

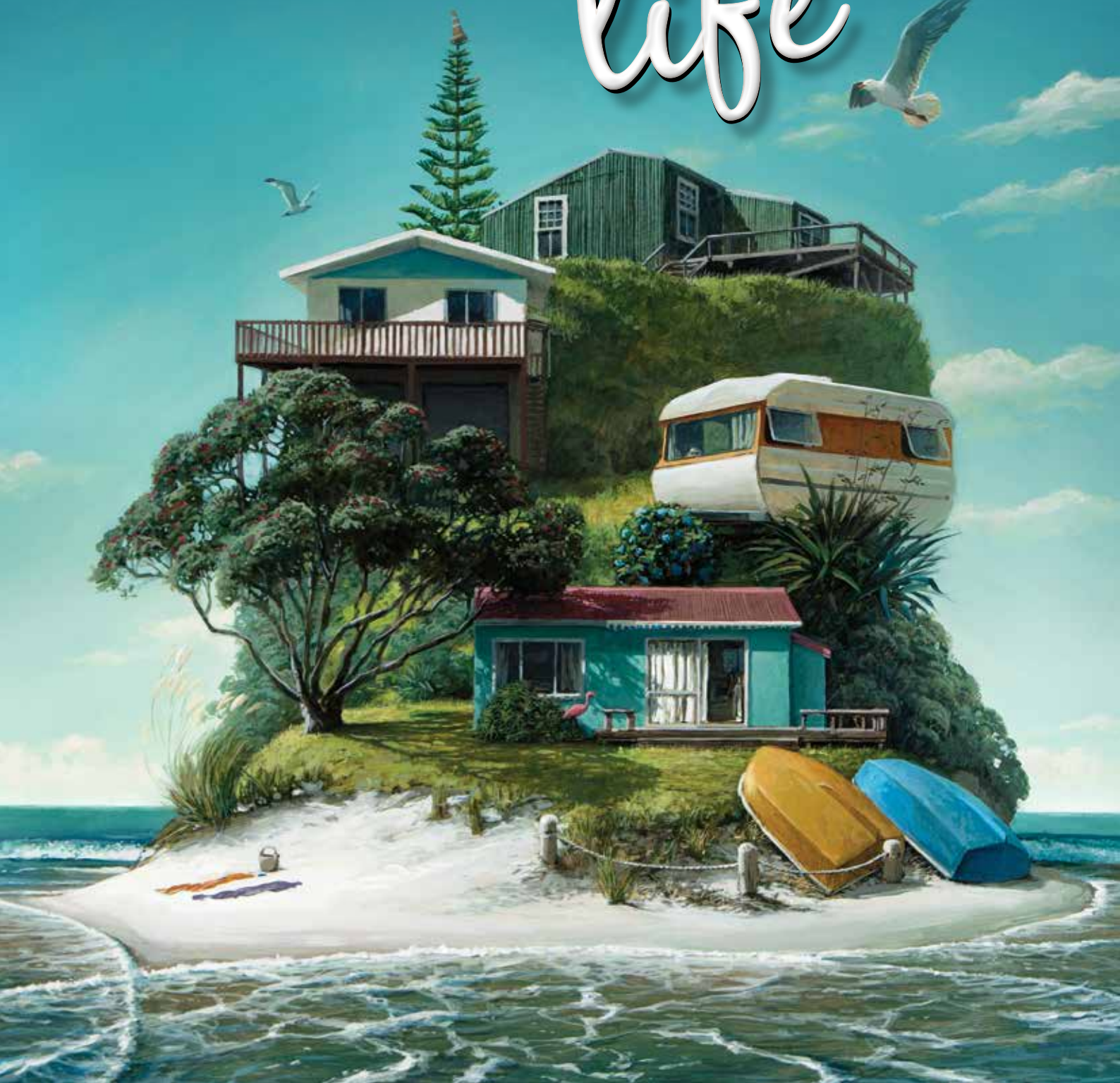
LATE SPRING/HOLIDAY 2018
COMPLIMENTARY

"BACHES" by BARRY ROSS SMITH
from the *Island Series*



COROMANDEL

life



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COROMANDEL

WHAT'S INSIDE *life*

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Publishers

Tovi and Greg Daly

Executive Editor/Managing Editors

Tovi Daly Carol Wright

Office Manager

Sarah Steinemann

Design & Layout

Melissa McGregor: mododesign

Writing/Editing/Proofing

Robert Simmons Emma Darragh Hannah Hall Chris Coombe
Sandra Scott Tovi Daly Carol Wright Rowena Brown

Calendar Coordination & Design

Shannon Okey

Advertiser Liaisons

Rowena Brown Sarah Steinemann

Contributing Artists/Photographers

Cover art by Barry Ross Smith

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Gavin Hedwig Russell & Sue Skeet Karl Edmonds/GBD
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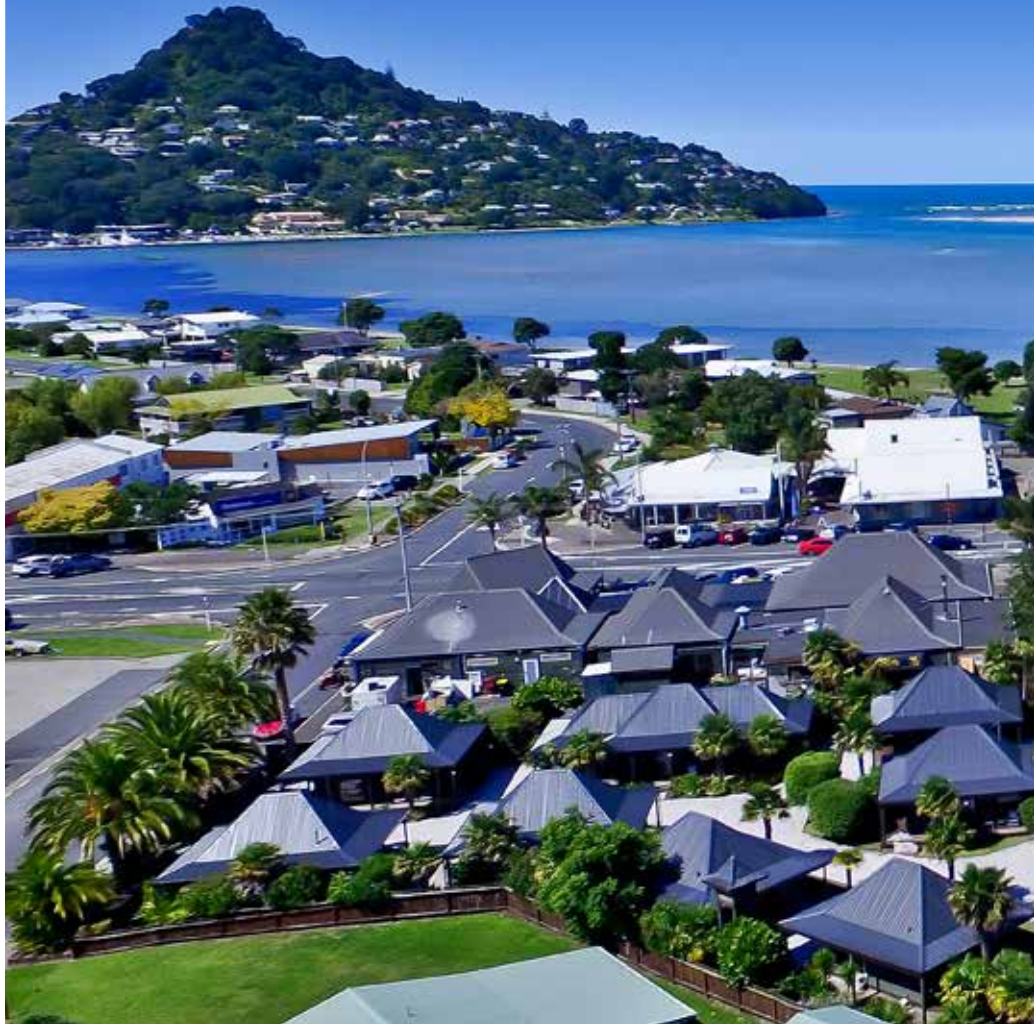
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Reina Cottier
Painter & graphic prints 021903103

Open Studio
during
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Art Escape



reinacottier@gmail.com • www.reinacottier.com • www.artfindnz.co.nz

Susan Dunster Artist • 027 6387 695



Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant
notecard@xtra.co.nz • www.artfindnz.co.nz

Liz Hart Painter
07 864 7969



brethart@xtra.co.nz
www.artfindnz.co.nz

Open Studio during Mercury Bay Art Escape



Tina Carey Artist
07 864 7411 • 027 351 6352
Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant



tinarocky@hotmail.com
mercurybayartescape.com/artists/tina-carey



Verena Tagmann
Painter 027 620 8389



v.tagmann@gmail.com
www.artfindnz.co.nz
Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant

Bernie Ross Weaver
027 560 7430



bazbern@xtra.co.nz

Kevin and Kim Brett KNK Wood Art
021 866 724 • THE WORKSHOP at
1613 Manaia Road, SH25, Coromandel Town



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Reach these artists in their studios or view more at The Little Gallery in Tairua & Whangamata

Joanne Mahoney
Watercolour &
mixed media artist
07 865 7355



joanne.mahoney@outlook.com
www.artfindnz.co.nz

Jane Galloway
Painter/graphic prints
07 825 0083



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Kia ora

I'm sure we are all pleased to have emerged from our winter cocoons and at last be enjoying this lovely spring weather.

This season symbolises beginnings, and as we start our 10th year of publication, it is the perfect time for reflection. I feel blessed to have not only lived in this beautiful paradise, but found work that connected me to it daily to learn, appreciate and explore its many gems.

It has been a joy and an honour to produce *PakuViews* and *Coromandel Life* over the years, however it is now time to pass the torch to another passionate soul.

It gave me pause when I recently heard someone comment that no one on their deathbed ever said, "I wish I'd worked harder". I was gifted another 'chance at life' after my cancer recovery, and I was advised it wasn't given so that I could work harder – been there, done that! It's a bit beyond the time to step back and focus on my health and well-being.

Although I must say that most aspects of producing this magazine haven't felt like work – the delight of creating and birthing each new issue, the fascinating people I've met, the fabulous places discovered, and the talented team I've worked with. It has been a 'labour of love' loaded with satisfaction.

It is such a joy to work collaboratively with individuals and groups that share a common vision, rather than in competition. It is a method where everyone is the winner in the end with no losers. One such delightful collaboration over the years has been with Destination Coromandel, reminding everyone just how 'good for the soul' the Coromandel really is. The 'Explore The Coromandel' section in this issue is another successful example.

Perhaps you can assist us in our search. Do you know someone who might wish to take the reigns of this established magazine and continue to serve the Coromandel community in the years to come? Someone to care for and look after this life-style magazine that represents Our 'Coromandel Life'? Please phone me to discuss getting involved.

The journey of discovering the treasures of the peninsula never ends with so many more to find and share – more fascinating people, more artworks, more products, more history and more magnificent scenery.

It's fun, it's exciting, it's creative! And thank all of you for joining us on this adventure!

Have a very happy holiday season!

Tovi and Greg Daly

Above: Located 10min south of Waihi off SH2, the historic Athenree Homestead, with lovely sea and pastoral vistas, offers the perfect venue for weddings, receptions, meetings and other events. Choose between two lawn locations for marquees (suitable for up to 150 guests) or the Railway Station Refreshment Rooms, for groups up to 50, offering a fully equipped modern commercial kitchen. This charming house and gardens are available for tours, wedding photographs, etc. Open Sundays Jan-Mar, 12-4. See more on p25. Call Val, 07 863 4983 or 021 977 825.



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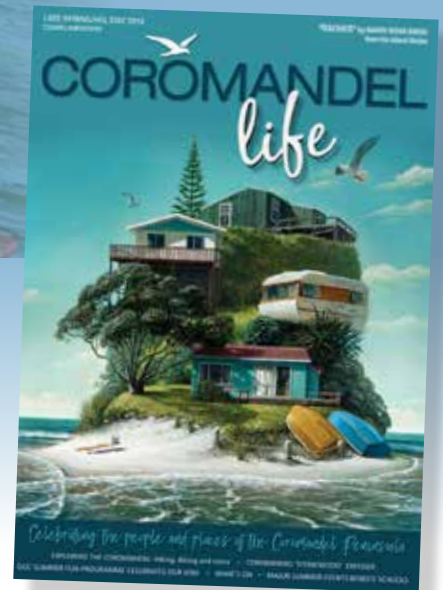
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Barry completes the final touches to 'Roost', the most recent addition to his Island Series.

Our cover artist...

BARRY ROSS SMITH



In choosing our cover artist, we were immediately drawn to Barry's quirky and fun style. We felt 'Baches' was the perfect art for this issue's release at Labour Weekend – the traditional opening of the Coromandel's holidaymaking season.

Many of his coastal scenes are inspired by visits to his wife's family bach in Whiritoa, which actually features top left as one of the baches in the painting on our cover (see inset right). "They have owned and enjoyed this bach since 1972," shares Barry. "It has specular views out to the ever-changing sands and ocean."

The others are also from Whiritoa – except the top gray one which was taken from the definition of 'bach' on Wikipedia. "I wanted to convey the quirkiness of our typical NZ baches", says Barry, "from the pink flamingos in the succulent garden to the traffic cone on top of the Norfolk pine tree."

Both the cover painting and 'Roost', the one Barry is shown completing above, are part of his 'Island Series'. "My island work is surreal, whimsical, playful and fictional. It presents a variety of isolated islands, surveying a range of wild and domestic habitations." View the entire series of 26 island fantasies on his website.

"The paintings can be viewed as theatrical tableau – reflective spaces which highlight mankind's complex relationship with the land,



The artworks in Barry's 'Land Series' detail the interdependent relationships between people and animals within their immediate environment, specifically the role of livestock in our food chain and our role as custodians.

its beasts and the all-encompassing ocean."

As whimsical as Barry's paintings may appear, some artworks also reflect a serious thought-provoking side. The combination of humour, skill and intention make his overall art career much respected. Well known NZ Herald's art critic TJ McNamara describes Barry's paintings as "hymns to rural New Zealand ... tellingly observed and cleverly rendered."

Barry adds, "I like to create a rapport with the viewer by playing with reminiscences. Creating icons from our shared Kiwi past – the beach, the bach, the farm – but mostly, the people."

THE JOURNEY TO OIL

The family of this Northland born artist, like many of the time, moved around a lot before eventually settling in Tauranga when Barry was a teenager.

Although he excelled creatively early on – coming top in 5th and 6th form art at Tauranga Boys College – he initially chose the more practical career as a signwriter. "I had my own sign shop in Tauranga (SignArt), but would airbrush freehand onto cane blinds and album covers of my favourite bands, selling these from my shop as well."

While on his OE, Barry spent five years working with *Signs Illuminare*, a small family-owned business in East London, where he was offered a partnership, but he was ready to return home. "Whilst there a friend offered me oil paints to dabble with. I was immediately

hooked – the richness of colours and the organic nature were such a pleasure to work with."

Barry picked up the oils when he returned to NZ in 1994. He entered the Birkenhead Licensing Trust competition and won first prize. However, oil painting remained a hobby until he met and married Leanne Watkins, who would become his muse. "She encouraged me to drop the signwriting altogether, and with her support, I have honed my practice and been painting full time for 15 years.

"I endeavour to express fresh ways to represent ideas about relationships and connections with my environment," shares Barry. "Each artwork attempts to articulate an observation that has struck me as somehow worthy of further thought."

Continued on page 10...



PORTRAIT OF A MUSE

"Creating a portrait is a dangerous profession – get any features too big or small and you not only lose the likeness, but also the client. So I was taking my life in my hands when I asked my wife Leanne to pose for me."



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Continued from page 8...

And ultimately, perhaps it is this universality of theme that explains the global appeal of his work. The local appeal of his work is obvious.

Barry has won quite a few honours, including becoming a finalist in the Wallace Art Award, and twice gaining a place in the finals for the Adam Portrait Award in 2008. In 2011 Barry completed a Masters in Fine Arts at Whitecliff (with honours).

This talented artist has an impressive exhibition history, including several sell out shows with Auckland galleries – NKB Gallery (where he is currently displayed) as well as with SOCA and Black Barn Galleries. His work is featured in public, private and corporate collections across New Zealand, Australia, Europe, North America and Asia.

"I find painting to be the most direct, expressionistic, authentic and responsive medium," states Barry. "Viscous and slick oil paint, smeared by the subtle movements of the hand and decisions of the eye, is a complex, idiosyncratic signature. Each mark matches the temperament of the painter on that day – exactly. I can't make a mark that isn't me and

each choice is exposed directly onto the surface. It is both exhilarating and frustrating."

AND NOW...

The couple and their two daughters recently returned to live in Auckland, after living in Paeroa for six years. "Although Paeroa was the perfect spot for us – halfway between Leanne's family in Auckland and mine in Tauranga – we always said we would move back when our youngest hit school age," explains Barry. "Not only could my wife resume her own career, I realised that it would help me sharpen my craft to be back among the artists and galleries of the city again, and to be in touch with the latest art scene."

In researching this brilliant artist we were impressed at the variety and scope of his work. Barry's quintessentially Kiwi images are a delight. His clever portrayals of Whiritoa and other beachy or bach scenes are unsurprisingly a hit wherever they're displayed. We hope you enjoy his art as much as we do!

See his works at NKB and Northart Gallery in Auckland or online at www.barryrosssmith.com



We love Barry's 'beach realism' found in his entertaining 'Sea Series'. The painting at left is appropriately called 'Bookends'.

Barry charmingly captures that moment of transition at the surf line – sunsoaked beach-goers of all ages, shapes and sizes, some perched at water's edge pondering possibilities.

Every few years Barry sets a project for himself, independent from his usual work. These are examples.

BARRY'S "BATTLELINES: PESTFREE 2050" shows the artist's concern about saving NZ's endangered species. Some of the pieces, like this one at right, resemble WWI posters.

See www.barryrosssmith.com/gallery_737794.html



DAY 83 OF BARRY'S "100 DAY PROJECT" IN 2016

"Inspired by the similar campaign to highlight missing people in America, this project was to paint one endangered NZ species on a commercial milk carton every day for 100 consecutive days. It is a sad fact that I had more than enough to paint as we have over 4000 at risk.

"I would also look for a hidden sentence within the printed text, like this one on a Trim Milk Carton that now reads: 'A tribe protects its children'."

See: www.barryrosssmith.com/section857893_737705.html

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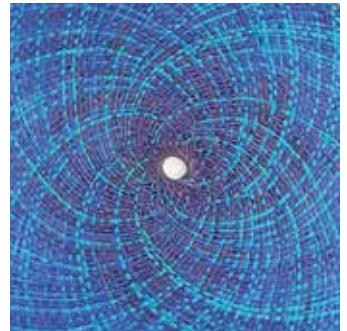
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Let's Explore

The Coromandel

Extraordinary and beautiful any time of year! Whether you enjoy biking, hiking, surfing or just hanging out at the beach – The Coromandel has it all! We are blessed with scenic gems around every corner...and there are lots of corners!

Join us as we share a few of our favourites on the following pages – the picturesque Puketui Valley, the popular Hauraki Rail Trail, the Coastal Walkway, Whangamata's unique mountain bike park and so much more. The 136km Hauraki Rail Trail follows former railway corridors through provincial towns and countryside across the Hauraki Plains and through the spectacular Karangahake Gorge to Waihi.

We head north of Coromandel Town to Colville for the quiet country roads where the only traffic jam you'll encounter is a mob of sheep followed by a friendly farmer. Pedal or walk the Coromandel Coastal Walkway that navigates the tip of the peninsula with stunning views across to Great Barrier Island.



The Hauraki Rail Trail



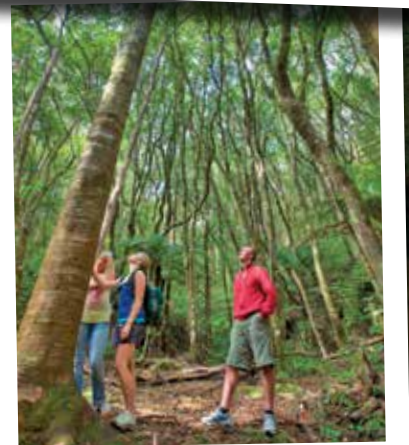
Shelley Beach on Northern Coast



The Coastal Walkway



The Karangahake Gorge



One of many trails at Broken Hills



The Picturesque Puketui Valley

My Coromandel Sanctuary

Coromandel Life is delighted to share Emma Darragh's family trip to Puketui Valley, her favourite Summer getaway. However, you can enjoy this DOC recreational area any time of the year. Situated along the scenic Tairua River, it offers many opportunities for walking, canoeing, trout fishing, fossicking, rafting, bird watching, photography, picnicking, camping and more.

Many trails and hikes are suited for all levels of fitness, and range from 15min to 4hrs. See tumbling waterfalls, an old jail and stamper batteries. Explore tunnels including a 500m one through an abandoned mine (see next pages for more info).

"We didn't bring shoes," say the two barefoot boys I have brought along to Puketui Valley as we pile out of the hot dusty car. We are leaving behind the crash and hustle of Tairua's surf beach and the long stream of holiday traffic lining its main road.

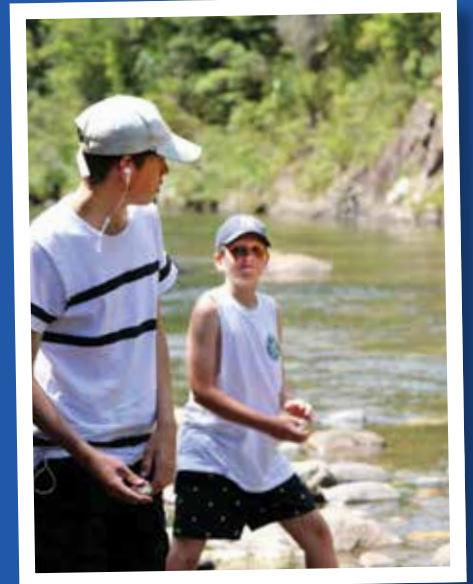
The contrast to the beach is what I love most – the icy freshness of the river water, the pure forest air. The peace and quiet and slower pace. Here all I hear is birdsong and the ripple of the river as it courses around the rocks.

It is only a 20min drive from Tairua, yet seems a world away. It feels remote but is just 6km off SH25 along a dead-end gravel road. It is an easy day trip, camping stay, or quick cool-off from the nearby beach towns. The valley even seems to have its own micro-climate. In Tairua I left behind an angry southerly whipping the sand on-shore. At Puketui, there wasn't a breath of wind.

The Broken Hills DOC campground is vast and meandering, offering an abundance of riches in tent-site real estate. You can pitch a pup tent on the banks of the river, or peg out a family-sized set up atop a gentle mound with majestic cliff views. Grassy cul-de-sacs make the perfect communal spot for clusters of campers, with your own path to the river and plenty of trees for rigging up the solar shower. If you're after privacy and solitude, nestle your tent under the tall Tea Tree canopy and listen to the lovely silence.

I have camped in every spot, every way, every summer for over a decade. It is always a relaxing and rejuvenating experience. Children form an ever-expanding tribe at this mellow campground in the summers, becoming 'nut-brown BMX bandits' existing for days on sausages, sauce and swims.

A couple of minutes stroll from the Broken Hills campground is the waterfall waterhole – a crystalline pool with rock ledges creating



Finding f at smooth stones, the boys skim them onto the surface of the river. They bounce – one, two, three times – the flick of their wrist a long learnt muscle memory.

graduated depths at its edge – perfect for sitting and soaking. The waterfall hurtles into a pool about the size of three spa pools, deep enough for an adult to leap into...if they dare. Even in summer, the pool is virtually an ice bath. I have made a ritual of plunging straight in, making my breath catch and my skin tingle. Today the boys clamber up to a moss-covered cliff and leap off, challenging each other to make the biggest splash.



Campsites offer toilets, but bring drinking water (if using water from the taps, you must boil first).

Dogs and firepits not permitted. No bookings necessary, \$10 per night (honesty box).

Watch for weather alerts in off season. See brochure for campsite info and details of the various walking tracks: www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/waikato/broken-hills-recreation-area.pdf

Left: A small waterfall and pool are accessible from the battery site. – PHOTO BY ARNE ROHDE

Breathtakingly beautiful and private, there is rarely anyone at this waterhole. Sunlight makes honeycomb patterns on the underwater ledges and shimmering ribbons on the surface. Encircled with native fauna, rocks, ferns and trees adds to its otherworldly enchantment. This is a place where a smile automatically spreads across my face and stays there all day.

A five-minute drive from the campground is Frog Rock, one of Puketui Valley's most popular local swimming spots. As the name suggests, it's a big, flat froggy-looking rock in the middle of a deep, wide part of the river. Cars park at the edge of the narrow gravel road and people must walk across nobbly rocks and river current to get to the 'beach' – a sloping rocky embankment.

Like Hot Water Beach at low tide, I am always astounded by the number of people who know to seek out these special spots. Grandparents, children, teenagers, tourists...it is a little village on a summery day. Kids make friends while

taking turns watching each other leap, flip or bomb into the water. Adults loll about on the hot rocks like seals, sliding into the cool depths every now and then.

Puketui Valley and Broken Hills is, without exception, my favourite place to trail run and hike any time during the year. It offers immense variety in landscape and terrain. Once a bustling gold mining settlement, the labyrinth of trails passes through old mine workings, water race trenches, remnants of stamper batteries and tunnels. There are trails for all ages and abilities, long and short tracks, suitable for walking or running.

The fierce challenge of a steep ascent to the Lookout, handsomely rewards with 360-degree views of ocean, mountain, pasture and river. Walking through Collins Drive tunnel is a thrilling and courageous rite of passage for children and adults alike. Do bring your torch. Walking through a 500-metre long tunnel without one is quite scary (believe me, I know).

The Tairua River is the lifeblood of the Valley and invites people to find their own 'secret spot' at every bend. Watching the boys rock hop upstream, I notice how confident and sure-footed they are, though I shouldn't be surprised. It is and has always been, their long-time playground.

I am slower, in my clumsy adult way, lugging the bag with the chips, nectarines and sunscreen – with towels like so many scarves hanging around my neck – as I navigate a rocky path to find a flat rock to sit upon.

Puketui Valley stills me – the birds silencing my internal chatter. The air is thick with the scent of honey and the cool water flows.

*My Coromandel sanctuary...
so 'good for the soul'*

Emma Darragh is a talented writer as well as co-founder of 'CoLab Collective', a business providing affordable and effective ways to reach your audience. Contact her at 021 122 9017. See www.colabcollective.co.nz or facebook.

The Water Race Trail

Photos and descriptions by Arne Rohde, an avid hiker and blogger.

The Water Race Track is a 1.9km loop that runs between Main Range Track and Water Race Link Track. It follows the old race that took water from the Third Branch Stream across Tairua River, to drive the Broken Hills Battery. Three short tunnels are clustered along the trail. None require a torch, and there are some steeper sections with steps.

Hewn from solid rock to direct water to where it was needed, one of the deepest cuttings is shown at right. The race is muddy in many places, but alternative tracks have, in some of the worst cases, been formed on the embankments alongside the race – no additional route around this particular cutting however.

Steps lead up to the first tunnel when heading south along the Water Race Track (shown far right). The second tunnel is nearby, with the third one only a few metres further. The ends of all three of these tunnels are visible from the start.

The original race was 3300m long. At the southern end, the track joins the Water Race Link Track. From there you can either take a 15min long stepped walk to Puketui Walk and return to your starting place, or climb up the Third Branch Track and onto Collins Drive. The Third Branch Track is quite steep, with numerous steps.



Parts of the water race are actually hewn from solid rock.



Steps leading to the first tunnel. No torch necessary in this one.

Arne Rohde has written occasional blogs about motorbike rides and walks, mainly in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and the Coromandel. It includes great photos, informative descriptions and important tips. We included some of his photos and insights in our Road Trip through the Karangahake Gorge in the Summer 2016 issue. See more of his adventures at www.motowalknz.com

THE RICHES OF PUKETUI VALLEY

A bit of history...

Around the turn of the 20th century, Puketui, a bustling goldmining settlement, was established in the Broken Hills Gorge. The mine operated successfully from 1896 to 1914, producing 51,000 oz (1446k) of gold, worth around \$100 million (at 2011 prices)! It had a post office, hall and several shops with over 200 people living along the river. The town lasted a few more years until the gold ran out. Small-scale mining continued until 1923. Relics of this past mining era can still be seen, and today, one of the old drives is being mined still using historic methods.

- Mine tunnels and shafts are very dangerous and may be hidden by vegetation.
- Keep to marked official tracks.
- Do not enter tunnels unless they are clearly marked for public access.
- Carry a torch with fresh batteries.
- Warm clothing is recommended.

A sampling of short walks...

Golden Hills Battery: This 800m flat walk starts at the Bridge car park. It follows the Tairua River to the Golden Hills Battery site's original concrete foundations, and the arches which once supported large cyanide vats. See two mine tunnels (adits) to left, one still in use. 30min.

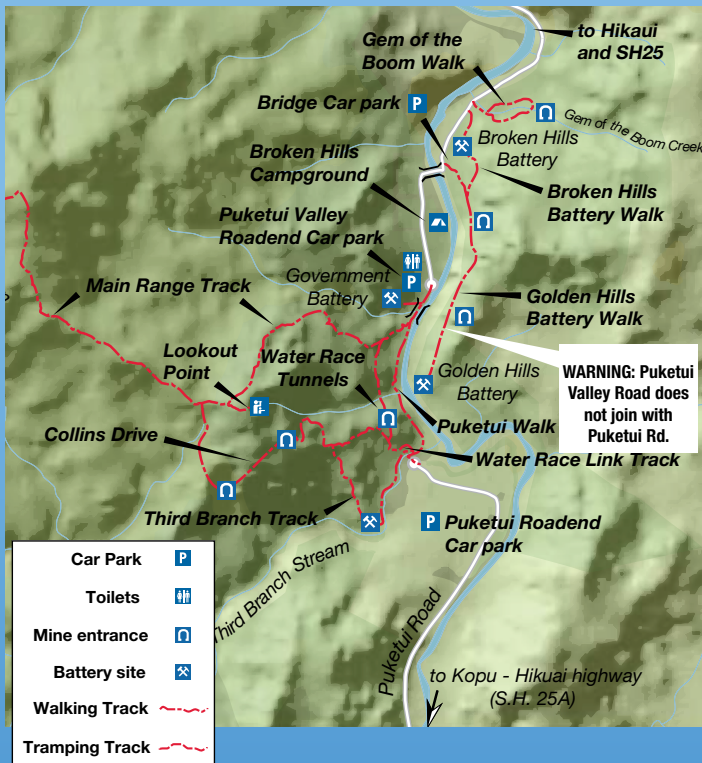
Broken Hills Battery: An easy 550m flat walk starts at the north end of the bridge carpark to Broken Hills mine. The rusting ironmongery seen on the path was once the blacksmith's shop. Continue along the track past the mine to reach the battery.

Gem Of The Boom: 20min return from Puketui Valley Rd, this easy 400m loop walk has 2 bridges and takes you to an old mining settlement, with many relics including a jail cut from solid rock.

Government Battery: Built by the government to process ore during the Depression of the 1930s, only the foundation of this battery remains. Go on to a small waterfall and pool: great for a cool-off on a hot day. 5min from the Puketui Valley Rd end car park.

Puketui Walk: This 900m track leads you to the stream crossing that connects the 2 entrance roads. Good views along Tairua River and a number of circular tracks.

Bottom photo: Pauanui and Tairua from the Lookout along the Main Range Trail. Looking the other direction, the impressive Pinnacles can also be seen. From here expect at least an hour trek back, so plan your route carefully before committing for this distant viewpoint. – PHOTO NZ FRENZY



Getting there...

Puketui Valley/Broken Hills is 19km from Tairua and 27km from Whangamata. The two entrance roads (Puketui Valley Rd and Puketui Rd) do not connect and a stream crossing is required between them. Be sure to check the map to determine the correct entrance road for your chosen hike or destination.

Shown below are the remnants of a ford that had apparently crossed Third Branch Stream, which connects Puketui Rd and Puketui Valley Rd. Take care crossing as the stream is quite deep and the current swift. – PHOTO BY ARNE ROHDE



Focussed exclusively on the great outdoors, NZ Frenzy details the most popular tourist attractions, and also a ton of 'off the beaten track' locations that Kiwis consider to be the 'real NZ'. Great for exploring the country's most varied, unique and unforgettable adventures. Highly rated by seasoned hikers and adventurers as the best NZ Travel Guide for outdoorsy types. A few photos chosen for this story are from Third Edition. See www.nzfrenzy.com



COLLINS DRIVE TUNNEL...

complete with glow worms!

Listed as first in Top 5 Hidden Hiking Trails in the Coromandel by 'Walking Legends', is Collins Drive Tunnel in the Broken Hills Recreation Area. "It is one of the longest abandoned gold mining tunnels you can still walk through – 500m long and pitch black. Lasting approximately 15 minutes, you will need a torch – but turn it off near the entrance and exit to see glow worms!"

– www.walkinglegends.co.nz



Decision time at the west portal – continue on to a longer trek and the lookout – or return back through the tunnel? Bring a torch!

This long tunnel provides an opportunity to experience a real underground mine system. 'Drive' in this case does not refer to a street or road, but the fact that miners 'drove' through this hill of rock in search of a quartz reef with payable ore. Sadly, the massive effort proved to be fruitless.

Although the Collins Drive tunnel has been refurbished and the floor 'mud-proofed', watch for places with low headroom, dripping water, wandering wetas and glow worms. (A DOC sign even recommends a hardhat.) Dangerous shafts have been boarded up although you might get a peek through the cracks at some rusty relics inside. There is a major curve halfway in (shown above) that hides the proverbial 'light at the end of...', so bring a strong torch with fresh batteries. It takes

"It is one of the longest abandoned gold mining tunnels you can still walk through ..."

refurbished and the floor 'mud-proofed', watch for places with low headroom, dripping water, wandering wetas and glow worms. (A DOC sign even recommends a hardhat.)



A flash photo inside a portion of Collins Drive tunnel shows a bend that obscures the tunnel's exit portal. Gone are the slippery wooden planks on the floor, replaced with more stable rubber mats.

– PHOTOS BY NZ FRENZY

about 15min to get through. You may choose to return via the tunnel or continue the long steep trek to Lookout Point along the Main Range Track. If you choose to do the entire trails' loop, expect a hike of about 7km – some 3-plus total trek hours.

Note: There are no public toilets in this trail system.

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Exploring...

The Hauraki Rail Trail

Getting on your bike on the Hauraki Rail Trail is one of the best ways to explore Hauraki and the southern part of The Coromandel.

Following old railway lines between the historic goldmining towns of Waihi, Paeroa, Te Aroha, and Thames, this grade one Trail is one of New Zealand's easiest 'Great Rides', suitable for everyone from kids barely out of trainer wheels, to those who've been pedaling since the days of Penny Farthings.

From the stunning Karangahake Gorge to the salt-licked Shorebird Coast, this Trail gives cyclists plenty of reasons to stop and get off their bikes along the way. Homegrown cuisine and produce, heritage sites and accommodation options are dotted along the trail, allowing you to customise your ride to suit your interests, timeframe... and your appetite.

The entire 136km four leg cycle ride can be completed in a leisurely two



to three days, beginning in any of the district's five main towns, Kaiaua (Miranda), Thames, Paeroa, Waihi or Te Aroha – all within two hours drive of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga. Advice, accommodation, bike hire and shuttle transport are all available along the route.

THE SHOREBIRD COAST

The sight of thousands of resting seabirds as you travel this 55km northern section along coastal stop banks of the Firth of Thames from Kaiaua (Miranda) to Kopu and onto Thames is a 'must do' for all bird enthusiasts this spring.

Take a short wander along a pleasant boardwalk to the Bird Hide at the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve on the Miranda





Magnificent views like this is what you'll see from the Windows Walkway. An easy 2.5km round trip walk passes through exciting tunnels and the relics of the Talisman and Crown mining operations. The tunnel has four openings (windows) which look down on the gorge far below.

shellbank to get up close. Up to 60 recorded species of shorebirds can be seen in this wetland of international importance.

The Trail also passes a globally rare landform known as a Chenier plain, formed thousands of years ago when the ocean lapped at the foothills of the Hunua Ranges. Other reasons to get off your bike along this stretch include the thermally heated mineral pools at Miranda Hot Springs, and the popular Kaiaua Fish and Chip shop.

THAMES TO PAEROA AND TE AROHA

From Thames, it is 12km to Matatoki Cheese Barn, an essential stop to watch the cheese being made or pet the friendly animals. Be sure to stock up on their award winning organic cheeses, including recent winner, Cumin Seed Gouda. A quick pint there or up the road at the historic Puriri Pub reminds you that this trip is not just about the cycling.

A welcome touch of luxury and comfort after a day in the saddle is Corbett House in Hikutaia, a grand old homestead, converted to a luxurious B&B and a great place to overnight.



Cycle through old mining remnants and relics of Victoria Battery – the largest producing mine in the world in its time.

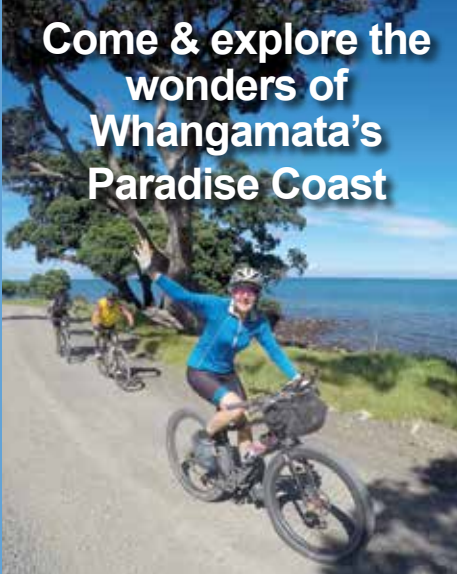
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The stunning staircase Owharoa Falls are just a few metres off the trail, and a great picnic spot.

After a delicious breakfast, you will be on your way through the flat rural pastures of the Hauraki Plains, with the Coromandel ranges framing your eastern outlook.

No stop in Paeroa is complete without a selfie in front of the iconic 'world famous in New Zealand' giant L&P bottle, and a browse through the many antique shops. From Paeroa, the southern-most section of the trail leads to Te Aroha. The trail is easy, rural and relaxing, with a looming profile of Mt Te Aroha, the 'mountain of love', getting closer by the kilometre. The reward of a soak in one of the steaming mineral pools of Te Aroha provides the ultimate motivation. Construction has already started for the Rail Trail to continue from here on to Matamata (of Hobbiton Movie Set fame).

PAEROA TO WAIHI

This dramatic leg of the trail soon heads into one of New Zealand's top must-see locations – the Karangahake Gorge – home to some of the country's most scenic walks and interesting historical sites. The Gorge was once the site of one of the busiest gold strikes in the country where three large batteries worked day and night to treat ore taken from extensive mine networks inside Karangahake Mountain.

This part of the trail offers sights and attractions the entire family will find fascinating. Take a torch and cycle through the 1086m long Karangahake Tunnel (see photo at right) - it will thrill even the hardest adventurer in your family.

Cycle through old mining remnants and relics of Victoria Battery. Named after Queen Victoria, it had 200 stampers – the largest number at one time of any similar site in the world, crushing an average of 800 tonnes of ore per day – six days a week, and the country's largest producer of gold in the early 1900's. Include a stop at the Battery museum where you can ride a tramway through the remnants, or enjoy a unique underground tour (see photo). Be sure to check museum open days.

Navigate your way over the steel swing bridges and walking trails of the area. The Karangahake Gorge by bike is arguably the best way to experience its stunning rock, river and bush-clad scenery.

And while it might feel a million miles from anywhere, there are plenty of places to stop along this stretch – unique dining venues like the Bistro at the Falls Retreat, The Talisman and Waikino Station Café – and if wine tasting spins your wheels, a visit to the Karangahake Winery and Restaurant is a must.



All aboard! Ride this vintage train with or without your bikes. The Goldfields Historic Railway runs twice daily between Waikino and Waihi.

If you run out of steam you can always climb aboard a vintage train bound for Waihi, as seen below left. The Goldfields Historic Railway runs twice daily between Waikino and Waihi, and you can even take your bike on board.

The heritage charm of an early New Zealand gold mining town is evident throughout Waihi. A walk to the edge of the open pit Martha Mine offers a glimpse into present day mining activity, while the award-winning Waihi Gold Discovery Centre across the road will make the stories of Waihi's golden past come to life. Interactive activities and tours of the town's modern working goldmine offer a unique learning experience you won't find in traditional museums.



Over a kilometre long, this notorious railway tunnel was originally built to help transport mining material and gold in and out of Waihi quickly rather than using the slow old pack horses.

TAILOR YOUR TRAIL RIDE TO SUIT

With the pre-booked Sherpa Shuttle offering bike and passenger transfers, and bicycles available for hire in the towns along the way, it is easy to plan a day ride or a multi-day adventure, depending on the time and energy available.

The charm of the Hauraki Rail Trail is a familiar landscape made new by cycling a parallel route. Getting place to place by bike, the enjoyment comes from the journey, the small scenic moments and the unexpected experiences. The soundscape of tyres on the trail becomes the baseline of the journey. The melody, of course, is entirely up to you.



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WHANGAMATA

Ridges Mountain Bike Park



"Mountain bikers of all levels have found a new playground in Whangamata. Located just five minutes from the township, the park offers something for everyone – from the first-time rider to experts looking to be challenged."

Rob Robson, Whangamata MTB Club president

For those after a more challenging biking adventure than the Grade 1 Hauraki Rail Trail, Ridges Mountain Bike Park could be just the ticket. It offers a fantastic network of tracks to delight everyone in the family – from kid-friendly trails and jumps to Grade 5 downhill screamers. Situated in the hills above Whangamata, the park even provides spectacular views of forest and ocean.

Recognising the area's reputation for great surf, the Whangamata Mountain Bike Club is excited to showcase yet another one of the area's natural wonders. Local riders agree, "When the surf is flat you can always come here and try riding the *Tsunami*, *Pipeline* or *Tube Cruiser*." With names like that, you'll soon get a feel for the type of terrain you're riding – smooth berms, exhilarating downhill, and amazing natural features, both in and out of the forest.

For riders looking for a decent climb, just plain speed or specialist jumps, there are plenty to be found. Grade 4 *Bullock Track* (that runs through the valley behind the park) takes about three hours and is guaranteed to thrill any endurance rider.

In addition to eight tracks – all built and maintained by dedicated volunteers – is a new picnic and staging area providing large sunshades, tables and a number of handy rides for the littlies. It can be accessed by vehicles from 7am-7pm on weekends and public holidays.

GETTING THERE

The park is located a short drive (or an easy ride) just 4km north of Whangamata. The trailhead start point is in Matariki Forest off SH25 near Ridge and Causeway Roads.

Throughout the coming year there will be large forestry operations in the bike park area, but there's always somewhere to find to ride. Be sure to check for the latest updates on the Whangamata Ridges Facebook page or pop into Pedal & Paddle. The team there can advise as well as sort you out with hire bikes, bike servicing and all the kit you need for some fun on the trails. For your safety please obey all posted signage – failure to do so could jeopardize access to the forest for all.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

An annual membership fee of only \$10 not only allows year-round access to the park, it also supports the local Mountain Biking Club in their efforts to continue constructing and maintaining great trail rides in the area. These permits can be purchased from Pedal & Paddle or Info Plus, both located on Port Rd in Whangamata.



Great mountain biking is found in the hills above the beaches of Whangamata.

Photo: Destination Coromandel



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An Adventure Weekend in...

WHANGAMATA

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH HALL

We humans aren't the only ones that love to play in the waves. Thrill to the sight of dolphins leaping the famous surf break at Whangamata.

Whangamata is famous for not only this beautiful beach but also the nearby Coromandel and Tairua forests that provide many outdoor experiences, including short and long walks, mountain bike trails, waterfalls, and old gold mining sites. It also plays host to the well-known and loved Beach Hop, a five day commemoration of '50s and '60s culture, and Brits at the Beach, a celebration of all things British, coming up in February.

Voted best beach in the country by *NZ Herald* readers 2018, Whangamata's extensive beach provides not only safe swimming but the best surf breaks in the country. The best way to help conquer these renowned waves is to have a lesson. Both group or personal instruction is available through Whangamata Surf School, situated at the beach front. Owner Hannah Hall supplied the photos for last issue's Whangamata Winter Fun pages (and the one above), so we asked this local expert about the best way to enjoy a Summer Whanga-Weekend.

Those of us lucky enough to call Whanga home have managed to integrate the outdoors into our daily lifestyle. However if you're only in town for the weekend, here's my top 5 adventure activities to make the most of your time in town!

First of course, haha, learn to surf our world class waves – what better way to get amongst the action! From complete novice to advanced surf levels, there's a wave for everyone. The Surf School has quality equipment, coaches and the best local knowledge for getting anyone up and riding. Our NZ Qualified instructors will tailor the lessons to suit abilities, no matter what the surfing level.

I also recommend giving Stand Up Paddle-boarding (SUP) a go. Whangamata is home to pristine beaches and untarnished islands just waiting to be explored. The Whenuakura Wildlife Sanctuary is a particularly popular destination for SUP and kayaks, located just 600m off the coast of Whanga. The crew at Pedal & Paddle has been working within the community for over 25 years and are the 'go to' guys for hires and guided tours to safely explore this natural beauty.

If water's not your thing or surf's not up, how about a hike? Experience the beauty of the coastline from above – a nearby Coastal Track runs from Onemana to the end of the peninsula with stunning views of the entire township. Along the way you will discover secluded beaches and a variety of native trees. Allow a half day for the walk, and be aware that while most of the trail is along beautiful beaches, there are some rugged areas that involve a bit of scrambling. Sturdy footwear (and footing!) is advised with a good degree of fitness.

If you're after a delicious bite to eat, Port Rd Project has something for everyone. They focus on many healthy options yet offer epic homemade treats and a delightful coffee. It's a great place to restock and recharge.

If the weather is less than ideal for outdoor activities, Whanga has a vibrant main street filled with lots of shops for 'retail therapy' as well as a variety of great dining options.

Anyone in town (including our team at the Surf School) will be happy to point you in the right direction for a great time. There's always lots to do, and friendly faces abound! – *Hannah Hall*

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Explore Waihi Beach and Athenree: Beaches, wetlands, and walkways



Orokawa Bay.

WAIHI BEACH

This pristine 8km beach is popular with surfers, boogie boarders, kayakers and kite boarders and is known as one of NZ's safest swimming beaches. And perfect for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the fresh sea air! The

charming little town has some unique shops and galleries, as well as a number of great cafés – some even right on the beach.

At the north end of the beach, a DOC track crosses the headland to Orokawa Bay. With spectacular panoramic views of the ocean and Waihi Beach, this walk is an experience all visitors remember. Beautiful pohutukawa trees shelter a beach of sparkling white sand offering great fishing, perfect picnicking, bush walking and surfing opportunities. Swimming is not advised here due to the steep grade of the seafloor. Nearby Homunga Bay also offers dense pohutukawa forest and seclusion.

For info on these walks and more, or for a map, pop into the Waihi Beach Info Centre in the village (opposite the Four Square) where a friendly team will help you out.



Athenree area walks focus on wetlands/estuary restoration

The award-winning Athenree Saltmarsh Wetlands project is providing a shoreline habitat for indigenous plants and animals, playing host to some of the largest populations of threatened wetland species within the Bay of Plenty. Explore this wetland via the 20min Athenree Wetlands Loop Walk, accessible from Emerton-Steele Rd.

Southward enjoy the flat 3km Athenree Estuary Walkway trail from Waihi Beach to Bowentown. An easy walk that highlights the beauty of the estuary which also offers plenty of kayak launch spots. The walkway's entrance is opposite the award-winning Surf Shack Café on Emerton Road, and the trail ends at the park in Bowentown. Along the way, you will pass the location of the Athenree Homestead.

ALL THIS AND HOT POOLS TOO!

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Reconstruction of new wing at Historic Homestead

Athenree Homestead plays an important part in reflecting the history of the settlement of Katikati and Athenree. It was built by original owners Hugh and Adela Stewart who lived here from 1878 until 1906. They were among the first 4000 Ulster Protestant 'Orange' immigrants, and this is the only surviving home from that settlement.

Descendants of the original Ulster settlers despaired as they witnessed the building's deterioration. Once the social centre of the region, the building was in ruin – until they, along with other persevering individuals, did whatever it took to restore the homestead itself and keep alive the story of the area's pioneers. The Western Bay District Council subsequently bought the property, with the board of trustees being given a long term lease for its ongoing care.



Following the Homestead's original footprint, the construction of the new wing will restore Adela's kitchen and extra bedrooms at the back of the house.

The Homestead is now to receive a long awaited reconstruction of the home's south wing, which contained Adela's kitchen and extra bedrooms. "It is now well underway," says Events Coordinator Val New, "but it has been a long process to get here." The addition required "reports for funding, quantity surveyor reports, architect's plans, quotes for materials and finally a building permit application." The project received a boost from TECT (Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust) who financed a grant on a 'dollar for dollar' basis. The Athenree board also purchased and renovated "genuine old colonial windows and doors, a coal range, a tin bath, a kauri desk, kauri wash tubs, a cast iron fire surround, and a Victorian porcelain corner hand basin." Volunteers will assist with interior work once the outer shell is complete.

"The building is closed to the public during construction," notes Val, "but we plan to finish the major work in time for our annual Christmas Fair on Sunday, 25 November."

Located south of Waihi off SH2, the Homestead and Railway Station Refreshment Rooms are open to the public every Sunday Jan-March, offering an afternoon tea from 12pm to 4pm, otherwise only the first Sunday of each month. To volunteer or contribute, call Val on 07 863 4983 or 021 977 825.



Learn more about the homestead by reading Adela Stewart's book, *My Simple Life in New Zealand* (1908), in past issues of *Coromandel Life* and visiting www.athenreehomestead.org.nz



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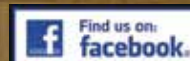
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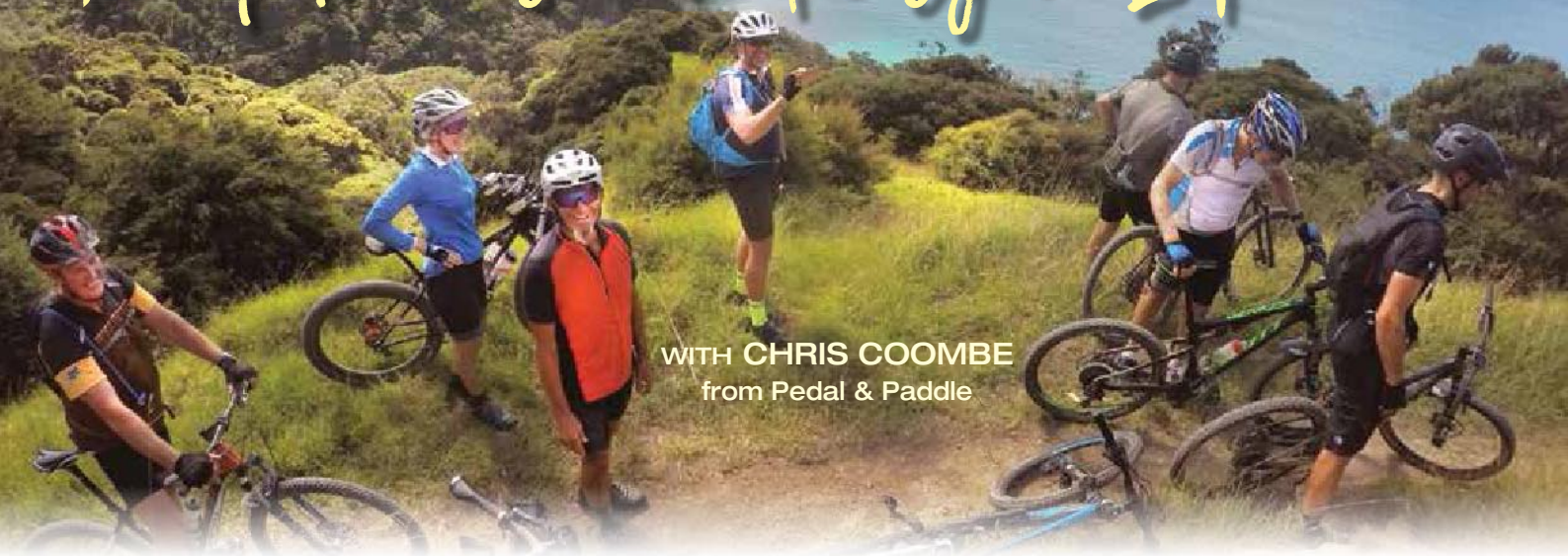
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The Northern Coromandel Cycle Loop...



WITH CHRIS COOMBE
from Pedal & Paddle

The brief, as usual, was simple. Meet at Pedal and Paddle in Whangamata, ready to go by 7am. As the sun peaks over the horizon, two vehicles are fully loaded with adventure riders and cycles, including a couple of token Aussies keen to see some classic Coromandel scenery. Everyone was primed for an epic ride around the stunning northern loop.

On the road and a quick stop at the legendary Two Tides Bakery in Tairua for a coffee and their traditional 'Bacon and Egg' pie that'll see us through the day...Superb!!

While driving The 309 Road, a voice is heard from the back of the van. "Be ready for Stu the Pig Man and his herd of pigs that live in the middle of the road", Matt wisely advised. Cameras at the ready, it's a random but just so NZ type of scene. "Unbelievable!!", chirp the Aussies in the group.

Through the 'living time capsule' that is Coromandel Town, we reach Colville and its iconic local store. Top up of supplies, jet planes and jelly beans, we gear up, park the vans, hit the bikes and begin the journey.

LET THE BIKES BEGIN

We head north, up the coast road with a few short climbs to wake up the muscles. Past the imposing Moehau Peaks – with a quick stop at the Paritu Stone Wharves, the quarry that supplied the stone for construction of Auckland and Wellington.

Crest the hills, breathlessly, to a mind-blowing view stretching across to Little and Great Barrier Islands – pristine waters teeming with schooling fish. Blast downhill to Fletcher Bay, the northern tip of the peninsula. Awesome!!



Lunch and a dip in the tide, before we begin the traverse over the headland to Stony Bay, passing intrepid travellers heading the other way. One happy Frenchmen pushing a fully laden cycle resplendent with even a surfboard attached... "Joie de vivre!"

Views on every turn – nothing but spectacular. Looking out over glistening water to the Barriers and beyond. A stunning panorama, that must be experienced whether by foot or bike.

Zooming down the final kms through beautiful native bush, whooping and yahooing as we roll into Stony Bay, what a blast! A few scratches and bruises with stories to go with them.

"\$5?? ... Not possible!" Bruce the Aussie exudes standing on the of the bay. "The cost of a night's camping pitch, with this view!!"

Refreshed and watered, we complete the cycle back to Colville. There's a decent few hills along the way to keep us honest and get our last bits of energy before we glide back to where we started.

GENEROUS LOCALS TO THE RESCUE

Not without a little drama – while all our intrepid riders have managed to avoid it – the support van has attracted two punctures!! "Just up the road on the left is the White Star Service Centre, they will sort you out", states the super friendly lady at the Colville Store, who did open just for us weary riders to get some post ride snacks and...refreshments.

And Karl, capable owner of the service centre, well and truly did sort the punctures, even putting his tea in the oven to devour at a later date. Karl will always hold a place as a legend in our minds!

Bit late now, so to the humming Star and Garter for a beer and burger, even managing to catch the end of the Rugby. Neil's on the phone delaying his conference calls to the rest of the world – "they can wait...these cycling adventures take precedent!!"

The Coromandel – such an eclectic region. Old and new, historical, friendly, welcoming.

Sleepily, we arrive back at Whangamata in the small hours with big smiles on our faces.

For more info about upcoming trips, phone or see www.pedalandpaddle.co.nz



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Colville...

Many say this region is a reminder of what the Coromandel once was, and offers something special – a perfect destination where you can put your feet up, find a little peace and rejuvenation, and yet still have lots to do.

Just north of Coromandel Town, even locals make the drive here for the unique products available in this quaint village. It is well known for its co-operatively owned and run Colville General Store that sells a huge variety of goods including fresh organic produce.

There's also a café, small gallery, historic post shop, school, community hall, motel, doctor's clinic, and several other small businesses (see right). And Colville shops are the last opportunity to stock up on provisions and fuel before heading north.

Enjoy beautiful bays with sandy beaches, lush forest, pastoral scenes of fiat lands and steep hills where cattle, alpacas, sheep and goats graze. Fossicking for semi-precious stones such as carnelian and kauri gum is quite popular in the area as well.

You'll also find several walkways in the area north of Colville, ranging from 20-minute strolls to half-day hikes.



COLVILLE GENERAL STORE

HEADING NORTH? LAST STOP FOR SUPPLIES & FUEL!

Our old fashioned 'General Store' offers general grocery items, including local produce, manuka honey, a selection of gluten and dairy free items, as well as a wide range of camping, fishing and automotive supplies. We believe in protecting the world we inhabit, so we offer organic produce and products whenever we can, at competitive prices.

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Greg Taylor creates unique handcrafted wooden furniture from a range of local timbers. Pohutukawa and Macrocarpa feature in his work and lately he has been using ancient Kauri, Puriri, Rimu felled on his farm by loggers. The furniture that Greg creates is beautiful both in and outdoors; it's comfortable, rustic and relaxed. His work will outlast both you and me. Visit Greg's place to view his authentic New Zealand woodwork in a real Coromandel setting. 1925 Colville Road, Colville 07 8666846
www.branchcreek.co.nz



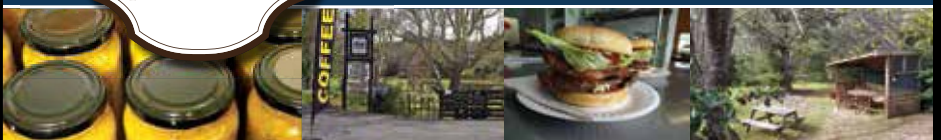
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THE KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE
IN THAMES
Presents

'SUMMER FUN'

A popular programme that includes conservation talks and experiences,
as well as recreational activities.

What's Inside...

- Descriptions and schedule of nature activities and other happenings
- Visitor Centre Services
- Booking your function at KVC
- Campgrounds, Cottages and Camping Huts information
- How you can help protect our precious Kiwi!

THE ENDANGERED KIWI

The Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre (KVC) is proud to celebrate our kiwi as the theme of the "2018-19 SUMMER FUN" Programme.

Join us for this year's exciting 'Summer Fun' programme. It starts just after Christmas, with creative activities, guided walks, fascinating talks, movie nights, close encounters with native species, a fun day for families and much more. See more details on the following pages, check out our facebook page or call the visitor centre for the latest updates. All funds raised will go towards kiwi conservation on the Coromandel.

In 2006, the Coromandel Brown Kiwi population on the Thames Coast was on the brink of extinction. Since then, the hard work of conservation groups has seen its numbers triple.

With Thames Coast and Whenuakite Kiwi Care groups, DOC, and others in the community working together, the dream is that one day the call of the kiwi will be commonplace again. Of the four types of North Island brown kiwi, the local Coromandel bird is the rarest, so come to KVC this year, take part in the activities, and be part of bringing our iconic bird back to this beautiful area.



Celebrates The

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

ALL EVENTS ARE A GOLD COIN DONATION PER PERSON UNLESS SPECIFIED. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT KIWI RECOVERY.

Come have a great time, learn, and help get kiwi back living in our hills. All funds raised will be shared between Thames Coast Kiwi Care and Whenuakite Kiwi Care - helping kiwi thrive in the wild.

Participants to meet at the KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE (KVC) unless otherwise noted. Please arrive 15min prior to all events. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL EVENTS. Some activities have a minimum and maximum. If no bookings, the activity will be cancelled. Phone KVC at 07 867 9080 for more details.

Be Sunsmart and slip on a long sleeve top, slop on the sunscreen and slap a hat on. Insect repellent recommended! Check out our Facebook page for any updates or changes to the programme closer to the time.

GOLD PROSPECTING:

Experienced people from Thames School of Mines teach panning for gold, one of the tools of 19th-century prospecting used on the Thames Goldfields. Be rewarded with your very own gold to take away!



\$10pp (cash). Bring water bottle, togs and a towel.

ROCKY TREASURE HUNT: Join a local expert from the Thames School of Mines and discover what rocks, stones and gems lay in our rivers and hills. See what treasures you can find in the Kuaeranga River. Suitable for ages 10+. Children to be accompanied by adult. \$10 pp (cash only). Bring comfortable clothing and footwear you are happy to get wet, sunscreen.



GECKO ENCOUNTER:

Meet Doug Ashby, our local Herpetologist (lizard expert), and have an up close, hands on experience with his geckos. He has spent a life time learning about all their quirky fascinating secrets. Meet Marilyn, the beautiful

Duvaucel gecko, and see the other bright green and yellow geckos. Doug has been caretaker of very rare Coromandel striped geckos for DOC.

Geckos stress easily so a max of 25 participants will be strictly adhered to. KVC AV room. All welcome.

CREATIVE WITH NATURE: Join the ranger and have fun creating things in nature and making something special to take home with you. For details call KVC or check out our Facebook page. KVC AV room. Age 8+. Max: 14. Come in comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

KAURI GUM POLISHING: Come learn the early settler's art of kauri gum polishing. Ranger Donna has learnt the skill from Craig Merritt and will take you through this old-time process. All welcome but there is knife work involved so children must be accompanied by adult. Bring a pocket knife.

ABSEILING: Revive your sense of adventure! Edwards Lookout is a perfect spot for learning to abseil. Under the instructions of Canyonz experienced guides, you'll also take in stunning views of the Kuaeranga Valley. Meet at Whangaiterenga camp ground 10min before start time. Photos included but feel free to bring your own camera. Age 10+. No max age, just need to be able to walk! Min 4, Max 10. \$60. Contact KVC: 07 867 9080 or info@canyonz.co.nz for info and booking. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen and sturdy footwear.



Canyoning in the valley available all year. Half day (5hrs) or full day (9-10hrs). See. www.canyonz.co.nz. Reference KVC when enquiring for Programme deals!

TWILIGHT WALK WITH KIWI DUNDEE! Join John from Kiwi Dundee Adventures on a twilight adventure along Jasper Creek track. Engage your senses as the light fades and the night settles. Hear about the valley's unique flora, fauna and heritage. See glow worms and other natives that come out at night. A torch and sturdy footwear are essential. Max: 20. All ages. 1.5hr duration. Meet 8:15pm at Hotoritori Campground (3km past KVC).

Sponsored by Kiwi Dundee Adventure Tours. To book a nature tour or to enquire about a customised tour, see www.kiwidundee.co.nz, or phone 027 474 6219.

WET AND WILD: STREAM LIFE: Join DOC Ranger Ken to discover our native fauna living below the surface of the Kuaeranga River. Ken has put out traps to see what can be found. Come help him clear the traps and learn about our native fish. Max 15. All welcome. Bring water bottle, sunscreen.

FUN DAY IN THE PARK: Come for a fun packed day of family nature-based activities. Something for everyone. Get creative, enjoy a teddy bears' adventure, games, and prizes. All welcome, children accompanied by adult. Bring a picnic, water, sunscreen. Sat 5th on KVC lawn.

MOVIE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK: 'Kiwi Christmas' Bring a picnic for the lawn then come on in to watch this Kiwi Christmas comedy on the big screen. Ice blocks and drinks available to purchase on the night. Great for the whole family. Max: 50. Call 07 867 9080 for more info.

FUN

Kiwi

BIKES, BOARDS AND BUMPS:

Have fun on a skills challenge course of boards, cones, planks, seesaw, and log hop to build confidence in riding. Set up on the lawn next to KVC. Max: 20. Beginners of all ages. Bring your bike, helmet, water bottle and sunscreen.



SINGLE TRACK SKILLS: Come explore the Hotoritori Mountain Bike trails and learn a few tricks for how to ride off-road trails. Intermediate riding skills required to ride the 10kms round trip to Hotoritori – a possible lunch and swim stop on the way back. Max: 20. Bring your bike, helmet, water bottle and sunscreen (togs and towel optional).

WILDLIFE SCULPTURES: Join Lillian and friends getting your hands dirty turning clay blobs into native animal figurines and take home your cool creations! Materials supplied, instruction given. Max: 20. Gold Coin plus \$5pp materials fee. Must book before 2nd Jan for materials purchase. All ages.

KIWI GUARDIAN ACTIVITIES: Enjoy discovering great activities around the KVC that go towards earning your Kiwi Guardian badge. Work together on the Treasure Hunt and have fun with the Giant Board Game. Max: 10. Age 6-10. Bring sturdy footwear.



GEOCACHING: A fun activity that sends you hunting for hidden objects. These “caches” are located by GPS reference which can be downloaded onto smart phones using a free app (good old-fashioned maps also available). Starts at KVC with a quick intro. Max: 20. School age plus, with an adult. Down loading the app before coming would help, but not essential.

DARK CREATURES: This spell-binding talk highlights two of NZ’s unique species rarely seen – the short-tailed bat and dactylanthus, our only native fully parasitic flowering plant, the wood rose (right). Fabulous footage of our bats feeding from this fascinating plant. Meet at KVC AV room. Mature ages.



WHERE IS THE WILDLIFE? Fun for the little ones. Find hidden treasures in the bush with DOC ranger Christine. Hear about how these creatures live in our ngahere (bush). Bring big people along to help you eat the chocolate! Max: 20. Ages 3-10.

SPECIAL DOGS PROTECTING OUR KIWI: Meet dogs that have been specially trained to look after our rare species, including kiwi, by locating predators. Learn all about them, their special skills, and what you can do to help.

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Learn cool tips and skills for surviving and finding your way in the great outdoors. Great for everyone. Age 10+. Max: 14. Bring sturdy footwear and comfortable clothing you are happy to get wet.

BRAND NEW FUN! Come up anytime and play on the latest addition to the visitor’s centre – a giant board game on the lawn – fun and learning for the whole family.

DATE	ACTIVITY
27th December - Thursday	Gold prospecting: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm
28th December - Friday	Gecko encounter: 11am
29th December - Saturday	Rocky treasure hunt: 10–11.30am
30th December - Sunday	Gecko encounter: 11am and 1pm
31st December - Monday	Creative with nature: 10:30am-12pm
1st January - Tuesday	Kauri Gum Polishing: 10am Abseiling: 9am and 12pm
2nd January - Wednesday	Gold prospecting: 10am and 1pm Twilight walk with Kiwi Dundee: 8.30pm
3rd January - Thursday	Wet and wild stream life: 10am Abseiling: 9am and 12 noon
4th January - Friday	Gold prospecting: 10am and 1pm Kiwi Guardian activities: 1pm
5th January - Saturday	Fun day in the park: 11am-3pm Movie in the park: 6:30pm
6th January - Sunday	Bikes Boards and Bumps: 10am. Wildlife sculptures: 11am Single track skills: 11:30am
7th January - Monday	Gecko encounter: 11am
8th January - Tuesday	Geocaching: 10am Abseiling: 9am and 12pm Creative with nature: 1-2.30pm
9th January - Wednesday	Gold prospecting: 10am and 1pm. Twilight walk with Kiwi Dundee: 8.30pm
10th January - Thursday	Where is the wildlife? 11-11:45am Abseiling: 9am and 12pm
11th January - Friday	Gold prospecting: 10am and 1pm Dark creatures: bats and wood roses: 11am
12th January - Saturday	Where is the wildlife? 11-11:45am Movie in the park – 6.30 pm.
13th January - Sunday	Survival skills for the great outdoors: 10:30am

ALL EVENTS ARE GOLD COIN DONATIONS PER PERSON UNLESS NOTED

NEW – Treasure Hunt and Giant Lawn Board Game are self guided and available for play any day

Half and Full Day Canyoning also available throughout the year every day

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See latest details and photos at www.facebook.com/KauaerangaVC

Our Precious

KIWI

RESCUE AND CONTROL EFFORTS ON THE THAMES COAST

In 2006, the Coromandel Brown Kiwi was on the brink of extinction on the Thames Coast, with only an estimated 28 birds still alive. However, thanks to rescue efforts, kiwi call monitoring, and pest control, by 2016 the population was estimated to have grown to around 60 birds.

Operation Nest Egg is a collaboration of Thames Coast Kiwi Care, Rotoroa Island Trust, Auckland Zoo, and the Thames Coast Kiwi Cares (TCKC) Predator Control Trapping operation, which helps protect over approx 2,500 hectares. TCKC releases birds into the Te Mata area.

The combined efforts of these dedicated volunteer organisations has seen the Thames Coast kiwi population triple over the last 12 years. Approximately 30 birds are being raised on Rotoroa Island, which is completely free of mammal predators. There have been recent reports of kiwi calls being heard and

evidence of their footprints in suburban Te Mata, realising TCKC's vision of 'hearing kiwi calling from our backyards'.

This kiwi recovery project would not be the success it is without a community with passion behind it: volunteers, trappers, landowners, sponsors and supporters dedicated to helping wild kiwi thrive. Visit www.thamescoastkiwicare.org, see FB's Thames Coast Kiwi Care, or contact them at info@thamescoastkiwicare.org

EFFORTS ON THE EAST COAST

Since year 2000, the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group has been working to protect Coromandel brown kiwi and their habitat within the Whenuakite Kiwi Recovery Area, a 4000ha patch of regenerating coastal broadleaf and kauri forest lying between Tairua and Hot Water Beach. Its aim is to make sure the area's wild kiwi population survives long term. Signs make sure everyone knows that kiwi are there, and the role they can play to help keep them safe.

As we go to press, October's 'Save Kiwi Month' is in full swing, encouraging Kiwis to join the fight to save our national icon – not just during the month but throughout the year.

What an ideal time to share an update on the activities of the two local groups of hard-working volunteers dedicated to preserving Coromandel kiwi habitat, and the beneficiaries of DOC's Summer Fun Programme – Thames Coast Kiwi Care and Whenuakite Kiwi Care.

Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group's members reflect a vibrant partnership between local landowners and residents, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Waikato Regional Council (WRC). Key supporters are landowners who welcome the kiwi groups onto their lands, or do the predator control themselves.

Sponsors and supporters include Kiwis for Kiwi, DOC, WRC, Forest and Bird, TCDC, WWF–New Zealand, Lotteries Commission, E.B. Firth Charitable Trust, NZ Post, Little Brown Kiwi and Jamie Orchard.

A 2005 survey showed the predator control undertaken by the group had helped the kiwi numbers jump to 68 adults, up from 29 in 2001. A further survey in 2010 identified 98 kiwi, with an estimated population of 75 pairs. Locals also report that in helping protect the kiwis, they are also seeing more tui, kereru and kaka.

Get involved! See www.kiwisforkiwi.org or www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/save-kiwi-month/

NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI – IN THE BURROW



A male and female North Island Brown Kiwi in their nesting burrow. A Forest Gecko (*Hoplodactylus granulosus*) rests upon a pile of leaves. A hen-sized bird, females are up to 25% larger than males. The female also has a longer beak. In this painting the female is on the left.

*The painting above depicts a male North Island Brown Kiwi (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) and chick with discarded egg shell situated in a nesting burrow lined with leaf litter. A spider web drapes ferns at the burrow entrance.*

This painting and the one at left are two of three in a commissioned series.

Numerous studies were made of kiwis in nocturnal houses throughout NZ before work commenced on this series. It is vital to research your subject before painting, as behaviour, the way an animal moves, even the texture of its fur or feathers must be portrayed in some manner.

In this case there is a marked difference between the feel of the feathers of the spotted kiwi and the North Island brown kiwi. The spotted is soft, whereas the North island brown is coarse. – MC



Paintings and story by Wildlife Artist Marie-Claire Colyer

The North Island brown kiwi is endangered – approximately 94% of chicks die before breeding in areas where mammalian pest control is not carried out.

The egg averages 20% of the female's bodyweight, one of the largest egg-to-body weight ratios of any bird. The female brown kiwi leaves the male to incubate the egg once she has laid it, and she feeds to rebuild her condition. In other Kiwi species, males and females share the incubation.

A second egg is usually laid several weeks later. By that time the male has developed a brood patch on its lower belly and spends about 20 hours each day covering the egg. He covers the burrow entrance carefully with vegetation before foraging each night.

The incubation period of the eggs is around 80 days. Kiwi chicks lack the egg tooth found in other birds and hatch by kicking at the tough egg shell. The hatching success rate is around 25%, and only about half those chicks survive to leave the nest. On average Kiwi pairs fledge only one chick every 2 years.

Unlike other birds, Kiwi chicks aren't blind and naked, but hatch as miniature versions of the adult. The chick emerges wet, unable to stand, and with a belly distended with yolk. This sustains them for the first week, while their feathers dry.

During this period they are primarily brooded by the male and occasionally by the female. After 5 or 6 days the chicks emerge from the burrow for the first time. By 10 days they are

away foraging for most of the night, returning to the nest during the day. At 20 days they leave the burrow for good.

MORE FROM THE ARTIST: "As an artist and writer, I specialise in lifelike wildlife and nature-inspired paintings and drawings, plus poetry and novels.

"My professional career began in NZ, where I resided from 2006 to 2015. Originally from Sydney, we moved to Whangaparaoa for my husband's work.

"Family eventually enticed us back to Australia, but NZ is always in our hearts and minds. I have visited the Coromandel Peninsula and always wished to spend more time in its surrounds."

See www.mccolyer.com.



Kauaeranga Valley is better than ever. Recent repairs due to the devastating storms early this year have brought many welcome improvements – better access with a newly sealed road to KVC, a new Wainora Bridge to replace the ford, repaired tracks, upgraded gravel road to the Pinnacles Trail, and more!

Phone or check Facebook for updated information about the Summer Fun Programme, special events and track/campground openings and closures.



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- Accommodation includes two cottages, nearby powered and non-powered campsites and two remote camping huts.
- A large conference room for up to 80 with internet, visual and audio equipment provided.
- Outdoor venues include the KVC's vast front lawn and field space.

KVC's activities and classes can enrich your event!

Take advantage of our existing classes and nature adventures. We can organize a number of talks and activities that are ideal for large groups of children or adults. Outdoor activities offer easy walking trails with cosy camping to rugged back country treks. Teambuilding courses in climbing, abseiling and more can also be arranged.

Contact the Centre staff to discuss your group's needs and how to create the perfect and unique gathering for your occasion.

The KVC café is also happy to cater to your group's needs.

Phone 07 867 9080 or email kvcevent@gmail.com for booking information and assistance.

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THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY Visitor Centre



Tucked into the hills of the Coromandel Ranges, the Kauaeranga Valley is a hidden treasure of lush bush, sparkling waters and wonderful adventures. The Department of Conservation (DOC) has supported the development of this area into an outdoor destination of unrivalled natural beauty.

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (KVC) is a hub of information providing maps, brochures, basic outdoor supplies and conservation related gifts. Come for a wander, taking in all the fascinating information on the history and nature of the area, and watch one of a range of short movies. There is also free public wifi available 24/7. And friendly staff are available to help plan your adventures.

Enjoy the exciting new Giant Board Game coming soon on the lawn, or the Treasure Hunt which changes yearly – both great ways to learn about the nature of Aotearoa/New Zealand. The Toyota Kiwi Guardians programme offers children fun outdoor nature projects where learning and good times go together – and there are awards to be won. Adventure maps at www.goo.gl/t6GkOR.

Camping in the valley is a wonderful way

to take a break – surrounded by forest covered hills and bird song, but still close to town and all its amenities. All nine camping areas have easy access to swimming spots in the crystal-clear streams and river, Kahikatea has powered sites for campervans, and two camps allow dogs. Two furnished cottages are available to book for groups and families.

The valley has many well marked, beautiful walking tracks, and access to longer hikes that will take you throughout the ranges. The iconic Pinnacles track starts at the end of the road and is a stunning full day or overnight walk to the top of the ranges and the Pinnacle's Hut. Crossbies Hut is a gem for those wanting a longer journey with sweeping views as a reward.

There are also mountain bike trails, picnic areas, nature trails, and in the evenings people can look for glow worms and other night creatures.

To complete the visitor experience the Kauaeranga Valley Café opens over the peak summer season. Healthy fare to decadent treats, all fresh baked, are on offer, as are cold drinks, great coffee, high teas, and ice creams.



Come celebrate! A day of fun is planned for everyone Sat 5th December, starting at 11am. Little ones will enjoy having a dance or getting their photos taken with Kiri the giant cuddly kiwi, and bringing their soft toys/teddy bears for the adventures and games. Hear great tales and learn about kiwi from our kiwi trackers. Meet the predator dogs. There will be face painting, creative nature based activities, the chance to make something cool to take home and more. Gold coin donation per person with all funds to support our local kiwi projects.

Make a day of it! Enjoy great food from the café or bring a picnic. Stay for the showing of the popular 'Kiwi Christmas' movie at 6.30pm.



GETTING THERE: From SH25 at the southern entrance to Thames, turn right into Banks St beside the BP service station. Banks St veers right into Parawai Road, which then becomes Kauaeranga Valley Rd. The road is now sealed to the Visitor Centre, 12km from the highway. From here it is 9km of gravel to the road's end and the start of the Pinnacles Track.

KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE • 995 Kauaeranga Valley Rd
Open 8:30am–4pm daily
8:30am–5pm peak summer season
(Closed Christmas day and during severe weather)

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Summer Reading Picks



ECO HOME: Smart Ideas for Sustainable New Zealand Homes – Melinda Williams

Loaded with photos of NZ homes, this offers everything you need to know to build, renovate or just live in an eco-

friendly and sustainable way. Moving from room to room, it looks at structural materials, furnishings and general life hacks to improve your personal green-star rating. Also includes principles of sustainable building, choosing a property, building a team, foundations and floors. A colourful must-have book – both entertaining and informative.



FLOURISH: NZ Women and Their Extraordinary Gardens – Barb Rogers; Juliet Nicholas

This celebrates women responsible for some of the most-admired gardens in NZ.

Often starting as a hobby that had to fit around child care and domestic tasks, their gardens evolved into living works of art. This sisterhood of gardeners share common bonds – hard work and a passion for the landscape – but also stories of combating isolation and loss. Showcases both well-known and ‘undiscovered’ gardens – country rose gardens to inner city courtyard and edible gardens.

THE LOST MAN – Jane Harper



The man lay still in the centre of a dusty grave under a monstrous-unrelenting sun, in the Queensland outback. Two brothers meet at the border of their vast cattle properties and discover their brother Cameron's body atop

the stockman's grave. A landmark so old, no one can remember who is buried there. The family's quiet existence is thrown into grief and anguish. Something had been troubling Cameron. Did he lose hope and walk to his death? Because if he didn't, the isolation of the outback leaves few suspects. Harper has once again created a powerful story of suspense, set against a dazzling landscape.

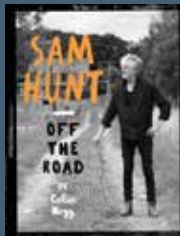
Wine Trails: Australia and New Zealand – Lonely Planet



Following the success of *Wine Trails*, Lonely Planet suggests “40 perfect weekends”, with the most interesting vineyards in wine

regions near major cities in Australia and NZ. Clare Valley, Margaret River, Hawkes Bay, Tamar Valley and Marlborough are visited, and itineraries include some hidden gems off the beaten path.

Winemakers help you understand a place, its people and traditions through the wine made there. Features gorgeous photos and maps.



SAM HUNT: Off the Road – Sam Hunt; Colin Hogg

An off-the-road biography of NZ's best-known poet. Thirty years after Hogg and Hunt collaborated on the

now-legendary *Angel Gear: Off the Road with Sam Hunt*, the pair decided to throw caution to the wind to create an older, possibly wiser twin. A wild, hilarious, no-holds-barred book about the non-stop life of a man NZ thinks it knows, until now. Part conversation, part story-telling, part poems, it's also a book about friendship, solitude, love, death, self-destruction and endurance. Includes photos.

HERO OF THE SEA: Sir Peter Blake's Mighty Ocean Quests – David Hill; Phoebe Morris (ill)



Sir Peter Blake's life was filled with amazing adventures. During his 30 year career on the ocean,

he sailed around the globe, won the world's most famous races and broke records. Even his red socks became a national sensation. But no matter how many trophies Peter won, he always knew the survival of our planet was more important. This illustrated picture book for young readers tells the remarkable story of a true Kiwi hero.



FRESH START, FEEL GOOD! – Nadia Lim

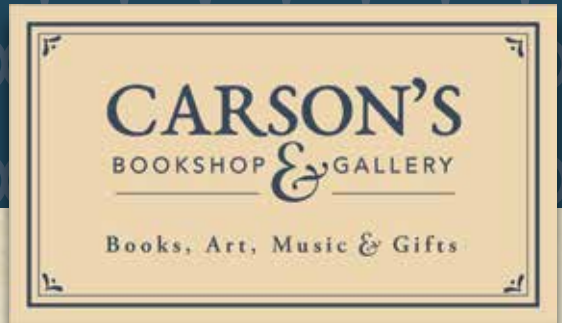
All recipes are under 450 calories, with a focus on packing in more vegetables and nourishing

ingredients, low in carbs and free of refined sugar. Recipes range from breakfasts, salads, soups, easy lunchboxes using leftovers, fast dinners, comfort food, smoothies, snacks, sides and sweet treats... all with a lighter, healthier twist!

A SPARK OF LIGHT – Jodi Picoult

At Mississippi's sole remaining women's reproductive services clinic, a gunman bursts in and takes patients and staff hostage. Reasons these individuals came to the clinic vary, from a woman awaiting cancer screening results, to a protestor hoping to catch the clinic in a scandal. The hostage negotiator's daughter is also trapped inside, and the gunman himself.

Meanwhile, across the state, a 17-year-old lands in the hospital after an attempt to self-terminate her pregnancy, and is subsequently charged by the pro-life DA for the murder of her unborn child. They, too, are connected to events unfolding in the clinic.



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Rex Simpson's new adjoining Carson's Gallery Café is now operating, also acting as a venue for art exhibitions, literary and local events.



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Petrified Wood

A TREASURE OF THE COROMANDEL'S PAST

By Robert Simmons
from Heaven & Earth Gallery

Of all the amazing stones of the Coromandel Peninsula, petrified wood stands out as one which bridges the gulf between the world of living organisms and the mineral realm.

The formation of the Coromandel land mass was almost completely volcanic, and the many beautiful mineral and gemstone

treasures found here – quartz crystals, carnelian, jasper, spherulitic rhyolite, andesite and others – were all created through volcanic activity.

FORMED BY PREHISTORIC ERUPTIONS

One of the most fascinating of these is petrified wood, derived from the Greek root 'petro' meaning rock or stone – so literally "wood turned into stone". It is basically a type of fossil in which the form of a tree trunk or branch has evolved to stone in a long, gradual process initiated by violent volcanic action.

Uprooted by great flows of lava or volcanic ash, trees were then washed down from the highlands and buried under cooling lava, volcanic ash, and/or silt. This sealed the wood in an oxygen-free environment that prevented normal decay. Groundwater, rich in dissolved solids, gradually seeped through the wood over centuries, replacing the decaying plant material cell by cell with silica (quartz), calcite, pyrite, or other inorganic materials such as opal.

Because the process is incredibly slow – taking place literally one molecule at a time – the rock formed often carries recognisable features of the original tree or branch such as bark, wood grain and cellular structures (such as growth rings). Some specimens are such accurate preservations that people do not realise they are fossils until they pick them up and are shocked by their weight. While it's rare to find these near-perfect preservations, specimens that exhibit recognisable bark and woody structures are common.

Recorded age may vary greatly universally, with some pieces dating as far back as 385 million years. The famous Arizona Petrified Forest in the USA is estimated at 225 million years old. In specimens from Arizona, as well as those from Madagascar, the silica often appears in a vivid array of colours (see photo below right).

Some NZ petrified wood has been verified to be 6-18 million years old, with some examples showing black edging, indicating that the wood was charred by volcanic ash or lava.

Right: Petrified Wood from Arizona like this colourful piece, is estimated to be over 225 million years old.

– Photo by Jon Sullivan Public Domain

Left: 150 million-year-old Petrified Wood logs in the Heaven & Earth gallery. Many customers mistake them for real timber.



The rich brown shades of this polished piece of petrified wood from Mill Creek in Whitianga earned it the nickname 'pumpkin rock'.



DOCUMENTATION BY EARLY GEOLOGISTS

Petrified wood was once fairly abundant on the peninsula. Ferdinand von Hochstetter, known as the 'Father of NZ Geology', observed in 1859, "Around Coromandel Harbour, great silicified logs and trunks changed to opalised wood."

In 1885, another well known writer/geologist, Alexander McKay noted the existence of "great quantities of fossilised wood ... with many prostrate trunks and stumps of trees yet remaining 'in situ' at Colville Bay". This was subsequently confirmed by Fraser & Adams (1907) and Smale (1962), who also recorded 'not uncommon' silicified wood in volcanic breccias further north near Port Charles.

Since then deposits have been verified at Whitianga, near the Blackjack at Kuaotunu, Hikuai, Tairua, and the Kauaeranga Valley of Thames. Native trees which have been transformed and preserved as stone include kauri, beech, swamp maire, totara, rimu, and kahikatea.

continued next page...



Polished cross section of Coromandel petrified wood at left and opalised 'Coromandel Stonewood' below.



ANCIENT EARTH ENERGIES

As an enthusiast for all rocks, crystals, minerals and gemstones, I have a great interest in how they were formed, their colours, shapes, composition – and the "vibes" I feel from them. The Coromandel petrified wood is no exception. Since many are millions of years old, they can carry deep memories of ancient Earth. I enjoy 'tuning in' to these stones, and have some intuitions to share.

'Coromandel Stonewood', as I call it, holds within itself the heartbeat of the Earth, and can bring one into resonance with its rhythm, therefore enhancing one's receptivity to the planet's curative vitality which is placid, slow-moving and long-lasting. These vibrations benefit the telomeres of our DNA, helping to preserve cellular memory and supporting longevity. The stones exert a gentle, calming influence on the emotional body, helping to alleviate anxiety and support a sense of quiet self-confidence.



Robert Simmons with co-owner and wife Kathy Helen Warner in the Heaven & Earth Gallery. They enjoy engaging young rockhounds, and have created this special 'treasure chest' where kids can delight in filling a bag with stones for as little as \$10.

And for all those who would like to see, touch or acquire petrified wood from the Coromandel (or other localities around the world), the gallery offers a large array – from tree trunks to pocket stones – including polished petrified wood spheres, bookends, bowls, cheese boards, coasters, and pendants – plus tree branches, twigs, trunks and polished cross-sections.

Inside the store's front entrance is one large tree trunk that has fooled numerous visitors who, upon first look, thought it was real wood rather than stone!

View displays of minerals, gemstones, jewellery and more. Located on Main Road in Tairua. 07 864 8875. Open from 10am every day. See www.heavenandearthcrystals.co.nz

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continued from previous page...

Although petrified wood has been collected from river and stream beds, hillsides, and gravel beaches in northern and central parts of the Coromandel, very little has been found in the southern Waihi-Paeroa area.

FOSSICKING FOR THESE FOSSILS

Coromandel petrified wood is still relatively plentiful if you know where to look. One of the main challenges of fossicking is simply recognising specimens when you find them, so it's advised to go along with a seasoned rockhound or rock club. It is also a good idea to look online (and in this article) for pictures before going on the hunt. Remember to always get permission before looking on private land.

Although not typically as multicoloured as those found in other parts of the world, Coromandel varieties can still be quite beautiful. For example, some of the 'opalised' wood found near Tairua displays edges of



See this impressive variety of petrified wood displayed at the Heaven & Earth Gallery.

pale beige, with centres of glossy black. In some cases, the brown petrified wood from Tairua and Hikuai will contain pockets of luminous white opal. And the rich brown shades of petrified wood from the Whitianga area earned it the nickname 'pumpkin rock'.

The Tairua River in Hikuai is a good place to search, as are the rivers and

streams of the Kauaeranga Valley and Mill Creek in Whitianga. However almost any rocky river bed, and even some beaches, provide the possibility of finding these prehistoric treasures.

I like to tell the young ones that, when that tree was alive, its leaves were being eaten by dinosaurs. That gets their imaginations working! And it does the same thing for me.



Left: Francis Kropidlowski holds up a big chunk of petrified Kauri at the Heaven & Earth gallery.



Right: Wood grain is preserved in this specimen from Mill Creek in Whitianga.



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Lisa and Brett Fordham

NEW OWNERS OF FLOCK FULFILL LONG TIME DREAM

When Lisa Fordham first experienced raw fish on holiday with her hubby Brett in Tahiti, she remembers her palate breaking out in a melodic Pacific song. So, when a life-long dream to own a restaurant in Tairua became reality in August, her version of this fresh, zesty and vibrant dish would naturally be on the menu. And now it's winning hearts of diners at Flock Kitchen & Bar.

When Flock came on the market the couple's daughter, Sara Fordham, a qualified chef, put it to her parents that they buy the restaurant and work it together as a family. Realising and supporting one another in the shared family dream, Sara says they aim to create a place where people feel at home, welcome and part of the whanau.

Fabulous feedback from locals and passersby says it all. For the raw fish salad (or ika mata as it appears on their menu): "The best I've ever tasted." "Bang on." And the ubiquitous "OMG". Whether known as ceviche, ota ika or poisson cru, Flock's raw fish is the perfect summer starter to get tastebuds activated. "Using the freshest seafood from a trusted source is key," Lisa told us. "My secret is the time I leave the fish in the citrus juice and using just enough salt to bring all the flavours together."

Bursting with punchy pops of flavour, pair this with a fruity white wine, such as a pinot or sauvignon blanc and bring on summer!

Whether it's the dumplings, the sticky pork belly or the chicken bao, it's compliments all round. And on the sweet side, we can't wait to try Flock's 'Triple Chocolate Trio' - Home baked brownie, Secret chocolate mousse & Lisa's Hand Made Chocolate.

Flock's slogan 'our place to gather' is gathering momentum. Welcome to the Tairua business neighbourhood.

Located at 227 Main Street in Tairua and open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Phone 07 864 8811 for reservations. Check out their menu at www.flockkitchenandbar.com and Facebook.

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Lifestyle change brings awards for Tairua couple



Few can match the enthusiasm Sue Gill-Devereaux has for Tairua. She and husband Ces Devereux are the current business owners of Pacific Harbour Villas – and promoting the ‘magic-that-is-

Tairua’ is her primary aim.

Just seven months after taking over 2 years ago, this dynamic duo led the Villas to win the prestigious 2017 ‘Hotel of the Year Award’ in the Asia and Australia region – Luxury Travel Guide category. “To come out on top is truly an achievement we are proud of, and a vital part of our success is the staff,” says Sue. “They are exceptional.”

A key accommodation provider in the area, Pacific Harbour offers 31 tastefully furnished villas and apartments, attractively set skirting the inner harbour known as ‘The Pepe’. Several units sit on the shoreline while others offer water views or are nestled among the villa’s lush tropical gardens – and all within easy walking distance of downtown Tairua’s many fine cafés, restaurants and shopping.

THE CALL OF PAKU

Sue and Ces sold real estate together for over 20 years as the first couple in Hamilton to work as a team. And when the successful pair were contemplating a change of lifestyle, there was no doubt Tairua was where they wanted to be. Sue had felt a connection to Tairua since childhood, so when Pacific Harbour Villas

became available, they jumped at the chance to live and work in their “treasured little town”.

“I have loved Tairua since my family first came on summer holiday when I was only five. And I’ve been back regularly ever since. Ocean Beach has always been one of my favourite beaches in NZ - I’ve swum there all my life – And still do!

“It’s also Mount Paku that kept drawing me here. It’s got a magical appeal – I feel like it watches over and protects us,” shares Sue, snuggled next to her beloved dog Brooklyn, a delightful chocolate brown Lagotto Romagnolo. “And I love the small town community aspect of Tairua and its friendly people.”

Sue is a familiar sight walking Brooklyn along the Villa’s lush grassy harbour shoreline. Often sporting a pretty pink scarf and sometimes a string of pearls, the six-year-old curly haired pup rarely leaves her side, joining Sue in welcoming villa guests with a friendly bark or two. Brooklyn soon casts her spell, and “many end up wanting to take her home. She even has her own facebook page, and has more friends than me,” shares Sue.

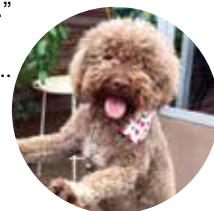
Besides the personal attention lavished on guests, she and Ces have updated the rooms – each have their own personalities, with intriguing names and décor to match! Continuing to focus on a relaxed theme, they created a barbecue area that has become a popular place for visitors to congregate and make friends. The cosy foyer echoes this, with huge sofas and a TV that becomes the focus for rugby, “and much loud debate, when games are screened.”

While Sue tends to be the public face of the

Villas, Ces is also involved. When not busy selling properties at Tairua’s First National Real Estate, keen gardener Ces can be spotted working in the palm-lined grounds. He also likes to keep fit at Tairua Gym.

“For me, a big day out is crossing the road to Pepe Restaurant to make arrangements for our clients, or having my hair done at Shine,” smiles Sue. “We hardly ever leave town. Everything we need is here.”

So where do Sue and Ces choose to holiday? “Leave... We’ve already arrived!” Brooklyn looks up from the sofa and wags her tail in agreement.



Enjoying the Villa’s outdoor dining area, the Terra Nova Group, offer a toast to Brooklyn.

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Our advertisers make Coromandel Life magazine possible, so it's nice to occasionally return the support by acknowledging their achievements.

Both these businesses won prestigious rewards recently, but they would rather showcase the beloved pets that faithfully follow them to work most days.

Other Coromandel 'shop pets' we know include friendly Chai, the black puss at Hot Waves Café, winning many hearts over her 14 years there, the ever-popular Max at The Pour House in Hahai, and Carson, the black lab at Carson's Bookshop in Thames. Do you know others? -TD

Fonzie... A Whitianga Star

Twelve years as the GB mascot

Fonzie, a miniature schnauzer, has been the Guthrie Bowron Whitianga mascot for as long as they have owned the business. "I think he was about 10 months old when we first came here," recall owners Julian and Rachael Lee.

"Then he had lots of energy, and we had to tie him up", says Rachael. "He's just over 12 now, and the older he gets, the less often this somewhat grumpy old man with the gentle soul chooses to listen!"

"In the toy area, old Fonzie helps entertain the little animal lovers – he would rather run and hide away from the kids who aren't." Look at the store's FB page to watch a video of Julian running dog tricks with a very energetic Fonzie.

Rachael says they leave him at home more often these days, especially on busy Saturdays. When customers ask for him the staff explain that he's having his day of rest. "Not that his job was ever that demanding!"

Even though he had 'the snip' years ago, Rachael admits that he has been the cause of many a miniature schnauzer popping up in the local community. "People love him and decide they'd like a Fonzie too!"

WHAT'S NEW...

Guthrie Bowron was recently honoured with a Special Commendation in the Retail Category of the Coromandel Hauraki Business Awards.

Over the years they have also won several nationwide awards as well: GB Supreme Store of the year 3 times, Dulux Trade Depot of the year twice, Flooring Store of the Year 5 yrs in a row and Window Fashions Store of the year, plus many finalist awards (basically runnerup) in all the above categories.

With the new store having more space, GB is better set up to run events at the shop. "This year we've had a few Dulux and Porters trade events", shares Julian, "and a successful 'Business After 5' night for members of the Mercury Bay Business Association."

They has lined up several 'how to' workshops covering flooring, drapery, paint, wallpaper and

"People love him and decide they'd like a Fonzie too!"

Shop mascot Fonzie in company colours!



interior decor. 'Paint 101—Learn the Basics' is set for 29 Nov. And look for them at the Great Outdoors & Bach Life Expo 29 Dec at Pauanui.

We hear Fonzie is already putting together his Christmas costume to play his part under their annual GB 'Gifting by Giving' Christmas Tree. These donations will be given to Whitianga Social Services for distribution just prior to Xmas.



The Guthrie Bowron Whitianga staff celebrate the Special Commendation (Retail) they received in the recent Coromandel Hauraki Business Awards.

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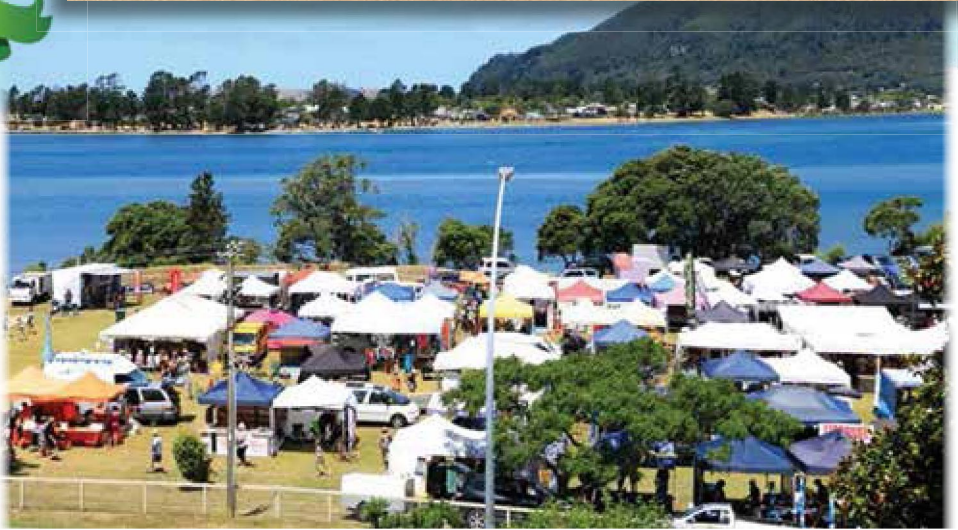


ICONIC SCHOOL FUNDRAISER CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!

Tairua School certainly has something to celebrate this year. Saturday 5th of January 2019 marks the 25th year for the fantastic and renowned TAIRUA SCHOOL FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL.

The team has organised their biggest festival to date, bringing together the best food trucks, best wine, best beer and cider merchants along with an awesome music lineup, headlined by the Jordan Luck Band.

“To have reached our 25th anniversary is pretty incredible,” Principal Brendan Finn



adds. “Consider the number of attendees over all those years, the volunteer hours that have been invested, and the hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been raised for our school... that is cause for celebration! The support of both locals and visitors that return each and every year highlights the value of this event to the school and wider community.

Those festival funds have been used for valuable projects at the school which otherwise wouldn't have been possible. A new junior playground including a deck, sandpit, carpentry shed and water fountain has been installed. Forty senior students enjoyed a week-long team-building and adventure camp at National Park. New wetsuits and life jackets were bought for our Waterwise programme, and the multi-purpose room gained a new kitchen, fully kitted out for cooking classes and science experiments... to name just a few.

“The vibe of the festival reflects the ethos of the school as a whole. And the army of school volunteers involved bring such heart and enthusiasm to ensure everyone feels really welcome. It has evolved into a truly enjoyable, social event with a family-friendly approach to entertainment, food and alcohol service.

To mark the anniversary, our team has some special things in the pipeline. We'll be ready and waiting to welcome festival friends old and new for another fantastic and fun day.”

GREAT MUSIC LINEUP & ENTERTAINMENT

Besides the Jordan Luck Band, back by popular demand is Daughters of Ally – featuring Jessie Matthews and the new power vocals of Ani Nuku. Putting some ‘magic’ into the festival is solo act, Majic Paora. This reggae roots artist has gained one accolade after another, recently winning Best Female



Headliner Jordan Luck Band. Jordan, as front man for The Exponents, has clocked up a staggering eighteen ‘Top 40’ hit singles over the years, and the pub anthem ‘Victoria’ recently came 8th in the Greatest NZ Song of All Time competition.



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Darren Perry 021 798 460



Artist at the Waiata Maori music awards.

Swiss-born Kiwi Andre Manella brings an original, one-man-band style with Sonic Delusion. His uniquely up-beat, funky folk is full of irresistible atmospheric joy, blending dynamic layers of rhythm, tones, bass lines and vocals.

As per usual kids (and adults) will enjoy an assortment of games, competitions, face painting, fun activities, bouncy houses, carousel and street performers including stilt walkers.



SPONSORS and RAFFLE PRIZES

The HITS FM radio station are on board as the promotional sponsor for the 2019 festival. First National Real Estate Tairua/ Whangamata returns this year as gate sponsor.

Great prizes have been generously donated by local businesses including a full day charter with Carl Muir Fishing, a \$1500 voucher from Flight Centre Thames, and a Tairua Weekend for 4 (two nights at Sunlover Retreat with dinner at Manaia Kitchen & Bar and treatment at Tairua Health & Beauty).

Raffle tickets are available to purchase Labour Weekend – look for a stall on the Main Road in Tairua – and on the day at the festival.

STALL PRICES REDUCED

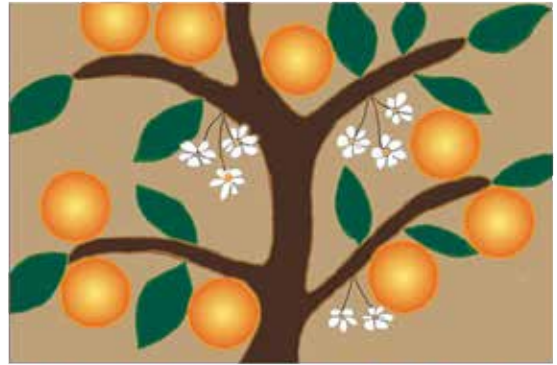
The cost of stalls has been reduced by 50% for this year's celebratory event – and there's still time to showcase your products and be part of this awesome festival. For further details: craft.tairuawineandfood@gmail.com or visit www.tairuawineandfood.co.nz/form

Admission: Under 18's get in free. Adults only \$20, Gold Card holders \$10. Ticket prices include a fun cup with the festival's new logo, designed by Matt Hishon of Anomaly Creative.

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS & BACH LIFE EXPO

Saturday 29 December 2018
Kennedy Park in Pauanui

Mark those calendars now for this fantastic day out for the entire family. The popular Great Outdoors & Bach Life Expo – the only one of its kind on the peninsula – is back this year to provide a city shopping experience right here at the beach in Pauanui.

The event showcases the latest offerings from over 90 local and national suppliers. In addition to the usual Marine, Sports, Outdoors and Leisure products, there will also be stalls featuring the new 'Bach Life' theme with lots of ideas to inspire furnishing, modernising or renovating your bach (or home).

"Stalls selling outdoor furniture and 'big boys toys' have always been particularly busy", said past event coordinator Sarah Steinemann. "We get a mix of returning and new exhibitors each time, so there are new things to try out and the latest innovations to see. We hear that many wait till the Expo to buy their new lounge suite, bike or kayak."

Have a go on an electric bike. View the interior of the newest in luxury motor homes. Update your outdoor furniture with the latest styles and get them delivered at the end of the day.

See everything from surfboards to boats, bikes to motorhomes, and the latest in sporting and outdoor adventure equipment for land or sea. Check out options to use your outdoor living areas year round with awnings, blinds and shelters for weather proofing.

Many attendees will happily head home with some great Expo deals.

FREE ADMISSION for a FUN FAMILY DAY

While mums and dads are checking out the numerous exhibits, there is plenty to keep

the kids happy too. A bouncy castle for the younger ones, and lots of inflatable fun to appeal to kids of all ages, including a climbing tower, obstacle course and mini jeeps.

Make a tasty selection from any one of the numerous food stalls while enjoying live music from local bands and musicians. And, with entry free, it's a great value day to spend with the whole family – with opportunities to eat, shop, relax and have fun.

FUNDS BENEFIT MANY PROJECTS

The Expo is a major fundraiser for the local Hikuai school, intended to provide much-appreciated funds for a range of projects and initiatives. Money raised in the past has helped pay for upgrading/increasing the number of laptops. Proceeds from this year will go towards resurfacing the old court with Tiger Turf to create an innovative outdoor learning space.

This great day would not be feasible without the major sponsors – Prescott's Garages, Danske Mobler, Jayco/South Auckland Caravans and Family Boats. Also thanks to TCDC and the local Emergency Services for making their resources available on the day.

"Staging such a large event is also made

possible by strong local support," adds Principal Murray Hawke. "We are lucky to be able to count on the goodwill of families and local businesses alike to put on such a quality community event, both in preparation and on the day."

GREAT PRIZES ON OFFER FOR ALL

As always, generous businesses like Grand Mercure Puka Park, 100% Thames, Danske Mobler, Dive Zone Whitianga, Tairua Butcher, and Lockwood Homes have donated prizes for the popular huge raffle. Will you be the lucky one going home with a new Beefeater Bugg BBQ? Other prizes include an accommodation package and items for the bach.

"Tickets are on sale from Labour Weekend until the afternoon of the draw on Expo day," notes Murray. "It's not necessary to be present to claim your prize, so even if you're unable to attend, please support the school by buying lots of those tickets!" Available at Richardsons Pauanui or the school, and at the Richardsons stall at the Expo up to time of the draw.

A great day you won't want to miss has been planned for everyone – see you there!



See how sturdy structures like this one, erected by Whitianga's Outdoors Covered, can add extra living space to your home. This one even has a clear dome ceiling. Weather out – sun in!

See the latest in boats of all sizes, e-bikes, jetskis, kayaks, SUPs, caravans, and more. You can even try a few on for size.

LIMITED STALL SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

Join other satisfied participating businesses that come back year after year. Contact expo@hikuai.school.nz

Musicians or local bands who would like to play on the day contact principal@hikuai.school.nz

THE JANDAL FLOPS...

at Carson's Bookshop

The whimsical 2.4m long steel sculpture, 'The Jandal', created by Hastings artist Ricks Terstappen, was purchased by the Thames Public Art Trust and is the first artwork, that also serves as a rest bench, planned for installation along the Thames-to-Kopu leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail. It recently made the journey from Hawkes Bay to its new home in Thames. Before installation, the footwear enjoyed a stop in front of Carson's Bookstore.



The Jandal was the winner in the Utilitarian category of the Thames Public Art Trust's Open Sculpture Design Competition in 2017. This eye-catching piece of art was made by Kopu Engineering using Corten Weathering steel; it does not need painting, as it forms a stable rust-like appearance with exposure to the weather.

"We had 48 fantastic entries," said Trustee Rob Johnston. "And there are other pieces that, when funding allows, we will manufacture and place along the trail between Kopu Bridge and Thames."

The TPAT has 10 art pieces planned for this 7km leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail. The overall winner (which we featured in our last issue) was the red "The Speeding Train" by Raglan artist Stuart Shepherd.

Other groups supporting this project include the Thames Community Board, Smart Environmental and Creative Coromandel. See Thames Public Art Trust FB page for more information and an amusing photo essay of the sculpture's travels and stops as it makes its way to its own final 'rest stop'. (Soon to be a minor motion picture!)



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Introducing - Maria Ashworth-Taylor

Maria comes to us from England and specialises in interior design with a focus on curtains and blinds. She has over 14 years of experience running her own design firm and is eager to help our customers with fresh ideas for home décor.

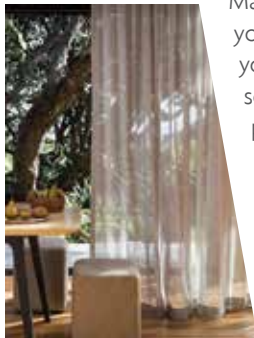
Maria says: "Everyone's taste is different, and your home is your castle, so having décor tailored just for you can make your home more relaxed and enjoyable. I can help with colour schemes and styling themes from traditional to contemporary, putting fabric choices together along with different header styles for curtains, and various styles of blinds. You can have your items embellished with an array of contrasts and trims, and of course I can advise with wallpaper, paint and accessories. Many of my clients over the years have become good friends and I will miss them, but I am also looking forward to living in Thames and making new friends."



Maria Ashworth-Taylor

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Winter - after 4pm and 2pm. Departs from the south end of Hahei Beach, off Wigmore Crescent.

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NEW TOTEM FOR

Although Neil and Karen Vowles from The Pour House in lovely Hahei rarely get to go into town together, they decided to nip out for a celebratory lunch last December as it was Neil's birthday.

On the drive home from Whitianga, they saw a young man – barefoot and carrying a lot of luggage – hitching a lift. Karen shared, "He looked a bit like Jesus so we thought he must be OK." Chatting as they drove they discovered that Francis was a French Canadian travelling the world learning regional woodcrafting skills. At home in Quebec, he carved totem poles. Karen and Neil looked at each other and both thought, "That's just what we need in the beer garden!"

Unfortunately, Christmas was coming soon and Francis was to leave the country at the end of January, so they suggested he make contact when he returned to NZ in two year's time. However, three days later Francis walked up the garden path of The Pour House, found Karen and said, "I thought I should come and see you."

"This was amazing", explains Karen, "because as soon as we dropped him off, we regretted not biting the bullet and asking him to come back with us to create something." Francis would carve their totem after all.

"Within 24 hours, a 5m piece of macrocarpa was sourced from a local farmer, and within 48 hours Francis was set up on a nearby farm kitted out like an advert for Worksafe NZ! His work attire was so totally different to his hitchhiking gear!" says Karen. "After a few days, Neil suggested that we relocate Francis to our beer garden where he could demonstrate his craft for The Pour House customers to watch."

And indeed, in the next few weeks, children, pensioners, young hipsters and visitors alike were impressed and fascinated with this talented carver. "Francis would even encourage them to practice a bit on the sculpture. So many eventually 'put their mark' on the carving too."



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THE POUR HOUSE BEER GARDEN

The design of the carved wooden pole incorporates everything that Neil and Karen had envisioned and is reminiscent of a Maori *pou whenua*. It includes a mother and baby dolphins, shells, hop flowers, a Maori tiki motif, and a ruru (morepork) perched on top! It took Francis nearly three weeks to finish it, and the end result is a magnificent sight. "It's just perfect for our garden!" said Neil.

THE POLE IS BLESSED

"Just a week after Francis left the country," Karen shares, "a lovely Maori gentleman belonging to local iwi, came to us and offered to bless the carving. We were stoked – how perfect was that!"

At sunrise the following morning the blessing was performed in front of about 15 tourists. "It was a beautiful summer Coromandel day. No one had ever experienced anything like it before, and one of the women was even brought to tears – it was all pretty moving actually."

Karen adds, "So if you feel like it, pick up a lonely traveller because you never know who you might meet! A good deed can bring great reward!"

A NEW BREW for the NEW YEAR

Every year Neil likes to develop a new beer. "It's fun, often challenging," says Neil, "and when it arrives, it's like a new baby. Just in time for Christmas, The Pour House will introduce a Brut IPA (India Pale Ale) also known as 'Hop Champagne'. It is the west coast (of America's) answer to the New England-style IPAs."

Neil launches into a description of his forthcoming brew: "Brut IPA is light-bodied, but highly hopped. Virtually all the hops are non-bittering, yet very aromatic. We use a plant enzyme to break down the unfermentable sugars, giving a light-bodied, extra light, very low carbohydrate beer. Characteristically refreshing, it's the perfect beer for our beautiful Coromandel Summers, and a great way to celebrate Christmas holidays at the beach or to compliment a dinner on The Pour House deck!"

As yet without a name, Neil and Karen are open to suggestions for a fun handle for the new beer, and "there may even be a prize in it for someone!" Email your ideas to neil@thecoromandelbrewingcompany.co.nz or text to 021 035 1338.



A BIT OF BACKGROUND...

India pale ale (IPA) is a 'hopped-up' version of pale ale with a higher alcohol content. Created in England, the name is a result of its popularity with British troops stationed in India in the 19th century, when the subcontinent was still a British colony.

A new IPA substyle born in California just over a year ago is now spreading from brewery to brewery like wildfire – the Brut IPA. It borrows its name from the champagne world, brut meaning very dry. So too with the Brut IPA.

It's pale, it's bone dry, it's highly effervescent. Think of a sparkling glass of dry Champagne but with fruit-forward hop aromas. In short, it's as close to champagne as an IPA can get. And it's nothing like the fruity, hazy, creamy IPAs that now dominate taps across America and England.

Hurry up with that new beer Neil – we're all keen to try it!





The Charm of Isolated Opito Bay

Few settlements retain that 'olde world' charm that characterised the beach destinations of our childhoods – sheltered bays with farmland down to the shore, tractors and boat trailers dotted round, fibrolite baches and tents, and the familiar whiff of 'sausies' cooking on open wood fires. Opito Bay is one of them.

Considered one of the best destinations on the peninsula, coming here will evoke many of those memories. While there are many more 'flash' houses than old baches now, the area still offers astounding views, safe swimming and crystal clear waters where dolphins are often seen frolicking and sightings of orcas and other wildlife are not uncommon.

This 8km arc of white squeaky sand flanked at each end by headlands is ideal for the whole family. Relax on the beach or put your boat in for a fish. Launch a kayak or SUP, snorkel or dive around the 'Merchs' (Mercury Islands). Have a swim, ride a boogie board, zip around on your jetski or experience the thrill of waterskis or a biscuit behind the boat. Good surf is also on offer. And the easy slope of the beach is ideal for launching a Sealegs boat.

And much like those 'olden' days, getting there is part of the adventure. You can't beat the breathtaking views from the top of Blackjack Road as you traverse the hill from Kuaotunu

through Otama to Opito. Although steep and winding, the road is now mostly sealed, making the journey much smoother and less dusty! It is worth the effort to enjoy a 'double-dip' of these remote beaches. You'll think Otama's lovely long beach cannot be surpassed, but the pristine seclusion of an end-of-the-roader like Opito does just that. It has a certain special something about it. So does having an entire beach to oneself... almost.

Accommodation options range from self-catering holiday homes to B&Bs. There are no shops, restaurants or petrol stations, so stock up before you come. This just adds to the blissful feeling of isolation, reminiscent of those old fashioned holidays at the beach.

FOURTH GENERATION LOCAL DEVELOPS SEASIDE PROPERTY

Developer Sue Edens' family has farmed this Skippers Rd land for four generations, but it was time to put the property to another use. A stunning coastal subdivision, Opito Sands, has been sensitively created offering 76 beachfront and elevated sites. "This place is dear to my heart," shares Sue. "I grew up here when this was an isolated bay at the end of a challenging clay road. As children, our life here was a charmed existence with the ever-present ocean as our back yard. It pleases me to know that others will now be able to bring their children to experience the unspoiled nature of the area."

Left: Local company Hopper Construction are progressing well with the subdivision works.

DUNE PROTECTION KEY TO PLANS

A backdrop of eco-sourced pohutukawa has been planted behind the sites, while the surrounding steep hills limit the available land for further development ensuring that Opito Bay retains the character and charm of a small beachside settlement. "The importance of preserving the natural environment has been the goal in the development of this subdivision," says Sue. "Protection measures include boardwalks and defined beach access. Planting also helps enhance and protect areas suitable for the endangered dotterel." Domestic cats and dogs have even been banned to further protect the locally loved birds.

The care taken with the overall land use has impressed Smith+Scully architect Carolyn Smith, who has a family bach in Opito Bay.

Always having had a special connection to the area, she tells us that arriving at Opito, "feels like coming home". One of her first projects was actually the design of a home at Kuaotunu almost 25 years ago.

Carolyn has designed homes from Northland to Omaha, Mt Maunganui and the Coromandel, and with this satellite office in Opito, she hopes to assist new home builders in the area realise their dreams in this piece of paradise.

"Helping others create beachside holidays with families and friends on the Coromandel... it doesn't get much better than that!"

Opito Bay may be at the end of the road, but the fun there never ends. Take the time to make the drive over the hill for a visit or holiday – those beaches and sparkling waters await...



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Taking pride of place in the Coromandel Peninsula, the Opito Sands beach-side development offers a wide range of waterside and waterfront sites suitable for various building options.

With sparkling blue waters and white sandy beaches, Opito is one of those special places, breathtakingly unforgettable and just waiting to be explored. Secluded, yet only 30 minutes (approx) to Whitianga and a leisurely 3-hour drive from Auckland, Opito enjoys a sub-tropical climate. The surrounding

ocean abounds with marine life providing some of the best sport and game fishing New Zealand has to offer. Whether it be swimming, fishing, water skiing, walking the local tracks, spending treasured family time or just relaxing, Opito Sands will not disappoint.

Set in an exclusive and prestigious position looking out to the Mercury Islands, Opito Bay offers the opportunity to make memories of a lifetime.

For your slice of paradise don't delay – this is a once in a lifetime opportunity!

For further information view at www.opitosands.co.nz or enquire.

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COROMANDEL life calendar

CRIMSON CHRISTMAS
by Peter Latham
www.peterlatham.com

OCTOBER 2018

SAT 20 OCT

MARKET - Colville Market Colville Hall, Colville, 9am-1pm. Local produce - arts & crafts, bric-a-brac, Crown Lynn and studio pottery. Colville Community@gmail.com.

MARKET - Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market Memorial Hall, 8am-3pm. Crafts, farmers produce, sausage sizzle, art exhibition, book sale and lots more! www.facebook.com/WhangamataLionsMarket.

SAT 20 - SUN 21 OCT

ART - ARTWaikino Victoria Hall, Waikino. The largest art exhibition in the area is great place for affordable, original art. A fundraiser for the local community hall.

SUN 21 OCT

ART - 'I See...' Exhibition Opening Little Gallery in Tairua, 4-6pm. Exploring the spectrums of subjectivity and interpretation, our New Group Show invites you to reflect on how you see. www.thelittlegallery.co.nz.

TUE 23 OCT

FESTIVAL - Show Me Shorts-The Sampler Embassy Cinemas, 708 Pollen St, Thames, 7:30-9pm. Some of our most vibrant, fun and heart-warming shorts from NZ and around the world. 07 868 6602 to book.

WED 24 OCT



COMEDY - #LOOKATCHA Comedy Tour - Antoine Scott (USA) The Lincoln, 501 Port Road, Whangamata, 8pm. Get ready to Eat. Drink. Laugh. Buy Tickets - 07 865 6338.

FRI 26 OCT



CONCERT - Iveta & Simone The Rocker Box, 476 Pollen St, Thames, 7:30pm. FREE. Professional female singer duo with 10+ years of experience in NZ, Australia and Europe. Also performing on Friday 16 Nov. www.ivetasimonemusic.com.

QUIZ - Te Puru School Quiz Night 507 Thames Coast Rd. \$10pp. BYO, and we'll provide the snacks. To register, email TePuruPTA@gmail.com or call the school office 07 868 2747. Bring along cash as there's a raffle, auctions, and cake!

SAT 27 OCT



SPORT - K2 Cycle Race Starts and finishes in Whitianga. A scenic, varied and challenging one-day cycle challenge. www.arcevents.co.nz/k2home



FIREWORKS - Paeroa Lions Annual Fire Works Display Willoughby St, Paeroa, 5-10pm. The only public fire works display held on the Coromandel. An even larger display this year, with live entertainment, food stalls, quick fire raffles and carnival rides. www.facebook.com/paeroalions.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

TUE 31 OCT

HALLOWEEN - Trick Or Treating Friendly Houses Whitianga, 4pm. Use the map to find houses that are happy to have you Trick or Treat at on Halloween. Go to the FB page for all info: www.facebook.com/HalloweenFriendly.

HALLOWEEN - Haunted Library! Mercury Bay Library, 4-5pm. Join us for a SPOOK-tacular afternoon of scary storytelling and fangtastic fun! Come in your best ghoulish get-up to help us make some creepy crafty critters. For more info, call 07 866 4776.

NOVEMBER 2018

FRI 2 - SAT 3 NOV

ATTRACTION - Thames Haunted House 2018 Parawai School, Lowe Ave, Thames. Fundraising for Parawai School: come if you dare to our Haunted House. \$5 entry. www.facebook.com/ThamesHauntedHouseNZ.

SAT 3 NOV



ART - Developing Depth with Kate Jones Madill The Little Gallery Whangamata, 4-6pm. A mixed media specialist, Kate will demonstrate a range of painting techniques with assorted mediums. www.thelittlegallery.co.nz.

SUN 4 NOV



FESTIVAL - Vegetarian Festival Waihi Academy, 132 Landlyst Rd, 10am-3pm. Enjoy delicious food, live music, arts and crafts! www.waihiacademy.co.nz/events.

THU 8 - SAT 10 NOV

THEATRE - Old Time Music Hall Tararu Cultural Centre, 604 Tararu Road, Thames, 7-10pm. An all new show by Thames Music And Drama with some of your favourite artists. Tickets \$20, buy online from www.steampunkthethames.org

THU 8 - SUN 11 NOV



FESTIVAL - Steampunk The Thames The festival programme includes steampunk balls, banquet and burlesque, as well as exhibitions and concerts. Many events are family-friendly and free. www.steampunkthethames.org.

FRI 9 NOV

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill St. Monthly get together of musicians, poets, singers and songwriters. Family friendly, cash bar and snacks provided. Open mic and a guest artists each month. www.facebook.com/events/261079687825000.

SAT 10 NOV



SPORT - Tairua Trail & Tides Run/Walk Tairua Rugby & Sports Club. Includes 5km/10km (Single Peak) & 20km (Twin Peaks) courses - all with running & walking options. www.tairua.co.nz.

FRI 16 NOV

CONCERT - Iveta & Simone The Rocker Box, 476 Pollen St, Thames, 7pm. Professional female singer duo with 10+ years of experience in NZ, Australia and Europe. www.ivetasimonemusic.com.



CONCERT - NZ Trio Morcom Residence, Cooks Beach, 2pm. NZTrio is recognised as a 'national treasure' and 'New Zealand's most indispensable ensemble'. Limited tickets from Whitianga Paper Plus, \$45.

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SAT 17 NOV

CONCERT - The Comedy Night Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 200 Mary St, 7:30pm. An epic comedy line up of top NZ comedians for a great cause. 0800 BUY TIX.



FESTIVAL - Show Me Shorts - Beat of My Own Drum Colville Hall, 7:30-9pm. A collection of short films that will lift your heart and tap your toes. www.showmeshorts.co.nz/programme.



SPORT - XTERRA Trail Challenge Waihi Dicky Flat Campground. A trail running/walking event in the historic Karangahake Gorge. www.trailrun.co.nz/waihi-home.html.



FESTIVAL - Rising Can Festival Hot Water Brewing Co., Whenuakite. A celebration of canned beer, good food, and great music. www.hotwaterbrewingco.com.

THU 22 NOV

SHOW - Seven Deadly Stunts & Messy Magic Adventure Whitianga Town Hall, Matinee & Eve performance. Escapology, chainsaw juggling, walking on broken glass and other famous feats. Tickets from Paper Plus Whitianga - Adults \$25, Youth \$10. www.rollickingentertainment.com.

SAT 24 NOV

SPORT - Omahu Valley Bull Ride Omahu Valley Road, Hikutaia, 10am. Be a spectator at one of NZ's most exciting and thrilling sports! www.rodeonz.co.nz.

DECEMBER 2018



SAT 1 DEC

CONCERT - Donavon Frankenreiter The Coroglen Tavern, 1937 State Highway 25, 8pm. A night of honey-thick vocals and masterful guitar work with newest album "The Heart". For complete tour, ticket and VIP information, visit: www.livenation.co.nz.

SAT 1 DEC



ART - Printmaking Through the Eyes of a Painter with Paula McNeill The Little Gallery in Whangamata, 4-6pm. Join us for an up-close and personal demonstration with Paula in collograph printmaking. More info at www.thelittlegallery.co.nz.

TUE 4 DEC



CONCERT - Tattletale Saints Duo Tour Hauraki House Theatre, Kapanga Rd, Coromandel, 7:30-9:30pm. A mix of old and new songs, along with the band's takes on classic country, pop and American songbook hits. www.tattletalesaints.com.

SAT 8 DEC

CHRISTMAS - Whitianga Santa Parade Date TBC, 12:30pm. Join Santa at the Santa Parade and see all of the great local Xmas floats. Family fun and entertainment for all ages. Fiona Kettlewell: 021 299 5506.

SAT 8 - SUN 9 DEC

SHOW - En Pointe Dance Show - Hansel & Gretel Whitianga Town Hall, 4pm Sat, 2pm Sun. The En Pointe Dance Studio will be showcasing all of their dance skills in this show including ballet, tap, hip hop, urban, contemporary, lyrical and acro dance. www.enpointedancestudio.co.nz

MON 10 - MON 24 DEC



HOLIDAY - Thames Christmas Wonderland Thames Civic Centre, 7:30-10:30pm every night. Get into the Christmas spirit with Thames' own Christmas light display - a combination of light and static display and hands on creativity. www.facebook.com/groups/197005647384706.

THU 13 - MON 24 DEC



HOLIDAY - Christmas Lights Extravaganza 6894 Puke Road, Paeroa, 8:30-10pm every night. A community based project, designed to spread Christmas cheer throughout the Paeroa region with a brilliant light show, an enchanted forest and snow and bubbles. www.historicalmaritimepark.co.nz/events/paeroa-christmas-light-show.

FRI 14 DEC

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill St. Monthly get together of musicians, poets, singers and songwriters. Family friendly, cash bar and snacks provided. Open mic and a guest artists each month. www.facebook.com/events/261079687825000.

MON 24 DEC - SUN 20 JAN



FESTIVAL - Whangamata Summer Festival A month of concerts, sports competitions, ice cream eating contests, kid's holiday programme, night day markets. More TBC. www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest. See page 55 for more info.

THU 27 - FRI 28 DEC

FESTIVAL - Whanga Summer Fest Craft Markets Night Market 27th, 4-8pm & Craft Market Day 28th, 9am-4pm. Largest market in the region with over 100 stalls - craft, art, kitchen, clothing, jewellery and food stalls plus live music from local artists. www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest.



*from the team at
Coromandel Life Magazine!*

THU 27 DEC - WED 2 JAN

EVENTS - Whanga Week Whangamata. Dates TBC. Encouraging families and friends to participate in a range of outdoor events and raising funds for the Surf Life Saving Club. www.whangamatasurf.co.nz.

FRI 28 DEC

FISHING - Kids Wharf Fishing Competition Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club. Enter the kids and join in the fun with all of the family. www.gamebase.co.nz

Barbara von Seida
ARTIST

www.barbara-von-seida.co.nz

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Full details including event timetable visit - tairuawineandfood.co.nz

JANUARY 2019

TUE 1 JAN



SPORT - Mercury Bay Boating Club New Year's Race 90 Buffalo Beach Rd, 11am-4pm. Entries accepted up to 15 mins before the start time on channel #77. BBQ and refreshments at the clubhouse afterwards. Email the Boating Club for more details: committee.mbbc@gmail.com.

WED 2 JAN

FAIR - Keltic Fair Coromandel Area School, 9am-4pm. Over 300 stalls, arts and crafts, yummy food and entertainment. Entry \$2 pp over 5yrs, all gate proceeds go to the school. www.kelticfair.co.nz.

FISHING - Annual Matarangi Fishing Competition Matarangi Boat and Fishing Club. Your chance to show who the reel fisherman is! Open to adult participants, \$40 per boat. Tickets available at Beach Realty Ltd and The Matarangi Store.

THU 3 JAN

ART - Summer Exhibition Opening Night Art Centre & Gallery, 20 School Road, Whitianga, 7-9pm. Featuring new work by local artists. Refreshments and raffle (prize painting by Frans van Hoppe). www.facebook.com/WhitiangaArtGroup.

MARKET - Pauanui Market Day Kennedy Park, 9am-3pm. Everything from art, crafts, tools, clothing and delicious food! www.pauanuiclub.co.nz/market-day.php

FRI 4 JAN



FESTIVAL - Cooks Beach Summer Gala Cooks Beach Reserve, 9am-2pm. Over 100 stalls, second hand bargains, coconut shy, paintball, face-painting, raffles and prizes, music, rides and entertainment. www.cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz.

FRI 4 - SAT 5 JAN

FAIR - Pauanui Antique Fair Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club, 10am-4pm. Antique Dealers selling jewellery, furniture, chinaware, silver, collectibles and more. Door proceeds go to the Pauanui Surf Lifesaving Club. www.facebook.com/AntiqueAlleyNZ.

FRI 4 - TUE 29 JAN

ART - Summer Exhibition Art Centre & Gallery, 20 School Road, Whitianga, open 10am-5pm. An exhibition of new work by Art Group members. Everyone welcome. Free entry. www.facebook.com/WhitiangaArtGroup.

SAT 5 JAN

FESTIVAL - Tairua Wine and Food Festival Tairua School, 9am-4pm. Experience a delicious offering of food and beverages including several NZ craft selections. www.tairuawineandfood.co.nz.

FAIR - Waihi Beach Summer Fair Wilson Park, Waihi, 10am-4pm. Best and biggest event in the area with 200+ stalls of quality wares and gourmet food plus fun for the kids and entertainment for everybody. www.facebook.com/WaihiBeachSummerFair.

SAT 5 - SUN 6 JAN

FISHING - Pacific Coast Marine Top 10 Tuna Fishing Competition Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club. Pacific Coast Marine are sponsoring the Top 10 tuna fishing competition. www.gamebase.co.nz.

SUN 6 JAN



SHOW - David Brighton's Space Oddity - David Bowie Tribute Show Mercury Bay Club, Whitianga, 8pm. Credited as the world's best David Bowie impersonator, he provides one of the most entertaining acts ever to hit the stage. 0800 BUY TIX.

MARKET - Hahei Market Day Kotare Reserve, Pa Road, Hahei. Annual library and community wellbeing fundraiser with 100+ stalls, delectable food isle, children's fun slide and rides and relaxing music. Enquiries to haheimarketday@gmail.com.

MON 7 JAN



CONCERT - Fat Freddy's Drop Thames Racecourse, Parawai Road, 4pm. The local stop on Freddy's NZ summer roady playing their brand new single 'Trickle Down' live. www.fatfreddysdrop.com.

TUE 8 JAN



FESTIVAL - Mercury Bay Seaside Carnival Buffalo Beach Reserve, Whitianga, 9am-3pm. Over 140 craft and food stalls, two stages featuring local live music, quick fire raffles and games. www.mercurybayseasidecarnival.co.nz.

FRI 11 JAN



CONCERT - Concert In The Vines Mercury Bay Estate, 761 Purangi Road, Cooks Beach. Tickets on sale soon! If you like summer, kiwi music and supporting a great cause, this event is perfect for you. www.concertinthevines.org.nz.

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill St. Monthly get together of musicians, poets, singers and songwriters. Family friendly, cash bar and snacks provided. Open mic and a guest artists each month. www.facebook.com/events/261079687825000.

FRI 28 DEC - SUN 6 JAN

MARKET - Whitianga Wellbeing Market 2018 Whitianga Town Hall, 10am-5pm. Your mind body spirit marketplace: natural therapies, healing zone, free health checks, crystals, readings etc. www.wellbeingmarkets.co.nz.

SAT 29 DEC



EXPO - The Great Outdoors & Bach Life Expo 9am-4pm. The largest event of its kind on the Coromandel bringing over 80 leading exhibitors to showcase the latest and greatest in marine, outdoors, sports, bach life and leisure. Great selection of food and amusements for the family - a great value day out for everyone! FREE entry. www.thegreatoutdoorsexpo.co.nz

MARKET - Onemana Market Day Onemana Beach Reserve, 10am-3pm. Food and Craft, free face painting and beach dig. www.onemana.org.nz.

SUN 30 DEC

FESTIVAL - Mercury Bay Emergency Services Summer Festival Taylors Mistake, Whitianga, 9am-4pm. A great range of activities for family and kids! Raising funds for local emergency services.

MON 31 DEC



CONCERT - Rocky Rhodes - New Years Waihi Memorial RSA, Seddon Road, 8pm-1am. Be sure to come in for a great Christmas buffet meal, dance and party to bring in the New Year with a dynamic 4-piece live band! www.facebook.com/WaihiBeachMemorialRsa.

DISPLAY - Pauanui/Tairua New Years Eve Fireworks Display Both communities can view this spectacular fireworks display at midnight. Best viewing sites, Pauanui: Billy Point. Tairua: along the estuary reserve. www.facebook.com/Lets-go-2-Pauanui-Tairua-340332476116057



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FESTIVAL - Coro Summer Fest Coro Sonic Lab, 23 Colville Road Coromandel, 3:30pm-12:30am. Enjoy an afternoon of good tunes, play some games, sit back with a picnic and then dance into the night. www.corosummerfest.co.nz.



SPORT - Peak to Peak Ultra Race 2019 Tairua Surf Life Saving Club, 8am-12pm. Race up the two main peaks of Tairua and Pauanui! Entry Fee: \$35 (all categories). www.facebook.com/twinpeaksultramarace.

SAT 26 JAN

MARKET - Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market Memorial Hall, Whangamata, 8am-3pm. Crafts, farmers produce, sausage sizzle, art exhibition, book sale and lots more! www.facebook.com/WhangamataLionsMarket.

SUN 27 JAN

CONCERT - Whitianga Summer Concert Whitianga Waterways, Joan Gaskell Drive, 10am-6:30pm. A sizzling hot summer of music with artist line up of Supertramp's Roger Hodgson, James Reyne / Mark Seymour and Toni Childs. www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz.

SAT 2 - SUN 3 FEB

FESTIVAL - Leadfoot Festival Leadfoot Ranch, Hahei. A mix of classic & current 2 & 4-wheel competition vehicles. Motorsport legends. A one of a kind experience with unparalleled access to the drivers, pits and race cars. www.leadfootfestival.com.

SAT 9 FEB

EVENT - Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo Paeroa Domain, 9am-9pm. Full-fledged Highland Games, one of only 7 such Scottish gatherings in NZ, and the only one to hold an Evening Tattoo. www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz.

FRI 15 - SUN 17 FEB



FESTIVAL - Brits at the Beach A celebration of all things British - including car & bike show, whiskey dinner, village fete, concerts, organized drives & more. Whangamata. facebook.com/BritsAtTheBeachFestival.

SAT 16 FEB

SPORT - Arc Adventure Racing Kuoatunu, 8am-6pm. Will include water activities, mountain biking, trekking, navigation, rifle shooting, mine exploration, rope work and a mystery activity. www.arcevents.co.nz.

SAT 23 - SUN 24 FEB

SPORT - Tairua Wet n Wild Weekend Pepe Reserve, Tairua. Jet ski races, wakeboarding, freestyling & flyboarding. Free family entertainment/stalls, food, music, raffles. www.tairuawetandwild.com.

MARKETS... AROUND THE COROMANDEL

LATE SPRING/HOLIDAY 2018



THAMES MARKET- Saturdays 8am-12pm, Pollen Street. Farm fresh produce, Mussel fritters, cheeses, breads, crafts, flowers & plants. Info: Angelika & Peter 07 868 9841.

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

COROGLEN FARMERS MARKET- Every Sunday Labour weekend till Queen's Birthday, 9.30am-1pm. Gumtown Hall, SH25. Popular market known for quality local organic seasonal produce, homemade goodies & crafts. Jessie Lockhart 022 081 4415

WHITIANGA CRAFT & FARM MARKET- Sat 8, 22, 29 Dec; Thu 3 Jan; every Sat in Jan & Feb. Soldiers Memorial Park, Albert Street 8.30am-1pm. Info: Doreen 021 061 6489 or Anne 07 866 5550, 027 246 0072.

KUAOTUNU COMMUNITY SWAP - Fortnightly Sundays 10:30am at Lukes Kitchen. Next 29th Oct. Exchange your home-produced food with food from other community members. Not on public/school holidays. Contact Jose Kakeabeeke 07 866 4888.

TAIRUA MARKET DAY- 1st Sat every month, 9am-1pm, Community Hall, Main Rd. Crafts, goods & produce. Fay 07 864 7451

KARANGAHAKE HALL MARKET- Sundays 9am-2pm. Main St, Paeroa (plus Town Hall on 4th Sunday every month). Info: Moira 07 862 9233 or Dawn 07 862 7452.

WAIHI MARKET- 3rd Sat. every month 8.30am-1pm, Memorial Hall, Main Rd and in Sneddon St. Info: Sherry 022 650 8253

WAIHI BEACH SUNDAY MARKET- Sundays Labour weekend 'til Easter 9am-1pm. Opposite Waihi Beach Hotel, Wilson Rd. Fresh food, jewellery, furniture, energetic healers, organic creams, soaps and more. Kelly 021 231 8643, waihibeachsundaymarket@gmail.com

KATIKATI PLANT & PRODUCE MARKET Fridays 4-6pm (closes at sunset). Katikati A&P Showgrounds, Waterford Rd. Local produce, bread, cheeses, meats, 07 549 2449

KATIKATI LIONS MOGGIE MARKET- 2nd Sat every month, 8am-12pm, Katikati War Memorial Hall. Arts & crafts, food, plants. Margaret 021 507 456, Alan 027 279 1096.

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Read Bros, the oldest family owned business in NZ, really holds family values dear. Through five generations their great customer service and unrivalled range of stock has seen them endure and thrive.

THE SECRET TO THEIR SUCCESS?

No secret at all! Just plain old-fashioned good service and everyday products that people need. And if ever you need something, someone will always suggest you try Reads, and EUREKA they'll likely have it.

The company's recipe for success has been brewing for well over a century. Founder John Read was a timber merchant and iron monger providing timber and fixtures for the mines, and later shifted focus to support industries like A&G Price that manufactured railroad steam engines. The Reads still operate with that "whatever's needed" spirit.

READ BROS RECEIVES TOP AWARDS

Last year, Read Bros celebrated 150 years in business – five generations, one store. It's no surprise that this iconic hardware store was named the Supreme Winner of the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards 27 September. They also topped the Retail Award category.

The store is currently owned by Stuart and Jocelyn Read and their son John, who has also been serving as manager the past five years. "We stand on the strong shoulders of Reads going back generations; and I'm very, very pleased that John is doing such a wonderful job for the future."



A HAPPY READ BROS TEAM after receiving their double dip: Supreme Winner and top for the Retail category at the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards.

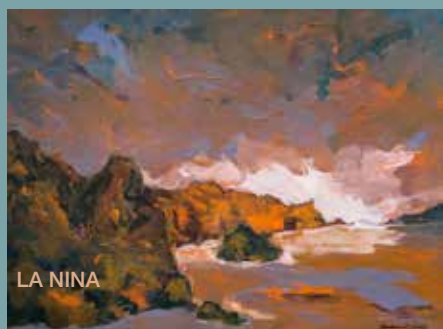
The Special Commendation in the retail category was Guthrie Bowron of Whitianga, while the Finalist award went to Hello Friday in Pauanui.

Barbara von Seida's paintings honoured



Barbara von Seida had a 'magic night' at the Corbans Estate Winery on Friday 28th Sept, when two of her three entries at the Greater Auckland Art Awards won prizes. 'Equinox' above won the Landscape Merit award, and 'La Nina' below placed 3rd overall. The judges were Warwick Brown and Andrew Rankin.

See her paintings online at www.barbara-von-seida.co.nz or arrange for a visit to her studio/gallery overlooking Long Bay.



OUTSTANDING DESTINATION COROMANDEL TEAM ON TOP WITH DIGITAL MARKETING AWARD



See many stunning GoPro video shots like this on the Destination Coromandel website – not only dramatic scenes, the action involved direction to the timing of the kayakers.

Our Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for The Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains recently took out awards for overall results in two key areas: online marketing performance: organic search traffic and online video audience, beating out 30 RTOs from around the country.

We have come to appreciate the extraordinary work this dedicated team do to produce the highest quality promotional material that drives so many visitors to our special place. Their online material is stunning and comprehensive, featuring all that The Coromandel has to offer as a premium destination – all expertly shot and reproduced for viewers' pleasure.

We here at *Coromandel Life* have immensely enjoyed our collaborative efforts with Destination Coromandel over the years, and are pleased to see them getting some well-deserved industry recognition.

Be sure to check them out at www.thecoromandel.com



The Destination Coromandel marketing team, from left: International Marketing Manager Lynette Dey, General Manager Hadley Dryden, Marketing Manager Megan Nunn, and Marketing Intern Hannah McMillan Phillips.

WHITIANGA'S LOOKING SHARP with reconstruction projects completing



Business owners in Whitianga's main street are thrilled that the upgrade work has proceeded with haste, and with relatively little hassle. It has been challenging for shoppers and businesses with reduced parking and a bit more walking to reach shops affected, as each section of the street was closed off to traffic to undertake the very necessary infrastructure upgrades that were so needed. But the end is nigh, and everyone is pleased to be getting 'back to business' just in time for the holiday season. Shoppers report enjoying the wider spaces, outdoor seating and the more pedestrian friendly-feel of our new central shopping area.

Well done to all involved for a great outcome! Now all we need is fewer orange cones, a Summer of constant sunshine and everyone will be super happy!



TIS THE SEASON FOR CAT RESCUES

Whangamata Cat Adoption Team volunteers held a fundraising garage sale in October to help support their busy season for cat rescues and neutering assistance. Group founder Victoria Cordery says over 134 cats have been neutered so far. They are collecting goods and accepting financial donations to help repair rust damage on their white CAT VAN. "It needs about \$1800 worth of work," adds Victoria. "If every FB follower pitched in only a dollar we'd be well on our way!"

They have an adorable cat tea towel for \$12 plus \$3p&h. "Deck the hall with catnip mousies. Wreck the tree and blame the doggies." The "Blame the Doggies" towel costs \$12, plus \$3 postage.



Drop by Kitschy CAT's fundraising thrift shop to 'purr-oooz' the shelves for delightful holiday gifts. This absolutely shabulous shop offers an eclectic range of vintage, new/used and all things kitsch...upcycled furniture, art, gifts and collectables. "Our delightful shop and rescue team are manned by volunteers, with all proceeds supporting rescues and neutering assistance," notes Victoria.

Kitschy CAT is at 310 Casement Rd, Whangamata. Open Fri, Sat & Sun, 10am-4pm, or by appt. Call/txt Victoria at 021 252 7002 and follow their activities on FB's Whangamata CAT page.



Laughing Pottery in Waihi

One of my favourite places to browse. But oops! we had an incorrect website for Andrew in our advertiser list - .co.nz rather than .com - and you don't want to miss checking it out - his new site is gorgeous. It's another wonderful shop to browse his unique handthrown pieces, distinctive "ranges" of dinnerware, one-off cups for tea ceremonies, vases and more.

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See www.laughingpottery.com

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NEXT GENERATION TEAM MAKES

BIG WAVES in Pauanui Real Estate Scene

This Labour weekend marks three years that Harcourts has been open in Pauanui, and the team at Next Generation Pauanui have certainly had a massive impact on the local real estate scene in that short period!

The aptly named “Dynamic Duo” of Alyce Rowe and Katie Wardenburg – recognised easily in their black mini convertible, with license plate ‘Da Grils’ – have together sold over \$40 million in Pauanui properties since opening their office. Soon after the mini arrived, the duo brought Tylah Dix on board as their administrator and the ‘trio’ have been together since.

After Harcourts had closed their Pauanui office 10 years before, another well-known brand had taken over the lion’s share of the real estate market. So initially, some in the industry were sceptical that such a young team could succeed in bringing Harcourts back, but this only spurred this bold team onto greater effort.

“We were the new kids on the block – the next generation – and the opportunity to start something fresh and take on a new challenge was awesome,” says Alyce. “People now know we are here to stay – we are already getting repeat business and a lot of referrals!”

EXPANDING BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Harcourts Pauanui has recently joined the Coromandel Beaches Realty franchise that has offices in Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga and Coromandel town.

Alyce has also joined forces with Tony and Pip White, owners of the Harcourts Tairua, to become joint business owners of both Harcourts offices in Pauanui and Tairua. This restructure combines the expertise, experience, and networks of Tony and Pip with the enthusiasm, energy of the next generation of team in Pauanui.

After 20 years with the well-known Harcourts Cooper and Co. franchise, Tony and Pip moved



here from the North Shore of Auckland. Together they sold over 600 homes on the North Shore and found that many of their clients, friends and family, were moving to the east coast of the Coromandel. They were also desperate to get out of the rat race, and ‘right size’ their lives.

“We’re really excited about how this collaboration will change the real estate landscape and make a real difference to how residential homes are marketed on the Paradise Coast – for the better”, says Tony.

Tairua and Pauanui Harcourts Team join forces to make a strong presence on the Paradise Coast.

Standing from left: Clive Mosen, Jen & Graham Beare, Tony White, Katie Wardenburg, Tylah Dix and Greg Dickie (Hahei/ Cooks Beach).

Front from left: Molly Aldrich, Philippa Evans, Pip White and Alyce Rowe.



NEWS FLASH from Alastair Brickell at Stargazers B&B

NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft that visited Pluto in 2015 will zip past the most distant object ever visited on January 1 at 14km/second. “Ultima Thule”, a dwarf planet only discovered in 2014, is 6 light hours away and at minus 2200 C a complete mystery. We think it is about 30km in diameter but don’t know if it has moons or rings, is icy or rocky or even if it’s a double planet. Stay tuned!

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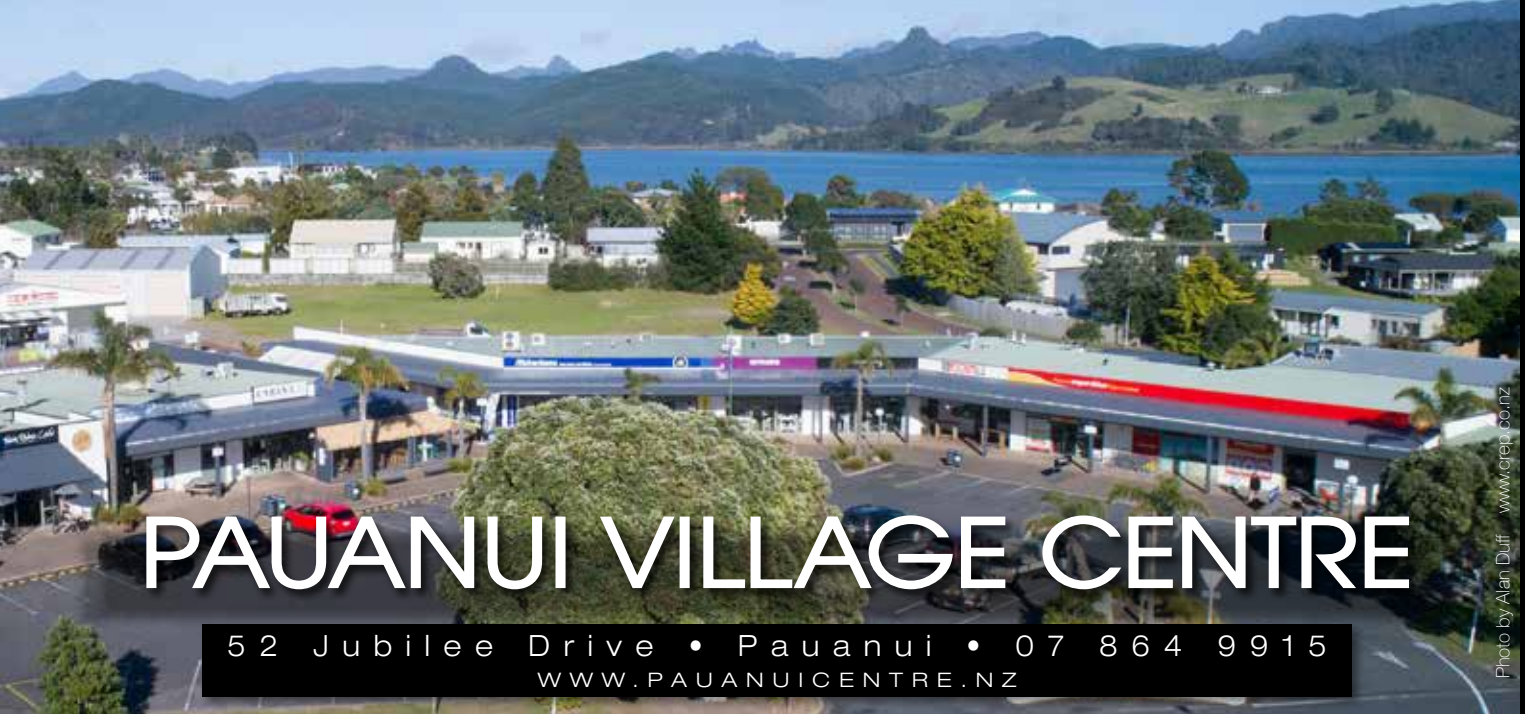


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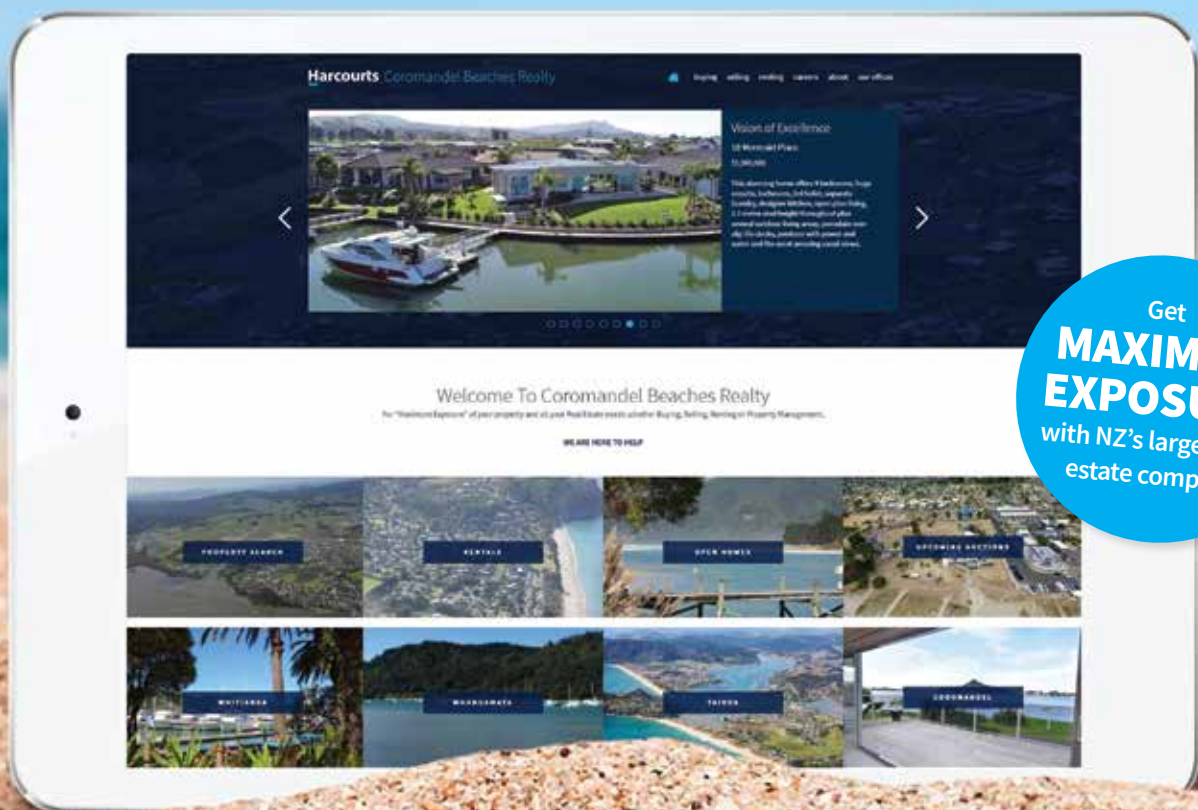
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whangamata@harcourts.co.nz

Pauanui

Shop 21, Pauanui Centre
07 280 0678
pauanui@harcourts.co.nz

Tairua

238 Main Road, Tairua
07 864 7822
tairua@harcourts.co.nz

Coromandel

105 Kapanga Road, Coromandel
07 866 8360
coromandel@harcourts.co.nz