

# Coromandel Town Chronicle

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## Kai galore at Flood Fundraiser/Gala Day

*Nau te rauru, naku te rauru, ka ora ai te iwi*  
With your food basket and my food basket, the people will be well!

SEE PAGE 3



Car fair PG 6

Art Group out and about PG 25

Classy Chicks PG 31



**Haere mai. Welcome to the  
Coromandel Town Chronicle**

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**www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz**

Cover photos: Hāpai o Harataunga – Harataunga  
Marae Trust - Flood Fundraiser/Gala Day

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**Emergency**

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Ambulance Station, Four Square, Coro Family  
Health, Bowling Club/RSA, Te Korowai and  
Phoenix House. Although AED's are important,  
St John say performing continuous chest  
compressions/calling 111 takes priority.

..... Editor's comment .....

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful articles and adverts this month. Means I've been able to put the page count of the Chronicle back up again.

In a time of high inflation and everything going up in price, the Chronicle has now been hit with a big increase for print prices – due to the rise in the cost of paper. So I'm going to look at the prices of colour advertising. I introduced colour to the Chronicle in February 2017, and colour advertising prices have stayed the same since. I will pass details of price rises I need to make to you once I have looked at the costings.

*Debbie*

..... Letters .....

Dear Chronicle,

We just wanted to thank your town for the wonderful welcome we received during our two-day visit this week. We were especially delighted to learn croquet with your Tuesday croquet club. Thank you Lyn, Jeff, Sharon and everyone for your incredible patience teaching us. We felt like this was one of our most authentic Kiwi experiences during our two months in New Zealand.

The women at your info centre also were terrific. They helped orient us first to Coromandel Town and then towards Miranda Bird Sanctuary as we were leaving. I must recommend the Success tramp – one of my most peaceful New Zealand walks. Thank you again,  
Rebecca Dorr, Maine, USA

**Community Market**

By Abby Noire

The lovely community market in Coromandel has been going for quite a long time now and is still going strong. It's been held in various locations and has now found it's favourite home on the lawn outside Hike & Bike.



It's such a nice place to find community and some fresh food and pantry staples, wholesome snacks and treats, wellness supplies, gifts, cards, something handmade or homegrown for everyone.

Starting at 8.30am, closing at 12.30pm, I like to see what's on offer each week: seedlings, flowers, fried bread and sourdough bread, eggs, samosas and sushi, a variety of cakes, smoothies and real fruit ice cream, lovely knitting and gifts. There are T-shirts, hand-printed items, chocolate, honey. Which preserves will I get? Cards for occasions? Slime for the kids, handmade soaps, oranges in season? There's often tarot reading or a diamond template consultation, perfumes and creams, magnesium spray, tic-tac-toe rocks, upcycled items and crafts

The market will continue every Friday until **Friday 28 April**, which will be the last market until we resume in October. The exception to this will be Easter when the market will run on **Easter Saturday 8 April** instead. Take advantage of the long weekend and come and join us at the market.

We have some new stallholders joining as well as some others who we miss, needing to concentrate elsewhere. You can bring your surplus fruit, flowers, vegetables and produce to next week's market for us to sell on your behalf.

We endeavour to be there every Friday, rain or shine; in fact we rarely cancel, unless it's for a heavy weather warning and it's too windy. Each winter I find myself anticipating the first Friday in October (6 October this year) for the start of the market season again.

New stallholders are welcome. We encourage handmade and homegrown things; call (07) 866 8932 for more info

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## Hāpai o Harataunga – Harataunga Marae Trust - Flood Fundraiser/Gala Day

By Sally Steedman

Tēnā tatou e ngā rau Rangatira mā.

On behalf of the Harataunga Marae Trust and Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga, we want to thank everyone who attended, donated, gifted and worked together to get the fundraiser off the ground and dedicating their time and effort to raise funds for the victims of the recent devastating floods.

The effects of the floods in our own region as well as Tairāwhiti (East Coast, Wairoa) and down further to Kahungunu (Napier/Hawkes Bay) has had a severe impact and, on the people from those regions most affected, we wanted to show our aroha. We decided to hold a fundraiser, hoping for better weather on Saturday 4 March at Harataunga Marae. The call went out to whānau to get stalls up selling their kai, raffles and we were astounded by the response.

We cannot acknowledge everyone who contributed, but we really are so grateful for all of the contributions made on the day, and the days following.

The day dawned bright and sunny, people arrived early from all around the region



– Colville, Koputauaki, Manaia, Karuna Falls, Tuatēpoua, Coromandel, Thames, Whangapoua, Whitianga as well as Kennedy Bay – and brought their money for donations and sales. Whānau came from out of the area to help on the day.

First there were all of the kai stalls, then the raffles, face painting, bike rides, music/entertainment. I do have to mention the number and size of the cakes that were made in the kitchen! Sheer volume, and all sold. We sold or raffled everything by 2pm.

Some unique features were the artwork that was painted and raffled on the day and the online art auction, showcasing several beautiful Māori inspired artworks. The online raffle ran until midnight on Thursday 16 March. A day's labour donated by a local business and a load of firewood were also raffled.

We should mention the donations and gift vouchers from local Coromandel businesses, who are already facing their own challenges with a wet summer and



not many tourists. Thank you very much.

Food favourites: mussel fritters (some people bought 10 at a time), sushi; everyone's favourite smoked eel, raw fish, smoked mussels, cold drinks, hot chips, kimchi, curries, yummy chop suey and egg salad... Devonshire tea (scones) stall received a lot of attention too. What about those delicious steak and onion sandwiches with or without eggs? Kids' raffles were very popular and so was the candy floss!

The wheel raffle kept people entertained and excited. Raffles included nights at Tāngiāro, Rotorua, Hot Springs Whitianga, cakes, vouchers, honey, wine/beer. But the one denominator for the day was the absolute support for the cause; it was overwhelming.

As of Sunday 19 March, our total fundraising was \$13,698.85; an awesome achievement. We are very, very grateful for the support of this important kaupapa.

He whakatauki tēnei.

Nāu te rauru, nāku te rauru, ka ora ai te iwi. With your food basket and my food basket the people will be well!

For donations or information contact sally.steedman@gmail.com, phone 027 777 1295 on behalf of the Harataunga Marae Trust



### A Taste of Matarangi

A Taste of Matarangi is on **Saturday 1 April**.

Enjoy a relaxed day out listening to great live music while feasting on delicious food, sampling a selection of fine wines and some of the best craft beer in the region. There will be an all-day line-up of musicians.

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## A new retirement village for Coromandel Town – Coromandel Lifestyle Village

By Debbie Morgan

I had the pleasure of being invited and shown around the new independent living retirement village which is being converted in what was formally Colonial Cottages Motel.

Wayne and Kathryn Besley purchased the property in 2021 as they could see it would make a perfect retirement village. Wayne showed me around the Victorian bay villa which sits on the road side of the plot. The villa was built around 1895 for Captain Albert Argall. He was the first of a succession of mine managers to live here. In 1937 the Coromandel Hospital Board bought the house to use as the medical superintendent’s residence. It became a motel in the late 1970’s. Now Wayne and his team of builders have transformed it again.

The villa is completely repiled, newly painted, new carpet, new kitchen and dining area and a 23sqm extension for a toilet block – all done to match this heritage building. Wayne talked about the building with real passion, “I love these properties,” he told me, reveling in the beauty of the place. He is a commercial builder by trade, but loves taking on “pet projects” – this is one of them. To conform to regulations for community spaces, Wayne removed the



Re-piling work

two brick chimneys and rebuilt them using fibreglass and slices of the original bricks. The chimneys now look exactly the same, but are structurally safe, plus provide additional storage space within the building. I can see that every care has gone into this project, no expense has been spared on getting this building perfect and fit for another 50 years or so.

This villa is going to be the communal area for residents to interact and spread out if they have family over. There is a modern kitchen, cosy games room, library, lounge, bathroom and large room complete with chandeliers that Wayne called the ballroom – it has a huge TV in it which residents can watch sport on, plus the room can be used for residents’ meetings. Around the villa he is building lots of decks and a BBQ area.

Then I was shown a completed cottage. It is one of the former motel cottages and had all been completely renovated, insulated, painted, and has new appliances. It is plenty spacious enough to live in with open plan kitchen/lounge, two bedrooms, a shower room and a carport out the back. Six of these cottages face each other across a tidy lawn. There are also two one-bedroom cottages which are being renovated, plus he is building five more new two-bedroom cottages on the site.

But that wasn’t all! Wayne then showed me the residents’



Craning the new chimney into place

hobby room and workshop shed area, and at the back of the section there will be room to park motorhomes, caravans and boats, and also grow some veges.

As a retirement village, owners will need to be at least 67 years old. The village will have an on-site manager during normal weekly working hours. There is a monthly service fee payable by owners and other terms and conditions which Wayne will happily explain to interested parties.

The first renovated two-bedroom cottages will be going on the market shortly. More will follow, and the whole site is expected to be completed in 2024. Please register your interest now.

There will be open days on **Saturday 8 and Saturday 22 April**. The community is welcome to come and have a look around.

For more information please contact Coromandel Lifestyle Village, 1737 Rings Road, Coromandel Town, 027 247 2016, info@corolifevillage.co.nz



Old photo showing the Victorian bay villa

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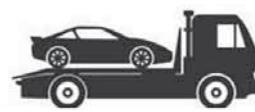
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For more information please contact Wayne Besley on 027 247 2016 or [info@corolifevillage.co.nz](mailto:info@corolifevillage.co.nz)



Car Fair

### Coromandel Car Club

By Bruce Finan

Wow, what a start we had for our first Car Club Car Fair on 26 February and yes, it will be an event on Coromandel's calendar for next year. It was a shame that, due to the road conditions, the Whitianga Club couldn't make it, but thanks to the local community and the Thames Car Club for making the day at Peter's place such a huge success. Mike will be remembered for his demo on "How to control a Chev", justifying the dip stick award! A pat on the back for every person involved.

Our next major event is the Whitianga Beach Meet on **Easter Sunday 9 April**. Whitianga had to postpone this twice because of bad weather but hopefully all will be good this time.

Our next Happy Hour club meeting is on **Wednesday 12 April**.



Stony, Coromandel RSA President at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations

### RSA

By Gary Pettett

St Patrick's Day on 17 March was celebrated in style by both the RSA and Bowls Club, with a friendly game of bowls, raffles, sausage and chips supper washed down by lots of Guinness and live music by our own great band Bits and Pieces. All of the notable leprechauns turned up including the head honcho (no prize for guessing his name!). Thanks go to Lyn for the beautiful table and club decorations, to Pat and Paddy for the bar, and Linda and Stony for making the whole afternoon/evening such fun.

Anzac Day is on **Tuesday 25 April** and marchers are asked to gather at the Community Hall by 9.45am and march to the Cenotaph for the 10am service. All members of the public are invited to this special event and attendees are welcome to return to the Club for refreshments after the event.



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### Combined Clubs of Coromandel

### Coromandel Bowling Club

By Jo Sanderson, Communications



Greetings everyone.

The first half of March and a lot of February has been all about our Annual Seafood Tournament which is the biggest event on our year's calendar as a club.

We had mussels, eight big sacks, cooked and shucked, marinated, cut up, fritters made. Fishing, fishing and more fishing to get enough fresh fish to be cooked and smoked for 160+ people. Hours and hours of preparation of food and two very long days in the kitchen during the tournament. Raffle items given, purchased and put together. Countless hours of organising and collecting of equipment and foods. Once again the food was a highlight for many, and our chef extraordinaire Cindy had many willing and capable Indians around her. What a fabulous team! So many people came to give their donations and time. Probably the best response we have ever had for items for the raffles, baking and helping over the weekend. The weekend went like clockwork, and has been the most profitable tournament yet, so a huge thank you has to go to all those involved!

We have had most of our club champs over the last few weeks. These results are all on the Sporty website [www.sporty.co.nz/coromandelbowls/Home-1](http://www.sporty.co.nz/coromandelbowls/Home-1) or on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Coromandelbowlingclub](http://www.facebook.com/Coromandelbowlingclub) if you have missed the results.

By the time this goes to print, Twilight Bowls will be all but over. Although the season has been severely hampered with the shocking weather, the bowling has gone from strength to strength. What an incredible beating heart of Coromandel the club becomes each Tuesday evening. It is a great community gathering where everyone comes together and just has fun! If you had thought about joining in, start getting a team together, let Linda W know and she will give you all of the information on when you can enrol, etc., for later in the year.

We have some top players in our club and Colin Gawith and Lindsay Nicholls are representing Thames Valley in Christchurch at the National Inter Centre finals in the singles this season.

Also Colin, Lindsay and Belinda Goodall have played their way into the NZ National 3x5 event by winning the Thames Valley event and will travel to Wellington. We wish them all the best and are very proud of their amazing results!

Our bowling calendar winds up on **Thursday 4 May** with our presentations so this will be the last report from me for a wee while on a regular basis.

If you are thinking about playing bowls, come along to a club morning on a Thursday (before the end of April), or contact us through either Facebook or one of the committee members – you will be warmly welcomed.

And just remember, lawn bowls is a simple game – if you can remember that the jack can also be called a kitty, a cot, a pill, or the white!

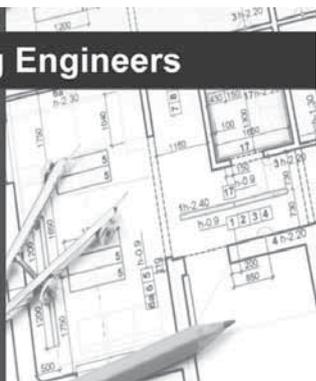
Ladies 4 Champions 2023 left to right: Vi, Chelsea, Sue, Lindsay

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## Chopper Chat

By Nigel Strongman

February was a quiet month, with only three callouts to our neck of the woods. Most people seem to be taking things carefully!

### Missions for February 2023

6.2.23 – Kennedy Bay – Crew tasked to assist a patient involved in a motorbike accident. Crew were stood down and returned to base.

21.2.23 – Colville – Crew tasked to assist a boy suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

22.2.23 – Coromandel – Crew tasked to assist an elderly female patient suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

We have had a chopper and crew on site between Boxing Day and the end of January. When Cyclone Gabrielle descended upon us, Auckland sent a machine and crew back for a few weeks while the Peninsula was isolated. If nothing else, the storms demonstrated to the powers that be, the importance of the helicopter service to places like the Coromandel Peninsula and the east coast after the storms.

Last Saturday week, Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust held an open day at the Whitianga Facility. Present were one of the pilots from Auckland, some of our major sponsors, and a reasonable number of guests, but no rescue helicopter. Due to a muck-up in Auckland, they didn't send a machine down. Lesson learned, we will make sure that doesn't happen next year. Despite that, everyone enjoyed the day. We will try for a long weekend for next year's function.

In the meantime, please take care and try to avoid becoming a statistic.

Contact Nigel Strongman, Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust Trustee, 022 670 1549

## Wild things

### Forest gecko

By Pete Sephton

This beautiful mokopirirakau or forest gecko was photographed by Jan Kocian on a building site near Coromandel Town, an unusual daytime sighting of this normally nocturnal lizard. Due to loss of habitat these endemic animals are at risk. There are populations on both the North and South Islands and on some of our offshore islands but they are not widespread. They are able to change the colour of their bark-like markings to blend in with the trees they normally live on, so they are not easy to spot and they can live for up to 40 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAN KOCIAN

### Coromandel Contract Bridge Club

By Judy Bronlund

After a slow start we now have two tables playing. There are folk going to Whitianga for lessons so soon we will have them joining us. We play each Monday evening at the St John rooms. Visitors and new members are welcome to join us. Please let Jan know if you are able to join us or if you need a partner.

Contacts Jan (07) 866 8341 or 027 478 8830 or Judy (07) 866 8637 or 027 516 8306



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## The Medlock Project: An Overview

By J. Sargisson

The three hundred acres of ridges and valleys that sweep up from the wetlands lagoon to the edge of the kauri forest at its highest point is the project the Medlocks are working on. The land looks out over gulf and harbour, encompassing the Harray walking track that follows the hills from McGregor Bay, contouring behind the golf course, finally to meet the Whangarahi Stream and Rings Road.



These trails can be walked or biked or ridden on horseback. To reach the summit one can walk across the farmland beside the tracks. The kauri track that starts behind Long Bay campground is only 60-70 metres from the boundary fence that borders this high hillside all the way down to the Tuck's Bay headland reserve. From the spectacular lookout on the Medlock land, it is easy and surprising to see how coast, reserve forest and now these accessible hills, are all connected.

Much of the land is forested. The valleys and lower ridges are covered with tall kanuka, young kauri and rewarewa with ponga and mamaku down by the streams. The wilding pines that have spread through the forests of the Coromandel have been painstakingly removed and now you can stand and observe hillsides of native forest. The work of creating tracks, removing pines and clearing out acres of ginger, gorse, flannel weed and pampas grass is a monumental task and leaves a few open wounds until the young native trees establish themselves again. Some of the streambeds have been choked with pampas and ginger and these require big machinery to free them, bridges and culverts to cross them, the paperwork from the TCDC to be approved. All in all, this mammoth undertaking will be ongoing for a while yet.

The Whangarahi Stream further north, at the Rings Road entrance to the Harray Track has swimming holes and oxbows as the water has surged down with the heavy rainfall. Clearing head-high gorse and ginger has made many of these accessible and gives the native seedlings space to regenerate. Now visible is the stone bedding of the old Colville road that ran behind the golf course out towards the bridge by Flays Road.

This is a remarkable project, inspired by the late Keith Stephenson and open to all who want to explore this part of the west coast of the Coromandel. It is home to native birds, fish and wetland plant life rising up to rejuvenating forest and open spaces overlooking harbour, gulf and islands.

It was Mr Harray who created the walking track from McGregor Bay to Rings Road, over his farm. Thousands have walked this track over the years. Now, the children of old Mr Harray have expressed their delight and joy on behalf of their father. "This is what he always wanted": the land reforested with tracks and trails open to all. Follow the black arrows on yellow squares and you won't get lost.

## Coromandel Embroiderers' Guild

By Sharon Currie

Wednesday 1 March was our monthly Guild day. It was nice to catch up with members from

Whitianga, Kuaotunu and Matarangi. They had been cut off due to road closures caused by Cyclone Gabrielle which has created havoc in several parts of New Zealand.

As usual, there was a lovely buzz of conversation as the sales table was browsed and the work on the display table was admired. Thank you to Judy Russell and Shirley Gross for a lovely morning tea.

Once the business of the day was sorted and purchases from the sales table were made it is time to start stitching. Every year we have a small stitching project each month and this year we are stitching miniature pin cushions or key rings, designed by Helen and Jill. You can try out different types of embroidery on small projects and decide which sort of stitching you like.

With classes each month and an excellent library, there is a wealth of knowledge in this group if you are interested in the art of hand embroidery.

We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month from February to November at the St John Rooms on Tiki Road



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Stunning waterfront setting at Te Kouma Bay and offered to the market for the first time in 62 years! Two titles combining a total land area of 5,148m2 with panoramic north facing harbour views and, a cute sun drenched 'Kiwi' bach. **Deadline Sale closes 4pm 19/04/23 (Unless Sold Prior)**



**New Listing**  
This multi-level home is an absolute showpiece of mid 70's architecture, with the sharp design cues harmonizing with the surrounding bush. Open-plan living, mezzanine reading room, 3 double bedrooms (master en-suite and walk-in robe), bathroom and fantastic decking. **\$1,495,000**



**New Listing**  
Terrific in Tuatēawa!!! Imagine sitting on the deck enjoying a cuppa, while watching the glistening waters of the Pacific Ocean beyond. Immac 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, with open-plan living and an abundance of privacy from the bush clad 1,870m2 section. **Offers over \$780,000**



**New Listing**  
Arrive home to a perfect mix of lawn and gardens at this relatively easy care 484m2 property. The excellent dining/kitchen/lounge areas open onto an extensive north facing deck for alfresco living. There are 3 brms (master en-suite) and, a large bathroom. Sep single garage. **\$750,000**



**New Listing**  
Picture this... a 2.67Ha parcel of land to build your 'off grid' dream home, shed or barn. Graze a few stock, sheep and maybe some chickens to create the ideal lifestyle environment. Set approx 3kms from town with Right of Way access. There are distant harbour views. **\$750,000 + GST (if any)**



**New Listing**  
Set on the southern outskirts of town, this 2.5Ha pasture block would allow you to grazing cattle and/or you may wish to crop part thereof. Relatively close to nearby beaches and boat ramps. If potential lifestyle living interests you, please call us for a viewing. **\$700,000 + GST (if any)**



- \* The black bach/cottage
- \* 2 bedrooms, open-plan living
- \* Flat, private 529m2 section
- \* Room to park the car & boat
- \* Perfect for weekend getaways
- \* **\$539,000**



- \* Bring the boat and go fishing!
- \* 3 bedrooms and high ceilings
- \* Cabana for outdoor living
- \* Flat, fenced 399m2 section
- \* Utilised as a popular AirBnB
- \* **\$605,000**



- \* Your new lifestyle awaits!
- \* For those aged 55 and over
- \* 2 brms, office, single garage
- \* Spacious kitchen/living room
- \* North facing private deck
- \* **\$609,000**



## Roading in our district

By Debbie Morgan

The roads have taken a battering in January and February. With most roads now open I thought it was time to catch up with where things are at with getting the rest of the roads open and providing resilience for the roading around the peninsula into the future.

I spoke with Scott Simpson MP. He said that he knows that the Kopu-Hikuai SH25A will take time to fix, but we want confidence and reassurance that other roads are going to be OK. Scott has been out and about speaking to lots of people. He told me that some people can't get to work, some haven't been able to get their children to school and have ended up having to send them to boarding school. "There are a lot of stressed people worried how they are going to get through winter. We have a very challenging winter ahead of us," he said.

Scott is in regular contact with NZTA officials and Minister of Transport Michael Wood, who is dealing with the repair work in Coromandel.

Scott wants durability and resilience in our roads. User needs vary from place to place around the country. He does believe there is the money to fix our roads.

He said we will need to have a conversation about rebuilding and repairing: Moral dilemma about beachfront homes where garden is washed away – who pays? Should people buying beachfront properties now be warned? Who pays if houses need relocation because land is unusable. Lots of discussion to be had.

He said the main thing for the public to do at the moment is to get the word out that "the Coromandel is open for business". Lots of people believe it is still a no-go area.

I tried to speak with Mayor Len Salt, but for now I have to make do with a statement from him. The statement said TCDC are "working as fast as we can on immediate fixes to our local roads, as well as supporting Waka Kotahi/NZTA with its job of repairing

our district's state highways, so we can get communities reconnected, businesses boosted and provide more stability to our transport networks.

"As we deal with the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, we're still working on more than 120 slip repairs. Usually at this time of year there'd be about 5-10. We're trying our best to get roads like the Tapu-Coroglen open as soon as possible – realistically we hope that could be before Christmas. There's a lot of ground instability and we're still getting geotechnical advice and expertise on the best solution to fix."

Some other actions TCDC's been taking:

- We've met and put in formal requests for further financial support to the Prime Minister, Minister Wood (Transport Minister and Minister for Recovery for the Coromandel), Minister McAnulty (Emergency Management), Minister Allan (Regional Development), Minister Mahuta (Minister for Recovery for the Coromandel) for our local and state highways to be prioritised for investment in repairs and long-term resilience, as well as operational funding for staffing to minimise ratepayer burden.

The Prime Minister's given his assurance his government is committed to the resilience of our transportation links so that communities aren't at such risk of isolation in extreme weather as they have been.

- We've been lobbying Waka Kotahi/NZTA for an increase to our roading Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) which is usually set at 51 per cent for district roads. Late in 2022 it was increased to 71 per cent, due to the number of works we were facing from storm events. Due to the damage experienced so far in 2023 we're lobbying to have our FAR increased to 91 per cent, with business cases required to see whether we can get to 100 per cent on some aspects of damage. That doesn't get the roads open faster, but it will lessen the financial impact on the district.

- We're not just pushing for our damaged

roads and state highways to be repaired, we're asking for investment from Waka Kotahi/NZTA and the government for a Transport Plan which includes what air and sea links can be put in place to keep supply lines open in the short to longer term.

- Our Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Fund is open for businesses to apply for support.
- The Mayoral Relief Fund has been available for families, whanau, community and business organisations to also apply for financial support.
- Department of Internal Affairs has approved funding for us to recruit two "Social Navigators" for our district who will provide support to our iwi, communities and businesses by connecting them to the right agencies and support networks.
- Our Regional Tourism Organisation, Destination Hauraki Coromandel, is working on marketing campaigns to encourage people to visit the Coromandel for Easter and beyond. Our district will be promoted to Auckland and the wider New Zealand market.

TCDC wants to thank their staff, their contractors and the residents support as they navigate their way through this. It will take some time and patience. They are working with central government about how all of these repairs can be paid for, to make the Coromandel more resilient in the longterm.

There's more to be done. But with collaboration from other agencies and community support, TCDC say we can do this together.

I have seen on the Facebook page "What's Happening Coromandel" a post about the parable of Noah, aka "Building a road on the Coromandel" which is worth a read if you want a laugh – it is circulating on lots of community Facebook groups. It is too long to print here, but I have found a version of it at [www.reddit.com/r/Jokes/comments/rr7ioc/in\\_the\\_year\\_2010\\_the\\_lord\\_came\\_onto\\_noah\\_and\\_said/](http://www.reddit.com/r/Jokes/comments/rr7ioc/in_the_year_2010_the_lord_came_onto_noah_and_said/). Written many years ago but still relevant in today's situation with the rebuilding of our roads.

Nga mihi mahana.



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## Coromandel Garden Circle

By Natalie Blasco

Our March meeting allowed 33 of us to get out for a garden ramble, on a lovely day. We visited Janine's immaculate, two-year-old garden -- with vege beds, espaliered and free-standing fruit trees and heaps of bromeliads -- and Natalie's garden, with large trees, dahlias, a creek, and a pond under construction.

After returning to The Club and getting some business out of the way, we welcomed our new member, Shirley Gross. We hope she will enjoy our group as much as we all do!

Kath announced that Norma Brown is happy in her new home at The Booms in Thames. A card has been sent, signed by most committee members.

Jeni reviewed details for the Friday 17 March trip to Ayrli's Plant Fair in Whitford.

Also, we were reminded that competition cups need to be returned by the April meeting so they can be prepared for our AGM in May. And on the subject of competitions, Jeni really ruled the roost, winning first place in three of five categories (mini, multi and arrangement), with the other two winners being Rada for single and Keitha for special. Jeni said she would go straight over to Karen's Garden Centre to spend her winnings!

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday 12 April**, 1pm, at The Club. We will have the usual competitions, with Arrangement being In an Egg Cup (and tell your egg cup story, if you have one) and Special being Dependable Dahlias, plus raffles, sales, etc. We will also have a pair of speakers discussing permaculture. Guests and visitors always welcome.

If you are interested in joining or being a speaker, please contact Kath Denize, Convenor, 022 413 6573 or Natalie Blasco, Secretary, (07) 866 7518




## Grey Power

### Coromandel Grey Power

Coromandel Grey Power Incorporated Society would like to invite our members to the Annual General Meeting which is to be held on **Thursday 11 May** – 1.30-3.30pm at the Combined Clubs of Coromandel, 190 Woollams Avenue, Coromandel Town). All committee positions are available for re-election.

It is vitally important for the continuation of the Coromandel Branch of Grey Power, that we have a full turnout of members at this meeting.

John, our President, has offered to open the CCC bar after the meeting for the purchase of a beverage along with a light afternoon tea that will be provided.

Please RSVP by **Monday 1 May** for catering purposes, to any of the below committee members.

Please join us!

---

John Gaffikin-Cowan – johngaffikin.cowan@hotmail.com, 021 139 0189.  
 Patricia – patricia@prosystems.co.nz, 0274 985 227. Carol – carolcarson@xtra.co.nz, 021 0816 6129

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## Coromandel Flying Club Society Ltd

By Loes Beaver

Some 40 years ago a group of local people who held a licence to fly aircraft got together and after many years of hard work fundraising, the club was formed.

We are once again fundraising with the sale of hay bales. To purchase hay ring Pieter 027 620 8915. Price for hay is \$11 per bale.

The Club is an active club, owns all of its assets, building, and aircraft.

The airfield is also used by Westpac Rescue Helicopter team, the police, and firefighting teams.

The airfield is a private airfield and strip. Health, safety and security are important as many aircraft come and go each day, including large helicopters.

Come fly with us, and maybe you would like to learn how to fly or just support this asset to our town.

Contacts for flying are Neville 027 494 1181 or Michael 027 363 9960

## Ann's Good News, Naturally

Allergies – is your gut the problem?

Has your struggle with allergies hit an all-time high? Is change of season an issue for you, with pollens and grasses seemingly causing sinus and sneezing or postnasal drip? Is dust, animal dander or mould a problem for you? Do you or your children crave foods, or experience reactions after eating certain nuts (or drinking nut milk)?

There has been media discussion recently about feeding smooth peanut butter to babies, from the age of 4-6 months, to prevent or lessen any future nut allergy in later years. I found this curious as a news item, as this is what I have been advising mums to do with their babies for years.

Allergies occur when your immune system overreacts to something normally harmless, such as a pollen or dust mites, triggering inflammation and producing allergic-type symptoms. These range from hay fever, sinusitis, digestive discomfort, eczema and asthma to life-threatening anaphylaxis.

Gut-compromising, quick-fix medications, such as antihistamines, provide some short-term symptomatic relief. To get longterm benefits, it is best to target the real underlying drivers of allergy: microbiome and gut health function.

Your microbiome (i.e., your gut bacteria) is the foundation of good health, especially when it comes to regulating your immune system and reducing its reactivity. In fact, dysbiosis (an imbalance in the types and levels of gut bacteria) has been identified as a characteristic feature of allergy.

We know dysbiosis promotes gut inflammation, leading to inflammation beyond the gut, deeper into your other body systems. The release of histamine (an inflammatory chemical produced by immune cells) causes many symptoms associated with allergy.

Fortunately, I can reduce your dysbiosis and improve composition of your gut bacteria through a specific protocol.

Also helpful is a specific probiotic, which modulates your immune function to prevent and



reduce allergic symptoms. It increases the production of anti-inflammatory immune cells, which counters allergy-associated inflammation, supporting healthy immunity.

### Peanut butter and other good nutritional foods

To prevent allergies, adhere to commonsense eating, as nature intended.

As a parent, you are in a privileged position to enable your child to reach their full potential through correct implementation of diet and lifestyle. Failure to provide infants with the correct nutritional requirements early in life, including a healthy, nourished pregnancy, breastfeeding for at least six months, and correct choices when starting solids, can make the difference between an allergy-free life, to having to endure reflux and vulnerabilities to different childhood illnesses.

We know that unless the immune system is strengthened and balanced via a healthy gut repair programme, more preventable chronic diseases and autoimmune diseases arise in adulthood and late in life. For example:

- 1) Digestive issues – Reflux, colic, constipation, diarrhoea, bottom-itch.
- 2) Immunity – Allergies: glue ear, asthma, rhinitis, eczema. Infections: colds, flu, sinusitis. Vaccination reactions.
- 3) Behavioural disorders – Anxiety, ADD/ADHD, dyspraxia, dyslexia, autism, Asperger's, stress, bedwetting, insomnia.

A child's under-functioning digestive tract has a direct effect on their immune system and brain development, which then presents as one of many behavioural disorders or more serious disease later in life.

We have come too far away from our innate (inner) knowing, and unfortunately seem to need to depend on science and media to reassure or remind us of what is right for our health.

Book now: Ann Kerr-Bell, Natural Medical Centre, "The natural alternative for all of your health requirements"

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**CILT**

**Creative Spaces**

Although we may not have moved into our new building yet, one of our most popular programmes, Te Mana Tangata (the Work Co-op), has established itself in the adjacent orange cottage. Here, members of our community who are living with boundaries are supported to learn new skills. Recently this has included traditional weaving at a “Creative Spaces” workshop. Another “Creative Spaces” series of art workshops was run by the Artists in the Making programme, with funding from Creative Communities and The Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Training has been offered in different fields: ceramics with Caitlin Maloney; painting with Paul Cornwall; feltmaking with



Maria Paul, Yvonne and Joe Hemara along with Caitlin with some of their work

Raewyn Penrose and raranga with Moana Harrison – all of this in a friendly and safe social environment. Phone CILT (07) 866 8358 for enquiries. Examples from both sets of workshops can be seen on the CILT website: [www.cilt.org.nz](http://www.cilt.org.nz). This is where you can read about all of our programmes and find out how you, or someone you know, would benefit from one of them.

**The Incredible Years**

One exciting programme which has proved very successful in the past is The Incredible Years, Ngā Tau Mīharo. This is a preschool-aged parenting programme which CILT offers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. It aims to provide parents and caregivers with building resources and strengthening parent-child relationships in order to help promote children’s emotional, social, and academic skills. Details of how to express an interest in joining the next session

are in the advertisement in this Chronicle, as well as on the CILT website: [www.cilt.org.nz](http://www.cilt.org.nz).

**Bizarre Grants Scheme**

We are happy to announce that The Bizarre Grants Scheme will operate again this year. Applications now open and will be closing on **Friday 28 April**. With reduced sales and profits in the past year following Covid and cyclone devastation, the total grant fund is lower than in previous years, but as before, due consideration will be given to every application. Full details are in the advertisement in this Chronicle (page 11), on Facebook and also the CILT website: [www.cilt.org.nz/grants/](http://www.cilt.org.nz/grants/).

The team at The Bizarre were saddened at a recent shoplifting incident. We would like everyone in the community to know that at CILT we are here to support all families in need in any way possible. If anyone is in a situation where they cannot manage to pay for an article of clothing, they should ask to speak in confidence to the duty manager and explain the difficulty. And remember that CILT offers budgeting facilities to help people straighten out their financial problems.

**Care in the Community**

Another important announcement is the Care in the Community Disability Welfare Fund which is administered in the Coromandel region by CILT. With the support of the Ministry of Social Development, grants are offered to members of our community and their whanau, who have a disability, or are experiencing other barriers and have been affected by Covid-19. We can use the funding to help by connecting with social and other support networks and communities; providing support for the whanau of a person with disabilities; maintaining precautions to prevent exposure to Covid-19. CILT wants to work with members of our community to best decide how to meet your individual needs. This could include direct funding to you or your whanau, or purchase of services, devices or equipment.

If you think you may qualify for this funding, please get in touch! We will work through the application process with you and help you get the support you need. Contact Karena by email [karena@cilt.org.nz](mailto:karena@cilt.org.nz) or phone (07) 866 8358.

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## Museum News

By Raewyn McKinney

After an uncertain start, it is great that we are now experiencing some beautiful late summer weather. However, no matter what the weather, the museum provides a wonderful experience for visitors of all ages, and we are pleased to note that visitor numbers have been steady in spite of the bad weather. There is no doubt the experience of visiting the museum will only improve once our current projects are completed.

Work continues on the painting of the museum windows. Of course, maintenance is continuous and ongoing, but we trust the current good weather will enable the painting to be completed. We are thrilled that work on our Firlawn Creamery Project is now nearly completed. We thank everyone who has contributed to this work, and those who have donated money to this project. We remind others that donations can still be made to our bank account: BNZ Coromandel 020304031121100. All donations over \$5 are tax deductible, so please include your name and address and a receipt will be sent to you.

At the time of writing, the jail building has been rotated, and is now in its new position. We are pleased the improvement in the weather has enabled work to proceed on this project. With luck, all the work will be completed by the time this edition of the Coromandel Town Chronicle is delivered.



Relocated jail building

Visitors to the museum will then be able to admire the creamery building and learn about its history and the history of home dairies in New Zealand. At that time the jail building will once again be available for people to visit. This jail building is officially known as a “lockup” and was built around 1905. “*In Search of the Rainbow*” tells me this was part of the third police station built in Coromandel. It was a large house situated behind the government buildings in Kapanga Road and the building containing two lockups was outside. This police station lasted until 1979, when it was replaced by the current building, also in Kapanga Road. When the new police station was opened in 1979, the old lockup building was transported to the museum complex, where it has proved to be a popular exhibit, especially with our younger visitors.

The museum volunteers were very happy to welcome the junior members of Coromandel Area School during March. We encourage all local residents, especially the children, to



Junior school students visit

learn about their town and its history and are pleased to learn that the junior students all enjoyed the visit. It was a shame that the jail and creamery were off limits at the time of their visits, but we hope to see the students return next year, when they will be able to explore the whole museum complex. Thanks go to Jamie for arranging this visit, and for sending photos of the visits.

On behalf of the committee of the Coromandel School of Mines & Historical Society I thank Judy and Joanna for tidying the grass verges around the museum’s footpath. We were very surprised to see the museum’s kind neighbours finishing the work, when Judy and Joanna took a much needed break. Thank you very much for this thoughtful and kind gesture. We are always grateful for all of the help and support we receive from the local community.

We recently had a visit from a reporter from “The Informer”; maybe you have seen a story about the museum.

During April, the museum will be open daily from 1pm to 4pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on Thursdays and weekends. The museum will be closed on Good Friday 7 April

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# Our Coromandel



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

April 2023

## Tough calls for 2023/24 budgets

**With multiple severe weather events so far this year, and costs to repair and rebuild our Council roads likely to pass \$40 million, we're having to make some tough calls in our Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year beginning 1 July.**

We're proposing to delay, defer or amend some infrastructure projects and reduce operational spending.

"Together we're going to have to make some tough decisions about where and what we spend on, in the next 12 months. Please get involved and have your say," says our Mayor Len Salt.

### Major proposals:

- Rates: Average district-wide rates

### ANZAC SERVICES

ANZAC Day parades and services are taking place around our district on 25 April, and we welcome you to join us [tcdc.govt.nz/whatson](http://tcdc.govt.nz/whatson)



increase of 11.4 per cent. This will vary according to area and individual property. The median rates increase proposed for residential properties in the Coromandel-Colville Ward is 12 per cent.

- Operational spending: Reductions including a proposal to not fund \$6.7 million in depreciation and use underspent operational budgets (retained earnings) to offset rates.
- Pollen Street, Thames, project: Defer replacing underground infrastructure to allow time for our businesses to recover.
- Kerbside pricing: A new solid waste contractor takes over on 1 September. We'll replace our blue plastic rubbish bags with wheelie bins and have a new food waste collection service. There are three pricing options.

### Have your say

Feedback on our proposed Annual Plan 2023/24 budget is being held from 14 March to 10 April. Review the proposals in our Consultation Document on our website at [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023](http://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023) or pick up a copy at our Council service centres or district libraries. Share your feedback online, by email or post.

## Easter and ANZAC Day

### KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS

There will be no Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections on Easter Monday 10 April and ANZAC Day Tuesday 25 April. Collections **will be one day later after these public holidays**. Check the Kerbside schedule for your area at: [tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](http://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside)

Our seven Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) will be closed Good Friday 7 April and open Sunday hours on Easter Monday. ANZAC Day open from 1pm-5.30pm (Coromandel Town closes at 4pm). [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](http://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)

### COUNCIL FACILITIES

**CLOSED** Closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday and ANZAC Day. You can still contact us: [customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz)

### THAMES POOL

Closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday and ANZAC Day.

### DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Closed on Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive and ANZAC Day.

### ALCOHOL BANS

Alcohol bans are in place over Easter weekend from 4pm Thursday 6 April to 4pm Tuesday 11 April. [tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol](http://tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol)

### DOG RULES

Dogs are restricted on the beach in some areas from 9am-6pm on holiday weekends and public holidays. Dogs need to be on-lead when walking around our local roads and town centres, and unless specified otherwise. When in doubt, please put your dog on a lead. There are off-leash dog exercise areas across the district on our website. [tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide](http://tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide)

## Rubbish and recycling changes ahead

Kerbside collections are changing from 1 September 2023.



- Instead of blue bags you'll get a **new** 140-litre wheelie bin for rubbish which'll be collected fortnightly.
- You'll also get a **new** 25-litre bin for food scraps which'll be collected weekly.
- Recycling will be collected fortnightly in your glass crate and mixed recycling wheelie bin.
- Refuse Transfer Stations will be open seven days a week.

[tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs](http://tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs)



Coromandel  
-Colville  
Community Board  
UPDATE

### A word from our Board Chair Gavin Jeffcoat

"We've certainly all been feeling a bit overwhelmed by all the weather events this year, and it's heartening to see us entering the recovery phase. Our 'Rebuild and Recovery Budget' for our proposed Annual Plan 2023/24 will be available for public feedback until 10 April. Make sure you visit [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023](http://tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023) to read our Council's consultation document and have a say. This month we're also remembering ANZAC day, and the service and sacrifice of people who have served in wars and conflicts on our behalf. Last but not least, have a great Easter weekend everyone – let's all celebrate a new beginning together."

[gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday 2 May 2023, at 9am, 355 Kapanga Road.

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## Library News

By Paul Lawrence

Our new volunteers are settling in nicely and doing a wonderful job. Thanks to all of our readers who have shown patience and understanding. You may have also noticed that the volunteers are sporting new name badges with the library logo on them. These have been made possible by the public purchase of generously donated books.

If you aren't a member of the library yet, or would just like to have a chat about books or anything in general, pop in and say hello. Everyone is more than welcome.

We have been honoured by the presence of Helen for the last week. Normally he only visits occasionally but for some reason we are currently being spoilt. No complaints from our customers.

The first book reviewed this month is so popular that we have two copies, which are currently both out on loan. Don't worry, put it on hold and it shouldn't take long for it to become available.

### **Straight up – The Ruby Tui Biography**

An honest and open account. From an unstable and troubled childhood filled with neglect, abuse, drugs, and tragedy to an Olympic champion and, arguably the world's best rugby 7's player, this book tells of determination and shows what, with the right attitude, can be achieved. Highly recommended by those who have read the book and one doesn't need to be a rugby buff.



### **My Father's House – Joseph O'Connor**

A thriller based on the true story of an Irish Vatican priest who rescued victims of the Nazis in Rome during the second world war. An unlikely group of friends hide the vulnerable under the noses of the enemy. Things become critical as the net closes in on the group. Based on an extraordinary true story.



## Colville Junction

By Vanessa and Cass

Kia ora koutou.

It is at times like these that we recognise the strength of our community. The recent cyclones have generated a massive amount of disruption to our roads, our communications and livelihoods. Faced with these impacts, our community has responded with support, resilience, connection and kindness. Our thanks go out to the roading crews, the emergency teams and all those more generally that work to support our community.

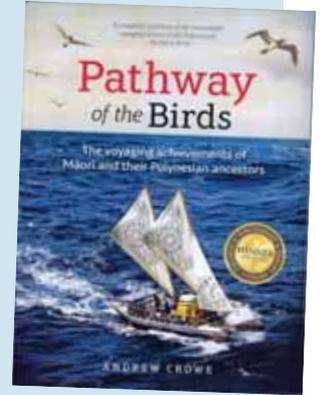
### **Andrew Crowe – NEW DATE!**

To lift our spirits and connect us once again, we are incredibly fortunate to have Andrew Crowe visiting us **Thursday 13 April!**

Andrew will be sharing his experience and learnings gained from creating his book *Pathway of the Birds*. This highly anticipated (free) event will be at Colville Memorial Hall and start at 6pm with free nibbles, followed by Andrew's kōrero at 6.30pm.

We ask that people park in town and walk to the Colville Memorial Hall (if possible) as we need to keep access to the Fire Station free. We are so fortunate to have Andrew visit us and we know this event will be popular!

We hope to see you there!



## Colville Festival 2023

This is a reminder that the festival will be held on Labour Weekend and not at Easter, as in the past.

The Beatles will be the choice for Colville Sings, of which we may do two shows due to its past popularity.

More info will appear in the Chronicle as we get closer to Labour Weekend.

Any inquiries contact Steve or Ella 021 711 489

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CONDITIONS APPLY

## Patchwork and Quilters

By Raewyn Penrose

This month we are profiling Tina Hvidberg Pedersen.

Tina was born in Denmark. Her family worked in many parts of the world. Aged three, she moved with her family to Brazil, and then to Portugal. Her late teenage years were spent in Malawi in Africa. As a result, at an early age she was fluent in a number of languages and had experienced first hand, a wide variety of cultures.

Tina trained as a teacher and, with her language skills, taught English as a second language, plus other subjects at primary and secondary levels. She greatly enjoyed her teaching career.

In 1992 Tina and her husband came to NZ. Based in Auckland, and a total change of career, saw her become a bull farmer/grazier in Bombay area, raising bulls to ½ tonne in weight prior to sale.

She has always been interested in all crafts and taught herself to sew at an early age. Once her children were of college age, Tina renewed her interest in sewing again for pleasure after many years' absence. Four sewing machines later, she is creating amazing quilts and other interesting items.

Now living in Kuaotunu, Tina joined our Coromandel Patchwork and Quilt group three years ago and has enjoyed being involved and contributing new ideas, including several small workshops.

In the last 10 years she has made 15 quilts, often giving them away to friends. The quilt shown features the Nightingale pattern, named after Florence Nightingale, representing the cross on the badges worn on nurses' uniforms. It was designed by Brittany Lloyd of Lo and Behold Stitchery.

We welcome new members – please come along any day and see what we do. We meet at the St John Ambulance rooms on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month. We look forward to seeing you.

Contact President  
Fiona Neal 027  
373 6991 or  
Secretary Sharon  
Currie 027 299  
6695



## Mahamudra Centre Update

Beth Pearsall

I have been thinking about universal truths in relation to Buddhist teachings and how we can apply them to our modern lives. The Mahamudra Centre is proud to be part of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FMPT) who have partnered with the Foundation for Developing Compassion and Wisdom (FDCW) to do exactly that (a lot of acronyms, I know!).

The FDCW use the 16 guidelines for life which are a set of universal human values which have stood the test of time since their creation more than 1,000 years ago in Tibet. They are things like kindness, delight, generosity, forgiveness and this month's focus, patience.

“To practise patience is to taste the power of the mind. Life is full of uncomfortable experiences, from minor niggles and irritations to major confrontations and setbacks. When they happen, we have a choice about how to respond. We can either become agitated and upset, or we can stay calm and relaxed. Patience is the ability to control our reactions and retain our peace of mind.” – pg 29, *The 16 Guidelines for Life: The Basics*, by Alison Murdoch and Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw.

Patience is a necessary ingredient for personal growth and transformation too. It allows us to let go of our need for instant gratification and accept that change takes time. When we practice patience, we can acknowledge our struggles and limitations with kindness and compassion, rather than judgment or frustration. By cultivating patience, we create space for self-reflection and inner growth, which ultimately leads to a deeper understanding of ourselves and others.

If you are interested in the 16 Guidelines, the FDCW website has heaps of resources available on their website [www.compassionandwisdom.org](http://www.compassionandwisdom.org).

We have some wonderful retreats and teachings coming up at Mahamudra Centre. Remember to talk to us about local prices.

**Fri 7-Mon 10 April** – Easter Retreat with Geshe Wangchen – Geshe-la will explain and encourage each of us to develop and strengthen our Buddhist practice by implementing Nagarjuna's precious advice to care deeply for all sentient beings.

**Fri 14-Sun 16 April** – Recognizing Natural Awareness – Silent Meditation Retreat with Hedwig Bakker.

**Fri 5-Sun 7 May** – Breath Pause Be – Silent retreat of Meditation and Movement with Hedwig Bakker.

As always you are welcome to visit us outside of retreat times. Walk around the Stupa, have a cup of tea and visit our shop. We hope to see you soon.

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## Hon Scott Simpson MP For Coromandel

The closure of SH25A continues to have a massive impact on our communities, but at least NZTA have announced their intentions to repair and re-open the highway within 9-12 months. We have been bracing ourselves for this estimated timeframe and I'll continue to keep pressure on them and the government to get the road re-opened just as quickly as possible. Every day it's closed means more stress on the alternative routes as well as extra time and costs for all road users.



In political news, National has announced our plan to repeal and replace the Government's controversial water reforms. "Local Water, Done Well" sets out a more democratic and collaborative approach to the future delivery, maintenance, and investment of water services.

I've fielded many calls and read countless emails from people who were concerned about the lack of local voices in the Government's Three Waters reforms. We've listened and under our proposal we'll scrap the four co-government mega entities and restore local ownership of water assets.

After repealing the Water Services Entities Act, we'll require councils to invest in the maintenance and replacement of water infrastructure. This will be monitored by a new, independent Water Infrastructure Regulator within the Commerce Commission.

Councils will need to show that their plans for water are financially sustainable, because we need to ensure that people get what they pay for. This may result in like-minded councils coming together to pool their resources, but the pathway forward is up to them and their communities.

## The Colville Project

By Nicole Turner

### The Next Stage for The Colville Project

The Colville Project is a our-stage, infrastructure-building project that aims to improve the wellbeing of the Northern Coromandel communities.

Momentum for the Project is building rapidly as we work towards applying for our resource consent later this year. Our architect is refining the design as he consults with the community and the people who will one day be operating out of The Wellbeing & Education Centre.

We're so proud of what we've achieved already – raising over \$1 million and purchasing a future-focused site. However, given we are a charity and not eligible for central government funding, we need help to achieve our ambitious goals. We are therefore putting the call out for people with a technical background, especially for quantity surveyors and engineers.

We are looking for both companies who can do the work as well as experienced people who can be part of our advisory group. We would love to work with people who have a connection to the region because we know they will quickly become as passionate about the Project as we are! It is a tricky time as we are aware many of the local contractors and suppliers are swamped with projects that are often delayed due to the frequent road closures. That is one of the reasons for our Project – to make the region more self-sufficient!

If you know someone who could be keen to get involved or just to learn more about what we're trying to achieve, please check out our website [www.thecolvilleproject.nz](http://www.thecolvilleproject.nz)



## Coromandel Lions

By Mary Farmer

Hello everyone, here we are basking in this Indian summer, we are lucky to have been blessed with plenty of dry days to get on top of all of the things we have to do at this time of year.

As for the club, we have had a couple of working bees, getting the firewood sorted, chopped and basically ready for delivery.

We deliver in the order of first in, first serve, so just begin to tidy those woodpiles so you are ready. One of the team will telephone you as to when we hope to get to you, and then you will be ready for the chilly Coromandel winter.

We welcomed a new member to the club this month, Jody McKinney, whom we all know from her days at the BNZ. Welcome Jody, I'm sure you will fit right in.

Easter Saturday will see us as a club outside the Four Square with our famous mussel fritters, so come along and support your local Lions, and if you are interested in helping out have a word with one of us; you could be just a conversation away from being a Lion. We don't bite, promise!

So it's so long for now, be happy, and look out for your neighbours and they will look out for you.



**Scott Simpson**  
MP for Coromandel

**Contact me anytime**

0800 550 330 • [scottsimpson.co.nz](http://scottsimpson.co.nz)  
[mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz)

Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.

Contacts: Mary Farmer (President) (07) 866 7321 or 027 699 0446, Rick Ward (Project Manager) (07) 866 8271 or 027 352 8664, Jean Smith (Secretary) (07) 866 6670 or 021 208 7576, Sue Hughes (firewood orders) 07 211 9774 or 021 142 1124

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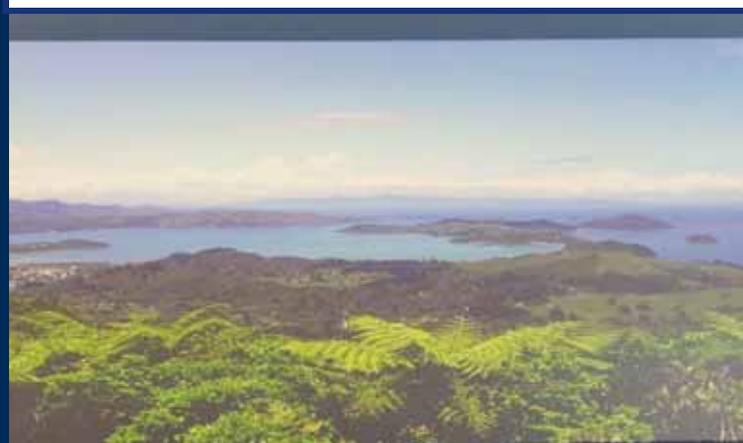


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## Mana Update

By Jade Ferriere

Did you know that when the caterpillar becomes the butterfly, it must completely change its form? It disintegrates in the cocoon and liquifies, it completely alters its vibrational frequency, its form is entirely reborn. This takes incredible strength and faith.

This is a time of metamorphosis for Mana as we (the management team) restructure and a new way of holding the Centre unfolds. It is evolutionary. It is scary. It is unknown, and we recognise that it is a part of a glorious and natural process of perpetual growth.

We all have our own experience of transformation. Times when it has been eagerly awaited and provoked, other occasions when it all feels like it is too big, too much, too soon. What we sometimes overlook is, whether it is a conscious choice or not, every moment is an opportunity to recreate ourselves and it happens one feeling, one thought, one act at a time.

This process of transformation has long been unfolding. The untethering of roles and identities, the transition into new stages and seasons of life beyond Mana, and the weaving of dynamic relationships that will stand strong beyond our work here at the Centre.

This kind of growth is not simply a change in operational management, it is a realisation of our true nature, individually and collectively. We are ever evolving, spiritual beings inhabiting human bodies. The process of up-leveling is greater than our logic and reasoning, called forth by forces beyond our control; daring us to become who we know ourselves to be at our sacred depths. It is a lot to process and in those wobbly moments when we doubt ourselves, we are leaning into the support of our greater community.

We would like to acknowledge the journey that we shared as managers of Mana; it has been a transformational eight years! Although it is a mixed bag of emotions meeting this time of transition, we are feeling humbly loved and supported by all in this heartfelt community.

What is helping you to stay strong in the vibration of your transformation today? Are you navigating that awkward place where life feels formless, that which was once solid is now dissolving? Or have you already begun to shapeshift into this next stage of inner evolution? However and wherever you are in this process, we are beaming you our love and understanding.

Our inner truth is calling us. In fact, the more people we speak to, the more we hear the same thing. Our truth is so loud right now that we can't find any more excuses or distractions to turn the volume down. We must answer the call. We owe it to ourselves. It is time to evolve!

With deep love and gratitude, Jade, Sarah and Simon.

## Animal Rescue Thames

By Alice and John Parris

Firstly thank mews to everyone who has supported us and donated items of food – sachets, tinned, biscuits – to the rescue kitties. This is a huge help to us and we are truly grateful for these donations.

We apologise for no report last month due to being in hospital and now in recovery which has put the unit on hold. So we are not taking in any new cases due to personal health and lack of accommodation available.

April 2023 marks our 23rd year of operation, which is incredible for what we have been through and thousands of lives have been saved over these years. These years also mark the huge support we are so grateful for as the unit wouldn't be where we are today without the generosity of our community. We thank everyone who has helped us over these years. Times have changed and dramatically so: more costs of operation and more animals seeking help.

We have had a drama with Mascara, one of our longer-term felines who has persisted in getting into Gobe's unit. At the time we had no idea why she continued this behaviour until it dawned on us that she was missing her mate who had been with her for five years and this deeply affected us. We knew that losing Wiki, as we did, would cause some issues but not to this level, so she has been allowed to sleep with Gobe when she pleases and she has settled down well. We have contemplated on getting another black male kitten but unsure if this would be the right thing or not. In time we will look at this option, as we know that whatever feline comes in to us that we want to adopt or keep will be met with growls and hisses from all of the girls – which is the dominance here at the moment. We can never ever replace those we lose of course.

Kera is still with us, and remains here until such time as she finds her forever home. Lincoln and Cinders are a hilarious couple. They have their good, happy days and have spits and spats, which sees them in two different areas of their unit and not crossing paths. Modalida, another longterm antisocial, adores chicken, which makes it easy to get flea treatments and worm tablets taken. This is a huge blessing for this to be so easy and makes her life pest-free and comfortable.

The rescue kitties won some hammocks that we have put into the units for them and they truly adore these comfy, hanging beds.

Wanted – any donations of cat or kitten foods, sachets, tinned, salmon, pet milk, cat toys, cat treats and special things for them. Any financial blessings credit Thames Animal Rescue Team 06 0457 0095150 01 with reference of where you would like us to spend the blessing.

Meow furr now.

Any enquiries to Thames Animal Rescue, ph (07) 868 2907 afternoons best

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| 18-25 APR    | Yogamind with Glenn Ceresoli                              |
| 28 APR-1 MAY | Loving Your Wild Self with Jade Ferriere                  |
| 4-7 MAY      | Silent Retreat with Ashram Yoga                           |
| 12-14 MAY    | Mothers' Day Relax and Wellness Weekend                   |
| 14-19 MAY    | Mindful Self Compassion Retreat, Anna Friis & Mara Elwood |



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# rangatahi OUR CHILDREN

## Colville Bay Pre-school Te koohungahunga o te Uumangawhaa o Ngaa Waka

By Esther Powell

COLVILLE BAY  
PRE-SCHOOL



Ka whaangai, ka tupu, ka puaawai. To nurture, to grow, to blossom.

Kia ora. As we near the end of Term 1, we are happy to have re-established our regular programme with the roads cleared, sun shining and such a wonderful team of staff, whaanau and community all around us. I would like to thank all those who went the extra mile to ensure our children could gather together and play during the clear-up aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. While a couple of our roads were closed we made some special excursions to local beaches to meet up. Playcentre Coromandel let us use their great space on a couple of afternoons, parents carpooled while the minivan couldn't run, and staff and whaanau and children impressed me so much with their resilience to change, flexibility and dedication to our centre.

The minivan for 3+ year olds is running again Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from Coromandel to Colville return. We currently have one spare place on the bus, and a couple of spaces open on our roll. Enquiries welcome.

Bush Kura is on every Wednesday, where our learning happens out in the ngahere or at a local beach. Our 4-5-year-olds and some keen 3-year-olds go out 9-11.30am with two qualified kaiako. Parents/whaanau welcome to come along.

Babies and toddlers are invited to come for a play with their parents on Wednesday mornings in the centre: 9.30-11.30am. This is a quieter session, with two kaiako also here to watch the children play while you have time for a cuppa and a korero and to settle your children in.

We are open four days, Tuesday to Friday, 8.45am-3pm, including term breaks.

20 free hours for 3+ year olds and WINZ subsidies available.

For information and enrollments contact Esther – email [seniorteacher@colvillebaypreschool.co.nz](mailto:seniorteacher@colvillebaypreschool.co.nz), phone: 022 645 3272, 2391 Colville Road (behind Colville School)



## Te Rerenga School

By Mary Kedzlie

Like all schools in the Coromandel area, Te Rerenga had a bumpy start to the new school year due to Cyclone Gabrielle and the subsequent road closures. It wasn't until week 5 that we were able to have all children back at school, and the school buses able to operate as usual. Since then, learning is back on track with our term's focus being "Turangawaewae". We have participated in the Country Schools Swimming sports with Whenuakite and Coroglen schools as well as the zones in Coromandel and are looking forward to a cricket festival in a few weeks. We are hopeful that planned events over the remainder of the term, such as our Mindfulness Day and School Triathlon, can proceed without any more interruptions. The following are a couple of recounts about Cyclone Gabrielle by two of our students.

**Cyclone Gabrielle by Eve Martin, Year 5**  
On 12 February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle hit Matarangi during the night. There were slips on the roads, flooding, and no power as



the wind, rain, thunder and lightning caused many people to leave their homes. There was so much wind that a good amount of trees fell down. A couple of days later the government found out the flood water had sewage running through it.

At the entrance of Matarangi a house got smashed by a tree and the roads closed because there was a huge slip there too that meant people could not drive in or out.

At the beach there was erosion because the water came up so high it washed up the walkway to the beach.

There was no power for at least one and a half days. The worst part is that the water stopped working and people had to boil water from the trucks.

It also rained a lot and many people had to leave. There was thunder and lightning for a couple of days.

Cyclone Gabrielle caused a lot of damage to power lines, homes, roads, beaches, and businesses. The Fire Brigade in Matarangi helped many people who had been affected by flooding, fallen trees and they also delivered clean water.

## Cyclone Gabrielle by Charlie Bay, Year 6

On 12 February 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle hit Te ika a mau with a lot of steam.

The ex-tropical cyclone was a natural disaster causing slips, flooding and road blockages.

The Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, declared it a National State of Emergency. That meant that the army had to come and help clean up debris and slips that blocked the roads and crushed houses. The Hopper Construction Development drivers also helped out the army in Matarangi and Kuaotunu.

There was thunder and lightning and 7m swells that caused erosion to East Coast beaches.

A power cut made the whole Coromandel powerless for 2-3 days. The Coromandel Peninsula also suffered other power outages which continued over three days. The stores only accepted cash and all things cold melted or warmed up. Nobody had clean or filtered water and people couldn't cook properly.

The damage Cyclone Gabrielle has done could take years to clean up and will cost billions of dollars.

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# rangatahi OUR CHILDREN continued

## Coromandel Area School

By Jamie Brown

Kia ora whānau and Coromandel Community. What a start to the year with road closures, storms and cyclones. We would like to take the time to thank our community for supporting us once again through another “event”. Despite the disruption, we have been full steam ahead with our learning and students are engaged, focused and happy to be at school. It is an exciting term with sports such as athletics and swimming sports, kapa haka, senior scuba diving, nature class, collaborative spaces up and running, junior turangawaewae inquiry and local trips to the river and museum.

## COROMANDEL AREA SCHOOL



Our visit to the museum

### Junior museum trip

We would like to thank the Commandel School of Mines and Historic Museum for hosting us. We appreciate your time and the beautiful museum that we are so lucky to have in our town. Here is what some of the children had to say about our visit:

- “I loved everything.”
- “I liked the kauri gum.”
- “The jail house is cool!”
- “I liked the old clothes.”
- “It was cool seeing old stuff.”
- “Wow, cows had to pull big logs!”

Check out some of the awesome writing from our students below:

### The storm by Zephaniah

I heard branches snapping.  
I saw lightning.  
I smelt muddy puddles.  
I touched the wood of the branches.  
The storm was hurting my ears.

### Gazebo by Brooklyn

I love putting up gazebos.  
At Christmas I put up the party gazebo at home. It is trapezium shape with four walls.  
I had a sleep under it.  
I took it down when it was windy.

### The storm by Anthony

I heard the wind.  
I saw trees that fell down.  
I smelt power off.  
I touched the lightbulb.  
The storm was powerful...and there was a cyclone too.

### The storm by Macy

I heard the thunder.  
I saw trees that fell down.  
I smelt chicken cooked with a lighter.  
I touched a branch.  
The storm was too noisy.

### School sports

Another exciting year in school sport 2023 with CAS hosting three Thames Valley tournaments: outdoor bowls, disc (frisbee) golf and the rights to host a new entry to TV secondary school sport, golf. The Raglan sports exchange looms in Term 2, Central North Island Area Schools coaching clinic at Te Awamutu Term 1, with students trialling for selection to nationals held in Christchurch midyear. A lot of work has gone in with the provision of wider selection of sporting opportunities for Year 5-8's, starting with cricket at Whitianga in March. This term features the staples of school sport with swimming and athletics and the senior students are looking to see what winter sport teams will be entered in Thames Valley School competitions this year.

Make sure you follow our Facebook page. The name of the page is Coromandel Area School, so please “like” and “follow” us on the page to get instant and up-to-date information, photographs and updates on school achievements and events.

That is all for now, until next time.

## Chartered Accountants

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### Coromandel Youth Group at Hauraki House

Coromandel Youth Group is for children aged 5-15yrs. We provide a safe, fun environment where kids can be with friends, make arts and crafts and play, play, play! A fresh, fruity afternoon tea is provided. Parents just fill out a membership form and please make a gold coin donation if able.

Note: we are closed on public holidays.

After school: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 3-5pm.

School holidays: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11am-4pm.

Adventure Time is an offsite activities group for school Year 6 and up. We explore and enjoy outdoor opportunities that our community has to offer. Meet Wednesdays after school at Hauraki House ready to leave by 3.20pm. Permission slips must be filled in and returned to be able to participate.

Sunday – Closed – sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

For more information, during open hours call in, phone (07) 866 7061 or contact us at coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.co.nz.

Along with kind donations, we are grateful for grants received from: Lottery Waikato, Trust Waikato, COGS, D.V.Bryant Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Star & Garter Hotel, TCDC Community Grants, NZCT Community Trust

### Coromandel Town children's beginner ballet class

By Marilyn Swan, Registered Teacher and Life Member, Royal Academy of Dance

I am delighted to be able to share recent photos of our beginners ballet class.

Notably, the ballet uniform has had a positive effect. It appears the children feel special, dressed appropriately.

Ballet develops many skills that stay with a student for life. Through strong technique and fitness, students acquire poise, self-confidence, the ability to express their imagination to music and a balanced healthy body. Over the years a student will become aware of all aspects of the theatre.

The etiquette, courtesies and friendships formed in ballet class will stay with a child for life, whether as a performer or part of an appreciative audience.

Tamariki left to right with their teacher Marilyn Swan: Freija McDermott, Stella McLeod, Anika Fenton, Ailis Dennehy Lakin, Indi-Lee Moore, Daena Debenham, Olivia Wills, Aroha Renata, Pongarauhine Te Taniwha, Zoe Huitema. Absent Macy Morrissey. Other photos are of the same children



Feet of Mary Mei Foreman


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**Don McLean 022 451 9511 don.m@arizto.co.nz**

# mahi toi ARTS

## Elementa 5 – 5 Artists

This is an exhibition of the work of five artists, featuring diverse approaches to art including painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, and jewellery.

The exhibition runs from **Friday 14 to Sunday 23 April**, opening daily 10am to 5pm at the Barry Brickell Gallery, Driving Creek. Opening night **Friday 14 April** at 5pm. All welcome.

### Peter Augustin – Painter

A Swiss painter who moved to New Zealand in 2004, first Wellington, Kapiti Coast and now for two years in Whitianga. Peter paints figuratively, combining landscape in a modern, surrealist style. Influenced by nature, mythology, music, opera, and the human form.

### Dianne (Di) Caton – Ceramic Artist

Dianne has had a passion for clay for over 45 years, after living in the US for 30 years she returned to New Zealand and lives in Waihi. The majority of her pieces are slab-built vessels, boxes and sculptures, altering and carving including sgraffito. Most pieces are one-off.

### Peter Muller – Photography and Jewellery

Peter is New Zealand born and worked for many years in photographic processing and digital printing in the Wellington area and now lives in Whitianga. His photographic works are landscape or abstract creations all starting with black-and-white film. Recently, Peter has returned to make jewellery, something he started in Nelson after leaving school.

### Anett Pilz – Ceramic Artist



Anett Pilz –  
Hanging Ceramic

Anett is German born and started pottery in Berlin, where she lived at the time. Her love of abstract painting shows in her delicate, decorated tableware and large decorative pieces. She is a member of the Bethlehem Pottery Club and lives in Whakamarama, Bay of Plenty.

### Verena Tagmann – Painter and Printmaker

Verena has lived in Whitianga for twenty years. As a painter in abstract and semi-abstract styles, structure, balance and unexpected surprises are part of her creative journey. Six years ago with a group of Coromandel artists (the X-press Artists) Verena started to learn the art of the original handmade printing process. Creating original prints is now part of Verena's passion.



Peter Augustin – Hot summer day  
on the beach 2023



Peter Muller  
– Pacific Pearl Earrings

## Shared Studios

Shared Studios programme starts again in May! Sharpen your pencils, roast your willow twigs and clean your brushes!

If you're an artist, it's time once again to get ready for some loose and lovely hours/days/weeks working in the Art Room at Hauraki House in the company of others.

Old hands and newcomers all, are welcome to register now (sub \$60) for this artists' playtime that will run through the coming winter months, brought to you by WTS (Watch This Space) Coromandel, a local non-profit art initiative.

Now in its eighth year, "Shared Studios" is a low-structure, highly productive programme spanning studio time (alongside other artists registered in the programme), workshops, trips out, and a concluding exhibition entitled "Process" in September.

The philosophies of the programme support an experimental and intuitive approach, emphasis on process over product, courage over traditional technique, and lots of fun and creative nourishment.

There will be an initial meeting for the season on **Wednesday 10 May**, 5.30pm, at 1400 Wyuna Bay Road. We hope to see you there.

For more info please contact  
Sally 027 302 4245, John 021 930 470,  
Fran 027 228 2553

## Down Memory Lane – a major retrospective exhibition

**Saturday 15 to Tuesday 25 April** at Hauraki House Gallery.

Preview 3pm **Saturday 15 April**. Please bring your own wine. Dogs and children welcome.

Featuring work by Richard Chrisp, Uli Christoffersen, Henry Mackeson, Cindy Alger, Andrew de Boer, Amanda Kemp and Michael Smither.

As this is a retrospective show, if anyone owns a painting of Richard's he would love it if he can borrow it for this show.

The show will be dedicated to the memory of Tane – our beloved little dog who died recently.

Contact Richard on 027 373 4848

## WTS (Watch this space) Coromandel: Dimensions Variable

Themed Art Exhibition 12-21 May

May 2023 sees the return of a favourite WTS event, our annual themed exhibition. First was in 2016. Since then there have been six more. How many do you remember?

This year our theme is Dimensions Variable. Twelve Coromandel artists take part. Their rules are: The theme "dimensions variable" is to be interpreted freely and thoughtfully, and does not necessarily mean that the work itself needs to physically adhere to the description by having variable dimensions. Any media are welcome, as long as the work has a substantial visual component, and we all keep in mind that this is a group exhibition which requires an openness to, and respect for, the artistic needs of other participants.

Rising to the challenge are Amelia Smith, Benni Bonnin, Carolyn Bayliss, Donna Scatchard, Elisabeth Carter, Fran Campbell, John Eaglen, Letecia Williams, Linley Rose, Rewi Fair, Sally Tennent-Brown, and Yvonne Szabo.

As we write this, they have moved beyond first thoughts and are working creatively in their studios. What will we see on the day? Join us to find out at the Gala Opening 5.30pm on **Friday 12 May**. The exhibition will be curated by Sally Tennent-Brown and John Eaglen, and is open daily at Hauraki House Gallery in Coromandel Town 10am-4pm until **Sunday 21 May**.

watch this  
**WTSPACE**  
COROMANDEL



Benni Bonnin – Grandmother's  
Orchard in Martinique

**ELEMENTA 5**  
Peter Augustin • Di Caton • Peter  
Muller • Anett Pilz • Verena Tagmann  
Barry Brickell Gallery, Driving Creek, Coromandel  
14–23 April, Opening 5pm 14th April  
5 Artists, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, Ceramics & Jewellery

## Pastel Artists Coromandel

By Rosemarie Murphy

I'm writing this from sunny Arrowtown. Saskia, Chris and I are attending the Pastel Artists of New Zealand Convention and Exhibition and having a wonderful time.

Saskia and I both had paintings accepted for this national exhibition so we are chuffed about that.

For the first two days Saskia and I attended a life drawing workshop which we found so difficult that it challenged our capability but by the second day we could certainly see some improvement. Now all we need to do is keep practicing. Hmmm.... I wonder if my husband would mind posing in the buff for me?

At the end of March we are holding a workshop with Stephanie Clark, an Australian pastel floral artist, as tutor.

We are all looking forward to learning her method of putting pastel to paper.

We are all back at Rose's Studio at 860 Tiki Road so if you would like to have a go, come along on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 12.00noon.

Contact Allan Beaver (07) 866 8053,  
Saskia Riemersma 027 296 1670



Rosemarie with her accepted paintings



The life drawing class

## Two Birds – Ceramic Collaboration Exhibition

'Two Birds' is a special collaboration between Coromandel ceramic artist Caitlin Moloney and nationally renowned artist Anneke Borren – who was recently a recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her contribution to the arts in Aotearoa – combining Anneke's flawless porcelain forms and Caitlin's intricate surface decorations, into unique works of art.

The exhibition – held at Driving Creek from **Friday 24 March until Sunday 9 April** - is a collaboration grounded in a respect for the mastery of each other's work. The highly detailed porcelain forms have been two-and-a-half-years in the making, speaking to the slow and methodical process of Caitlin's creative practice.

Both makers are inspired by social anthropology, of how humans are shaped by and connected to the natural world. Much of their time working together was in conversation around these topics, feeding into the development of these works.

Caitlin is unique in her approach to Anneke's forms, showing an understanding of their structure, of how to enhance them through her surface treatment and ceramic embellishments while retaining the integrity of the pieces. While working, Caitlin was reminded of the regal nature of birds, their natural beauty and grace being a source of wonder and connection, in turn inspiring the ceramic embellishments on some of the forms.

This collaboration has been a stunning journey of bringing Anneke's forms from the world of domestic ware into decorative sculptural pieces, of seeing how far they could be pushed.

You are warmly invited to attend this very special exhibition of collaborative works at Driving Creek Railway and Potteries Gallery in Coromandel Town between **Friday 24 March and Sunday 9 April**.

## Coromandel Art Group

By Val Gray

Our exhibition in February was really great, and it is only a shame that there weren't more visitors about to see it. Gabrielle certainly didn't help, but she didn't help anyone, and we were very lucky compared to some places.

Our raffle winners at the exhibition were 1st – No. 79, A Packer; 2nd – No. 44, S Whittle; 3rd – No. 17, B Amoamo.

March is painting-out time, weather permitting, and we can get back into the swing of things and get all inspired and enthusiastic. Our first expedition into the wilderness saw seven of us at the Drinkwater Reserve by the Stamper Battery. What a peaceful little place that is, only the sound of the stream rushing to wherever it was going, and several birds came down to see what we were doing, including a lovely kereru. The weather was mild and warm, and some interesting work was being done.

We have some new members and some past members return to the fold. It is nice to paint in a group as you bounce ideas off each other, and learn different ways of going about things. Hopefully the weather will hold for us as we have a few more places we want to paint.

On **Thursday 13 April** we are having a workshop with Jacquie Ellis, so it is all go now we are up and running. We have more workshops organised through the year.

Our project painting of the Hauraki Gulf Panorama, viewed from the Te Kouma Peninsula, is displayed at Weta Cafe if you would like to call in and have a look, and a coffee. It is for sale.

Till next month, keep painting.



Jacquie Ellis on location at the Stamper Battery

**Two • Birds**  
Anneke Borren | Caitlin Moloney  
Ceramic Collaboration Exhibition

DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY & POTTERIES GALLERY

24th MARCH - 9th APRIL 2023  
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Coromandel Town

# mahi toi ARTS continued

## Thames Public Art Trust

By Paul Silvester, Chairperson

The Poetic Directions artwork was installed near the junction of the Hauraki cycle trail and the STM metalled driveway.

It has been five years from concept to installation.



Above: Poetic Directions artwork installation  
Below: Under construction



We have invited iwi, artist school teachers Sam Rogers and Rawinia McLean, and student Kelly Chang to the opening of this artwork for the public to enjoy on **Sunday 16 April**, 10am. After a brief ceremony, we can walk or drive to Aeroview Tastebud Café about 500m away on Ngati Maru Highway for social gathering.

We have received funding from Trust Waikato, CNZ Creative Communities Scheme, and TCDC via the Thames Community Board. We had practical help from Kopu Engineering to construct the foundation reinforcing cage, the 4.5m post and rotating signs; donated time and materials from Thames Valley Hiabs for sand blasting and painting the pole; OSCS laser-cut the poem signs; Marshall Mini Diggers generously gave time and labour to drill an 1800 x 600 hole to concrete in the reinforcing cage; Skywork Helicopters Ltd provided a Hiab to support the structure during installation.

The signpost stands six metres tall and makes quite a statement. The poem is laser-cut in corten steel and easily read from the path. It is in a mown area and sheltered from stock.

Thames Public Art Trust is appreciative that iwi, Thames High School, Creative Coromandel, Hauraki Rail Trail Trust, and TCDC, along with the support of local businesses and community helpers, have all collaborated in this installation. Nga mihi nui.



## Thames Music Group

**James Brown**  
Pianist – Sunday  
Afternoon Concert  
**Sunday 2 April** at  
2pm, St George’s  
Church, Thames. \$20  
cash at the door. TMG  
members \$15.



James was born and educated in Auckland and completed a B.Mus at Auckland University. He also trained as a secondary school teacher. James then furthered his piano studies in England on a Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council grant. On his return to New Zealand he performed extensively as a soloist and accompanist in recitals, on the concert programme of Radio New Zealand and on several occasions as a soloist with St Matthews Chamber Orchestra in Auckland.

**FREE Friday Luchtime Concert – Thames Citizen’s Band**  
**Friday 28 April** at 12.15pm, St George’s Church, Thames.

Donations (koha) welcome.

Thames Citizen’s Band is 153 years old. Although no current member is 153 years old, Bill Rolfe at 90 comes closest to that!

We all differ in age, genre preference, ability and experience but we create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. – *Linden Moyle, Conductor*



push the limits  
play a little  
try something new  
or go back to basics  
share an idea  
what might happen if . . .

**WTS SHARED STUDIOS**  
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**May - September 2023**

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Coromandel Town

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**WTS (watch this space) Coromandel**

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## Mercury Bay Art Escape

The Mercury Bay Art Escape 2023 is over for another year and despite routes into the Coromandel being longer and even more scenic now, it was another highly successful event.

The popular “Artists in Residence” sessions were held at Hot Waves Café in between weekends, which gave the opportunity to view closely and chat to artists at work. Weekend visitors to the artists’ open studios remained healthy with many artists having over 100 daily visitors. Noticeable this year was the number of locals who experienced the Open Studios and this support was appreciated.

A chosen piece by each of the 41 talented and diverse artists is still on display at Hot Waves Café until **Tuesday 11 April**. The exhibition is curated by Annie Wilson of the Miranda Farm Gallery.

The event owes much to our committed local sponsors who deserve your support: Bayleys; Guthrie Bowron, Whitanga; Lea Jurkovich, Bayleys Whitianga; Whitianga Waterways; Lifestyle Centre, Whitianga; The Pour House, Hahei; Top 10, Hot Water Beach; The Lawnmowers Son, Hahei; The Lost Spring, Whitianga.

Also many local supporters donated gifts and time to supporting the Art Escape; we thank them too.

We look forward to an even better and bigger Art Escape next year. Or if you can’t wait that long, visit members’ studios by appointment during the year.



Margherita Giampietri and Jennifer Panther

# te taiao ENVIRONMENT

## Forest & Bird

By Annette Steele



**Forest & Bird**  
GIVING NATURE A VOICE

### Myrtle rust has arrived in Papa Aroha

Myrtle rust is a fungal disease that was first noticed in Kerikeri in May 2017. Its full name is *Austropuccinia psidii*, it is spread by microscopic spores, and is thought to have arrived on the wind from Australia. Despite efforts to contain it, it reached Auckland by November 2017, Lower Hutt by December 2017 and the South Island by May 2018. It is now spreading in both the north and south islands, and spreads fastest in warm, humid conditions - exactly like the summer we have just dealt with.

It can affect any plants from the myrtle family – natives like pohutukawa, rata, manuka, kanuka, ramarama and swamp maire, as well as introduced plants like feijoas, guavas, lilly pilly and eucalyptus. So far, pohutukawa and ramarama seem to be the worst affected plants. Repeated or severe infection can kill the whole plant, and there is no cure.

### Wetland Air Traffic

By Julie Sargisson

Anytime you look up from the causeway, you can see the kahu (harrier hawk/swamp harrier) weaving wide arcs in the sky over the wetlands and the valleys behind. During the months of baby rabbits, chicks and ducklings, they circle in low on cruise mode like a heat-seeking missile, dropping at speed for the kill. They are NZ's largest bird of prey with a wingspan of 118-145cm and inhabited Aotearoa about 800 years ago. They are native, but shared with wider Australasia. Their own nests will be among the reeds in the wetlands, finding spots safe from the tide. At McGregor's Bay wetland, there are usually three swooping and circling high and low, over mangroves, reeds and paddocks.

When the high tide is particularly high, about 3 metres, the small Australian immigrant, the warou/welcome swallow arrive in numbers, skimming and dipping the brief lake conditions of the high tide. They catch insects on the wing and weave around each other in quicksilver aerobatics with their distinctive pointed wings and forked tail. They arrived from Australia around the 1950s.

Unlike the warou, the kotare/kingfisher prefer the line up on the power lines to observe what the turning tide will bring. These are fishing birds so they spot and dive, a plumb line down, and retrieve with their outsize strong beaks. Their iridescent green/blue feathers prompted the poet's words 'kingfishers catch fire...'.  
Other regulars crossing the wetland airspace are the small flocks of pied stilts/poaka, returning to check out the tidal sand flats. They fly high, distinctive and dainty with long red legs, white bodies and black wings, making a racket with their sharp staccato call. The poaka nest in the rushes near the lagoon and graze across the salt marshes.

Finally, the notable regular in the wetland skies is the white faced heron/matuku moana. From their salt marsh or sand flat, grazing singularly or in pairs or groups, they flap across the valley above the wetlands looking like true pterodactyls heading for the tall pine trees on the hills where they roost and nest. As they fly their guttural cry reminds you that birds are the dinosaurs of our modern skies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINGSPAN BIRDS OF PREY TRUST

### What does it look like?

The young growing tips and leaves develop blisters of yellow spores

first on the underside, then on the upper surface. They become warped and distorted in shape and may die off. It looks quite horrible, and very distinctive.

### What should I do if I think I have found it?

You are not legally obliged to remove infected plants from your land, but if you do it will help slow the spread to other plants.

Do not touch it!

First, photograph it (top and bottom, showing the spores) and post the photos to the iNaturalist website ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)). Experts can then confirm your diagnosis. The location is noted by scientists to monitor the spread across the country. When you upload the photos, mark them as myrtle rust, and include the species of the affected plant.

If it is on council or DOC land, let them know as soon as possible. If it is on your land it is recommended to remove the plant, or the affected branch if it is a large tree.

### How to remove affected branches or plants

This should be done on a still, calm day to avoid spreading spores further. The MPI website recommends first spraying the affected areas with hair spray, and letting it dry completely before doing any pruning

as this will seal in the spores.

Wear clothes and gloves that you will put straight into the washing machine when you are finished.

Remove the affected areas, or the whole plant if it is small.

Put all of the diseased clippings straight into a black bin bag with no holes in it, add some water, seal tightly and leave it in the sun for three weeks, turning occasionally, before disposing of it, still sealed, in landfill. It mustn't go into green waste.

Do not burn the waste - the hot air of the fire carries the spores high into the air and spreads it even further.

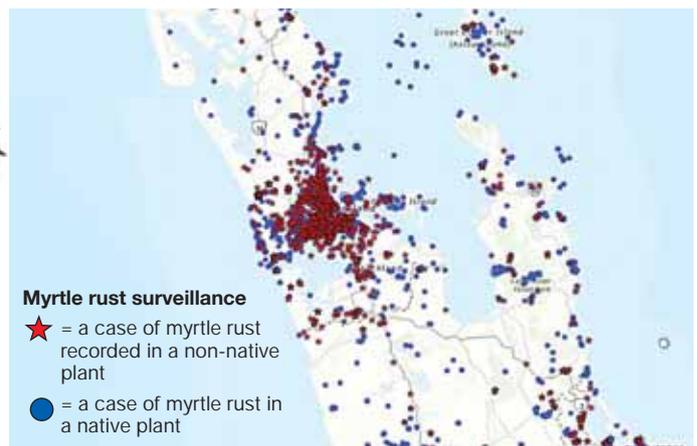
Sterilise the tools you have used for pruning or cutting by soaking in methylated spirits or a 5% bleach solution for 20 minutes, or giving them a good scrub in hot soapy water.

If you decide not to remove the plant, keep an eye on it and upload the outcome to iNaturalist. This will help identify if some plants are naturally resistant or can bounce back from the infection.

The following websites are worth a read if you are interested to learn more: [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz), [www.sciencelearn.org.nz](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz), [www.myrtlerust.org.nz](http://www.myrtlerust.org.nz), [www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz), [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



Example of myrtle rust



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# te taiao ENVIRONMENT continued

## UCLA Conservation Report

By Reihana Robinson

Thank you to all in Civil Defence and TCDC who worked tirelessly to reconstruct our critical infrastructure after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Meanwhile at sea...

### Opposition of spat farm to occupy nearly 90ha near Colville

UCLA thanks voices opposed to the installation of a spat farm (especially Kelvin Mouritson) that will crowd the coastline only 3km from an iconic, nationally recognised, outstanding natural landscape – Moehau.

Due to failed communications during these last weeks of extreme storms causing road closures, power outages, internet failure and generally extremely poor methods of communication, neighbour's notification of this proposal was not received from Waikato Regional Council until a few days before submissions closed. An extension of time has been requested.

The land area surrounding the proposed position of the farm is all highly categorised in Waikato Regional Council's plans and the Thames Coromandel District Plan being covered by Significant Natural Area (SNA), Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFL), and all of this coastal country right high into the ranges is classified as of High Coastal Significance. No development can take place.

This should apply to the sea just off the shoreline where this proposed spat farm appears to us to be positioned. Reference the Draft Waikato Regional Aquaculture Strategy 2022 that states "near shore aquaculture along the Coromandel Peninsula is relatively limited as identified in Seachange due to all of the significant categories placed upon the area".

All of this emphasis on categorising the land in as natural state as possible is for public enjoyment.

This is a wild coastline when the prevailing west and southwest winds blow in here, ripping and tearing at the ocean floor. These are

## Driving Creek Conservation Park

Festival 2023 at Driving Creek Railway Gallery

After a break in 2022 we're planning our next Festival for **Saturday 6 May**. This all day event will be focussed around our native species and what we can do to protect them.

With guest speakers from all over New Zealand, workshops, guided tours, exhibitions, kids' activities and more, this will be a fun and educational day for the whole family. The Festival will be a free event, a koha is much appreciated.

Save the date and we will provide a schedule of activities and more info in the next Chronicle issue, you also can follow our Facebook and Instagram to stay updated – just search for Driving Creek!



Conservation tour

# JOHNSTON FENCING

PHONE ROSS  
021 395 900

not the quieter waters of the lower reaches of the Hauraki Gulf/Firth of Thames, which we believe would be a more appropriate location, closer to mussel stocks.

Late submissions send to RCsubmissions@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

### Finfish farming off Coromandel and Waiheke

The hearing date of **Monday 17 April** in Paeroa has finally been set for the application by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana to occupy 240ha of marine space off the coast of Coromandel and Waiheke for the business of industrial caged finfish "farming", often referenced as Sow Crates of the Sea.

### Mercury Bay spat farm

On the east coast of the Hauraki Gulf a Mercury Bay spat farm will occupy 30ha of public marine space. The consent will be granted to Peter Bull (Legal Shellfish) and Joe Davis (on behalf of NgatiHei) by Waikato Regional Council in spite of 95% of submissions opposed. According to Stuff, Bull and Davis "formed the company Ohinau Aquaculture Ltd to facilitate the joint venture."

This application was granted following a Council hearing process. The application was subsequently appealed to the Environment Court. Two Environment Court hearings took place and the Environment Court has issued two interim decisions (to grant under certain conditions). The parties are awaiting the final decision from the Environment Court (no timeframe).

World-renowned orca researchers Dr Ingrid Visser described the Mercury Bay 30ha site as a series of traps that could injure or kill the mammals.

The Colville public marine space to be occupied is nearly three times the size.

## Waiaro Sanctuary

By Ruby Smith

Kia ora. First of all we would like to say a big thank you to one of the volunteers who regularly cleans the Waiaro beachfront. Unfortunately there is continuous rubbish that washes up. The most likely cause is from mussel farms and commercial and recreational fishers, as well as the usual rubbish from the western tidal current – a direct link to Auckland. Due to all of the storms recently, the cleanup has increased as the rubbish has been astronomical. This has to be done diligently otherwise it just washes back out with the tide and then more comes in, with untold more being buried.

This kind of pollution would be unacceptable on land but is somehow accepted in our moana where a large amount of our kai comes from.

Just thought we would mention this after seeing photos of groups publishing their occasional beach cleanups and outings. The rubbish is everywhere and the more that can help, the better. Very sad to see the occasional deceased, entangled sea birds at times.

Freedom campers have depots to dump their tutae in so perhaps it's time for sea users to have similar facilities.

Really doesn't compute to take kai from wai and give back tutae, more so in these modern times. The Hauraki Gulf ecosystem is on the verge of collapse, according to Forest & Bird, so stop it.

Thank goodness there's no mussel farms up here as it would just contribute to it and make it worse. Recreational fishing would increase as well, bringing even more rubbish to this pristine area and traditional fishing grounds and it would reach even further up the Peninsula. We need to take care of our moana; it provides for us and we should be treating it with the respect it deserves.



The latest rubbish collection haul at Waiaro Beach

Pateke



PHOTO CREDIT ANNA SEPHTON

**Moehau Environment Group**

By Genevieve Morley



Kia ora tatou katoa, mauri ora!  
**Stoat Hot Spot at the bottom of town**  
 MEG has a longstanding history of predator control around Coromandel Town and in the north of the Peninsula, and our aim has always been about controlling the presence of mustelids, rats and possums so our native species can have a chance of flourishing.

It is common when someone does encounter a stoat, for them to get in touch with us and we do everything possible in assisting them in accessing traps and learning how to become a trapper. Last November through to January, members of the community started approaching MEG about their stoat experience around the bottom of town and along the river which borders Hauraki Road. One clever chap managed to catch one in a live trap he purposely set up; another had seen a family of stoats swim across the river. The stoats were brazen, very comfortable and presumably well fed from the reported loss of ducklings that ensued.

Not far from this hot spot of activity is the town's sewage disposal plant and it is here where one of our talented local bird photographers regularly encounters a congregation of native bird species. In January she sighted pāpango (black teal/NZ scaup), kōtuku ngutupapa (royal spoonbill),

weweia (New Zealand dabchick), pūtakitaki/paradise shelduck, rakiraki/mallard, poaka/pied stilt and, in prolific numbers, pāteke/ brown teal. Pāteke are not as common as they once were due to predation from cats, stoats and rats, loss of habitat, declining water quality, wetland drainage and being disturbed during nesting. Pāteke are mostly found in Northland, Great Barrier Island and the Coromandel Peninsula and they are the only one of Aotearoa's three endemic brown plumaged teal that can fly. They are vulnerable to predators as pāteke hide rather than fly away when frightened. In 2003, captive bred pāteke were translocated to Port Charles in an attempt to halt their decline and MEG was instrumental in protecting these birds with predator control.

So with birds to protect and stoats being seen by residents right in the middle of town, we'd love to get a network of traps into urban backyards and into more shared community spaces, especially around where the stoats were sighted.

If this sounds like you and you would like to come on board this project at its very early stage, please get in touch! We are looking to start fundraising so that we can purchase materials to build stoat traps and even though the family of stoats has probably now dispersed, we want to start preparing so this event doesn't happen again this coming spring and summer. We would love to get sponsorship from local businesses so that our community can join the national backyard trapping movement and we can start getting more traps around town and into people's backyards.

**Upcoming "Pestival" at Driving Creek Railway**

On **Saturday 6 May**, Driving Creek Railway's conservation team, with support from MEG, are putting on a very exciting "Pestival"! This will be a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the different aspects of conservation work. One of the speakers is gecko expert Doug Ashby who will be bringing his gecko and children will have the rare opportunity of getting to hold one of these incredibly sacred taonga. We will be posting more about this event on our Facebook page over the next few weeks.

**Come and join our volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to join our team! Are you interested in conservation, community advocacy or have other skills that might lend a hand to administration or social engagement? Would you have the time to become a committee member or are you interested in trapping or concerned about the spread of weeds? If so, get in touch; we look forward to working with you!

Ngā mihi nui.

Follow us on Facebook @moehauenvironmentgroup, contact us at info@meg.org.nz or make a donation by visiting our website www.meg.org.nz

**Corolandcare**

By John Veysey

In the book *The Hunters* by Debbie Stewart we read: "If the morepork and the hawks are struggling, then the environment is not in a good way."

We have recently read articles by some of Coromandel's environmental groups who are thinking they are protecting our kiwi by spreading a poison called "double tap".

This cocktail of poisons is inhumane. When a kill trap for rats or possums is assessed for how cruel it is, death must occur after no more than 10 minutes for the trap to be allowed to be released into the wild. Poisons are not subject to the same scrutiny.

Double Tap does not kill its victims within 10 minutes and is therefore inhumane.

There are numerous poisons now being spread which are extremely cruel.

The advertising for "Double Tap" tell us that the "average time of death for possums is six days and for rats five days". The victims slowly bleed to death. The same fate awaits all of the creatures, birds, animals and insects which eat the poisoned rats and possums.

It takes an extremely cruel mind to knowingly spread a poison like Double Tap in the wild.

Are these people unaware of what they are doing or has extreme cruelty now become a standard requirement for members of the growing number of enviro-groups swallowing up public money in the name of saving our environment?

For those of us who monitor other species than kiwi it is sad to see the regular depletion of morepork and hawk numbers every time one of these enviro-groups spreads its poison.

*Timing is everything*

Time is precious, and so are your loved ones. Funeral pre-planning helps you to take control and reduces pressure on your family; it also takes less time than you think.

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# hākinakina SPORT

## Coromandel Golf Club

By Malcolm Stone



### Surf and Turf

The Surf and Turf

Mixed Open is now firmly established on the golf calendar, replacing the original "Sea Food Tournament". Those of you who remember the Sea Food Tournament will remember the incredible array of seafood gathered locally by club members which was renowned throughout the peninsula. It was always the one to attend as you knew you would get a wonderful feed. With the increased difficulty in obtaining seafood to the level we used to, "turf" has been added to compensate and, boy, were we treated to a feast! A huge thank you to all those who made it happen.

The event was well attended but if you missed this one, you really missed a treat. The food was amazing, the course was as immaculate as it could be considering the severe weather we have experienced lately, the day was rain-free and the competition was fierce. Congratulations to the winners:

Men Div 1 Stableford and Net – Darryl O’Keefe with 39 points and a score of 67.

Men Div 2 Stableford and Net – Wayne Beaver with 39 points and a score of 67.

Men Div 1 Gross – Chris Fielding with a score of 72.

Men div 2 Gross – Wayne Beaver with a score of 90.

Twos – Darryl O’Keefe (2), Peter Richardson, Wayne Beaver, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Les O’Leary.

Ladies’ Stableford and Net – Philippa Medlock with 36 points and a score of 71.

25 February was our very own Men’s Stroke Play Championships (Gross Champ). The course had that soggy feel after a night of intense heavy rain, but that didn’t stop the men turning up to play 36 holes for Seniors and Intermediates and 27 holes for Juniors.

Chris Fielding took out the Seniors Championship with a gross score of 73.

Allan Rose was the Intermediate Champion with a gross score of 83.

Junior Champion was Paul Kasper with a gross score of 95.

### Heckter Cup

The Heckter Cup is underway with the first of three rounds on 4 March. The course was

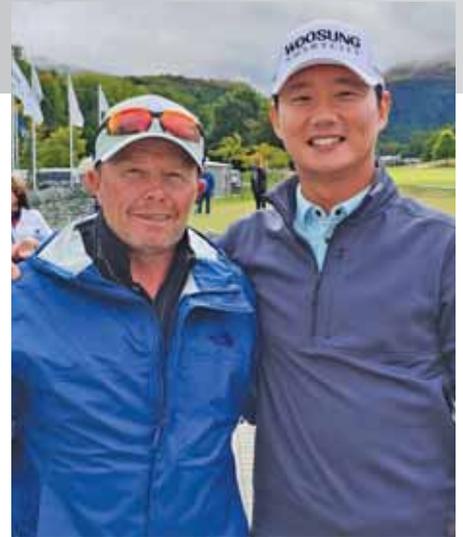
drying out nicely and the sun shone, but there were still numerous obstacles to contend with. Well done to Ron Brooking with a nett score of 67 on the day. One to beat! Next rounds on 18 and 25 March will have been played by the time you read this so you’ll have to wait for the next edition to find out the results.

### We now have our very own TV personality!

Local, small town guy, makes good at the NZ Open Golf Tournament in Queenstown. Darryl O’Keefe applied for and got the opportunity to caddy for one of the pros at this prestigious event. Four days of lugging a heavy golf bag around a fairly hilly course resulted in severe blisters but I’m sure they were all forgotten when his player, Jaewoong Eom, battled through the 4th round to end up in joint second place. In no small way, clearly a result of Darryl’s extensive golfing knowledge and familiarity with the course or was it just Megan whispering in his ear? We all know, the wife is always right! We’re expecting great things from you now Darryl – you must have gleaned so much information from the pros over those six days.

The Ladies held the May Turner Cup, 18 holes, foursomes, Stableford on Tuesday 28 February. The winners were Anne Beston and Glenise Robertson, with an impressive 45 Stablefords.

Our ladies have their first pennant round



Darryl with Jaewoong Eom – NZ Open 2023

at Paeroa on Monday 6 March. Good luck ladies; may the sun shine on your game.

Coromandel Golf Club is proudly hosting Thames Valley Goldfields Fire Brigades Sub Association Golf Tournament on **Sunday 2 April**. Format is 3 Person Ambrose. It’s an early tee off. Registration is at 9am for 9.30am tee off. There will be no entries on the day.

This tournament is limited to 18 teams and to qualify each creatively named team must have at least one current or past fireman in it. The tournament is open to nonaffiliated players. Raffles will be run on the day so don’t forget to bring some cash! Come along and support. You never know, you may get lucky on the raffles.

## Ride Coromandel

By Ally Davey

There has been lots going on to get the trails back to pre-cyclone status. Slips and trees down had caused some damage but all trails are now open for riding.



If you’re interested in helping, we’d always love an extra hand to weed or clear trails; just contact us via our Facebook page.

Thursday mornings have been have a go days, with locals and visitors from Whitianga coming over to spend the morning learning new skills and trying different bikes.

We’d love to know what the community wants to see more of at the bike park. Have you got any ideas?

We’ll be meeting with Mick Abbott from Wildlab on **Friday 28 April** to workshop some ideas around storytelling of the bike park and its evolution. Anyone is welcome to join; meet at 2pm at the bike park.

[www.ridecoromandel.com](http://www.ridecoromandel.com)

Above and below: Have a go day participants



# CORO GYM

COROGYM@GMAIL.COM

## Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club

By Lorraine Chick

With another Classy Chicks all done, we would like to say a massive thank you to all of our sponsors and everyone who made the tournament such a success.

Congratulations to Nikki Stephenson taking out the top prize on the night!

The fishing has been hot lately with the kingis back in force, plenty of snapper in close and some monster trevally around too.

The Club's "Fish of the Month" for February was kingfish and was won by Briar Sturgeon; well done, Briar, for taking home the \$100 prize.

Fish of the month for April is gurnard and May will be snapper.

Next up is the "Kids' Inner Harbour Tournament" on

**Saturday 22 April.**

Always so much fun for the kids and right at the end of the school holidays. Pick up an entry form from Salty Towers, Coromandel Fish, Hunt and Dive or email Sharon coromandelfishingclub@gmail.com.

See you all out there!



Nikki Stephenson – major prize winner – with Shevana



Chelsea and Stafford – winners of the Heaviest Snapper and skipper prizes



Daisy Chain – winners of the dress up competition

## Coromandel Croquet Club

By Raewyn McKinney

The weather has finally come right and is perfect for playing croquet. We have a wonderful group of people and play in a magnificent setting.

If you would like to try the game of croquet, call Lyn on 027 466 2661 for more information.

We meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9.30am and provide all of the equipment and a six-week period of coaching before you decide to join.

The club is situated in Woollams Ave next to the Bowling Club.



# Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club "CLASSY CHICKS" Ladies Fishing Competition 2023

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| Coromandel TOP10                | T & L Lang                      |
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| Early Bird Bait & Tackle        | Trinity Real estate             |
| Graeme Demus                    | Unichem Coromandel              |
| Gulf Mussels                    | Pharmacy                        |
| Harbour View Motel              | Whakatohea Mussels              |
| Heavy Fleet Electrical          | Weta Café                       |
| Hello World Thames              | Williams Landscaping            |
| Hunting & Fishing Thames        |                                 |

# Classifieds

Classifieds cost 30 cents per word – please email your words to corochronicle@gmail.com or call/txt Debbie on 021 235 6648.

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**A COROMANDEL PLASTERER.** For new homes and all renovation requirements I offer 25+ years' experience for a professional plastering finish. Doug Marsters 022 019 9255.

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**BICYCLE REPAIRS, SERVICING AND SALES.** Find some of my bikes on my FB page (Miles's recycled bicycles & repairs). I can also pick up old bikes and parts from your house. 020 4150 6575.

**BRICK AND BLOCK LAYER.** Laurie Gordge (07) 866 8200, 027 494 9573, [buddy10@xtra.co.nz](mailto:buddy10@xtra.co.nz).

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**GIB STOPPER/PAINTER.** Alpha Drywall, Geoff, local 022 027 0290.

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**SCRUB-CUTTER WANTED.** Looking for an experienced scrub-cutter for small area of regrowth on farm at Port Charles. Offering an excellent rate ph 027 566 6652.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**MARGARET BRAKE** peacefully passed away on the 21/3/2023 at the age of 91 at Whakatane Hospital.

## OTHER

**AGE CONCERN** Falls Prevention Strength and Balance exercise class for seniors. Coromandel Gym, Pottery Lane Tuesday and Thursday, 10am, \$2. Vickie (07) 866 7894.

## Haute Cuisine

A short story by John Irvine

“Put that back right NOW!” Pontilian the Elder clipped the youngster around the ears and glared at him.

“Ooow! That hurt, Elder!” The juvenile tossed a partly shredded arm back onto the carcass of a much-the-worse-for-wear human body and sulked, just a little, rubbing his ears. “It tasted alright, Elder. Why can't I eat it?”

Ponty, as he was known in his club circle, sighed a deep and meaningful sigh. “Do you ever listen to what I tell you, sprout? The things I try to teach you so you won't kill yourself? Eh? Eh? Never do anything, touch anything, smell anything, think anything without asking me first. We did concur on this when I agreed to sponsor your education. Against my better judgement, I might add.”

The young dragon bowed his head, his usually apple green crest turning a bright shade of embarrassed scarlet. “I apologise, Elder. I will pay more attention in future. May I ask one question? For my education?”

“Of course, my boy. That's a much better attitude. What is it?”

“Why can we not eat that human?”

“Dragons have sensitive digestive systems, lad. We are susceptible to many internal ailments so we must always be vigilant about our choice, and the condition of, our sustenance. This creature has not yet been dead for long enough.”

# Coromandel Town weekly and monthly meetings

## Every Day

Free meditation at Mahamudra (except during silent retreats)..... 8.30-9am

## Every Monday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym .....8am

Coromandel Hikers' Group, Hauraki House, Colin & Elspeth (07) 866 7137 .....9am

Monday Walkers, Woollams Ave car park north end, Irene 021 157 8408.....9am

Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am

Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 ..... 3pm

Bridge, St John rooms..... 7pm

Taizé 4-part harmony singing, Sally 027 302 4245..... 7.30pm

## Every Tuesday

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 2661 .....9.15am

Coro Walking Group, Lotto Dairy, Ruth (07) 866 7246 .....9am

Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$2 Vickie 027 417 7077.....10am

Yoga for everyone, Colville Hall, Kate 021 125 3152 .....10am

Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 10.30am-1pm

Na Ihowa Ahau after-school kids club (term time only), Anglican Hall, Anita 027 259 1085..... 3.15-4.45pm

Yin Yoga with Toni, Waikato Event Center (above swimming pool), \$10-\$20, Toni 020 4076 1526 ..... 5.30-6.45pm

## Every Wednesday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym .....8am

Meditation at Mahamudra ..... 8.15-8.45am

Pastel Artists Coromandel, Coro Aero Club Rooms (07) 866 7220..... 9am-12pm

Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am

Ballet Class For Adults, Coromandel Citizens' Hall, \$10 per class. Marilyn 027 336 5263..... 10-11am

Coromandel Home-school group, Julene 020 4060 8102 ..... 12.30pm

Taichi classes, Waikato Events Centre, Christina 021 113 4768..... 5pm

## Every Thursday

Coro Walking Group, Lotto Dairy, Ruth (07) 866 7246 .....9am

Coro Art Group, St Andrew's Church Hall, Lindsay (07) 866 7799..... 9am-12pm

Tai Chi, Waikato Events Centre (above the swimming pool).....10am

Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$2 Vickie 027 417 7077.....10am

Free Guided Meditation, Havalona Pyramid ..... 10-11am

Movement for Equanimity (MFE), a well-being fascia movement class, contact Judy 021 0200 7550 ..... 3-4pm

Recova 12-step addiction recovery meeting, Elim Church, Liz 027 436 2800 ..... 6.30pm

Free drop-in Dharma talk or video at Mahamudra ..... 7-8.30pm

## Every Friday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym .....8am

Coromandel Homegrown Market..... 8.30am-12.30pm

Community Gardens volunteer day..... 8.30-11am

Yoga for everyone, Anglican Hall, Kate 021 125 3152.....9am

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 2661 .....9.15am

Chess Club, Umu, Mike 027 304 9252 .....9.30am

Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 9.45am-12.15pm

Coromandel Bowling Club social evening at the Club ..... 3.30-7pm

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" ..... 4pm

Coromandel Flying Club social gathering, all welcome ..... 5.30pm

## Every Saturday

RSA Coromandel, RSA Club Rooms Woollams Ave.

President Kevin Stone (07) 866 7576..... 3.30-7pm

## Every Sunday

Anglican Church Service ..... 10am

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" ..... 1pm

## Monthly

**1st Mon** – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms, Sharon Currie 027 299 695 ..... 9.30am-3.30pm

**3rd Mon** – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms, Sharon Currie 027 299 695 ..... 9.30am-3.30pm

**1st Wed** – Coro Embroiderers' Guild, St John rooms, Win McMinn (07) 866 7508..... 10am-3pm

**1st Wed** – Lions Dinner meeting, St John rooms. President Mary Farmer (07) 866 7321 or 027 699 0446..... 6pm

**2nd Wed** – Garden Circle. Kath Denize (07) 866 7441, 022 413 6573 ..... 1pm

**2nd Wed** – Car Club meeting at The Club, Bruce 027 249 0878..... 4pm

**3rd Wed** – Lions Business Meeting, St John rooms. President Mary Farmer (07) 866 7321 or 027 699 0446..... 7pm

**Last Thurs** – Green Drinks at Star & Garter ..... 5pm

**Last Thurs** – DCR Music and Art Night ..... 6.30pm

**1st & 3rd Sun** – Church Service at St Andrew's Church, Rings Road..... 10am

If your meeting has been omitted, please email Debbie at corochronicle@gmail.com with the subject "meeting" or txt/ph 021 235 6648. Please include contact name and phone number.

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| Newton Concrete and Landscaping        | 2     |
| NZHL - Waikato                         | 18    |
| Pedicure Services                      | 17    |
| Peninsula Electrical Services Ltd      | 4     |
| Perfect Air                            | 36    |
| Pool Queen                             | 6     |
| Precision Tree Care                    | 3     |
| Purnell Lawyers                        | 12    |
| Revell Architectural Design            | 10    |
| Richardsons Real Estate                | 9     |
| Rob's Small Motor Repairs              | 6     |
| Ruamahunga Bay Joinery                 | 3     |
| Scott Revell Building Contractor       | 8     |
| Scott Simpson MP                       | 18    |
| Star & Garter                          | 7,16  |
| TCDC                                   | 15    |
| The Bizarre                            | 11    |
| Trinity Network                        | 35    |
| Twentymans                             | 29    |
| Waitaia Nursery                        | 2     |
| We Pay Top Cash                        | 4     |
| Whitianga Flooring Xtra                | 7     |
| WTS Coromandel                         | 14,26 |

| MON   | TUE  | WED  | THU  | FRI  | SAT   | SUN   |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p>High tide 5.03am (2.5m), 5.31pm (2.4m)<br/>Low tide 11.16am (0.5m), 11.35pm (0.8m)</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>High tide 5.48am (2.6m), 6.17pm (2.5m)<br/>Low tide 12pm (0.8m)</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>High tide 6.29am (2.6m), 6.59pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 12.17am (0.7m), 12.41pm (0.7m)</p>  | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>School Term 1 ends</p> <p>High tide 7.09am (2.7m), 7.39pm (2.7m)<br/>Low tide 12.57am (0.6m), 1.20pm (0.6m)</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>Easter Retreat with Geste Wanganui starts at Mahanudra (see pg 17)<br/>Easter Coming Home to Yourself Retreat starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)</p> <p>High tide 7.49am (2.8m), 8.18pm (2.8m)<br/>Low tide 1.38am (0.5m), 1.59pm (0.5m)</p>  | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>A Taste of Matarangi<br/>Coromandel Easter Exhibition opens at Hauraki House (see ad pg 4)<br/>Two Birds Exhibition continues at Barry Brickell Gallery, Driving Creek (see pg 25)</p> <p>High tide 4.19am (2.4m), 4.41pm (2.3m)<br/>Low tide 10.35am (1.0m), 11.54pm (0.9m)</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Daylight Saving ends 3am – turn clocks back 1 hour<br/>Thames Valley Goldfields Fire Brigades Club Association Golf Tournament (see pg 30)<br/>Concert – James Brown Pianist, Thames (see pg 26)</p> <p>High tide 4.14am (2.4m), 4.39pm (2.3m)<br/>Low tide 10.28am (0.9m), 10.48pm (0.9m)</p> |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Easter Monday<br/>Coromandel Easter Exhibition at Hauraki House ends (see ad pg 4)</p> <p>High tide 9.53am (2.8m), 10.22pm (2.8m)<br/>Low tide 3.38am (0.5m), 4.01pm (0.1m)</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>Mercury Bay Art Escape exhibition at Hot Waves Cafe, Hot Water Beach ends (see pg 26)</p> <p>High tide 10.39am (2.8m), 11.09pm (2.8m)<br/>Low tide 4.24am (0.6m), 4.46pm (0.5m)</p>    | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>High tide 11.28am (2.7m)<br/>Low tide 5.15am (0.6m), 5.39pm (0.5m)</p>                 | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>CT </p> <p>Andrew Crowe talk at Colville Memorial Hall (see pg 16)<br/>Yoga and Meditation Retreat starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)</p> <p>High tide 12.02am (2.7m), 12.22pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 6.11am (0.7m), 6.30pm (0.6m)</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Community Market – Easter Saturday special (see pg 2)</p> <p>Elementa 5 exhibition opens at 5pm at Barry Brickell Gallery, Driving Creek (see pg 24)<br/>Recognizing Natural Awareness Retreat starts at Mahanudra (see pg 17)</p> <p>High tide 1.01am (2.7m), 1.21pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 7.13am (0.7m), 7.33pm (0.7m)</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>Down Memory Lane exhibition opens at 3pm at Hauraki House (see pg 24)</p> <p>High tide 2.06am (2.7m), 2.25pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 8.17am (0.7m), 8.42pm (0.7m)</p>   | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Opening of Poetic Directions artwork, Thames (see pg 26)</p> <p>High tide 3.11am (2.7m), 5.39pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 9.21am (0.6m), 9.50pm (0.6m)</p>  |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p>High tide 4.12am (2.8m), 4.39pm (2.7m)<br/>Low tide 10.22am (0.5m), 10.52pm (0.5m)</p>  | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>DEADLINE: Coromandel Town Chronicle May Issue<br/>Yogamind starts at Mana (see ad pg 20)</p> <p>High tide 5.10am (2.9m), 5.39pm (2.8m)<br/>Low tide 11.20am (0.5m), 11.49pm (0.5m)</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>High tide 6.04am (3.0m), 6.34pm (2.9m)<br/>Low tide 12.13pm (0.4m)</p>                 | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>CT </p> <p>High tide 6.55am (3.0m), 7.24pm (3.0m)<br/>Low tide 12.39am (0.4m), 1.04pm (0.3m)</p>   | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Community Market (see pg 2)</p> <p>High tide 7.44am (3.0m), 8.11pm (3.0m)<br/>Low tide 1.27am (0.4m), 1.52pm (0.3m)</p>  | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Kids' Inner Harbour Tournament (see pg 31)<br/>Open Day at Coromandel Lifestyle Village (see pg 4 &amp; 5)</p> <p>High tide 8.32am (3.0m), 8.56pm (3.0m)<br/>Low tide 2.14am (0.4m), 2.37pm (0.3m)</p>  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Elementa 5 exhibition at Barry Brickell Gallery, Driving Creek ends (see pg 24)</p> <p>High tide 9.18am (2.9m), 9.40pm (2.9m)<br/>Low tide 2.58am (0.5m), 3.21pm (0.5m)</p>   |
| <p><b>24</b></p> <p>School Term 2 starts</p> <p>High tide 10.08am (2.8m), 10.23pm (2.8m)<br/>Low tide 3.44am (0.5m), 4.04pm (0.4m)</p>  | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>Anzac Day (see pg 6)<br/>Down Memory Lane exhibition at Hauraki House ends (see pg 24)</p> <p>High tide 10.48am (2.7m), 11.07pm (2.7m)<br/>Low tide 4.30am (0.7m), 4.46pm (0.6m)</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>RN+TC </p> <p>High tide 11.32am (2.6m), 11.54pm (2.6m)<br/>Low tide 5.18am (0.8m), 5.30pm (0.7m)</p> | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>CT </p> <p>High tide 12.19pm (2.5m)<br/>Low tide 6.08am (0.9m), 6.18pm (0.8m)</p>  | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Last Community Market of the season (see pg 2)<br/>The Bizarre Grants Scheme closes for 2023 (see pg 11&amp;13)<br/>Free Friday Lunchtime Concert, Thames (see pg 26)<br/>Ride Coromandel meeting (see pg 30)</p> <p>High tide 12.44am (2.5m), 1.08pm (2.4m)<br/>Low tide 7.02am (0.9m), 7.11pm (0.9m)</p>                 | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>High tide 1.38am (2.4m), 2.02pm (2.3m)<br/>Low tide 7.57am (1.0m), 8.11pm (0.9m)</p>  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>High tide 2.34am (2.4m), 3pm (2.3m)<br/>Low tide 8.52am (0.9m), 9.11pm (0.9m)</p>   |

KEY New moon Full moon

Tide times and heights from Land Information NZ and are for Coromandel Harbour.

For Thames tides -1.5m High and -1.9m Low.

Blue bin bags out Put recycling out (plastic 1, 2 & 5 tins, paper, cardboard)

RN = Rural North CT = Coromandel Town & Te Kourua  
TC = Thames Coast & Mania

### COROMANDEL RUBBISH & RECYCLE TRANSFER STATION & E-CYCLE

Wed & Fri 9.30am-3pm.  
Saturday, Sunday 9.30am-4pm.  
Good Friday – closed.  
Easter Monday open 9.30am-4pm.  
ANZAC Day open 1pm-4pm.

### Make sure your event gets listed

To get your event listed, email the details to Debbie at corochronic@gmail.com with the subject "event". Published subject to space availability, with preference to not-for-profit groups. Regular meetings aren't included here – please see weekly and monthly meetings on page 33.

### Coromandel Recreational

Fishing Club members  
Fish of the Month for April is  
**gurnard**



New Listing

Enquiries Over \$720,000

3 1 1 2

**Coromandel, 1185 Tiki Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/1185-tiki-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/1185-tiki-road-coromandel)



New Listing

Enquiries Over \$880,000

2 1 1 -

**Coromandel, 78 Waihirere Drive**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/78-waihirere-drive-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/78-waihirere-drive-coromandel)



New Listing

Enquiries Over \$560,000

1 1 1 -

**Coromandel, 121 Waihirere Drive**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/121-waihirere-drive-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/121-waihirere-drive-coromandel)



New Listing

Enquiries Over \$1,100,000

2 1 1 -

**Coromandel, 480 Driving Creek Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/480-driving-creek-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/480-driving-creek-road-coromandel)



PRICE REDUCED  
Asking Price \$565,000

2 1 1 -

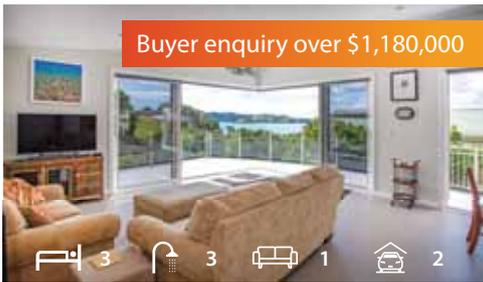
**Coromandel, 25a Frederick Street**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/25a-frederick-street-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/25a-frederick-street-coromandel)



Buyer enquiry over \$1,400,000

4 3 2 2

**Coromandel, 13 Koromiko Drive**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/13-koromiko-drive-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/13-koromiko-drive-coromandel)



Buyer enquiry over \$1,180,000

3 3 1 2

**Coromandel, 56 Puriri Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/56-puriri-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/56-puriri-road-coromandel)



Enquiries Over \$1,195,000

3 2 - 1

**Coromandel, 492 Wyuna Bay Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/492-wyuna-bay-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/492-wyuna-bay-road-coromandel)



Enquiries Over \$1,500,000  
+GST IF ANY

7 5 3 3

**Coromandel, 1 Jacaranda Lodge 3195 Tiki Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/jacaranda-lodge-3195-tiki-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/jacaranda-lodge-3195-tiki-road-coromandel)



Enquiries Over \$800,000

3 2 1 2

**Coromandel, 265 Edward Street**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/265-edward-street-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/265-edward-street-coromandel)



Enquiries Over \$430,000

**Coromandel, 498 Wyuna Bay Road**  
[www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/498-wyuna-bay-road-coromandel](http://www.trinitynetwork.co.nz/498-wyuna-bay-road-coromandel)

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**Rob Keatley**

M : 0275 777 424

E : [rob.keatley@trinitynetwork.co.nz](mailto:rob.keatley@trinitynetwork.co.nz)

"I value people, not just transactions".





# Am I eligible for a Warmer Kiwi Homes grant?

Warmer Kiwi Homes is a Government programme offering grants covering 80% of the cost of a Heat Pump for the main living area (capped at \$3000), after ceiling and underfloor insulation is done.

Check your Heat Pump installation  
eligibility

[eeca.govt.nz](http://eeca.govt.nz)

## 07 866 4140



30 Campbell Street  
Whitianga