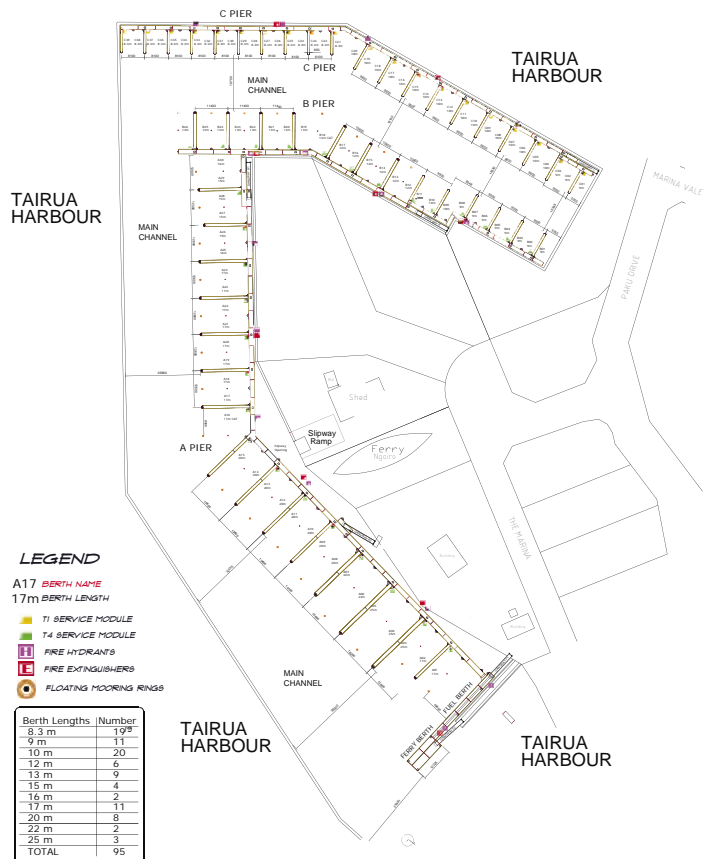


The Tairua Marina is situated at the foot of Paku Hill in close proximity to the Tairua Harbour entrance. The Marina offers 95 berths of varying lengths between 8 metres and 25 metres. Both diesel and petrol are available at the marina, as is a sewage pump out facility.

Marina facilities will be based in the proposed adjoining building, the Tairua Marina Clubrooms, which will also provide marina parking, together with a dive shop, restaurant and a marina manager's office.

The Tairua Marina completed its consent process in 2011 and, after a 12 year effort, construction was completed in April 2014.

Tairua Marine Limited has made an offer of berth licences to the public. The Investment Statement and Prospectus has been registered at the Companies Office and can be viewed on the New Zealand Companies Office web site www.business.govt.nz/companies). The Investment Statement and Prospectus contains the Berth Licence Application Form.



contact

Craig Watts 021 922 936
Laurie Flynn 021 885 154
Cath Wightman 021 815 377



THE MARINA VILLAS



The Marina Villas comprise 20 two storey dwellings, each with three bedrooms and double garage and further visitor parking onsite.

The Marina Villas are situated on the Tairua Marina, offering owners the convenience of easy access to the nearby berths.

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