

Coromandel Town Chronicle

FREE
Community Magazine

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The community magazine for Coromandel Town and surrounds since 1996

Having a Bizarre time

SEE PAGE 3



Farewell PG 4



Firewood PG 10



Figurines PG 24



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

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Cover photo: The Bizarre's Bizarre Auction

The *Coromandel Town Chronicle* is published by Jude Publishing Ltd. It is delivered free to the Coromandel Town area.

www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz

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If you are not sure how to put an article together for publication then find tips and advice on the website:

www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz/html/guidelines.html

The Coromandel Town Chronicle is open for everyone to contribute, however the editor reserves the right to select the articles and letters that are published and edit them for clarity and space.

The Coromandel Town Chronicle is printed with vegetable oil based inks by Print House Ltd, Hamilton. An accredited FSC and PEFC printer.

**Deadline for the next issue is
4pm Tuesday 20 August.**

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Letters 350 words max.
and articles 600 words max.

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ISSN 1178-721X (Print) ISSN
1179-4895 (Online)

Emergency

Call 111. AED's in Coromandel Town: Fire Station, 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

Happy August! Last month of winter.

I just want to remind everyone about making sure you have permission to use photos you supply to the Coromandel Town Chronicle. If you take a photo from a website then it is probably subject to copyright and unable to be reproduced. You need to ask the owner of the website. If you want a photograph to illustrate your article or advert then it is safest to download one from a Royalty Free website. Some photos are free, and some are a small cost. The other thing is if you take a photo yourself then make sure the people in it don't mind you sending it for print. If children are pictured, then please get their parents' permission. For more tips on supplying an article go to www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz/html/guidelines.html. As always, I want contributions from every group; don't hold back even if you feel you aren't a writer.

Unfortunatley I am having to put up the prices of colour advertising from the September issue due to constant price increases for printing over the past year. See www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz/html/ads.html for the new rates.

Have a good month – check out the calendar on page 30.

Debbie

..... Letters

A big thank you

All too often, people doing their jobs are taken for granted. However, sometimes those jobs mean going to extreme lengths in the worst of weather, to “keep the lights on.” I'm referring in this case to the crew at Powerco, who have done an amazing job for many years; the service to the customers has been second to none.

Power from the main grid was connected to Coromandel in July 1960. In the first 10 years of operation by the Thames Valley Power Board, as it was then, the cuts totalled 1200 hours. It was nothing to have no electricity for 36 hours. In the last 30 or so years, the faults in this area have only been a few hours, most of which have been further down the line, beyond the local crew's sphere of operation. Considering that we only have one line supplying the town, which comes over from Whitianga through some very unforgiving country, this is a remarkable achievement.

So again thanks, for what must often seem to be a thankless task.

Nigel Strongman

RMA Application – The 309 Road

Following on from my June letter, I would like to point out a couple of things that may have not been apparent to the local community.

One of the reasons Gulf Mussel Farms (GMF) want to relocate to 52 The 309 Road is their requirement for more space. GMF have entered into an MOU with the Hauraki Maori Trust Board to construct the fish farm pens and help service the aquaculture farms, hence the requirement for more space. This is all part of the RMA2021042 application by GMF, and is public information that can be found on the TCDC consents site.

The company behind the fin fish and aquaculture farm venture, Pare Hauraki Kaimoana, is owned by the Hauraki Māori Trust Board representing the 12 Hauraki iwi.

The aquaculture farm, approved by the Waikato Regional Council in August 2023, will span nearly 300 hectares of the gulf 13km from Coromandel Town. It will comprise five separate blocks, three of which will farm kingfish in pens, while the others will farm green-lipped mussels, sea cucumbers, sponges and seaweeds.

Estimates for the facility put annual production levels as high as 8,000 tonnes of kingfish, a highly prized sporting and eating fish that is consumed raw or cooked.

As it stands, the Gulf Mussel Farm RMA2021042 application for two buildings and loading area covers around 4-5 acres. However, if you include the carparks, mussel buoy pens and roads through the adjoining block when you pass by the site, you will see for yourself that the area is quite extensive. Far too imposing for the gateway to our tourist town and beyond.

Ka keti ano,
Hector George



Chloe Stone enjoying her favourite walk
– Long Bay to Tucks Bay.

Email letters and opinion pieces to the *Coromandel Town Chronicle* corochronicle@gmail.com. Contributions should be kept short, and should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit them for clarity and space.

Bizarre Auction a resounding success

By Sam Ward

The Bizarre's Bizarre Auction on the evening of 14 July was a smashing success, drawing a fantastic turnout and resulting in the sale of nearly all of the auction items! The event raised approximately \$4,000, which will go towards the much-needed repairs of our roof.

The Bizarre would like to say a special thanks to Kim Radick, our incredible auctioneer, and Jim Davis, who did a great job as the MC for the night. A special shoutout also goes to all of our volunteers, whose efforts made the evening enjoyable for everyone.

We hope everyone had a wonderful time and appreciate your continued support!



Backup power comes to Coromandel Town

Two backup generators are being installed in Coromandel Town to power the township in the event of an outage and help support its electricity supply during busy holiday periods.

Generation to Coromandel is a Powerco initiative to boost resilience and security of supply for remote communities, which will include supporting the establishment of community hubs on its electricity footprint, General Manager Electricity Karen Frew says.

Coromandel Town is one of five communities on Powerco's network to receive emergency backup electricity supply to date. Whangamōmona in eastern Taranaki, Castlepoint and Riversdale Bach in Wairarapa, and Himatangi Beach in the Whanganui-Manawatū region have also received generation.

"Natural disasters like we felt in Cyclone Gabrielle leave communities like Coromandel, which only has one power line supplying the town so no backup if there's

an outage, potentially isolated, with limited access for our crews to repair any damage to poles and lines. Installing generation means there's a backup supply ready to go if the worst happens," Karen Frew says.

Two generators are being installed within the Thames Coromandel District Council's water treatment site on Whangapoua Road, Coromandel Town, and will have the capacity to power about 3,000 homes and businesses.

The work to make the generators fully operational, including installing associated switchgear and enabling them to turn on automatically in an outage, is expected to be completed during September.

Powerco is also working with Emergency Management and community leaders throughout its electricity footprint, including Coromandel Peninsula, to establish community energy resilience projects.

"In an emergency, local marae and rural halls become community hubs, which need to continue to be

powered even if the rest of the area is without electricity," Karen Frew says.

Powerco is also looking at options to deploy Base Power standalone power supply units to remote communities for backup supply.

Meanwhile, in Matarangi, Powerco is installing a single generator on Matarangi Drive, at the eastern end of the town's transfer station, which is expected to be operational by the end of the year. As Matarangi has a backup electricity line feeding into the township, this generator is specifically designed to provide extra power to the town during peak visitor periods.

"With more people choosing to live in and visit the Coromandel region, there's a greater demand for power," Karen Frew says.

"Without a backup option in both Matarangi and Coromandel Town, there would be a chance of losing power during times of peak demand."



The wrapped generators arrive on site in Coromandel Town

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Farewell Wailin Elliott

By Alison Carter

Wailin Elliott grew up in Auckland with her three sisters, Eva, Ehlin and Meilin, where her father owned a fruit and vegetable shop.

She attended school at Epsom Girls Grammar and it was there that she was first introduced to potting when she asked May Smith if she could sit in on her classes during her weekly free period. May encouraged her to go to a summer school where Len Castle and Barry Brickell were teachers and they encouraged her further.

When she left school she worked firstly at Auckland University in a secretarial role and later she worked with emotionally disturbed children in Mt Wellington and then the Blind Institute For Children in Newmarket, but potting always called her. In 1968 she left work to become a full-time potter as a member of the Browns Mill Craft Co-op. It was there she met, and in 1971 married, Tom Elliott, a young Englishman from County Durham, with whom she would enjoy a long, happy and creative marriage.

Tom and Wailin bought Barry Brickell's old villa in 1972, the same year they had their daughter Lydia. They moved to Coromandel in 1974 and their son Joshua was born in 1975.

Wailin, with Tom, played a crucial role in supporting Barry Brickell with the development of the Driving Creek Railway and Potteries and making it what is today; the largest tourist attraction on the Coromandel Peninsula and a major centre for arts and the environment.

They were both on the Driving Creek Railway and Potteries Arts and Conservation Trust and the earlier Driving Creek Sanctuary Trust. Wailin's unsurpassed fundraising ensured the donations needed for the predator proof fence for the Sanctuary, probably the first on the Peninsula.

Both Tom and Wailin were practising artists and their own work, Tom's sought-after wood carving and Wailin's terracotta figures, along with work from noted potters around the country, featured at the annual Easter Exhibition at Hauraki House, which this year celebrated its 38th anniversary.

But Wailin's multitude of interests did not stop at pottery and many people in Coromandel knew her through her other activities. There was tai chi and ballet; she was also a founding member of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Association. There was the Coromandel Silver Band, the choir, her writing group, her painting, her weaving, the exhibitions she mounted and her weekly trips in recent years to the Treasury in Thames; she was always interested in history, curating and genealogy. There was her publishing and for a time she operated her own hand press. Wailin did all of these things well. On top of all this there was the rearing of silkworms; friends remember travelling with her and Tom from Coromandel to Auckland and sharing the back seat with trays of silk worms munching on mulberry leaves.

Tom and Wailin shared a deep commitment to their faith and practiced it with kindness. Many in Coromandel will remember their hospitality; their house was always open with room for everyone. At times it was a sanctuary, other times a place to have a holiday as well as being the gathering spot for many social events. Her generosity of spirit meant no-one was ever left an orphan at Christmas. She was a good listener and if you arrived at Wailin's with a problem you always left feeling a great deal happier, even if your problem had not been resolved.

Wailin's positivity imbued everything she did. Even in her last few years when she lost two of her beloved sisters, Ehlin and Meilin, and had her own health problems she always retained her joy of life. In her last few weeks she told friends how happy she was that she had been able to live the life she wanted and advised them not to carry the sorrows of yesterday into the next day.

Coromandel will miss her. She has left her mark on both the town and its people.



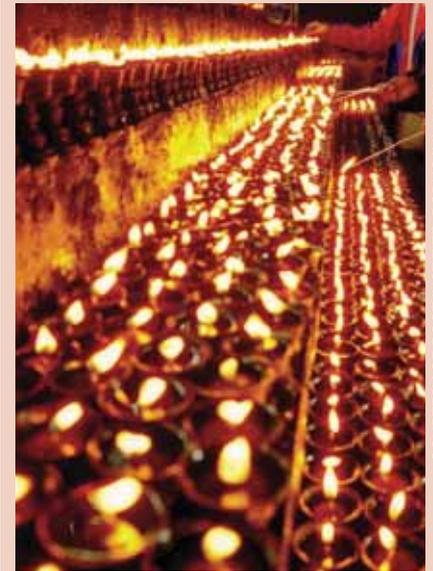
Mahamudra Centre

Known in English as "Turning the Wheel of Dharma", Chokhor Duchen commemorates the anniversary of Guru Shakyamuni Buddha's first teaching 49 days after attaining enlightenment. Hundreds of thousands of people gather to celebrate this day.

From his experience he described the Four Noble Truths, that of suffering, its causes, its cessation, and the path to cessation.

In respect to the lunar calendar, this year it was on 9 July. Since karmic results are multiplied millions of times that day, emphasis is on virtuous practices that are done for the benefit of all living beings.

Typically these include taking one-day vows to abandon killing, stealing, lying, sexual misconduct, etc., reading sutras (teachings of the Buddha), making offerings to the Spiritual Master, monks, nuns and the temple, plus food, drink, light, music, etc.



Root Institute for Wisdom Culture in Bodhgaya, India offered of 10,000 butterlamps at the Mahabodhi Stupa to celebrate Chokhor Duchen

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BBQ PULLED PORK, JALAPENOS,
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**BEEF BRISKET
NACHOS** \$25

ON CRISP CORN CHIPS WITH SOUR CREAM,
CHEESE, CHILLI BEANS AND SALSA

DINE IN OR TAKEAWAY

CONDITIONS APPLY

Patchwork & Quilters

By Sue Smith

Each meeting we have a show and tell. It always surprises me how many different projects we all seem to work on. Last month we saw a collection of pin cushions made by Annette and a beautiful hand-stitched felted/knitted jacket by Raewyn. Others are working on completing their Dresden Neighbourhood and a couple of ladies are working on scrap quilts.

The quilt pictured below was made by Tina for a friend of hers who is a nurse. Her friend had given her a piece of fabric which she incorporated into the back of the quilt. The other quilt (right) was made by Judy for her friend's birthday coming up soon.

We meet at the St John Ambulance Rooms on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Feel free to call in and see what we are up to.

Contact – President, Fiona Neal 027 373 6991 or Secretary, Tina Hvidberg Pedersen 021 594 706



Judy's quilt



Tina's quilt



Back of Tina's quilt

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Coromandel Town Information Centre



At the time of writing this article we have passed the middle of winter mark and look forward to the daylight extension and temperatures rising – there have been a couple of chilly mornings, thus far.

Many locals have taken the opportunity to escape our winter by taking a midwinter break to more tropical climes, yours truly included. A week in Tahiti certainly allowed us to thaw out a little in a beautiful country – albeit, a foreign language country! While each country and region has many and varied activities to offer and experience, in comparison to what we have to offer in Coromandel Town, we believe we can hold our own in our little corner of the globe.

The unique Kiwi experiences we have to offer and those Kiwi's who introduce and guide our visitors through those experiences and activities are among some of the best in the world. The number of international tourists we get in the Information Centre who comment on how friendly Kiwis are and interacting with them has been the highlight of their trip, are too numerous to count.

We have put together a free package of puzzles, environmental information, maps, colouring pencils, and much more for the younger visitors to the area – Beach, Bush and Beyond. As the school holidays have just begun, the hope is we will be able to dispense them to visitors and locals alike over this time. Please, if you have children and/or visitors that you think would enjoy one of these packages, please pop into the Information Centre and collect one. We envisage what is included in these reuseable bags will change from time to time, so feedback would also be greatly appreciated.

Some reminders

If you are selling firewood, please let the Information Centre know your details, as we get enquiries from locals looking for dry firewood.

Coromandel Taxis shuttle between Coromandel-Thames-Coromandel on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday and also the “click & collect” component of this service for a very reasonable charge. Phone Coro Taxis 027 376 4466.

Te Tupua – The Goblin at Hauraki House, **Thursday 1 August** at 7pm. Tickets are available from the Information Centre

Weekly quiz nights at the Star & Garter start on **Wednesday, 7 August** for 10 weeks.

Quiz nights at The Club are every 2nd Tuesday. Bar opens at 6pm. Phone Maureen 021 0254 1216.

COROMANDEL

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“We'll see you right”

Thames Animal Rescue

By Alice and John Parris

Firstly thank mews to everyone who has donated food for the rescue kitties. This is truly appreciated at this time and has been awesome with the sachets, small cans, and biscuits which the cats really love. Tutu even got her treats this week and comes running for them.

Multicat households are interesting to cohabitate in as there is a heirachy and order of who is top cat and boss, and who isn't. I know my place and it is in the lowest servant ranks. It takes incredibly special cats to colive with others, accept newbies and their traits. For us, changes in the household go something like – Mascara has now taken full ownership of trying to be Madam boss in charge, with a special dislike for Lizzie and to the extent of hunting her out to sort her out and put her in lower ranking place. If we yell "Mascara", then Liz will disappear at speed. If someone says "hi" to Lizzy then Mascara is on high alert and ready to hunt her right out and give her what for. They are smart, these cats. Mascara also takes on anyone else, sadly including dear elderly Tutu, which gets one or two not so choice words from humans to leave her alone. She has also tried to boss out Wally and some darn good battles of flailing paws from both. Wally came in a shy, abused case, long-legged black, but is now a bulky panther-looking cat with a dual purrsonality. One evening she took on Gobe, an ex feral, big, oversized super softie with no disrespect to anyone until this one evening that Mascara took him on – certainly shocked me to hear him stomping and snorting and putting Mascara firmly in lower ranks once and for all. I always try to let them sort things out as it is nature's natural way and to interfere destroys the natural instinct of sorting rank but there are times we step in to silence the racket and get some order and peace.

Anyone who has multiple pets knows top cat or dog is clearly evident. It can be incredibly entertaining.

The rest of the rescue cats are polite and well mannered with no curse words and the outdoor living crew have beautiful native bird song morning and night. The tuis are so gorgeous. We remain as is status quo and just hanging in there

Wanted: cat food – tinned, salmon, sachets, sardines, biscuits, pet milk, also cat toys. Any financial blessings 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

Phoenix House

By Raewyn Williams

Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers

We are looking for volunteer drivers for our meals on wheels which is an awesome service provided by Phoenix House to our community.

If anyone has a full driver license and an hour or two to spare each month, please contact Raewyn, the Operations Manager at Phoenix House, via email phoenixhousecoromandel@gmail.com, phone (07) 866 8612, or visit us at 415 Kapanga Road Coromandel. Our expectations are delivering approximately ten prepared meals to the older residents in our community and it is expected to take approximately 30 minutes of your time between midday and 1230. Volunteers will need to be available once per month, more frequently if they choose to, or if they can cover another driver from time to time.

Phoenix House Resthome and Hospital (07) 866 8612



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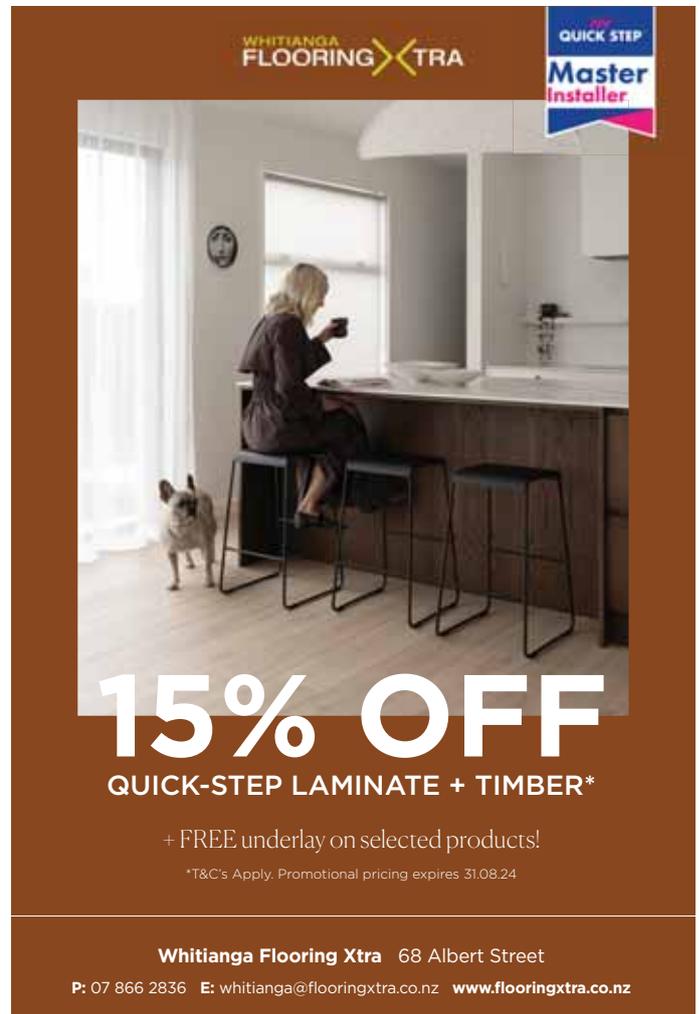
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Age Concern

By Jo Sanderson

Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel is a small charity. We get no government funding, and only a small amount each year from Age Concern NZ. We therefore rely on grants and donations to enable us to deliver and grow our services. We may be small, but we make a significant difference in the lives of those we help across the large geographic Hauraki and Coromandel Peninsula districts.

Our new membership year started on 1 July, and you can become a member for only \$15 per person or \$20 for a couple. Please find out more about the benefits and how to join on our website page www.achc.org.nz/membership.

We also accept donations. Our website is set up for you to make secure payments through Donorbox using your credit card or internet banking, or as a gift in your will (bequest) www.achc.org.nz/donate-now.

Donations directly support our mission to provide services to the large community of older adults in the Hauraki and Coromandel Peninsula. Your donation will help ACHC be there for older people who need our support, to contribute to our strength and balance programs, Chinwag groups, and services such as our visiting service Co-Lab initiatives and information sharing. All of our activities are designed to promote the physical and mental wellness of older adults. These programs not only help people to stay active, improve mobility and overall health, but also create a vibrant community where our people can connect and share experiences. By reducing social isolation, we empower older adults to live more active, fulfilling lives.

To help celebrate the International Day of Older Persons in October, we have a photography competition running for people living in the Hauraki Coromandel areas. For more information, please check out our website page www.achc.org.nz/photocompetition.

Introducing Dr Francine Hills – our Health Promoter

This month's introduction of one of our team is Dr Francine Hills – our Health Promoter.

"I'm Francine Hills, the Health Promoter at Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel. My family and I settled in Te Puru after moving from Wales, and we've fully embraced the beauty and lifestyle of Aotearoa. Amidst the joyful chaos of raising a teenager and an almost-teenager, we make time to explore this incredible country. Just last week, we spotted whales from the beach near our house, and this weekend, we marveled at glowworms. I'm constantly blown away by the splendor of this country.

"As a Health Promoter dedicated to addressing the holistic needs of our community in Hauraki Coromandel, my key priorities lie in building our "Steady As You Go©" groups and "Chinwag Cafes" across Hauraki and the Coromandel Peninsula. These initiatives aim to promote strength, balance, and social connection, which are vital components of overall health and well-being. Additionally, I'm busying myself with a new initiative, Co-Lab Movement Creation, which collaborates with community members to develop tailored movement programs that meet their specific needs. If you're interested in joining our initiatives or have ideas for incorporating movement into existing organisations, don't hesitate to reach out."

The days are beginning to draw out again, but chilly weather is still around. Keep warm and take care everyone.



CILT

By Sam Ward

In our town of Coromandel, there is a place called CILT. This year, we moved our home to a new building up at Pound Street and we love it! CILT does its best to help those in need in Coromandel and beyond. We offer travel aid, Budget and Foodbank services, and other forms of support when you need it. Feel free to come and see us here and we will help you the best we can!

Haere rā, Leigh!

Last month we said goodbye to our fabulous Budget Advisory Coordinator, Leigh. Leigh has been invaluable to us at CILT and she will be missed. Thank you for everything you've done for us, Leigh!

Māra Kai and Community Garden Update

Te Pūawai – CILT's native plant nursery – is establishing their own māra kai (food garden) to provide fresh produce for the Coromandel Foodbank and our pātaka kai! This project will give us the opportunity to honor, learn and share traditional growing practices, while also improving kai sovereignty and security for our community.

We are lucky enough to have the Coromandel Community Garden moving to Te Pūawai, where we will share the new space and work together to maintain, and secure this vital resource. This space will be inviting and welcoming to all of our community, and will be a place for learning, sharing and supporting each other. Keep an eye out for upcoming working bees and for a chance to be part of this fantastic project!

The Coromandel Independent Living Trust would like to thank Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, Te Kōhāo Health, Healthy Families Te Ngira, Coromandel Foodbank, the Thames-Coromandel District Council and the Coromandel Community Garden for supporting this project!

Coromandel Community Van

Need a ride to Thames? Every Thursday the Community Van departs from Coromandel Town for Thames at 9am and then leaves from Pak 'n Save for the return to Coromandel at 2pm. Bookings are essential, so please contact us at (07) 866 8358 or pop into Te Pūtahi to reserve your seat!

Door-to-door pickups are available within Coromandel Town.



Coromandel Contract Bridge Club

By Judy Bronlund

It is so good to have the new members play on a Monday evening. We play at the St John rooms. Visitors to our town are most welcome to join in with us; just let Jan know before 3 pm. If you are interested in learning please make contact.

Contacts Jan (07) 866 843 or 027 478 8839, Jackie 021 061 6876

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Positioned atop the ridgeline at Papa Aroha, this amazing 3,306m2 property affords utterly PANORAMIC gulf, island & rural views. 4 brms, 3 bathrooms, large open-plan living area and great decking. **O/O \$1.3M**



Great family home
Your new family home awaits! Excellent north/west facing decking for great in/outdoor living, 3 brms, open-plan living (fireplace & heatpump), double garage, well-fenced and landscaped 611m2 section. **\$745,000**



Long Bay
Immac 3brm brick home with excellent garaging & huge parking area on 5,912m2 section. **\$1.6M**



Fishing Galore
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Possible Subd.?
Great central location. Fenced 1,424m2 section, 2brm home, lrg garage & storage shed. **\$810,000**



Stroll to beach
Fantastic harbourscape at Wyuna Bay. 3brm home + studio + great decks + parking. **\$1.275M**



HUGE garages
STUNNING 3brm home + garaging for 6 vehicles, private 1.1Ha of bush and sea views. **\$1.95M**



Bush retreat
1.01Ha bush escape on northern edge of town, QEII covenanted and building site. **\$395,000**



Surround fencing
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Affordable retirement
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Massive deck
Bring on holiday living. 1,406m2 section with near new 2brm home. GREAT decking! **\$750,000**

Coromandel Lions

By Mary Farmer



Another month has passed by, and what great weather we have had... cold mornings and evenings but beautiful days.

Now Lions news. We have had quite a few really busy working bees, chainsaws buzzing away, wood being chopped and either stored for next year if green or delivered if dry. I'd like to take the chance to thank all of the members that took part in these events. It's down to you guys and friends and family members that make the whole thing possible.

On the note a big thank you to Mike McCall from Papa Aroha for the very generous donation of an extremely large pine tree. As you will see in the photos attached it was a real whopper, Pam Sowden is pictured standing by just one of the four "limbs" and from the size of the chainsaw in the other photo you can just see what a great gift it was.

Thanks go Chris for his time and skill in getting the massive chunks of wood into manageable pieces. The club appreciates all of your time and consideration in getting the job done.

At our last dinner meeting we voted members into positions on the committee. Outgoing president Paul McKenzie was replaced Sue Hughes, vice president yours truly Mary Farmer, Jean Smith remaining as secretary and Joan Knudsen treasurer.

I'd like to take this opportunity



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to thank Paul for the hard work he has put into the club, helping with the jobs that keep the club ticking along.

Also Sue Hughes is our new wood coordinator. She had taken over the job from Lion Lyn Rose. Thank you Lyn for all of the work you put into the job this year.

Contact numbers for Sue and Jean are at the foot of this article.

That just leaves me to wish everyone in Coromandel Town and surrounding areas a dry and warm winter. Don't worry, it's only 140 days (give or take) to Christmas!

If anyone is interested in becoming a Lion please call either number below; we'd love to hear from you. Till next time..

Contact president Sue Hughes 021 142 1124 and secretary Jean Smith 021 208 7576

Grey Power Coromandel Inc

By Patricia Whimp



The Grey Power Federation has a new President – Gayle Chambers from Marlborough who has already made her first press statement calling for pay parity for care and support workers. Gayle has worked in this area for many years and knows the challenges.

The AGM had notable speakers, including the CEO of Grey Power Electricity discussing electricity challenges in New Zealand. Additionally, Caroline Cooper, the Aged Care Commissioner, the Hon Casey Costello – Minister of Seniors and Associated Minister of Health, and Karen Billing-Jensen from Aged Concern addressed a range of critical issues affecting seniors, such as elder abuse, health services, combating ageism, and more.

It was encouraging that Hon Casey Costello expressed readiness to collaborate with Grey Power Federation and Aged Concern to enhance conditions for seniors. This suggested a proactive approach to addressing the needs and concerns of the senior community.

Grey Power Coromandel is considering the needs of its members who are still actively working and might find it challenging to attend daytime meetings. By planning an evening or twilight meeting, we hope this will accommodate those members who are in the 50 to 65 age group and are still employed.

Looking ahead, the next membership meeting on **Thursday 15 August** at the St John Rooms at 1.30pm will focus on safety at home, with a representative from St John's set to speak. This topic likely ties into broader efforts to ensure the well-being and security of seniors in their living environments. We thank the Grey Power members who have paid their subscription, and we urge members old and new to attend.

If you would like to know more about Grey Power Coromandel, please don't hesitate to contact. We can email membership forms and past newsletters if this would interest you.

President – Brian 027 319 0172 (beeandgee@hotmail.co.nz),
Vice-President – Barbara O'Reilly 027 209 8595 (bor375@gmail.com),
Membership Secretary – Carol 021 081 66129 (carolcarson@xtra.co.nz) or myself 0274 985 227 (greypowercoro@outlook.com)



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Diary of a syncopator

By Nur Peach

In 2019, when I was 18 years old, I moved to Auckland to study popular music at Auckland University. I was fresh out of high school and until then had lived with my parents and brother in Waiomu. Our house was surrounded by bush with big gardens and a stream in the backyard.

The city was very different. I lived in a university hall of residence, in a room that could've fit three times into my room at home. The busy streets, traffic and tall buildings of Auckland CBD were the new backdrop to my life. It was one of the scariest things I've ever done. But it was also one of the best years of my life.

The people in my year at uni were singer-songwriters, like me. I'd never been around so many musicians my own age, and that was amazing, but I struggled to fit in. I always have, ever since I was a kid. I've always been a little different from the rest. It was easier at uni than it had been at school, but I still never quite felt like "one of them". So I started writing songs about it.

The first one came when I was in class, listening to our teacher explain a songwriting assignment. He was talking about syncopation (accenting the offbeats) and how it makes melodies catchy. "It helps to be a little offbeat," he said. The moment he said the word offbeat, I heard these words

in my head: "We're singing offbeat now, we're singing offbeat now". It was the hook for my single "Offbeat," complete with the harmonies you hear in the finished recording! I knew this would be an anthem for people who are different. And it was the first spark of Syncopate, my first album, all of which I wrote within that year.

"Syncopate" is a word that, despite being not so well known outside the music community, finds its way into song lyrics enjoyed by the public a fair bit. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the song's initial inspiration, it found its way into "Offbeat". Walking down the street one day, I was thinking about how much I like the word, and how snappy and catchy it sounds. I decided it would be a great title for an album.

I've used syncopation as a metaphor for daring to be different and to make a difference. And people like me, who aren't like everyone else, I've called them "syncopators".

On 22 June, Syncopate was released to the world. It's hard to sum up in words what it means to me. I guess you could say it's a diary of my first year at uni. It's about taking risks and making big changes in your life, about feeling the fear but doing it anyway. In it, you'll hear me loving the city and my newfound independence. You'll hear me missing home and my family.

And of course, you'll hear about my personal experience of being different. It's

all in there: the loneliness of not fitting in, the struggle to remain true to yourself, and the liberation that comes from self acceptance. Daring to be different is how we change the world. Because we're all connected. And we all have it in us to be syncopators.

You can purchase Syncopate on Bandcamp at this link: <https://nurpeach.bandcamp.com/album/syncopate>.

If you want to follow this journey, I'm @nurpeachmusic on Instagram and @nurpeachmusician on Facebook



haiku

By John Irvine

Celebrityism

groaning quietly
lips shut tight
he smiles at the camera

Wracked

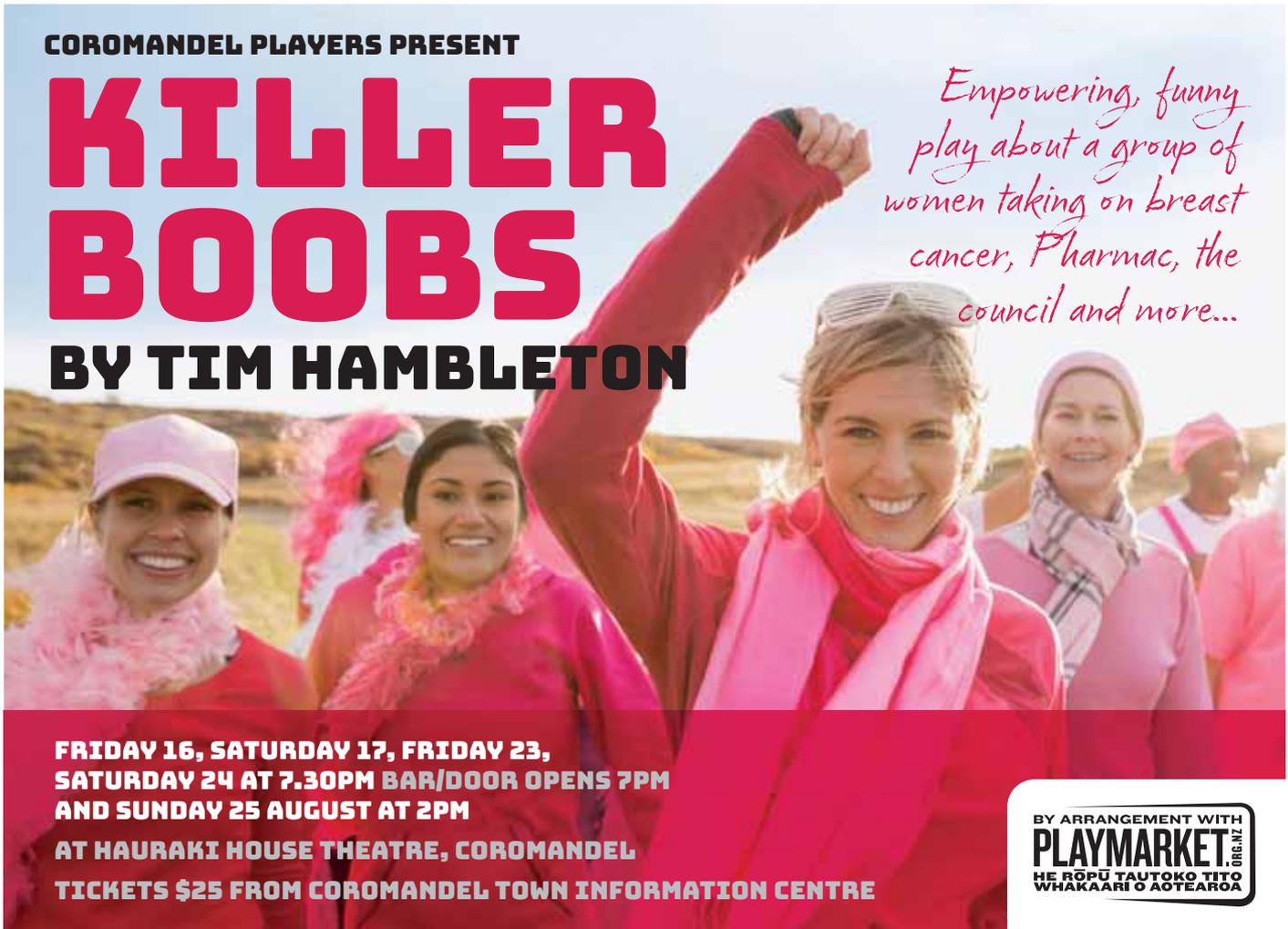
outdoors I tremble uncertainly
decisions wrack my mind
staying shadowed indoors helps

COROMANDEL PLAYERS PRESENT

KILLER BOOBS

BY TIM HAMBLETON

Empowering, funny play about a group of women taking on breast cancer, Pharmac, the council and more...



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Combined Clubs of Coromandel

By Maureen Kimber

It is 10 years since the amalgamation of the Bowling Club and the RSA with the creation of CCC (Combined Clubs of Coromandel), with all paying members of both clubs automatically becoming members of CCC. The idea was to create a club which would be beneficial to the community as a whole and not just to members of the two affiliated clubs.

We feel that this goal has been attained on many levels. The Car Club grew out of RSA members whose numbers have now grown to over 250. The Bowling Club membership has increased dramatically from such events as Twilight Bowls (formerly known as the Business House competition), with nonbowlers being introduced to and enjoying the competitive game over 10 nights during the summer season.

Many functions and meetings are booked regularly at the Club which has become a favoured venue for the community. Not the least of these are the fortnightly Tuesday evening Quiz nights and Rummikub afternoons each Monday. The latter has just

celebrated its 1st anniversary and the photos show the delicious cakes that members cooked and some of the happy players!

The warm, inviting atmosphere lends itself to relaxed enjoyable events in a Club that we are now very proud of.



Combined
Clubs of
Coromandel

Coromandel Bowling Club

By Judy Campbell

Our club greens are still closed for their "winter maintenance" so any bowls played or tournaments entered by our members in July/August, have been at other clubs, mainly in the Thames Valley.

The second of our "Winter Cup" challenge against Mercury Bay was to be played on 11 July, but had to be postponed to the following week on the 18th. I will have to update you all in the September Chronicle as the deadline for this month's article closed two days earlier.

Another Short Form Bowls "qualifying event" is to be held for Thames Valley Junior Bowlers (year 1-8) at the Whangamata Bowling Club on **Sunday 18 August**. Last time the format was "Super Singles" but this time it is "Power Pairs" and in the September Chronicle, I will be able to report on how a couple of our very keen Juniors got on.

Since the July article, most of our committee's time has been spent preparing and planning for the 2024-2025 season, which starts with our Opening Day on **Thursday 5 September** 9am followed by our first Sunday rollup for the season on **Sunday 8 September** at 1pm.

Our first Open Optional Triples Tournament will be held on **Thursday 19 September** and for the first time; we are also holding a Junior Optional Triples Tournament in October.

If you would like to give lawn bowls a go or see what it is all about, then you are most welcome to come down to the club on our Opening Day or any Thursday and/or Sunday following. If you'd like to have a game with us, then come down at least 30 minutes beforehand so you can get put into a team.

We will have coaching starting up again as well on the Friday afternoons 3pm and with our clubrooms being open from 3-7pm on Fridays, you will be welcome to stay on and enjoy a social catchup and a drink.

Car Club

By Bruce Finnan

Hi to all of our Car Club members, which has grown again by another four members this month. Club Night "Happy Hour" is on **Wednesday 14 August**, and a Car Run will be on **Sunday 18 August** (details to be confirmed). If you wish to join in we are just a phone call away.

We had a good attendance for our Club Night and our third annual Club Lunch at Pepper Tree Restaurant where we were treated like royalty. It is hard to believe that we started this Club three years ago and now boast over 70 car enthusiasts. Remember, you don't have to have that "special" car to be part of the Club – sometimes the conversations get excited about cars we sold, but should have kept, that extra shed we needed, but didn't build, and so on...

The Car Club is part of the RSA with full use of all facilities, including bowls, a bar and social activities all year-round. The RSA is open every Saturday from 3pm so do come in for a "test drive".

Our Car Fair Day is going ahead as planned for **Sunday 2 February 2025** in the same paddock on Tiki Road as this year. Plenty of time to get that car sorted.

Bruce Finnan 027 249 0878



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www.gaiadecorators.co.nz

RSA

By Gary Pettett

The start of the Coromandel RSA

In September 1931 a group of WW1 Veterans banded together, headed by J.H. Lucas, to try and form an RSA branch in Coromandel. After several months of negotiations with the Thames RSA and National HQ they finally managed to get approval to form a sub-branch of Thames, which came to fruition on 16 May 1932. It was known as the Thames RSA Coromandel branch. The first president was Mr. S Daveson and Mr. J.H. Lucas was appointed Secretary/Treasurer.

Their first official meeting was held on 16 December 1932, where a committee was formed and a set of rules drafted. Until the commencement of WW2, the only activities worth mention were arrangements for Anzac Day and the annual social.

At the AGM in May 1940 a motion was put forward that the Coromandel branch should break away from the Thames RSA, which eventually happened in 2003 with their blessing. We then had to define our boundaries, which are north of the Waikawau stream to the tip of the Peninsula and to Whangapoua in the east to satisfy National Headquarters and the Incorporated Societies act.

When Thames finally advised HQ of our wish to become a branch of the RSA in our own identity, we were recognised as being on our own in 2004. We also had the honour of being the first RSA in NZ to be known under the new name of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association.

RSA modern day news

We had our midwinter Christmas dinner on Saturday 6 July, which was a great success with a full house and our excellent local band "Bits and Pieces" providing the entertainment. Special thanks go to Pat and Paddy manning the bar and Lyn Williams for the spectacular room decorations and co-ordinating her band of helpers for the dinner.

Terminator movie fundraiser for Hato Hone St John Whitianga

A special fundraiser invites the community to enjoy a legendary film, celebrate local achievements, and support an organisation that truly makes a difference in the Mercury Bay Community.

The fundraiser screening of the original sci-fi classic "The Terminator" is being sponsored and hosted in collaboration with All About Whitianga and Mercury Twin Cinemas, with proceeds from ticket sales and raffles going directly to the local Hato Hone St John Whitianga team.

Limited tickets are available from Mercury Twin Cinemas for 4.30pm **Sunday 4 August** screening.

Pestie Corner

By Amy English of Peninsula Pest Services



Possoms are another pest animal that we occasionally get calls about. Here on the Coromandel Peninsula, we love to live amongst or next to bush, which in turn means possums are likely to visit at some point.

Endemic to Australia, common brushtail possums were introduced to Southland in the 1800s to start a fur trade. By the mid-1900s, possums were officially declared a pest and had spread to over half the country. Today, they can be found virtually anywhere in New Zealand. Although there has been some demand over the years for their fur, the lack of any other effective natural predators has seen them cause more damage than good.

Possoms are nocturnal, have large pointy ears and are marsupials, meaning the females have a pouch. As their name suggests, they also have a thick, bushy, prehensile tail which helps them to climb and hold onto tree branches. They can be a range of colours from black, to silver-grey to brown and gold.

Although possums may not be a great threat to our homes, they are a massive threat to our native flora and fauna on multiple fronts. Their diet is made up mainly of leaves, seeds and berries which means they can not only strip trees before they can flourish, but they also compete with many native birds and reptiles for food. On top of this, possums are also opportunistic omnivores and are known to eat native birds, chicks and eggs as well as some insects like weta. Possums are also a worry for farmers as they not only eat pasture but can also carry a disease called bovine tuberculosis which can be transferred to cattle.

In an urban environment, possums can do damage to our gardens, lured in by particular trees, especially fruit trees. They sometimes will also find their way into sheds or the odd ceiling cavity if there is large enough access, looking for food or somewhere dry and warm to nest (they really don't like water!). As with rodents, the best thing you can do is block up any access points to your homes and sheds to prevent re-entry. We know minimising the attractiveness of your garden is not always possible, so there are other options like trapping available to help get rid of a pesky possum.

Coromandel School of Mines and Historical Museum

By Maureen Kimber - Secretary

How many of us have ever visited that iconic old building in Rings Road just up from the Top Pub? Certainly I was one of those people, even having lived here for almost 40 years, until I was invited to the Opening Day last October for the newly installed Dairy at the rear of the property.

The frontage of the mining school itself gives the impression of just one old building, but in fact there are three interconnected rooms and freestanding attractions such as the prison and now the dairy. The whole area covers from the frontage in Rings Road to Watt Street at the back – very deceptive!

Committee president Jennie James had the idea of updating the existing publicity and with the help of Geoff Kingsmill, we redesigned the pamphlet showing an aerial photo of the dimensions of the school and featuring some of the exhibits both inside and outdoors (pictured left). Further to this, we have now entered the merchandising arena, which will offer visitors the opportunity to purchase souvenirs of their visit and to boost our income.

The Museum is closed during the winter months, and on **Sunday 29 September**, before the official October summer season opening, we will be having an Open Day Tea Party for Coromandel residents to celebrate the Museum's 70th birthday, so mark this date on your calendar. We hope that you will be both surprised and pleased to see that this historic display of a town and its founders has a very worthy home, not only for overseas visitors, but for all NZ and local residents, new and old, to rediscover part of our own Coromandel history.



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Coromandel Garden Circle

By Natalie Blasco

Our July speaker was Rachel from the Coromandel Community Garden. We also found an intersecting relationship with our speaker from June. Marilyn, local ballet teacher and Circle member, had to put in her apology for the July meeting but mentioned that she knew Rachel from their time in Motueka decades ago. When I mentioned to Rachel that one of our members knew her, she said, "Marilyn was my ballet teacher!" Is this when we say, small world?

Rachel said the Coromandel Community Garden, located behind colourful gates near Hauraki House, has been going for about 15 years. Previously run by CILT and Brooke to provide for the Foodbank, it fell to ruin when Brooke left... and then Covid happened. Rachel, a passionate gardener, began resurrecting it about five years ago. She started on her own, with no help for six months, during which time she became quite disheartened. But she is happy that there is now a core group of six-seven people, some with no prior gardening experience, who work there for a few hours every Friday morning from about 9am. She said it has been really good to also have some men involved because of the added strength they provide. She also talked about how some of these previous nongardeners have taken their new-found knowledge and created their own gardens at home!



A first for us. All entries in "Vitamin C" won awards, with 3 for 1st place, 2 for 2nd, 2 for 3rd

One of the saddest things she experiences is when people steal from the garden and she has had to find a way to let go of her disappointment. Those who help out are allowed to take home some produce when it's ready. Sadly, there are some in our community who come in and take or damage things. One time it was nine unripe pumpkins at once. (This caused a member to comment that unripe pumpkins are watery.) Or pulling out entire plants instead of just taking some leaves from perennial vegetable plants which would otherwise continue to provide food for others. This perhaps shows some people's desperation, ignorance or selfishness, plus disrespect for the work of others. She also believes a group of kids came to just wreck some areas. As a result, the Foodbank aspect has been shifted to new raised vege beds behind locked and monitored gates at CILT.

But there will still be the fruit trees, veges, flowers and others' labour to appreciate in the garden, and we are all invited to pitch in... and benefit from the bounty.

There is no money allocated for the garden and many of their tools are very old. But they were fortunate to be given \$300 from our town's Rethink Rubbish group when it disbanded in April. This money was due to a generous donation from the Bell family after member Tish passed away. They have bought some tools and seeds and are always grateful for donations of seeds, tools, funds, and of course, helping hands. Recently there was a local Volunteer Day and a group of people turned up to lend a hand. Rachel was amazed at the amount of work that was accomplished in a few hours and the garden has become a lovely spot where anyone can go to just sit for a while. A reminder that many hands make light work.

As always, if you'd like to join us for a visit, you're most welcome to do so.

Next meeting: **Wednesday 14 August**, The Club, 1pm, when member Glenise will talk about mussels and her time in Western Australia. Arrangement: Flexible Flax; Special: Fragrance.

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

POETRY
SPOT

Bottlebrush
By John Irvine

bottlebrush in full bloom
honey bees congregate
their song the bees' knees

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HeartbloodArt spiritual clay workshops

By Dany Kintara

I am facilitating a safe container for inner explorations, guiding participants through grounding meditations, holding space and witnessing their process working intuitively with clay. These workshops can also be booked as private events (minimum of eight people, max of 20 people).



Dany Kintara

Workshop themes

Totem – This workshop is a deep initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to identify the areas we require assistance with. Through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, using clay as a medium, we will channel qualities that might aid us and imprint those energies onto the clay to form a personalised “totem” (a sacred object of power).

Mandala – This workshop is aimed to stop the chatter of the mind by working with the clay in a meditative state to let peace and serenity flow into your own individual clay mandala creation. Through a sacred Blue Lotus Tea Ceremony we will go inwards to listen to the whispers of the soul. The tea is infused with a delicious turmeric spice mix.

Plant Messenger – This workshop is an initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to explore an individual theme, a message received from a plant. Through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine, we will use clay as a medium to explore the feelings that arise, and let the feelings shape the clay.

Flower of Life – This workshop is a deep initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to revisit your past, embrace your present, and envision your future. Through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, we will imprint those energies onto the clay. Using that clay you have the opportunity to shape your very own personalised “Flower of Life”.

Goddess – This workshop is a deep initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to honour the divine feminine, identifying the archetypal goddess energies and qualities which are needed in your life right now. Through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, we will channel those qualities to identify your goddess, so you are able to shape your own goddess sculpture.

Embrace the Whole You – This workshop is an initiation into spiritual art. A grounding meditation will guide you to connect with all aspects of your being, identifying and embracing all of your personality traits previously perceived as good or bad. Through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, we will imprint those traits onto the clay for you to form your individual personality beads for each trait identified. Strung up together you will have a personal art piece, as a reminder to treasure the beauty of the whole you.



Cauldron of Change as Memory Metamorphosis – This workshop is a deep initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to retrieve a memory. We will explore the memory through the power

of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, using clay as a medium, imprinting the clay with the energy of the memory. We honour the lesson learned by initiating a metamorphosis process to either heal or treasure the memory.

Cauldron of Change as Grief Transformation – Grief is love with nowhere to go. This workshop is a deep initiation into spiritual art, in the form of a guided spiritual journey to access your deep withheld grief to soothe and transform the pain. We will explore the rising emotion of your grief through the power of heart-opening cacao medicine and sensory touch, imprinting the clay with your emotion and initiating the transformation process.

Pay-It-Forward Scheme – Sharing my gifts and holding space is my number one priority. To make my workshops accessible to all, regardless of financial situation, I offer one koha place* on all of my Intuitive Art/Spiritual Clay Workshops. So, if you want to participate but the cost of the workshop is financially out of reach, then email me on heartbloodart@pm.me. In your email state the title of the workshop you are interested in attending, with a little background info about you. I will put you on my koha list and contact you when space for your chosen workshop is available. (*Terms & conditions apply: nine paying participants create one koha space.)

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Coromandel Community Garden

By Rachel Benmayor, Garden Coordinator

It has been a wonderful, heartening few months in the garden. Not only are we getting on top of the weeds and have time for other long-overdue tidying up, but the seedlings we managed to get in are thriving and producing well.

This turn of events started with a \$300 donation from Rethink Rubbish. This had been in turn donated to them in memory of Tish Bell. This wonderful contribution made it possible for us to buy some new gardening tools and many packets of King Seeds. We will be set now for spring. Thank you, Joan, for thinking of us.

This past week we have had some wonderful help from a team of volunteers from Volunteer Week. They cleared away years of accumulated green rubbish from the back of the gardens. We can now see the large mural, painted originally many years ago, on the back fence. Thank you so much for this support from the volunteers and an especially big thank you from Margaret at the council for organising the event and the donations of fruit trees and plants for the garden.

There are new plans afoot for the expansion of the garden and ongoing vision for a lot more produce being available for the community soon. As always, we appreciate any donations of seed, seedlings and anything "gardening". We have a small team of regular volunteers which come on Friday mornings from 9am to 12pm so if you have some inspiration to join us, please do; the more the merrier.

I want to thank all of the volunteers for donating their time and energy, for those who drop in seedlings and other contributions and for those who have just encouraged us to keep going.

The gardens are located next to Hauraki House behind the colourful gates.



Real Estate Matters

By Glenn Wells, Licensed Agent

Making an offer with Sale and Purchase of Real Estate contract

When purchasing real estate or your home, it is done on a Sales and Purchase of Real Estate form. A written offer is more powerful compared to a verbal one. It shows intent to form an agreement to purchase, not just curiosity where the vendor will sell. When you seriously want to make an offer or find out if the vendor will negotiate with you, then the best thing is to put your offer in writing and have the offer presented. This tells the vendor you are serious. They can counter back, or just simply reject the offer. You now know what the vendor is prepared to do versus the salesperson's hype or insinuation.

The Sales and Purchase form should be filled out by the salesperson. You should be given the opportunity to seek advice from your lawyer (a finance broker is not a lawyer), prior to signing the document. You will also be given various bits of information or guide material required by the REA (Real Estate Authority) all prior to entering into the contract. These are also available online and could be read prior to looking for a home; go to www.rea.govt.nz. You will also sign a purchaser's acknowledgement form.

These things seem a little tedious, but are necessary to protect you. Also it advises your lawyer you were given the appropriate information and opportunities. You should take the time to read this information prior to signing any forms.

When making an offer, an experienced purchaser may forgo some conditions relying on their experience and knowledge. However, if you are not confident in the process or especially if you are a first-time buyer, your lawyer will most likely advise you to have some basic conditions inserted.

If the property has issues, and you have been given a disclaimer or material that discloses issues, you should have that read by a tradesperson and/or your lawyer before entering into a contract. The ramifications of not seeking advice could be huge money, or may also negate your loan approval.

Most contracts will have conditions to protect you such as finance clause – usually ten to fifteen days; a LIM report (Land Information Memorandum) – again ten to fifteen days; and a builders report: again ten to fifteen days. Some lawyers will advise you to have a basic due diligence clause. This is useful as an escape out of the agreement. However vendors are wary of this and may not accept this clause, but be happy with specific clauses.

A conditional to lawyers viewing the contract clause, has limited protection after the signing of a contract by all parties, mainly to the form of the contract. You should seek lawyers to peruse your contract and advise of conditions to be inserted prior to signing. Again this seems tedious and time consuming, but in the long term gives you peace of mind and may save thousands in unexpected costs.

When looking for and purchasing a home, especially for the first time, asking questions, lots of them, is the right thing to do. You need to understand and be happy and confident in what you are doing and signing. Do not allow yourself to be pressured into signing. If you're not ready, hold off, or seek advice from your legal advisor.

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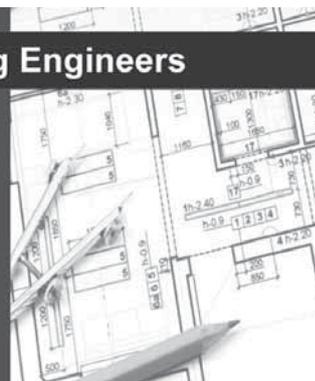
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FOR SALE



Little Bay Lot 5 Little Bay Drive

Just Steps From Little Bay | For Sale \$540,000

This secluded 5,930m² retreat amidst sub-tropical greenery, with a North-facing building platform, is just a minute's walk from Little Bay beach. Tucked at the end of Little Bay Drive, it features a Nikau-lined entrance, a level gravel driveway, and secure, sunlit bush-clad hills.

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L26821850
Caro Reid M 021 0291 5531



PRICE REDUCED



Coromandel 1580 Rings Road

Natural Cottage Setting | For Sale \$349,000

-Conveniently located near town, this tranquil 673m² property offers ample off-street parking and remains attractively priced. All geotechnical and engineer reports are provided to expedite your process.

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L23235889
Glenn Wells M 0800 735 788



FOR SALE



Coromandel 600 Buffalo Road

Private Bush Retreat | For Sale \$639,000

This fabulous 4-hectare bush block on Buffalo Road in sunny Coromandel offers great views, a beautiful creek, and bush tracks. An amazing opportunity to build your dream home in a peaceful, private area near beautiful beaches and fishing spots.

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L24455609
Raewyn Trail M 021 0201 9111



FOR SALE



Waitete Bay Lot 3/14a Torehina Heights

Breath Taking Views | For Sale \$750,000

Nestled along Waitete Bay, this 1369 sqm section atop Torehina Heights offers breathtaking ocean views and easy access via a concrete drive with services available at the gate. Don't miss this rare opportunity to create your dream holiday escape.

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L25407563
Maria Blundell M 022 081 5817



FOR SALE

Kennedy Bay 1160 Kennedy Bay Road

For Sale \$500,000

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L24466861
Kath Jones M 027 955 2676



FOR SALE

Te Rerenga 1246 Whangapoua Road

For Sale \$915,000

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L26892337
Glenn Wells P 0800 735 788



FOR SALE

Little Bay 896 Tuataewa Road

For Sale \$699,000

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L26978305
Caro Reid M 021 0291 5531



FOR SALE

Kennedy Bay 4D Moana Crescent

Price By Negotiation

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L23352530
Maria Blundell M 022 081 5817



FOR SALE

Coromandel 390 Driving Creek Road

For Sale \$1,550,000

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L24455609
Raewyn Trail M 021 0201 9111



FOR SALE

Papa Aroha Site 54/1091 Colville Road

For Sale \$130,000

View by appointment or at harcourts.net/L23299864
Kath Jones M 027 955 2676



Mana Retreat

Dear friends, after a nourishing rest period, we are back this week re-charged and re-energised. With spring just around the corner, we look forward to the months ahead.

During the winter break, our maintenance team kept busy and completed quite a few projects.

After having fulfilled its purpose for over 30 years, the centre roof has been replaced. We can't wait to show you our shining new roof!

Tara School Reunion 9 October

Some of you may remember Tara School, a small Steiner-based school that was established on the land at Mana back in the 1990's. Although small in size, Tara School was big in community, and many formed strong connections.

In December 2000, the parent body made the decision to move to Coromandel Town and Tara School closed its doors. The Tara School buildings now serve as the Centre for Mindful Living, "Dharma Gaia". Many students now have families of their own and we feel it's time to gather and reconnect.

If you were a past student, teacher or parent at Tara School, please save the date and join us at Mana for a day of celebrating past memories.

For more details, contact Rata at marketing@manaretreat.com or join the Facebook Page @TaraSchoolReunion.

Mystical Duet Meditative Concert 25 August

This concert is presented by the father and son duo, Ivo and Pavel Sedlacek. Together, they have mesmerized audiences around the world. Their music crosses music genres and brings a deep experience to every listener.

You are warmly invited to join us for an evening of unique acoustic instrumental music in its most delicate, intimate and heart-touching purity. **Sunday 25 August**, 7pm in the Octagon, entrance fee \$30.

Monthly Group Meditation

Come along and join Amrit each month for Community Group Meditation. Sessions will include simple meditation techniques supported by yoga asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing exercises) and walking meditation. Upcoming dates: **Tuesday 6 August** and **Tuesday 3 September**, 5-6.15pm, sliding scale \$10-15, no bookings required and all are welcome.

Open Floor Dance Classes

Open Floor is a lively dance and movement practice that energises the body and opens the heart. We simply show up and move with whatever is present. Upcoming dates: **Tuesday 6 and 13 August** 9.45-11.45am, sliding scale \$15-20, no experience required, just turn up on the day.

Arohanui – The Mana Team

www.manaretreat.com, (07) 866 8972, be@manaretreat.com, 608 Manaia Road, Coromandel

The Colville Project

The Colville Project team extends our heartfelt gratitude to several individuals whose support has been instrumental in advancing our site development and future-proofing efforts.

Kay and Chris Ogilvie recently recognised an opportunity when a neighbour upgraded their water tanks, and these tanks have now been repurposed for firefighting purposes on the TCP land. Kay and Chris have been our most generous individual family contributors, both financially and in their proactive support, and their foresight continues to positively impact our community.

Richard Campbell also played a crucial role in coordinating with the lead contractor, ensuring that the necessary equipment and logistics were in place to transport and install the tanks.

This complex task involved multiple steps, including sourcing

the correct gear and machinery, assembling skilled teams, and navigating road closures and the tanks' oversized nature. Despite these challenges, the project was a resounding success.

These tanks will be vital for firefighting, storing enough water to provide protection for both TCP land and neighbouring properties. This initiative not only enhances our site's safety but also provides a valuable asset to the wider community, ensuring enhanced safety and resilience for all, even before any building construction begins.

We are immensely grateful to Kay and Chris Ogilvie, Richard Campbell, and Jeremy from Thames Tanks (www.ttplastics.co.nz) for their dedication and support in making this project a reality. Their contributions have significantly bolstered our collective safety and resilience.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Colville Project.

Web-based research volunteer/s required

Do you like to go down rabbit holes on the internet researching interesting statistics and information? Can you bookmark websites and download and organise documents easily? Are you a photographer or video maker? If so, we need you!

TCP is revamping its website and are looking for people to assist in getting our content right. Can you help?

Please reach out to Katie admin@thecolvilleproject.nz for further information.



Mana **UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS**
Book Online - www.manaretreat.com

24 JUNE - 24 JULY	Winter Rest Period for Our Team and the Land to Breathe and Rest
26 JULY - 28 JULY	Awakened Heart Yoga Retreat with Premaloka
30 JULY - AUG 1	Mid Winter Rest and Restore with MyChi
AUG 2-5	Mid Winter Relaxation Retreat with Jessica Devi
AUG 8-11	Silent Meditation Retreat with Amrit and Yogamurti Saraswati
AUG 16-18	A Weekend of Flow with Jo Monaghan
AUG 23-25	August Winter Relax and Wellness with The Mana Team
AUG 26-29	Private Gathering – Thought Leaders

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mystical Duet Concert	25th August 7pm Octagon
Open Floor Community Dance	6th & 13th Aug, 3rd & 17th Sep
Community Meditation	6th Aug, 3rd Sep, 1st Oct, 5th Nov, 3rd Dec
Tara School Reunion	9 Oct



Rob's
Small Motor Repairs

Come along and see me at
18 Kapanga Road

Rob 866 7865 or 021 618 601

SPOTTED

Painted utility boxes in Coromandel Town. Have you spotted any others?

Pictures courtesy of Natalie Blasco

On Rings Road



Outside the tennis courts



Hon Scott Simpson MP For Coromandel



While most of June was spent scrutinising and passing Budget legislation through Parliament and Select Committees, July was a welcome change of pace as MPs spent most of the month in their electorates.

These recess weeks are a terrific opportunity to get around the electorate and catch up with constituents. I thoroughly enjoy this part of being the local Member of Parliament. I had the chance to celebrate a 50-year service award with the Waihi Fire Brigade, spend the morning at Whenuakite School, and hold constituent clinics with people from the top of the Peninsula down to the Western Bay of Plenty.

Whether it's a specific issue affecting them or just a general opinion, I really appreciate people taking time out of their lives to let me know what they're thinking. A common thread in these discussions is that it's tough out there. Households are still struggling with their weekly budgets, people are concerned about the health system, and crime continues to be an issue both locally and nationwide.

As a government, we're committed to supporting New Zealanders. The FamilyBoost package and changes to income tax thresholds will help young families with the cost of living. A \$604 million boost to Pharmac's budget will make it easier for more Kiwis to access life-changing cancer treatments. And we're passing laws which give police tougher powers to go after gangs by restricting their ability to associate and banning gang patches in public.

I'm pleased that we're prioritising these issues because easing the cost of living and restoring law and order will make a significant difference in people's lives and our communities. It won't get easier overnight, but I'm confident that we're moving in the right direction.

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Chopper Chat – Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust



Coromandel callouts

1-30 June

01.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Kennedy Bay to assist a male patient in his 50's involved in a roofing accident. He was flown to Tauranga Hospital in a minor condition.

04.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a female patient in her 20's suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

07.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Matarangi to assist a male patient in his 60's suffering a medical condition. He was flown to Auckland City Hospital in a critical condition.

12.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a male patient in his 60's suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a critical condition.

12.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Waikawau Bay to assist a female patient in her 70's suffering a medical complaint and in a moderate condition. Transportation to hospital by helicopter wasn't required and crew returned to base.

19.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a male patient in his 60's suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

20.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Coromandel to assist a patient. Crew were stood down and returned to base.

26.06.2024 – Crew tasked to Waiomu to assist a male patient in his 70's suffering a walking injury. He needed to be extracted by winch and was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

Rescue helicopter visits to Coromandel Peninsula increase

Missions by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter to the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki districts last month were eight more than for the same month last year.

The jump has prompted Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust chairman, John Stephenson, to reinforce the importance of the service and the need for ongoing community funding support.

Last month the rescue helicopter was called to the district 24 times, John pointed out that for the same month last year, 16 missions were required.

During June the service was required from Kennedy Bay in the north to Paeroa in the south.

“Due to the remoteness of the region, it

is not uncommon for calls to places such as Little Bay and the likes of Port Charles to assist people experiencing medical events or requiring treatment for injuries,” said John.

“The increase from 16 to 24 missions is very significant when you consider during the summer peak in January, there was one less mission at 23.”

Over the summer peak one of the Auckland-based Westpac Rescue Helicopters and its crew were based at the Coromandel hanger and accommodation at Whitianga Airfield.

John said the increase in the number of missions provided a timely reminder of the financial support required to keep the service operational and available when residents of

the Coromandel and Hauraki needed help.

He said the service was experiencing increased operational costs now to operate the helicopter alone, costs around \$8,500 an hour.

“We are very fortunate in that people appreciate the service and understand its value and therefore donate towards ensuring machines and personnel arrive when required.

“We ask that individuals, businesses and community groups consider providing financial support to the Trust's activities,” said John.

All donations are charitable; details can be found at the Coromandel Trust's website at www.coromandelrescue.org.nz.

Library News

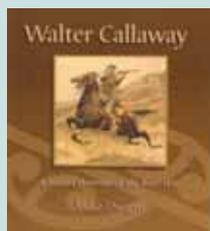
By Paul Lawrence

July has provided us with some great reading weather, sitting in front of the fire or heater with a good book.

If you aren't a library member yet, pop in and we will join you up. The cost is \$20 per year. This gives you access to all of our books, new books at no extra charge, and the ability to read books from other TCDC libraries.

The library's AGM will be held in the council building on **Thursday 15 August** at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come and perhaps get involved in the running of the organisation. We are looking for committee members and volunteers.

Walter Callaway – A Māori Warrior of the Boer War by Mike Dwight



A great story of Walter Callaway, one of the first ever to fight abroad for New Zealand. He became one of the first Māori to become an officer in the New Zealand Army.

This story follows his life from humble beginnings in the Coromandel to his fighting life in South Africa.

The Underground Library by Jennifer Ryan

Juliet reports for work on her first day as a librarian hoping to make it a haven during the bombing of London.

When the library is damaged, Juliet moves the books to the underground where residents are sheltering.

Will she and her friends be able to save the library?



When the Moon Hatched by Sarah A Parker

Raeve the bounty hunter has her life destroyed by another bounty hunter. Rescued by a dragon rider, together they venture to seek the truth that threatens to unravel everything they knew about the world.

This book is for those who enjoy their world filled with magic, dragons, and a love for the ages.



Car Boot Sale

First Saturday every month 9am to 12 noon, Woollams Avenue Carpark (behind the shops), Coromandel Town.

\$5 per car. No bookings required. All booking proceeds go to the Coromandel Community Library.

Contact Jeni Mudgway 021 0227 5341 for more information

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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



August 2024

Tupu Kai projects take root

Three areas within Coromandel-Colville – Manaia, Kōpūtauāki & Harataunga (Kennedy Bay) – are taking part in three different styles of community gardening in a Cyclone recovery funded initiative for Tupu Kai (grow the food) projects, designed to encourage community resilience.

Raised garden beds, food forests and the more traditional communal garden plots are being used to grow basic food stocks in case the communities are isolated during emergency events, while gardening

knowledge is also shared between communities at a grassroots level.

If there are no emergencies, produce is shared around the community and through pataka kai sharing shelves. The communities of Colville, Te Rerenga and Whitianga are also being supported.

Phase 2 of the Tupu Kai project will see 30 groups across 23 towns in the district planting fruit trees on Council, community and school reserves as part of



Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Harataunga students, Kaiako (teachers) and whānau planted fruit trees as part of their Matariki celebrations.

our Council's Fruit Tree Initiative. We've seen an overwhelming response with more than 100 trees already planted, and 200 more should be planted by Spring. A total of \$65,000 Recovery funding has been received for both phases.

CATCH UP ON OUR FINAL 2024-2034 LTP

Our final Long Term Plan (LTP) is available on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/LTP-2024-2034

Our Council has committed to investing \$744.7 million in roading, water services, coastal protection and other essential assets, facilities and services in the Coromandel over the next



10 years – the largest portion of spending is on roading with \$245.4 million budgeted.

As part of the LTP process, we also updated our 2024/25 Schedule of Fees & Charges,

with an overall three per cent increase to ease pressure on the rates. Some fees and charges increased from 1 July 2024, including building consents, dog control, LIMs and resource consents, and some boat ramp fees. tcdc.govt.nz/fees

Our online rating information database has been updated for 2024/25. Check your rates online at tcdc.govt.nz/rid and see if you qualify for a rebate at tcdc.govt.nz/ratesrebate



Coromandel -Colville Community Board UPDATE

A word from our Board Chair Gavin Jeffcoat

"It's great to have an update on the Tupu Kai (grow food) projects taking place around our Ward, and to see the positive progress being made to grow kai in our communities for times of need. This type of grassroots initiative has such a vital role to play in helping our communities become more self-sufficient and resilient. In other news, last month we toured local spots in and around Coromandel Town,



catching up with projects and people – check out the story below."

gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz



The Board on tour

Members of the Coromandel-Colville Community Board took a tour of local spots around Coromandel Town and its surrounds last month, catching up on the latest at Hannafords Wharf, Te Ariki

Tahi Sugarloaf Wharf and Jack's Point



boat ramp. The Board also paid visits to Coromandel wastewater treatment plant and Ride Coromandel Bike Park, before finishing the day at historic Buffalo Cemetery.

The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday 18 September 2024, at 9am, 355 Kapanga Road. Agendas are at tcdc.govt.nz/meetings or watch the meetings at youtube.com/c/ourcoromandel

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Representation Review 2024

FEEDBACK ON INITIAL PROPOSAL

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rangatahi OUR CHILDREN

Coromandel Area School

By Matua Brandon
Amoamo



Illumination, above and below – aho ki runga, aho ki raro

Narrated by Ruka Hōkairangi (Luke Skywalker) and Opi Tahī Keopi (Obi Wan Kenobi), Matariki o Star Wars was held on 26 June, with a daytime and evening show. Our students charmed. Their performances were outstanding! Many thanks to absolutely everyone who helped them shine.

The showcase offered multiple takes on Matariki, in Aotearoa and overseas, from ancient times to the present. Besides karakia (prayer) and mihimihi (greetings) the order of business included:

- A wero (ritual challenge and welcome) by members of Matua Pūnehu’s mau rākau (weaponry) group.
- With an excess of cuteness, a brilliant three-way rendition of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”, by Whaea Samara and Whaea Claire’s bell-ringing new entrant class.



- A trenchant mixed-media interpretation of Aotearoa’s Matariki origin story, by Matua Pūnehu’s mau rākau team.
- An adorable double-barrelled presentation of indigenous Canadian and North America Pleiades narratives, by Whaea Jess’s Buckskin Sky Dancers.
- A graceful oceanic dance procession by Whaea Nane’s Kapa ‘Ura Tahiti’ (hula group), representing Te Moana-Nui-o-Kiva (the Pacific Region).
- An account of India’s Kritika Star Sisters and their raising of the demon-killer war god, Kartikeya, by Matua Andrew’s Bollywood Troubadours.
- Whaea Laura’s kung fu fighters and their exposition on Chinese astrology’s “White Tiger of the West” and the Pleiades “Blossom Stars” that compose his “hairy head”.
- A sartorial and elegant account of Japan’s Subaru traditions by Whaea Fiona’s silk attired thespian ensemble, “The Unity All Stars”.
- A retelling of ancient Roman discourse around Vergiliae, “the Starts of Spring”, by Whaea Sheree’s glimmering, gladiatorial, toga-clad mummers.
- By royal decree... a choreographed poi depiction of ancient Egypt’s “Celestial Sister Stars” by members of Whaea Nane’s class, Te Puritanga.
- An arboreal romp around Moehou with Whaea Claire’s Patupaiarehe Players, the most connected of peoples to the cycles of heaven, earth and “treading the boards”.

- A full caste salute to our entire crew, community and the unifying ethos of Matariki, in word, song and deed.

We cannot express enough our appreciation to the students, families, friends and staff who made “Matariki o Star Wars” a successful galactic foray into art, culture, history and science. In particular we doff our caps to the advisors, costumers, crafters, technicians, labourers, runners and caterers who supported this project from the ground up. Because of them our mission is complete: to share knowledge and understanding about the stars which guide, teach and inspire us. May the force be with you.

Mānawatia a Matariki! (Happy Matariki)
Matariki heri kai! (A time to feast)

Community Partnership

We have a number of senior students who would benefit from work placements while still connected to school. This won’t be a new concept and I’m aware many businesses have previously, or are currently, supporting youth in this way. The intent is to ensure work placements are beneficial for both employers and students. This could look different depending on where students are placed and what suits employers in terms of time frames, whether it’s an internship, gateway, shadowing or work experience. If your organisation or business is interested in working with us to support our young people to have a range of choices around their future pathways, and also to be well equipped for employment, please contact me (Tracey) at school on (07) 866 8893. I’d value the chance to talk with you and see what we can work out in terms of sustainable partnerships between our various businesses/iwi/conservation/social services/industries moving forward. I’ll also be proactive in reaching out through various networks to explore possibilities. He waka eke noa.



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Te Rerenga School

By Mary Kedzlie

Term 2 flew by! The children as usual were busy with their learning and there was great excitement around other term highlights.

In late May the school and the wider community gathered together for the blessing and official opening of the Te Rerenga School Pump Track. This project was a labour of love, a true testament to the power of community collaboration, and a shared vision for providing our children with healthy, fun, and engaging opportunities.

The school was very grateful to everyone who contributed to this fantastic project but a special huge thank you went to two parents, Fleur Blackie and Chloe Watts, who were the driving force of this whole project from its inception to completion. Their dedication to enhancing the school's facilities made this dream a reality.

There were many generous sponsors and donors to the project including the Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Pub Charities, Sport Waikato, NZCT, TCDC, Matarangi Ratepayers, Hoppers Construction and many parents and members of our local community. Their financial support was crucial in bringing this project to life.

We celebrated Matariki by having art and craft activities in our whānau groups followed by the Te Rerenga School PTA organising a wonderful Matariki Disco that the children had loads of fun at.

The end of term highlight was our full-school production "A Ratastical Musical". A group of senior students wrote the script based on a group of rats, living in an old theatre, reminiscing about their favourite musicals. The children sang and danced to songs from The Lion King, Moana, Wonka and The Greatest Showman, It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a testament to the hard work the children put in practicing throughout the term, under the guidance of Whaea Maria and Kōka Princess.



Coromandel Youth Group at Hauraki House

After School: 5yr+ Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 3-5pm.

For 10yrs+ Adventure Time, outdoor activities, meet Monday after school at Hauraki House, ready to leave by 3.15pm, returning 5pm.

Miniatures Tabletop Game Club, Wednesdays 3-5pm.

Closed: Public Holidays.

Coromandel Youth Group is for children aged 5-15yrs. We provide a fun environment where kids can hang out with friends, make arts and crafts and play! Parents just fill out a membership form. For more information, call in, phone 027 217 9206 or contact us at coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.co.nz.

Alongside kind donations, we are grateful for grants received from: Lottery Waikato, Trust Waikato, COGS, D.V.Bryant Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, NZ Community Trust, Star & Garter. Thank you!

GIVE A LITTLE SUNDAYS



\$12 PIZZA SUNDAYS

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 - TeWiki Haakinakina in Christchurch

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CONDITIONS APPLY

mahi toi ARTS



Watch This Space Shared Studios 2024

By Yvonne Szabo & Amelia Smith

Our programme has kicked off for the 2024 winter season. Hauraki House art room has been busy with an exhibition, electricians and workshops.

We started with a “loosening up” workshop where we made random marks with foraged items and ink, working both individually and collaboratively. Our focus was to allow an organic response to the materials rather than a deliberate one.

Next was the first part of a pit firing workshop where pieces were created with clay in preparation for the second part of the workshop to follow in August.

Here we will build and fire our own kiln on a local farm. We will be experimenting with an assortment of combustible materials, hoping to achieve some earthy,



organic and colorful results.

Mid July saw participants create forms and figures at a local pottery studio. Some inspired pieces were brought to life in clay!

Now we will hunker down and work alongside each other in small groups in the art room on our chosen projects for the next couple of months. Our programme will culminate in a group exhibition in September showcasing the process of our creative endeavours this winter...so Watch This Space!

Te Tupua – The Goblin

Master performer John Davies uses only three props and a whole heap of energy to bring us this fascinating bilingual play called “Te Tupua – The Goblin”.

Get your tickets now before it sells out.

Thursday 1 August, 7pm, Hauraki House Theatre, Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town (doors open at 6.45pm for non-alcoholic refreshments).

Tickets \$25, available from Coromandel Town Information Centre

Coromandel Players

By Liz Cameron

Exciting news this month! From September onwards your bottoms are going to be more comfortable when you attend a play or show in our theatre! Due to the hard work by one of our members we have received funding for new seating! I can't actually remember when we installed the current seating, well over 20 years ago, and it was secondhand then! We will be looking for volunteers to help us remove them; look out for my posts on “What’s Happening Coromandel” on Facebook.

The other good news is that our production of Killer Boobs by Tim Hambleton is almost ready for enjoyment by our wonderfully supportive Coromandel audiences. See the advert on page 11 in this issue, for which we thank Debbie, the editor of this publication. A wonderful job as usual, Debbie!

In this play a breast cancer support group meets once a month in a small town community hall. Who would think that such a serious subject as breast cancer could provide humour? Humour and naughtiness are not what we usually associate with this topic and yet Dunedin-based playwright, Tim Hambleton, has done just that!

Killer Boobs concerns a small group of breast cancer-affected women in a small South Island town, who meet monthly to support each other during this gruelling time in their lives and to battle to get funding for life-saving drugs. Throw into this mix the relationships and secrets that each of these women has and the result is very entertaining theatre. These are real people with very real lives! Tickets at the Coromandel Town Information Centre. See you there!

Coromandel Arts Tour

Glenn Benmayer

Glenn is one of seven new artists in our 2024 Arts Tour. He and his wife moved here from their community-focused background in Australia five years ago, and bought a house that commands great views over Coromandel Harbour. His creativity has always driven him – a passion for design and exploring new ideas. From his outdoor studio he sculpts forms using natural stone, wood and steel, and also produces abstract and colourful ceramic art. A recent direction is exploring digital art. Glenn is an interesting and welcome addition to our local artists’ scene.



Glenn Benmayer and his artwork



Rose Dean

Rose Dean is a mixed media artist. In her school years she showed promise with her art, but then family life and farming saw her efforts channeled elsewhere. An interest in ceramics and pottery saw her teaching these disciplines for 18 years, but her early art talents were rekindled with oil and watercolour painting classes with well-known Waikato artists. A recent direction is pastels, but using oil painting techniques. Nature is her inspiration, with a focus on landscapes and animals. Now retired, much of her time is devoted to her art.

Rose holds an artist get together every Wednesday, 9am to noon at her Tiki Rd home. If you are interested in exploring a new art form, call Rose on 021 929 574.



Rose Dean and her artwork



Pastel Artists Coromandel

By Rosemarie Murphy

It has been pretty quiet in Coromandel lately. Our group has been meeting every Wednesday morning at Rose's Studio.

Everyone was quite keen to learn what Saskia, Rose and I had been taught at Tricia Reust's Workshop at the Convention so a couple of weeks ago we held a very condensed lesson of collage landscapes. Saskia talked about composition lessons from Tricia. We followed up with a hands-on lesson with binder, tissue paper and various bits and pieces, finishing with a coat of clear ground.

While that was drying I used "one I had prepared earlier" to demonstrate wet pastel for my background. I am very nervous about drawing in front of people but they all seemed to enjoy the morning.

A very big thank you and shout out to Tricia Reust.

Three of our members have signed up and been accepted in the Coromandel Arts Trail 2024 which will be held on the first two weekends in October. We will be able to use Rose's new gallery when it is completed to show off our pastel paintings. We are hard at work as we need to have at least 15 new works each to display.

We also have the Pastel Artists Coromandel annual Labour Weekend Exhibition in Hauraki House Gallery to prepare for.

We will be hosting Maxine Thompson at a workshop in pencil drawing in Coromandel on **Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November**. Anyone interested please email me at rmurph@actrix.co.nz.

Anyone who would like to see what we do with pastel is welcome to call in to Rose's Studio at 860 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town on Wednesdays between 9.00am and 12.00noon. Come and have a coffee with us.

Contact Saskia Riemersma 027 296 1670



Thames Music Group

Sunday Afternoon Concert – John Wells, organ and piano Sunday 4 August at 2pm at St George's Church, Thames.

General \$20, TMG members \$15, under 18's free; cash at the door only.

Educated at King's College Chapel and Indiana University, Dr John Wells was Auckland City Organist from 1998 to 2012. During this time, he spearheaded the project to rebuild the town hall organ. He recorded NZ's first organ CD in 1989 and has worked as a composer, teacher, broadcaster, recitalist and choral accompanist. He was Organ Tutor at Auckland University's School of Music from 1992 to 2012. From Bach's "cure" for a German aristocrat's insomnia to a celebration of the Treaty of Waitangi is typical of John Wells's well-known ability to put varied and engaging programmes together. The church's fine piano and organ will both feature in this concert.



John Wells

Free Friday lunchtime concert

Friday 23 August at 12.15pm. Thames High School students. Koha appreciated.

Thames High School has a range of very talented students who always draw a good audience at our free lunchtime concert. Bands, ensembles, vocalist and instrumentals will entertain you in the lunch hour. Hear our emerging talent.



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te taiao ENVIRONMENT

MEG

By Genevieve Morley

Vale Glenn

MEG is saddened to learn of the passing of one of our dedicated, volunteer trappers, Glenn Beattie. For many years, Glenn checked one of the steepest stoat lines above Coromandel township every month, enjoying the tough challenge. He has contributed greatly to the protection of our native fauna. We offer our condolences to his family and friends and know he will be missed by our community.

Dactylanthus

Have you seen an unusual looking flower growing out of tree roots on the forest floor? Brown outer with a cream-coloured center? Pua o te Reinga (flower of the underworld) is a rare native plant that grows on tree roots like a mushroom does, but it's a flowering plant not a fungus and it produces lots of nectar that our native insects, birds and bats feed upon. Unfortunately so do introduced pests like possums and rats, eating the whole inflorescence before it can set seed, and a once widespread plant is now only known in a few places in the country and only two spots on the Coromandel! Thanks to our Winter Lecture Speaker Avi Holzapfel from DOC we now know a lot more about Dactylanthus taylorii and we will be keeping an eye out for this fascinating plant. Check out the DOC website on dactylanthus to see some images and let us know if you find any on your walks or trappings!



Feral Cats

We've been camera monitoring in our MEGa Pest Attack forest sanctuary at Tangiaro/Port Charles and while we've seen lots of kiwi, and some of the regular pests like possums and pigs, this is the first time we've encountered a feral cat on the camera. Feral cats have a big home range. Some have been tracked covering 6km in one night. They are fitter and faster than domestic cats, can weigh up to 7kg and have a devastating impact on our birds, bird eggs, bats, wētā, frogs, lizards, geckos and insects. We have cat traps in place, but it is an ongoing battle to capture these wily, ferocious predators.

Seabirds Speaker on 4 August

Aotearoa is known as the "seabird capital of the world" and northern New Zealand, including the Hauraki Gulf, is a hotspot for seabird diversity. However, seabirds are often out of sight and the impacts of invasive species, fisheries, pollution, climate change, and human disturbance on their populations can be overlooked. Edin Whitehead is a passionate field-biologist and photographer and has worked on remote islands throughout Aotearoa, from the sub-tropics to the subantarctic region. She co-authored the book *The Brilliance of Birds* and she studied impacts of climate change on seabirds for her PhD. She is The Seabird Trust's Project Coordinator and we are thrilled she is coming to speak with us on **Sunday 4 August 5pm** at Pepper Tree Restaurant, Kapanga/Coromandel Town.

We'll have our raffle book there on the night for the prize of an AT220 self-resetting trap donated by NZAutoTraps tickets only \$5 (also available from the Coromandel Town Information Centre). We look forward to seeing you there.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to MEG for giving me the opportunity to be MEG's Communications Manager but due to work and family commitments it's time to step down. I am still dedicated to conservation though and so will continue to manage and promote MEG's backyard trapping project!

Remember to get in touch on info@meg.org.nz if you want to volunteer or become part of our team!

Poisoning for poisoning's sake

By John Veysey

In last month's issue of the Chronicle the local manager of the Department of Conservation (DOC), Nick Kelly, made a number of statements.

1. Papakai received 1080 drops in 2005 - 2009 - 2013 - 2017 and 2021. Kelly writes: "Papakai is on a three-yearly cycle."

2. Kelly states: "We monitor target predators such as possums prior to and after operations to assess the need for predator control." These monitoring results are usually published before the drop is announced. As yet, a month after the drops were due to start no possum monitoring results have been published.

3. In a letter DOC's National director, Ben Reddeix writes: "The planned possum monitoring will not be used to determine whether or not the operation will go ahead." On the one hand he emphasises the point that this 1080 drop is targeting possums and on the other he accepts that there aren't that many possums to worry about and his only justification for the drop is "What if a possum epidemic were to explode". As if the poisoning could make any difference either way!

4. Kelly did not mention one segment of the 1080 operation in which the DOC staff were physically involved. They watch. Through the blur of the National Predator Control Programme, "the department's staff 'directly oversee' work carried out by contractors."

5. Kelly points us at some long dead totara spars poking up through the canopy which he wants us to believe died from possum browse.

6. "Stringent safety measures are always implemented prior to our 1080 operations," says Kelly. Do the 1080 bait-loaders on the Coromandel wear proper protective dress?

7. "We work closely with landowners to identify water takes." I haven't heard from any riverside dweller who has received a visit like the one Kelly describes.

8. This stripping away of basic safety procedures may be a major part of how "The technology involved in 1080 operations has evolved."

9. Kelly adds that the only legal obligation DOC has is to make sure a notice appears in the local paper and even this job is now managed by the contractor.

DOC's poisons are spread around private land by the environmental groups and over public land by ECOFX. What is left for them to do?

Before DOC arrived the public land on the Coromandel was not in any danger from possums. Stoats were rarely seen. Myrtle rust was unheard of as was Kauri Dieback. The public tracks were all open, the camping grounds were free, the kiwi ran wild like all the other birds and everything in all of our forests was safe to eat or drink; not just for humans but for all the creatures who lived there.

Today we have more possums, rats, stoats and weasels, wild cats and ferrets and less birds and insects than ever we had before DOC arrived. The kiwi has become a very expensive zoo creature and the campsites cost. And all of our publicly-owned land and some of our privately-owned land has been covered in poison numerous times.

I'd say DOC's job is done here.

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hākinakina SPORT

Coromandel Croquet Club

By Raewyn McKinney

This month I want to acknowledge Sharon Whittle, who passed away back in May.

Sharon was a much respected and skilful member of the Coromandel Croquet Club for around ten years. Of course, as well as being a good croquet player, Sharon was also a fine artist. She very kindly designed and organised the sign on the Croquet Clubrooms. Sharon will long be remembered for her good-natured play, her great company and for her lovely baking, which I remember she brought for special morning teas, and, of course, for the sign.

Our sympathy goes out to her family.

We meet on Tuesdays for "association croquet" and Fridays for "golf croquet", both days at 9.45 am. We provide all of the equipment and a period of coaching before you need to commit to joining the club. Casual players are welcome to come along

for a payment of \$5 per day. Anyone who would like to try one or both forms of croquet can call Lyn on 027 466 2661 for more information.

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



Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club

Fish of the Month for June was John Dory – none weighed in so \$100 gone begging.

Yellowtail was the Junior Fish of the Month – well done to Troy Evans, 340gms who picked up \$20.

August Fish of the Month is kingfish for \$100 and piper for Juniors \$20 so head down to Coromandel Fish, Dive and Hunt or Salty Towers to weigh your catch in.

Make sure your membership fees are paid before you weigh your catch in

Membership fees for 2024-2025 season are now due. Adults \$40, Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$90, Individual child \$15, Gold card \$30.

Tournament dates 2024-2025 season

Lock these dates in:

Family Fun Day – Saturday 27 October

Xmas Party – Saturday 30 November

Members-only Competition – Saturday 30 November

Anniversary Weekend – Sunday 26 January 2025 (its all about the length)

Classy Chicks – Saturday 22 February 2025

Kids' Inner Harbour Comp – Saturday 26 April 2025

King's Birthday Comp – Sunday 1 June 2025

Coromandel Golf Club

By Marilyn MacKenzie



Ladies' Pennants Handicap Match Play – congratulations to the three equal winning teams, Coromandel, Tairua and Thames, sharing the Shona Delegates Trophy 2024. Our team members who played the competition were Peg McLean, Lynne Fenwick, Eugene Weimer, Glenise Robertson and Jenny Coatsworth. Another great effort for our ladies.

Our "Top Dog" men's competition ran over several weeks. Combined Stableford Matchplay. The final saw the winners reign supreme, Wiremu Watene and Norm Davies. What a wonderful achievement.

It's time to give a special shoutout to our wonderful course volunteers. Greens, fairways and rough volunteers work tirelessly on the course in all weather conditions. They put in an incredible amount of time and effort to ensure the course is always in the best possible condition for golf. Thank you each and every day.

The After School Junior Golf Programme is postponed until the wet course conditions improve.

Tuesday Ladies' Club Day 10am Tee Off.

Wednesday Men's Midweek Club Day 12.30pm Tee Off, Meatpack last Wednesday of the month.

Saturday Members' Club Day 12.30pm Tee Off.

Affiliated visitors welcomed to all club days.

For more information phone Marilyn 027 253 7882 or email coromandelgolfclub@gmail.com.

Happy golfing.



Coromandel Ladies' Pennant Team celebrating their success

Everyone knows the best place to go fishing is near a mussel farm

Please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe

- Keep 30 metres** from working mussel barges at all times
- Don't tie-up** to a line being worked on
- Never cast your line** towards a mussel barge – farmers have been injured from flying hooks and sinkers
- No anchors.** Tie-on to a longline buoy or use approved mooring hooks
- Minimise your speed and wake**
- Never drive across the lines**





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ALUMINIUM JOINERY MAINTENANCE Locks, handles, hinges, wheels. Call or text Mike, Coromandel Glass 027 661 0190.

BALLET CLASS FOR ADULTS. Venue: Coromandel Citizens' Hall, Wednesdays, 10am to 11.15am. \$15. Phone Marilyn Swan 027 336 5263. Registered Teacher and Life Member Royal Academy of Dance. SILVER SWANS LICENSEE. Visitors are welcome.

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

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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.

SITUATIONS VACANT

COROMANDEL TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE (CTIC): Part-time Vacant Position. • Are you passionate about the Coromandel? • Do you enjoy providing creative solutions? We are currently looking for an experienced Digital Marketing person to develop innovative strategies to promote the business, products and services we currently provide. An aspect of the position is also as customer service consultant. We support local businesses by promoting the upper Coromandel Peninsula and providing free information about their attractions, goods, and services. We have a strong community focus, support community organisations, and help residents find the information they need. The successful applicant must be available to work weekends and in the school holidays. A full position description can be obtained by emailing trustees@coromandeltown.nz. Applicants should email their curriculum vitae and cover letter to trustees@coromandeltown.nz by Wednesday 14 August 2024.

PERSONAL: WITH REMUNERATION via Vision West, caregiver needed to look after Uli while I am absent overseas, from nearly September until mid-December. Food and lodging provided in classic old villa. Also, to share care of our kitten Bruno. Contact Richard 027 373 4848.

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 Gym8am
 Coromandel Hikers' Group, Hauraki House, Murray Brown (07) 866 8602....9am
 Monday Walkers, Woollams Ave car park north end,
 Tracy and Peter Kendall 027 333 47229am
 Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am
 Rummikub at The Club..... 1-4pm
 Line dancing beginners class, Anglican Church Hall,
 Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 3-3.30pm
 Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341... 3.30-4.15pm
 Coro Superstars, a performing arts group for 6-13-yr-olds, Anglican Hall, contact
 Claire 021 653 650..... 5pm
 Bridge, St John rooms..... 7pm
 Taizé 4-part harmony singing, Sally 027 302 4245..... 7.30pm

Every Tuesday

Croquet Club – Association Croquet, Woollams Ave,
 Lyn 027 466 2661 9.45am-12.15pm
 Coro Walking Group, meet outside The Bizarre, Ruth 027 338 35459am
 Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$2
 Vickie 027 417 7077..... 10am
 Yoga for everyone, Colville Hall, Kate 021 125 315210am
 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
 Tai Chi, Waikato Events Centre (above the swimming pool),
 Christina 021 113 4768 4pm

Every Wednesday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am
 Meditation at Mahamudra..... 8.15-8.45am
 Pastel Artists Coromandel, Rose's Studio,
 contact Allan (07) 866 8053..... 9am-12pm
 Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am
 Ballet Class For Adults, Coromandel Citizens' Hall, \$15 per class.
 Marilyn 027 336 5263..... 10-11am
 Coromandel Home-school group, Julene 020 4060 8102 12.30pm

Every Thursday

Coro Walking Group, meet outside The Bizarre, Ruth 027 338 35459am
 Coro Art Group, Coro Flying Club, Lindsay (07) 866 7799..... 9am-12pm
 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
 Line dancing beginners class, Anglican Church Hall,
 Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 3-3.30pm
 Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 .. 3.30-4.15pm
 Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" 4.30pm
 Yin Yoga with Toni, Event Centre, \$10-\$20, Toni 020 4076 15265-6.15pm
 Recova 12-step addiction recovery meeting, 100 Pound St (orange house),
 Liz 027 436 2800 6-7pm
 Free drop-in Dharma talk or video at Mahamudra 7-8.30pm

Every Friday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am
 Coromandel Homegrown Market, Wharf Rd (summer only)..... 8.30am-12.30pm
 Community Gardens volunteer day 9am-12pm
 Yoga for everyone, Anglican Hall, Kate 021 125 3152.....9am
 Croquet Club – Golf Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 2661 9.45am-12.15pm
 Chess Club, Weta Cafe, Mike 027 304 92529.30am
 Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 9.45am-12.15pm
 Coromandel Bowling Club social evening at the Club 3.30-7pm
 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" 2pm

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

2nd Tues – Cancer Support Group, St John rooms
 John Walker 027 482 0435 10am

1st Wed – Coro Embroiderers' Guild, St John rooms,
 Helen Pearce (07) 866 8460. 10am-3pm

1st Wed – Lions dinner meeting (winter time), St John rooms.
 Sue Hughes 021 142 1124 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 (winter time), St John rooms.
 Sue Hughes 021 142 1124 6pm

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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Coromandel Town Chronicle

Calendar of events

Coromandel Town August 2024

Make sure your event gets listed

To get your event listed, email the details to Debbie at corochronicle@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 29.

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	<p>KEY</p> <p>● New moon ○ Full moon</p> <p>Tide times and heights from Land Information NZ and are for Coromandel Harbour: For Thames times - 15min High and - 18min Low.</p> <p>Rubbish and recycling collection for Coromandel Town (CT), Te Koura (TK), Manuka (MN), Coromandel Rural North (RN), and Thames Coast (TC)</p> <p> Put red lid rubbish bin and food scrap bin out</p> <p> Put recycling bin (plastic 1, 2 & 5 tins, paper, card), glass recycling bin and food scrap bin out</p>						
	<p>COROMANDEL RUBBISH AND RECYCLING TRANSFER STATION</p> <p>Daily 8:30am - 4:30pm (winter hours)</p>						
5	High tide 7:32am (2.6m), 7:52pm (2.8m) Low tide 1:17am (0.4m), 1:32pm (0.3m)	6	7	1	2	3	4
		Open Floor Dance and Worthily Group Meditation at Mana (see pg 18)	Star & Garter Quiz nights start (see ad pg 23)	Te Tupua - The Goblin at Hauraki House (see pg 6 & pg 24)	Mid Winter relaxation retreat starts at Mana (see ad pg 18)	Car Boot Sale Wooliams Ave Carpark 9am to 12 noon (see pg 20)	Thames Music Group Sunday afternoon concert - John Wells, organ and piano (see pg 25) MEG Winter lecture, speaker Edin Whitehead (see pg 26) The Terminator screening in Whitianga (see pg 13)
12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11
				Silent meditation retreat starts at Mana (see ad pg 18)	A weekend of flow starts at Mana (see ad pg 18) Killer Boobs play (see ad pg 11)	Killer Boobs play (see ad pg 11)	Car Club Car Run (see pg 12)
High tide 12:11pm (2.4m) Low tide 5:56am (0.5m), 6:14pm (0.9m)	High tide 12:27am (2.4m), 12:59pm (2.3m) Low tide 5:43am (0.6m), 7:06pm (0.7m)	High tide 1:13am (2.4m), 1:54pm (2.3m) Low tide 7:29am (0.9m), 8:03pm (0.8m)	High tide 2:04am (2.3m), 2:56pm (2.3m) Low tide 8:28am (0.6m), 9:09pm (0.7m)	High tide 9:36am (2.6m), 9:50pm (2.7m) Low tide 3:22am (0.4m), 3:30pm (0.3m)	High tide 10:13am (2.6m), 10:27pm (2.6m) Low tide 4am (0.4m), 4:07pm (0.4m)	High tide 10:50am (2.5m), 11:05pm (2.6m) Low tide 4:38am (0.4m), 4:47pm (0.5m)	High tide 11:28am (2.4m), 11:45pm (2.5m) Low tide 5:16am (0.5m), 5:28pm (0.5m)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	DEADLINE: Coromandel Town Chronicle September Issue			Winter relax and wellness starts at Mana (see ad pg 18) Killer Boobs play (see ad pg 11) Thames Music Group Friday Free Lunchtime Concert - Thames High School students (see pg 25)	Killer Boobs play (see ad pg 11)	Mystical Duet Meditative Concert at Mana (see pg 18) Killer Boobs play (see ad pg 11)	
High tide 6:06am (2.6m), 6:40pm (2.9m) Low tide 12:19pm (0.2m)	High tide 7:01am (2.8m), 7:30pm (3.0m) Low tide 12:46am (0.2m), 1:09pm (0m)	High tide 7:55am (2.9m), 8:19pm (3.1m) Low tide 1:37am (0m), 1:58pm (-0.1m)	High tide 8:43am (3.0m), 9:08pm (3.2m) Low tide 2:28am (-0.1m), 2:46pm (-0.1m)	High tide 9:32am (3.1m), 9:56pm (3.1m) Low tide 3:17am (-0.1m), 3:35pm (-0.1m)	High tide 10:21am (3.0m), 10:49pm (3.0m) Low tide 4:07am (-0.1m), 4:26pm (0m)	High tide 11:12am (2.9m), 11:41pm (2.9m) Low tide 4:57am (-0.1m), 5:19pm (0.1m)	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
High tide 12:05pm (2.8m) Low tide 5:48am (0m), 6:16pm (0.3m)	High tide 12:24am (2.8m), 1:03pm (2.6m) Low tide 6:43am (0.2m), 7:17pm (0.4m)	High tide 1:31am (2.6m), 2:05pm (2.5m) Low tide 7:41am (0.3m), 8:22pm (0.5m)	High tide 2:31am (2.5m), 3:11pm (2.5m) Low tide 8:44am (0.4m), 9:27pm (0.6m)	High tide 3:33am (2.4m), 4:13pm (2.5m) Low tide 9:48am (0.5m), 10:27pm (0.6m)	High tide 4:35am (2.4m), 5:10pm (2.5m) Low tide 10:49am (0.4m), 11:22pm (0.5m)		

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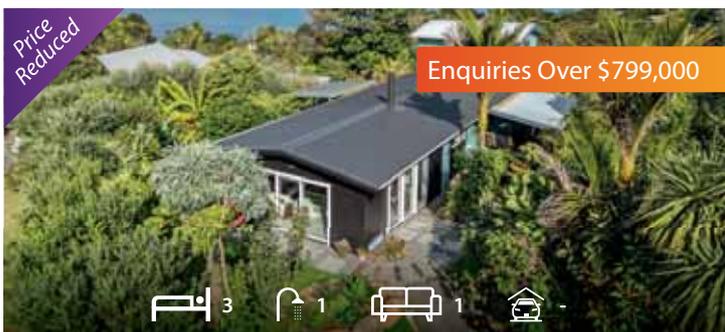
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