

May 2023
Volume 27 Issue 5

Coromandel Town Chronicle

FREE
Community Magazine

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Building back better



Car meet PG 10



STEM PG 14



Fishing PG 27



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Cover photo: Coastal track between Long Bay and Tucks Bay. Photo courtesy of Rosemary Stone

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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.

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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

You may have read my article on the April issue of the Chronicle about the state of the roads. After that issue went to print I met with Transport Minister Michael Wood and Mayor Len Salt. The Minister and Mayor had just finished having meetings with a local advisory group and with local business owners to get their thoughts and have "constructive discussion". Minister Michael Wood said that the focus is on SH25A at the moment. In May they plan to have worked out the best option for reinstating the road and then construction will start and it is expected to take 12 months from making the decision to complete the build.

I asked both about the fragile state of SH25 – including the slumps on the hills north and south of Manaia. Len Salt said that the fragility of the roads keeps him awake at night, but that he feels they are making progress. He said he is having daily discussions with Waka Kotahi. At the time I spoke to him he said there were 27 major issues on SH25 and 144 issues on council roads, so you can see the size of the task ahead for Waka Kotahi and council.

The latest update from NZTA: SH25 will be closed over seven week nights for urgent work to repair and reseal the road at Kereta hill. Daytime sealing works will also be required. Work is weather dependent. Closed night from 8pm-5am (open 1hr at 11pm to let traffic through): Nights of Sunday 30 April, Monday 1, Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3, Thursday 4 May. Daytime closures 11am-12pm: Tuesday 2 May and Friday 5 May.

Debbie

..... Letters

Dear Editor,

I have mentioned in the past that our town is overplanted with huge poplars. I visit the Memorial Forest in Hauraki Road quite often and have noticed two of these monsters have been undermined by the stream making it highly likely a good blow will bring them down. This in turn could dam the stream and flood The Memorial Forest and the flat land opposite. A lot of problems recently encountered on our local roads have been caused by blocked drains and culverts, etc. I remember when I was very young a council grader driver towed his caravan and camped on the job. Imagine that today. This, I might add, was at Port Charles. Later we had a road man, then a group of guys arriving 10ish, smoko time, then knock off 3pm to get back to the depot. How things have changed and mostly not for the best.

Cheers,
Pat Williams

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Building back better



The track is now smooth and gravelled

The coastal track between Long Bay and Tucks Bay has recently been repaired and enhanced. Drainage channels have been added, the track widened and gravelled, steps and obstacles removed, meaning it is now possible to easily wheel a pram.

Nice job, TCDC!



The majestic nikau near Tucks Bay has been conserved. You can still give it a hug as you walk past!



New drains will help preserve the track in heavy rain

PHOTOS BY ROSEMARY STONE

Coromandel Town Information Centre

By Lynne Fenwick



With Marsh home for a week's holiday, we had several things to tick off on our must do list: the new Three Seas Walk at the top of the peninsula, and fishing.

The walk came first with us driving through to Colville for the first time since the cyclone. The roads to the top of the peninsula are all in good condition, just a little more care needs to be taken with one-way sections to navigate.

We met up with Gavin and Leanne from Hike & Bike at 8.30am, and two overseas tourists from Alaska. With our gear stowed and bikes on the trailer, we were off. With the Coastal Walk closed due to the cyclone we were walking the new Three Seas Walk. The first part was a well-formed path across farmland. Gavin met us at the top to check we were and happy to keep walking to our morning tea stop at Port Jackson where we chatted to a couple of bikies packing up to head back down to Coromandel Town and two young ladies asked if there was anywhere to hire kayaks.

We set off again to walk the entire length of Port Jackson Beach and then up and onto the Murawai Walk. We took our time as this was a little steeper but the stunning views as we climbed gave us plenty of opportunities to stop and take photos. Gavin was again waiting for us, and we all chose to drive into Fletcher Bay for our lunch stop. With the DOC campgrounds all closed it was good to be able to see first-hand that the beaches to the north had not suffered too much damage and DOC campgrounds should all be open soon for everyone to enjoy again.

Off again and up and out of Fletcher Bay to where Gavin unloaded and set up the bikes for the three riders biking back to Colville. I have it from the very best authority that it was fantastic, and with electric bikes everyone arrived back around the same time. The flexibility of using Hike & Bike to do this walk allows you to walk it, bike it, or to travel in the van at any stage of the trip.

Two days later we were off with Snapper Safaris. I have never been down the Firth of Thames by boat, and it is stunning from the water looking back at the hills. A great day's fishing, the boat was filled with three families with fierce competition between the children for the biggest and most fish.

If you would like any information on these tours and the many others we have, call in and pick up brochures. It's a great time to invite family and friends to come and stay. We also offer gift vouchers, making wonderful presents.

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Coromandel Lions

By Mary Farmer, President



Hello everyone, I do hope you all had an enjoyable Easter weekend, plenty of fun and just enough chocolate eggs to make scales not feared!

As you will have seen, a group of the Coromandel Lions were once more selling our mussel fritters outside the Four Square (many thanks to Chris and the team).

We were all sold out by 11.30am, and even I missed out on tasting them as I had visitors from the UK with me and missed the treat by an hour. Nevermind my friends said just another reason to return, so they



Three of our members at the dinner meeting plus Judy Bronlund from the museum

have booked my spare bedroom for the Keltic Fair next January.

The crew had a truckload of our firewood on show. This was being raffled on the day and another day allowing us to make the most of your generosity.

The draw will take place on 19 April at our business meeting, and the lucky winner notified by phone.

On the subject of raffles, you will remember our Christmas one, of which the monies were donated to the Coromandel Museum. Well, at our April dinner meeting Judy Bronlund, visited and gave the club a very interesting talk on the procedure and the hard work involved in getting the new building in place.

The picture (left) shows Judy with Logan Nicholls and Noeline Martyn, who did the work to make the raffle the success it was. Also in the picture is vice president Paul McKenzie. There were many more members who did a lot behind the scenes to get things rolling; thanks to you all.

I'm pleased to say that wood deliveries are in full swing (time and weather permitting). So if you are waiting for our call, just be patient and get those wood stores ready. If we miss you we will still keep you on our list. Never fear, you won't miss your place.

So I've reached the end of this monthly Lion's newsletter. I hope you enjoyed reading, and if you would like to learn more about what we do, our contact details are printed at the foot of this article.

Stay well, safe and remember chat to your neighbour.

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

Coromandel Contract Bridge Club

By Judy Bronlund

We have been able to play one of the Club competitions and are hopeful of playing more in the future. Visitors and new members are welcome to join us. Please let Jan know if you are able to join us or if you need a partner. We play on Monday evenings at the St John rooms.

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

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Museum News

By Raewyn McKinney

Activity at the museum is starting to slow down with the colder months approaching. As I write this, our dairy project is nearing completion and should be finished by the time this Chronicle is published. We are very pleased to see this project reach completion and thank everyone involved. Regan has done a wonderful job coordinating the work and coped well with delays caused by the weather. Thanks go to Geoff, who kindly cleaned and painted the top of the dairy building. We also thank the Lions Club for donating the proceeds of their raffle. They also shared a wonderful meal with Judy, when she went to talk to them about our project. We thank the Lions Club very much for their donation, and their continued support of the museum.



With the colder weather upon us, opening hours at the museum will be reduced, so I take the opportunity to thank the people who have kept the doors open over the summer, especially Judy and Joana who have tirelessly opened the museum all day over every weekend. We are very lucky to have such dedicated volunteers.

This month I have a couple of news articles that give a taste of life in Coromandel in the early days.

From "Thames Guardian and Mining Record" 16 May 1872:

"A meeting of Freemasons was held last evening at Mr Boyd's Coromandel Hotel, which was largely attended, and at which Mr. D. Graham presided. It was decided that the Lodge should be held at Boyd's Hotel for the next six months. The following officers were then appointed: Worshipful Master, Jackson Keddell; Senior Warden, T. Kennan; Junior Warden, Ingham Stevens; Senior Deacon, J Cheshire; Junior Deacon, F. O'Brien; Secretary, R. Wylde Browne; Treasurer, Alexander Aitken; Inner Guard, A. C. Haymes. Thirteen Master Masons signed the petition for the establishment of a Lodge of Instruction, which is to be forwarded at once. - Herald.

The 'Coromandel Mail' says that a sad accident occurred on Sunday evening to a man named George Mason, which tends more than anything which has lately happened on this goldfield to prove the absolute necessity

of at once providing hospital accommodation. The unfortunate man had been engaged to work for the Bismarck Gold Mining Company, and while walking in the vicinity of the Tokatea Saddle, had the misfortune to slip down a steep bank a distance of nine or ten feet, breaking his left leg above the ankle, and injuring the other. Dr Payne was sent for, and set the bone, and the sufferer was carried into town on a stretcher by a number of his mates, and taken to Jones' Hotel, where he now lies."

From "Thames Guardian and Mining Record" 27 May 1872:

"Coromandel Races. Second Day
We learn that the second day's races at Coromandel were very successful, and some very good sport was obtained. As will be seen below, the victor of the great race of the first day- the Queen's Birthday Grand Handicap - had to succumb to the Marquis, who ran second to him in that race. This result seems to have upset the calculations of the knowing ones to a considerable extent; but perhaps the weight was too much for the favourite, for besides having to give Marquis 24lbs in the handicap, the Flying Jib had to carry 71bs extra as penalty for winning the race on the first day, thus making a difference of 2st 31bs, which tells up in a two-miles gallop."

During May, the museum will be open on weekends, and Thursdays only

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CONDITIONS APPLY

Ann's Good News, Naturally

Don't remove your gallbladder!

The gallbladder is an essential part of your digestive tract. In fact, it is an essential part of your total health, and is necessary to store bile, which is produced by your liver.



The gallbladder is a small, pear-shaped sack hanging between the lobes of your liver. Bile drains down a tube, or duct, to be stored in your gallbladder. Bile is composed of essential cholesterol, bile salts, lecithin and other substances.

Pancreas involvement – Bile is like soap suds that break down or emulsify fats from your meal into smaller particles, to allow the pancreas to release an enzyme called lipase for best fat absorption. With no gallbladder, be mindful to prevent pancreatitis or cancer.

Bile is essential for the digestion of fats. You need fat for sex hormones, cholesterol regulation, cell membrane – quality and efficiency of every cell wall. Without fats, you may be susceptible to viruses and cell damage. Maintain correct amounts of testosterone, balance oestrogens, and for cortisol to control inflammation and more.

Extracts fat-soluble vitamins from your food – D.E.K.A. So, for example, vitamin A for dry itchy skin, sinus, eye issues such as dryness, irritation, glaucoma, night vision. Vitamin D for bone pain and weaknesses. Vitamin E for heart, hormones, low libido and more. Vitamin K if experiencing bruising and to carry calcium into the soft tissues and out of the arteries.

Inflammation of the gallbladder and gallstones are preventable. Gallstones cause partial or complete blockage of flow of bile, creating severe pain and hospitalisation.

It's also for blood sugar regulation, kills bad bugs, corrects body alkalinity/pH.

Surgery to remove the gallbladder is one of the most common elective surgeries, however it does not address the real cause of gallstones, or gallbladder disease – it is irresponsible dietary choices over the years preceding symptoms appearing.

What goes wrong after your gallbladder has gone?

When you eat (ideally the good, essential-fat foods), you need less of the bile to digest food because it is very concentrated. However, a lack

of bile salts, causing difficulty in absorbing fats, leads to:

- Digestive insufficiency – Bloating, indigestion, gas, burping, nausea
- Constipation, diarrhoea – Bile lubricates the colon. So, with too little bile you can get constipated, or if too much bile due to the duct opening too large, diarrhoea.
- Injury to bile ducts
- Bile leakage, leading to serious complications
- Red blood cell damage
- Infection and continued symptoms – jaundice – Bile takes a by-product of your red blood cell, bilyrubin, and helps to eliminate from the body. A backflow of bilirubin into the liver can cause yellowing of the skin or eyes.
- Hypothyroidism – Your body has certain enzymes to convert T4, the inactive form of your thyroid hormone, to the active form T3. Bile is required to trigger this conversion.
- Right shoulder tightness. A backup of bile due to blocked ducts causes pressure and irritation in your liver, tightness under right ribs, then referred pain in your right shoulder and up your neck.

What to do

The liver and gallbladder are the emotional seats of irritability and suppressed anger. The expression shitty livered may suit you. If you are experiencing these issues, I can help.

We are all unique. I can have six people come into my clinic all presenting with the same symptoms, but their treatment can be extremely varied.

Prevention is best, however, when need be. I am proud to have successfully treated many people over the years for liver and gallbladder health issues, drawing on my years of common-sense medicine to also educate, and support when required.

Mineral imbalances? www.activeelements.com, username 259077, password 579819.

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Ann Kerr-Bell

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Adv.Dip.Med.Herb. MNZAMH

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In the Shadowed Hours

By John Irvine

anxiety fills my awakening
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Patchwork and Quilters

By Sue Smith

What a lovely time of the year. Autumn signals the start of cooler days and nights and our sewing rooms get well used as winter heads our way. It's been a busy time for our group.

Early March we had one of our members show us how to make a Braid Table Runner. A big thank you to Judy Russell for her time and effort. Quite a few of our members participated in this and we have some wonderful table runners for our tables and some for gifts to our friends and family.

25 March was our Annual Big Day Out. Eleven of us attended the Matamata "Colour My World" Quilt and Fabric Art Exhibition. Such great work and well presented. A real credit to those involved. We came away with ideas and inspiration.

Beginning of April was the start of something big. Most of our group are working on a project together. All will be revealed later in the year.

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

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

Mahi Tika – Equity in Employment programme

Launched in 2020 by Disabled Persons Assembly, Mahi Tika – Equity in Employment programme has been delivered across Waikato coming up to two years. The programme that was designed to increase opportunities for disabled people continues to provide disabled people across the Waikato region with the opportunity to join together with other disabled job seekers to participate in workshops that build employment skills and the confidence to apply for jobs. The core delivery is through one-on-one mentoring by Kaitiaki/Enhancers who build trust through individual mentoring sessions and support participants on their individual journeys.

Due to the changing Covid-19 landscape the mode of delivery has shifted to online. With the programme operating solely online and the underspend in the areas of travel and catering, Mahi Tika – Equity in Employment programme is now expected to run until June 2023.

Mahi Tika – Equity in Employment is currently recruiting for the next intake of Waikato-based participants to join the programme, with workshops and mentoring taking place online and is welcoming applications from anyone who identifies as disabled, is based in Waikato, and is looking for work.

The programme is possible thanks to the support of Trust Waikato – Te Puna o Waikato and the Kānoia Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

For more information visit www.mahitika.org.nz or contact www.mahitika@dpa.org.nz


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Walter

Coromandel Grey Power



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

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

John, our President, has offered to open the CCC Bar after the meeting for the purchase of a beverage along with a light afternoon tea that will be provided. Please RSVP by **Monday 1 May** for catering purposes, to any of the committee members shown below.

Please join us!

John Gaffikin-Cowan – johngaffikin-cowan@hotmail.com, 021 139 0189.
 Patricia – patricia@prosystems.co.nz, 027 498 5227. Carol – carolcarson@xtra.co.nz, 021 0816 6129

Thames Animal Rescue

By Alice and John Parris

Firstly our thank mews to everyone who has supported us and donated items of food, sachets, tins, biscuits to the rescue kitties. This is a huge help to us and we are truly grateful for these donations. We had a lovely donation of food and a financial blessing left in our letterbox for which the cats say thank mew to that person.

The last month has been another month of human in slow recovery, being more cat than human – sleeping and resting most of the day. For me personally I find it a total waste not to get up and do everything I used to do, but it is something I have had to accept with how I am now.

We had a call from a Waihi colleague who knew of what happened to our beloved Wiki boy. She had an incoming rescue of ten-week-old kittens. They were wary of children and men because the kittens had been hassled and pestered persistently by a five-year-old boy. In that litter of kittens one was a black boy that I said I would be interested in meeting. So I spent a morning in Waihi and we were offered two torties to handle, but we said we could cope right now with that one to start with and he had big big boots to fill.

We have a melodious way of greeting our cats “heeeeeee llllooooooo” which we have taught almost all of them. It took this kitten three days to get the hang of it, scaring both of us at how quick he was to pick it up. He is both a smoochy kissy cuddly boy then next a rambunctious little brat on hyper speed. I have my hands totally full with this one. He is most playful and loves anything that has a bell attached, which is useful as he comes when you rattle it, making it easier to catch the little dear. He is also learning there is fun and life outside the walls of the bedroom which we don’t appreciate but the bell works and he does return only to race off after Kera or Lizzie, who absolutely detests this newbie to the max to the extent she will growl nonstop. She watches this kitten bounce up and down, her head going up and down while watching him, which makes for highly entertaining viewing for humans; such are the joys of newbies. In time this will all settle down (we hope). It took over twenty names we came up with to return to the first one I gave him – Walter, or Wally for short – as that is exactly what he is, a total and utter wally and acts and behaves like one.

Kera – she is on mouse patrol. She hasn’t yet caught anything but is highly aware of where these pests are. She is learning and no doubt in time will catch that first prized mouse. I see her as a mouser in training right now and an asset to whomever adopts our girl. She does need a quiet, more rural lifestyle.

Our other rescue furbabies are comfy and content and enjoying raw meat and raw chicken, two more luxury foods, but when reduced at supermarket the prices are cheaper than cat food in cans or sachets and they love the raw, so these specials are a winner for us.

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

Meow furr now.

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



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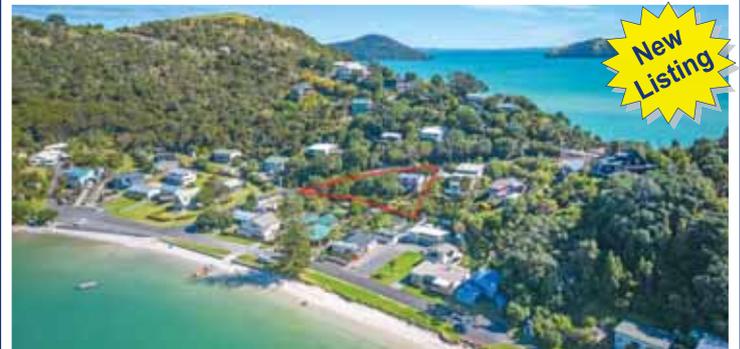
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A wonderful valley retreat at stunning Waitete Bay. Comprising 4Ha of utter privacy with majestic native and specimen trees. The cosy cottage features 2 brms, open-plan lounge/dining with fireplace and, great decking. Your haven! **Deadline Sale closes 4pm 18/05/23 (Unless Sold Prior)**



New Listing

Location is important when purchasing real estate and, this well-presented property certainly has that! The 612m2 corner section offers good privacy with trees/fencing. The home features open-plan living, extensive decking, 3 brms, 2 bathrooms and a large garage. **\$805,000**



New Listing

The views and the setting at Wyuna Bay will absolutely entice! The 1,140m2 section allows plenty of area for the children to play, plus a separate shed for your boat. The Lockwood home features open-plan living, 4 brms, bathroom, garage and two full length decks. **\$1,375,000**



- * Construction is well underway
- * Brand new 3 brm brick home
- * 2 bathrooms, open-plan living
- * Large garage, concrete patio
- * Well fenced for privacy
- * **\$835,000**



- * Immaculate 2 brm brick home
- * Open-plan living, private deck
- * Landscaped section, vege box
- * Garage, great garden sheds
- * Set in Elizabeth Park Village
- * **\$650,000**



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



- * Imagine waking to this view!!!
- * Massive open-plan living areas
- * 3 brms, 3 bathrooms, decking
- * Very private 4,527m2 section
- * 2 huge garages + large carport
- * **\$1,650,000**



- * On the foothills behind town
- * Private 1.0119Ha bush block
- * Lrg portion with QEII covenant
- * Driveway and building area
- * Distant Hauraki Gulf views
- * **\$455,000**



- * Set on the greenbelt of town
- * 921m2 section in lawn/trees
- * Northerly aspect, fully serviced
- * Title issued... start planning!
- * Adjacent section also available
- * **\$475,000**



SOLD

SOLD

SOLD



Combined Clubs of Coromandel

cuddles. She commanded the Greens whether bowls was being played or not. Unfortunately, Ernie succumbed to old age this month and was farewelled on Friday 14 March with a headstone, unveiled at the Club in one of her favourite sunny spots.



Ernie's headstone

As we head to closing day on **Thursday 4 May**, a big thank you must go out to all of the volunteers who keep lawn bowls thriving and a big part of Coromandel sporting activity. Remember, the Club is still open on Friday evenings for social get togethers and company over the winter. See you there!;

Coromandel Car Club

By Bruce Finn

The Whitianga Beach Meet on Easter Sunday was a great day, raising over \$8,000 from raffles, entry fees, auction, products etc. Our members who attended were very impressed with the organisation, and as we are running our own Car Fair again next year, we hope to equal or better the success of the Whitianga event. Our plans are already in the pipeline, so watch this space!

On **Saturday 6 May** a car auction is being held in Te Aroha – Ford fans need to be there. On **Sunday 14 May** the Waihi RSA are running a Car Day Out plus lunch. The Waikato Mustang Club will also be in attendance, so make a note of these dates and let me know how many of our Club will be interested in attending these events.



Whitianga Beach Meet

Coromandel Bowling Club

By Linda Lindsay, secretary

As the season winds down to closing day we are still very busy on the bowling front. Despite the vagaries of the weather we have successfully completed another Twilight Bowls Competition, the Pepper Tree Bar and Restaurant Open Optional Triples, and held the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Championships in the last month as well as our weekly Club Days.

Past members Graeme and Irene Goss and their team from Mercury Bay Club took out the Pepper Tree Tournament with the Coromandel team of Reg, Roger and John as runners-up.

The Twilight Bowls Competition struggled with the Tuesday evening rain but was concluded with the usual festivities and generous prizes from the table. The community spirit engendered by this twice-yearly competition cannot be underestimated. I was even asked when the next round would be starting the other night!

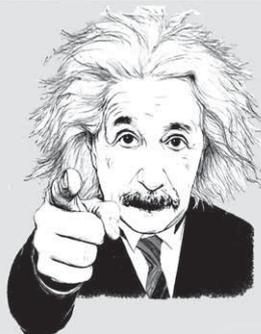
The Thames Valley Secondary Schools Bowling Trophy was contested by sixteen teams from all over the Valley with Waihi College emerging the victors over Coromandel Area School. A challenging day for bowlers and organisers alike, with lots of skills on show. This is a regular feature on our calendar.

Fourteen years ago, while a presentation to the groundsman of that time, Ernie Groucott, was taking place, a cat wandered into the Clubrooms and took up residence. Of course he, later found to be a she, was named Ernie. She became a well-known figure at the Club, well fed and cared for with frequent pats and



Waihi College team winners Secondary Schools Competition

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Coromandel Peninsula

RSA Coromandel

Roba ika a-whiro – experienced warrior, war veteran, old hand

By Gary Pettett

RSA National Office Chief Executive Major General Martyn Dunne has received the Medal of Merit of Timor-Leste in recognition of his significant contribution to peace and stability in that country. He is now working to ensure that NZ service personnel get the recognition and support they deserve.

There are 182 local RSA branches in New Zealand with over 102,000 members, with each entity managed by their own executive while united with the RNZRSA in strategic vision and values. It is estimated that there are 140,000 living veterans with over 60,000 having been created since 1990. The non-governmental organisation supports not only returned service personnel but also all members of their whanau.

By the time you read this, Poppy Day will have been celebrated on the Friday before ANZAC day – Tuesday 25 April. Our heartfelt thanks go to the members who sold the poppies at the street stall on that day and those who contributed in any other way. On Anzac Day itself we will have our veterans marching to the Cenotaph and with members of the public paying their respects and laying wreaths in remembrance of the fallen. Refreshments will then be enjoyed at the Club afterwards. Our thanks go to Lyn Williams and Alan Stewart, who acted as co-ordinators for the event as our President Stoney was unable to participate owing to his health issues. Recognition is also given to the rest of the team for their input in ensuring the day went without a hitch.

On **Saturday 6 May** a Coronation Party will be held at the Club from 4pm to 8pm. This will be similar to our recent St. Patrick’s night do, with live band “Bits and Pieces”, raffles and light supper, so dress up in your tiaras, crowns, ermine trimmed cloaks and anything else royal! Come and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. No entry fee, just a small supper charge.

Tuesday 9 May sees the return of the ever popular, fortnightly Quiz Nights. John Gaffikin-Cowan will be away on his cruise, and we are welcoming Geoff back to set the entertaining rounds with Maureen as co-host. Bar opens at 6pm. Light supper available, Quiz runs from 7-9pm. Get your team of four ready and book your table in advance. Look forward to seeing you all back again.

Coromandel Community Garden

By Rachel Benmayor

Autumn is well on the way and the garden is being planted for winter crops – cabbage, broccoli, spinach, beetroot, silver beet, leeks, cauliflower, rocket and various other greens. The spare gardens will be put to bed for winter. We are on the lookout for wood mulch – anything except for privet or pine. Please get in touch with us if you know how we can get our hands on some.

The garden’s usual supply of mandarins and lemons will be reduced this year due to the storms knocking off a lot of the blossoms. The apricots and peaches and plums were severely affected by the heavy rains, however we had a good crop of Chilean guavas. Currently we have apples and rhubarb, rocket and a little spinach available.

There are currently only three of us managing the gardens so anyone willing to give a hand on Friday mornings 9am till 12pm, please swing by!

Any donations of seeds, seedlings and gardening tools (ours are old and shabby) would be greatly appreciated.

The Community Garden is located next to Hauraki House. Garden coordinator is Rachel 022 410 7227



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- Elizabeth Bouman, Otago Daily Times



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Tickets \$25 from Coromandel Town Information Centre

Hon Scott Simpson MP For Coromandel



Anzac Day is time to reflect and acknowledge the sacrifices that have been made by generations of servicemen and women and those who experienced war on the home front. By the time you read this I will have attended services in Paeroa and Whangamata. It's always heartening to see people come together and share stories about their connection to our country's military service. Lest We Forget.

In other news, we had a couple of long weekend public holidays and school holidays in April which provided a welcome boost and flow of visitors to our region. But as we head toward winter it's going to be a struggle to keep the momentum going. Yes, some are benefiting from changed traffic flows and I know of businesses in Coromandel Town that have noticed more people stopping off as they travel to Whitianga and the east coast of the Peninsula. These are challenges for communities on that side of the Coromandel and for a number of businesses, the situation is grim. The continued closure of SH25A is forcing them to make difficult decisions and I fear some will simply not make it through the winter.

After meeting with central and local government officials, I'm not feeling they have a sense of urgency to get our communities reconnected. The vague timeline of 9-12 months to get SH25A re-opened isn't good enough and everything possible needs to be done to get work done by Christmas.

My feeling from government is that they simply don't understand the Coromandel or the hurt that our communities are experiencing. People have been very patient and have understood that time was needed to do some initial repairs and analysis, but patience is wearing thin and we're starting to see people increasingly angry with the response and slow decision-making.

The Coromandel is open for business, but we need SH25A repaired as soon as possible to help our economy recover from a lost summer trading period.

I make no apology for pushing NZTA, the current government and our Council to get things done more quickly.

Hot Spot – News from the Coromandel Volunteer Fire brigade

By Rob Chappell

Recent callouts have included assisting police, truck brakes on fire, bush fire, motor vehicle accident, car fire, truck vs car, car rolled no persons trapped, car rolled persons trapped, and a cat stuck in a wall! We get all sorts!

Having had such a wonderful, safe quiet summer where even Cyclone Gabrielle gave us little grief compared to much of the rest of the North Island (Te Ika a Maui), what it has changed has been the traffic and state of our roads. Regrettably, our local SH25 and TCDC roads were never designed for the traffic loading and number and size of vehicles currently, and for the foreseeable future, using this lone access to the eastern side of the peninsula. The sudden increase in callouts is a direct reflection on the queues of traffic now constantly loading these roads and the state of the roads is reflecting the same, with significant sections of road slumping and falling away. Ironically, these areas have been showing issues for many years but only now are coming to the forefront.

On the positive, last month we had cause for great celebration with two of our team, Senior Station Officer Darren Walker and Senior Fire Fighter Steve Bolton, both gaining recognition for 25 years of loyal service. Two years of



Covid restrictions had resulted in these medals being significantly late in their celebrating. We are fortunate in Coromandel to have such skilled and long-staying members remain with our Brigade. Both were awarded Gold Stars by the Brigade along with recognition from TCDC and the wider national Fire and Emergency.

Darren, a local builder and shop owner, has served much of his time in Coromandel, gaining the rank of Senior Station Officer, but has also contributed widely to other brigades on the peninsula including Thames, Matarangi and Whitianga in both a permanent and volunteer capacity. For many years Darren has been heavily involved with a number of the peninsula's Crash Rescue Competition teams both as a competitor and a trainer, rising with these teams to compete on the international stage.

Steve, on the other hand, has spent his entire 25 years as a member of the Coromandel Brigade, gaining the rank of Station Officer and more recently Senior Fire Fighter. Steve's skills are wide over many years working for DoC, but best known in the fire world for his management of forest fires. This was highlighted during these celebrations when Steve was also awarded a medal from the Australian government for his involvement in fighting a number of fires in Australia over recent years.

All medals were presented by former Chief Fire Officer Merv George of Whitianga.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



May 2023

Business Recovery Grants Allocated

We're continuing to work our way through recovery since the extreme weather events earlier in the year.

Payments to successful applicants to the **Business Recovery Grants Fund** have now been made. The government allocated our district \$3.8 million to distribute for the Waikato region and this has all been paid out. More than 90 per cent of the applications were from businesses within our district.

"The fact that we had applications totalling \$10.8 million for \$3.8 million of central government support indicates the level of need in the region," says our Mayor Len Salt.

We received 528 applications, of which the Independent Advisory Panel approved 396. 132 applicants were unsuccessful and have been notified of alternative support options.

"Transport and Coromandel Cyclone Recovery Minister Michael Wood has heard loud and clear from not just our Council but from business operators and



members of the community that the need for government support has not ended, and in his visit here recently he committed to more support for businesses to get through until SH25A is restored.

"As he is the Cyclone Recovery Minister for the Coromandel he will be visiting our district again soon, and we will continue to remind him of the ongoing economic impact we're experiencing," says Mayor Len.

Council to deliberate on draft Annual Plan

Thanks to everyone in the community who provided feedback on our draft Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year beginning 1 July.

We had more than 180 submissions. Our Mayor Len Salt and Councillors will now meet on 17 May to deliberate on all the submissions in order to shape the final Annual Plan. Our Council then adopts the Annual Plan at its 27 June meeting.

We asked for feedback on deferring some projects, like the Pollen Street underground infrastructure renewal in Thames, and cutting some operational spending to make room in our budgets for storm recovery work. We also asked for your thoughts on pricing options for the new rubbish wheelie bins and food waste caddies that will form part of the Kerbside solid waste services from 1 September.

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023

Rubbish and recycling changes ahead



Kerbside collections are changing from 1 September 2023.

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

tcdc.govt.nz/solid-waste-FAQs

TAPU-COROGLEN RD

Our Council's roading team is working towards a temporary alternative route for the Tapu-Coroglen Road that we estimate will be ready for use in June.

In the meantime, we're working on a permanent repair to the road that we estimate will be complete in December.

Tapu-Coroglen Road has been closed to through traffic since a section of it collapsed into the river below during the recent cyclones. The closure point is about 10km from the Tapu end of the road. Properties and businesses on either side of the collapse site are accessible, but the site is unstable and the road is not open to the public.



Coromandel
-Colville
Community Board
UPDATE

A word from our Board

Chair Gavin Jeffcoat

"It's good to see our communities moving into the recovery phase and life gradually returning to a more settled pace. There's still work ahead to ensure that our communities are well equipped to handle the challenges of climate change, and developing a resilient roading infrastructure will continue to be a key focus."



gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz

The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday 2 May, at 9am, 355 Kapanga Road. To speak in the public forum, contact

governance.services@tcdc.govt.nz
Agendas are published two working days before meetings at tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes

You can watch recordings of our meetings on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/ourcoromandel

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CILT

Menzshed

Although our anticipated move into the new hub building has been delayed for administrative reasons, there is still plenty going on at CILT. One exciting project is the development of a “Men’s Shed” for Coromandel residents, aiming to join up with the national Menzshed charity. This will bring men together in one community space to share skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks individually or as a group. We also hope to give a different slant to the Coromandel Shed by having a women’s section as well. If you’re interested in joining either group, contact CILT on (07) 866 8358.

Social enterprise

Something new that CILT is offering to the community is a Property Maintenance Service. By using this for your cleaning, you’ll be helping our community services. Remember that all of CILT’s profits are ploughed back into the needs of Coromandel, and in this instance it will be funding our social workers. There are many areas where CILT does not receive government funding. As always, full details on CILT’s website: www.cilt.org.nz, or you can phone Krista directly on 027 407 4694.

Budget

Belated, but nonetheless heart-felt, thanks to Richardsons Real Estate for hosting the Christmas present tree and also Karen Gamble for her added treats.

The Budgeting Service is open at the CILT office from 10am to 2pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We are here to help you with any of your budgeting needs.

Coro Wi-Fi

Since May 2019 CILT has been providing free Wi-Fi to the Coromandel community, with support from Coromandel Area School and the Ministry of Education. At present this essentially covers the main CBD, but we’re happy to say that it is now extended to Hauraki House and its reserve.

Hangi cooker

We now possess a wonderful hangi cooker, which is available to hire for your own special occasions.

For full details on booking and hiring, contact Karena by email karena@cilt.org.nz or phone (07) 866 8358.

Addiction recovery

CILT is very happy to be supporting and providing a home for RECOVA, the addiction recovery programme at Te Mana Tangata building, 100 Pound Street. This is a 12-step support group for drug and alcohol recovery every Thursday, 6.30-7.30pm. More details from Lizzy on 027 436 2800.

Education

The education programme working in conjunction with Coromandel Area School is continuing to go well. Recently a visitor, Andy, originally from Wisconsin, presently living here, came to do a STEM



Andy explaining the inner workings of a hard drive

(Science, Technology, Education and Maths) lesson with the kids. CILT donated some old PC computers for the kids to dismantle. This was a huge success and we’re planning more lessons for the future.

During the recent teacher strike some staff at the Area School chose to help our plant nursery as their “give back” day. This allowed them to get to know what goes on in the plant nursery, our plans for the future, and how it benefits the community.

Our latest Incredible Years programme is up and running. Due to the location of participants, this session is in Whitianga. We are looking for participants for the next session in June and hoping to have enough from Coromandel to hold it locally.

Contact Fee at education@cilt.org.nz.

Boxing club

CILT is pleased to be supporting the Peninsula Gold Boxing Club, based at the Old Depot Shed in Pound Street. There are 1-on-1 and group sessions for both adults and under-18s. With a strong health and safety basis, this will offer coaching in self defence, as well as providing exercise and discipline in a controlled environment. To join, contact James on 022 391 1471.



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Coromandel Garden Circle

By Natalie Blasco

The April meeting was really interesting and educational, as we had a pair of speakers talk to us about permaculture, wicking beds and their tool business.



Joanna and Bryan operate The Garden Tool Store from their home in Waikawau. They talked about the value of permaculture, an ethical system of sustainable living and something they've done for many years. They eventually taught this practice to others. It demonstrates care for people and our planet, and guides many of one's other life choices. Bryan also talked about the wicking beds he makes, which help conserve water and get it to the plants that need it. Joanna spoke about their tool business, which will soon be handed over to Mahamudra in Colville. Some of the beautiful tools are made of bronze, which combines mostly copper with tin. It benefits soil biology and, therefore, plants.

Jeni and Trish then did a slideshow of our 17 March trip to Ayrilies Plant Fair in Whitford. Ayrilies was created by Bev McConnell and



Ayrilies

her late husband Malcolm beginning in 1964. Jeni talked about the four-hectare garden of large trees, ponds, waterways and plantings, and how much it has changed in the 40 years since her first visit. While there, most of us also enjoyed an additional walk to the distant, 14-hectare

wetland and its wildlife. If you've never been, Ayrilies is well worth visiting. Unsurprisingly, most everyone in our group purchased several plants to further enhance their own gardens.

There is still a lot of colour in our gardens at this time of year and the competitions had many entries. First place winners were: Sheana for Special (Dependable Dahlias); Linda for both Arrangement (In an Egg Cup) and Multi; Joy for Mini; and Natalie for Single.

Kath has booked us into Pepper Tree for lunch at 12pm on **Friday 5 May**. Members need to let her know ASAP if you'd like to join us. This is the day before King's Coronation Day and members are encouraged to dress accordingly, and then enjoy watching the festivities on TV the next day. Now, where's my diamond tiara?

Our next meeting will be the AGM on **Wednesday 10 May**, The Club, 1pm. The Arrangement competition is Mother's Day Tribute and Special is Colourful Foliage. Members who might be interested in serving on one of our committees should get in touch with Kath ASAP.

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



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PARAHEKA BLOCK GOLDFIELDS ROAD, MANAIA NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting is to be held to vest the ownership of Paraheka Block, which is customary Maori Land situated off Goldfields Road, Manaia into the hapu of

- Ngati Waihinu and Ngati Whare and their uri as the owners of Paraheka Block

And to appoint

- Ngapera Pongarauhine Baker
- Craig Anthony Solomon
- Pongarauhine Bonita Renata
- Andrew Lesley Watts and
- David Mark Noel Harmon as trustees.

Date: Thursday, 18 May 2023, 7.00 pm

Venue: Manaia Fire Station
60 Goldfields Road
Manaia
Coromandel

Registration. All attendees to register their names and addresses on arrival and prior to the start of the meeting at 7.00 pm.

Agenda

1. Mihimihi and Karakia.
2. Explanation of purpose of meeting.
3. Approve the determination of the hapu of Ngati Waihinu and Ngati Whare and their uri as the owners of Paraheka Block
4. Approve the establishment of an ahu whenua trust and the appointment of trustees for Paraheka Block

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- No anchors.** Tie-on to a longline buoy or use approved mooring hooks
- Minimise** your speed and wake
- Never drive** across the lines



Library News

By Paul Lawrence

First of all, I would like to thank the Star & Garter for making us the recipients of their Sunday \$10 pizza sponsorship for February. This donation will be used to purchase our next lot of new books benefitting all of our readers.

Speaking of new books, we have had April's delivery of 22 titles arrive. There are a couple of first-time authors, some old favourites and a couple of books adding to series we already have. Basically, something for everyone.

More exciting news. As a lot of people are already aware, very early planning is underway for a new building. After positive collaboration the new building will house the library and information centre under the same roof. Unfortunately, the current library building is no longer fit for purpose after 42yrs. Our daily issues numbers are growing, (111 checkouts Tuesday 11 April) and there are a number of aspects of the current building that the council has identified as no longer meeting compliance standards of Health & Safety which, for the safety of both members and volunteers, needs to change. The plan is for the new building to be erected on the current site. As mentioned, the planning is in the very early stages and there will be residents' consultation.

This month's first book is an autobiography of, arguably, New Zealand's most well-known actor, one who has led the way for others to follow.

Did I Ever Tell You This?: A Memoir – Sam Neill



An actor who has worked with the likes of Meryl Streep, Isabel Adjani, Jeff Goldblum, Sean Connery, Steven Spielberg and Jane Campion.

Follow the story of how it all started.

This is a very popular book so, if it's not on the shelf, we can put it on hold for you.

I Will Find You by Harlan Coben



David Burroughs wakes up one morning covered in the blood of his 3-year-old son. He knows he didn't do it, but nevertheless, ends up in jail.

One day he's shown a photo and recognises his son in the background. First things first. Escape.



Music Panui

Is anyone – of any race, music genre or level – interested in making music? Please let me know at coroartlife@gmail.com or phone Emma on 027 211 9772. I would like to get together a music group in Coromandel Town.

Coromandel Embroiderers' Guild

By Lesley Inger

Coromandel Embroiderers' meet once a month at the St John rooms in Coromandel Town on the first Wednesday of the month.

We have a great sales table, big library and plenty of show and tell, as can be seen by the photos. We have contemporary pieces by Fran Campbell and Win McMinn as well as more traditional embroidery.

Next month it's our turn to host a Regional Day, "Fibre and Fleece", which will be attended by lots of visiting embroiderers from the northern part of the North Island.

If you are new to the craft or wish to learn and to meet with a group, we are a friendly bunch and would love to see you at our next meeting.

Yours in stitching.

Contact the Secretary, Win McMinn at coromandelembroidery@gmail.com or phone (07) 866 7508



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Kath Jones
M 027 955 2676



FOR SALE

Colville 85 Wharf Road

7327 sqm 3 1 1 2

So Much For Your Money

3 bedroom house, 5 self contained units, 2 garages, 10 powered units, room for Campers.

Price by Negotiation (+ GST if any)

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NEW LISTING

Tuataewa 56 Waihirere Drive

3878 sqm 3 2 1

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Architecturally designed Beach Home. Enjoy the seaviews or the rural bushscape. Call to view the lifestyle you've been working towards.

Enquiries Over \$900,000

View by appointment or at www.harcourts.co.nz/CO1971



Caro Reid
M 021 0291 5531



Caro Reid
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Consultant
021 0291 5531



Kath Jones
Admin / Sales
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027 955 2676



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Mana Retreat Centre

Shifts and Changes

We live on a planet that is constantly moving and this creates all kinds of rhythms: day and night, tides in the oceans, changing of seasons and so on. The energy of these rhythms is in the nature of moving towards and moving away, spiraling out and gravitating towards, going inward and outward, expanding and contracting: a continuous flux and flow.

Changes are happening constantly in ourselves and our lives as well: changes in our breathing, physical changes happening in our bodies, all of movements in our mind and emotions, changes in our families, relationships, communities.

We live in a constantly changing inner and outer environment.

At Mana we have also experienced many changes. As you may have read in our previous article, we had transformations within our management team and, furthermore, some of our staff have chosen to move on.

Now, impermanence and change are not just about moving away or moving on. Sometimes it can also mean a returning.

We have the immense pleasure of welcoming back several staff that previously worked at Mana (one of them from 1994 till 2020, another person worked here on and off for over 20 years) and after a gap of several years, finding their way “home” to be part of the team once more.

Here is what some of them had to say on returning:

“I am so happy to be part of the Mana team again. It just feels like returning home after being away.”

“It is so exciting to return and I feel this creativity, wanting to explore new recipes. Coming back from a break feels so very refreshing.”

“I feel a sense of calmness, coming home, more grounded from where I used to be. I am so appreciative of being back on this beautiful land. The centre is such a safe place. There

at not that many workplaces where you are surrounded by people that support you and where you can be yourself, staying connected to your emotions, however you are. It is my home, even more so with our family land nearby.”

So overall there is that sense of coming home. We would like to share a simple practice in the same spirit: coming home and touching base with yourself. It can be done anywhere, anytime, whenever the need arises to stop and take a little break.

A simple practice of touching base with yourself

Start with grounding yourself in the here and the now: feel alive in your body, feel physical sensations coming and going, become aware of the movements of breathing, connect with sounds arising in this moment. Then turn your attention within and take time to touch base with yourself: become aware of the inner dialogue and mental images passing through your mind.

Just be with yourself, however you find yourself: in despair, with your “out of control” mind, in grief, being confused, in loneliness, struggling with inner or outer chaos... whatever is present in the moment.

Just sit with it and let it be, with an open heart and an open mind. With unconditional friendliness towards yourself.

Not blocking anything, not feeding it, not controlling, not escaping, not judging, not trying to fix it.

Sit with it, lean into it, move closer and let it naturally unfold. Feel the texture, the energy of it all. Allow it to arise, and pass.

There is nothing to do and nothing to get. Just be the silent witness, sustain this quality of quiet inner knowing.

And when you feel drawn to move on, take a moment to become aware of how refreshing and liberating this was.

It can feel like coming home, coming home to yourself...

Arohanui – The Mana Team.

2023 Young Plumber of the Year competition

It’s “all cisterns go” as hundreds of tradies sharpen their tools and get their game faces on for the Plumbing World Young Plumber of the Year (YPOTY) competition.

Plumbing World New Zealand CEO Rob Kidd says the competition is a way to showcase plumbing as a career and attract new people to the trade.

“There are more than 8,000 people working as plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers in New Zealand, but it’s not enough to meet demand. The current workforce does not have the capacity to keep up with normal workload.”

Back for a fifth year, competitors will vie for the prestigious Young Plumber of the Year title through a series of regional events culminating in the national final in November.

YPOTY is held in three phases, starting on **4 July** with quick-fire events at 31 Plumbing World branches, followed by the branch winners competing in eight Regional Finals during September and October. Each event will be adjudicated by an expert industry panel of judges.

The winners from each of the eight regions and two wildcard entrants will then fight it out at the grand final in Hamilton in November. A prize pool worth over \$80,000 is on offer.

The competition is open to tradies under the age of 31 who are either working or training as plumbers. There is no cost to enter.

Enter via the Young Plumbers Club website www.youngplumbersclub.co.nz

UPCOMING RETREATS

Book Online - manaretreat.com

4-7 MAY	Silent Meditation Retreat with Amrit and Yogamurti Saraswati
12-14 MAY	Mother’s Day Relax and Wellness Weekend with Mana Team
19-21 MAY	Weaving New Threads - An Open Floor Dance Workshop with Geordie Jahner
26-28 MAY	Bodylight Weekend Retreat 2023 – with Edna Levy
1-5 JUNE	Meditation Retreat with Susan Allen
7-9 JUNE	Private Event - Medical Mindfulness

Weekly Open Floor Dance Classes - Tuesday 9:34-11:45am



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Rob 866 7865 or 021 618 601

Chopper Chat

By Nigel Strongman, Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust Trustee

Missions to our side of the hill, by the Auckland Rescue Chopper, totalled six for March out of 15 for the Peninsula.

Missions For March

6.3.23 - Papa Aroha – Crew tasked to assist a male patient in his 30’s suffering a medical complaint. He was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

6.3.23 - Coromandel – Crew tasked to assist a female patient suffering a medical condition. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a critical condition.

7.3.23 - Colville – Crew tasked to assist a female patient in her 40’s suffering a medical complaint. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a serious condition.

13.3.23- Kopu – Crew tasked to assist a female patient in her 70’s suffering a fall. She was flown to Thames Hospital in a minor condition.

23.3.23 – Thames – Crew tasked to assist a male patient in his 20’s suffering a medial condition. He was flown to Auckland City Hospital in a critical condition.

28.3.23 – Port Jackson – Crew tasked to assist an elderly female patient involved in a sheep versus person accident. She was flown to Waikato Hospital in a moderate condition.

As is usual, the Rescue Choppers have gone back to Auckland to roost for winter. But we are still only minutes from Ardmore, Auckland, Whangarei, Hamilton, or Tauranga, depending where you live on the Peninsula. Rescue Choppers do come from these other centres, and at present, are not included in the statistics for this column. Next month, I hope to change that – watch this space!

Autumn is upon us. Easter is done and dusted, so it is time to think about hunkering down for the approaching winter. Firewood in? Please be careful with that chainsaw. Chimney clean? Get the professional to clean the chimney. At the very least, he/she should be



February Trustees meeting in the hangar at Whitianga. Fuel tanker in background dropping Jet A1 fuel into our bulk tank. Trustees – L to R, Merv George, John Stephenson and Linda Pye

insured if they fall off the roof! And recheck those smoke alarms!

If you wish to donate to the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust, go to the website www.coromandelrescue.org.nz or by internet banking 03-1578-0116338-001 with your “name” as reference. All donations are tax deductible, and a tax donation certificate will be sent if required. All donations are gratefully received.

Have a safe and healthy month!

Contact Nigel Strongman on 022 670 1549

The Colville Project

The Colville Project has the following part time positions available:

- Board Support
- Financial Support
- Technical Support

We are seeking support staff to commence as soon as possible. These preferably contracted roles will provide admin, financial and technical support to TCP Board at this very busy time. These roles will assist with and strengthen our progress towards achieving the development of the Wellbeing and Education centre, as well as evolving other aspects of The Project

We require people who are multi-talented team players, flexible, tech savvy; and available to work closely with the Board to progress The Colville Project.

We will accept applications for each role individually or any combination of the roles. Role details will be available on our Facebook page and website www.thecolvilleproject.nz.

If you have any queries, please email Jo (below), or call Jo on 021 569 652.

Please submit your CV along with a letter expressing your interest to: jo@thecolvilleproject.nz

Application close 4pm 12 May 2023.


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IT OR
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QUIZ

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WEDNESDAY 3 MAY
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12 WEEKS**

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**TEAMS OF MAX OF 6, MIN OF 3.
MAX OF 10 TEAMS.
\$50 A TEAM TO ENTER
FOR THE 12 WEEKS.**

For more info and to enter phone 07 866 8503

CONDITIONS APPLY

rangatahi OUR CHILDREN

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

By Esther Powell

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

We provide quality education and care for 0-6-year-olds in a licensed, community-owned pre-school formed and directed by our families. If you would like to join our Governance Committee or Incorporated Society, our AGM is coming up mid-May. Enquire within.

As our autumn term begins and we head into paenga whaawaha we get ready to harvest our kumara, and sow carrots and winter greens. We have discovered many monarch caterpillars growing big and fat in our backyard, and slowly forming chrysalises. The children are fascinated. Each day we check them to see if any monarchs are emerging. Not yet (see picture). We have been singing our purerehua waiata and reading all of our butterfly books to deepen our understanding of these beautiful creatures and their life cycle.

We farewell three of our five-year-olds this term, Zachary, Josephine and Mack, celebrating all that makes them each so special and wishing them the best as they continue their learning journeys

COLVILLE BAY
PRE-SCHOOL



elsewhere. We will miss you all!

Spaces are currently available in the 2-6-year-old age group. Coromandel whaanau: we can pick up your children. We run a minivan for 3+-year-olds three days per week from Coromandel Town to Colville return.

Our programme includes lots of outdoor fun, art and creativity, and we are so lucky to have three talented musicians sharing their music and waiata with our tamariki each week. "Bush kura" adventures happen every Wednesday in the ngahere or at a local beach. Parents and little ones are welcome to visit free of charge on Wednesday mornings where our infants have the space to explore and build their confidence in a smaller group.

Open Tuesday to Friday, 8.45am-3pm, including term breaks. 20 free hours for 3+-year-olds and WINZ subsidies available.

For information and enrollments contact Esther – email senior-teacher@colvillebaypreschool.co.nz, 2391 Colville Road (behind Colville School), phone 022 645 3272



One of our monarch caterpillars

Coromandel Area School

By Jamie Brown

Our tamariki need a quality education, and we want to give that to them.

On Thursday 16 March, we took strike action to press the government to improve conditions for schools. It's the last thing we wanted to do. And the decision was not taken lightly. We felt that this was the only way the government would listen and recognise that when they support our children to learn and succeed, we are helping whānau and communities to thrive.

During this day we volunteered our time at the CILT Nursery where we planted harakeke, reminding us that as teachers we strive to give our students the best learning environments we possibly can to enable them to flourish. Teachers believe that every student should receive the attention, time and support they need for their education. But this isn't always the case, and we are calling on the government to improve the working conditions for teachers, which affect children's learning conditions.

We look forward to another great year – and together with your support, building the case for better investment in our tamariki.

COROMANDEL
AREA SCHOOL



Healthy Waterways

Healthy Waterways

At the end of last year, we were lucky enough to be nominated by our awesome community for some interactive sessions on the importance of clean, healthy waterways with Westpac and NZ Landcare Trust Healthy Waterway Workshops.

Our Rooms 5 and 7 students have learnt what lurks in polluted and clean waterways, looked at the results of environmental DNA (eDNA) tests which were taken from our

local Karaka stream, and what they can do to improve and protect our water.

Swimming

Well done to our team of 12 students who competed in the Thames Valley Primary School Swimming event in March. These students had some great results in their cluster swimming event and their Thames Valley event too: Ruby Wells, Ruby Bromwich, Zianna Fenton, Jed Harris, Nuriya Kirsch, Elijah Riri, Cassidy Short, Lucy Huitema, Conner Huitema, Sandra Hiwarau-Collier, Hamish Sturgeon, Elsa Wills.

Engaging and collaborating with local iwi

In the near future, we will be letting our school-wide community know about how we will be engaging and collaborating with local iwi. We are excited for the possibilities this opens up, and with iwi we will be working towards improving outcomes for our whānau Māori and ākongā Māori. This is an exciting time for our kura and this community.

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

That is all for now, until next time.

Coromandel Youth Group at Hauraki House

Activities and play for children 5+yrs.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 3-5pm.

Wednesday: Adventure Time 3-5pm (for school years 6-10).

Wednesday evenings: Miniature table-top role-playing games for 10 years and up. These will be based on and run by author of *The Angaran Chronicles*, BAD Agar (Ben).

Any concerns or for more information telephone us on (07) 866 7061 during opening hours or email us coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.com.

A gold coin donation per session is greatly appreciated.

Along with the kind donations we receive, we would like to thank those that make this programme possible: Lottery Waikato, COGS, Trust Waikato, D.V. Bryant Trust, Arteroa Gaming Trust & NZ Communities Trust



Striking day volunteering at CILT



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THE MEASURE OF RETIREMENT LIVING



mahi toi ARTS

Coromandel Art Group

By Val Gray

What a month it has been. A few bitterly cold nights, several hot, hot days, enough rain to float a battleship, and in between some of the most fabulous sunny Thursday mornings that saw us out taking in the view and surroundings. We have painted out at Drinkwater Reserve, Long Bay, Jacks Point, Kik Bay and Karaka Stream. All so pretty and interesting in different ways.

Thursday 13 April we had a super workshop. It was with Jacquie Ellis and the subject was “still life”. A really nice start to the year. Very informative and great fun, topped off with a scrumptious shared lunch and an art quiz!

We are hoping we might get an “Indian Summer” autumn, and still be able to paint out a few more times. For those members who don’t like painting out, the hall is always available, and they paint in.

We have more workshops planned, and also our Christmas party that got put on hold is to be held mid-winter. So lots to look forward to.

We have also welcomed several new members; always good to have some new blood with new ideas.

Our invaluable secretary has not been feeling well, and is at this time recuperating. So we all wish her a speedy recovery, and “we really miss her”.



Jacquie Ellis leading the workshop

The NZ String Quartet

Heartfelt, soulful, and full of life – that’s the New Zealand String Quartet – and we are about to host them in Coromandel Town!



Having celebrated its 35th season in 2022, the New Zealand String Quartet has an established, international reputation for insightful interpretations, compelling communication, and a dynamic performing style. Join the Quartet for an intimate and atmospheric night to remember – world-class music right here at home in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You’ll be treated to their signature style of personally introducing each piece of music to illuminate the stories behind the music and make the evening a special and engaging event for all audiences. From newcomers to the artform, to the most seasoned chamber music fan, there is something to excite everyone.

The internationally acclaimed quartet comprises Helene Pohl (first violin), Monique Lapins (second violin), Gillian Ansell (viola) and Rolf Gjelsten (cello).

For the detailed background of each member of the quartet and their outstanding achievements, see www.nzsq.org.nz/.

“A never-to-be-forgotten experience for all who attended.” – Elizabeth Bouman, Otago Daily Times

Thursday 25 May 7:30pm at Hauraki House Theatre, Coromandel Town. \$25 tickets available from Coromandel Town Information Centre, ph (07) 866 8598, email: info@coromandeltown.nz.

Sale of Paintings and Sculpture

By Richard Chrisp

Following our successful exhibition at Hauraki House Gallery, we invite you to view the works which did not sell. These works will be on sale at reduced prices at The Secret Garden, Pagitt Street, Coromandel Town **1-31 May**.

Pastel Artists Coromandel

By Rosemarie Murphy

Like several other clubs, I guess, Covid and other illnesses have meant that our group has met with off and on regularity lately. However, on 27 and 28 March we managed to hold a workshop with renowned pastel artist from Australia, Stephanie Clark. Stephanie does the most beautiful floral paintings in pastel. They are very painterly and free.

Thirteen of us, some from Tauranga, Taupo and Rotorua, crammed into Rose’s Studio for a wonderful, exhausting two days. We learnt how to do out of focus backgrounds and different flowers and foliage with lost and found edges. Making the focal flower sharp and in focus and the rest of the them, not so much. Emphasis was put on composition and having a light touch to build up layers. We all produced work that most of us were happy with.

Stephie and her partner Gavin were touring New Zealand after the Pastel Convention and held five workshops in Arrowtown, Mapua, Wellington, Coromandel and Auckland. We were so lucky to get her and I’m sure we will be trying to put what we have learnt into practice for a while yet.

Many thanks go to Creative Communities for their donation of \$440 towards the cost of the tutor. PANZ also donated \$400 towards travel and the tutor.

Every two months PANZ (Pastel Artists of New Zealand) puts out a newsletter to members and holds a pastel challenge on various subjects. Last month’s challenge was Pets and Animals. Rosemarie Murphy of Te Mata was lucky enough to win a Merit for her painting Sibling Rivalry. Maxine Thompson, Master Pastelist of New Zealand, was the judge this time.

If any of you would like to try pastel as a medium for your art, please come along for a looksee and a cuppa. We meet every Wednesday 9.00am to 12 noon at Rose’s Studio, 860 Tiki Rd, Coromandel Town. You will see the new sign, organised by Allan Beaver, hanging by the gate.

Phone Allan Beaver (07) 866 8053 or Saskia Riemersma 027 296 1670



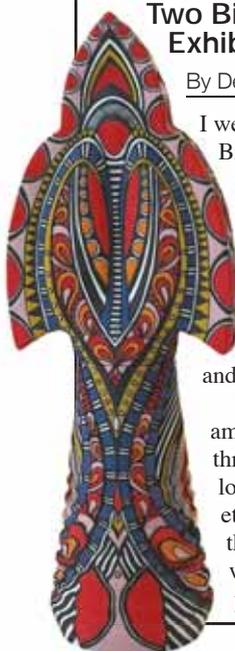
Stephie Clark’s demo

Two Birds Ceramic Exhibition

By Debbie Morgan

I went along to “Two Birds” exhibition at the end of March – it was a special collaboration between Coromandel ceramic artists Caitlin Moloney and Anneke Borren.

The work was amazing! Anneke had thrown a range of lovely shaped vases, etc. which Caitlin then decorated with her intricate patterns.



Stephie Clark’s workshop



**WTS (Watch This space)
Coromandel:
Dimensions Variable**

Friday 12 to Sunday 21 May. This is our annual themed exhibition. This year our theme is Dimensions Variable. Twelve Coromandel artists take part.

Join us at the Gala Opening 5.30pm on **Friday 12 May.** The exhibition will be curated by Sally Tennent-Brown and John Eaglen, and is open daily at Hauraki House Gallery in Coromandel Town 10am-4pm until **Sunday 21 May.**



Secrets, Gifts and Memories, May 2016

Thames Music Group

Sunday Afternoon Concert – Katherine Austin (Piano) and Hyein Kim (Cello)

Hyein Kim was born in 1999 in Seoul, South Korea and moved to Christchurch in 2007. At age 13 he was awarded first prize at the International Padova Competition in Italy. He has been awarded first prize in the Gisborne International Music Competition and second prize in the 2021 National Concerto Competition.



Hyein Kim

For this concert, he will be accompanied by New Zealand pianist Katherine Austin who has been Head of Piano Studies at the University of Waikato for 21 years. She performs regularly around NZ and overseas, touring frequently for Chamber Music New Zealand, and broadcasting regularly on Radio New Zealand Concert.

Sunday 7 May at 2pm at St George’s Church, Thames. Adults \$20, TMG members \$15.

Free Friday Lunchtime Concert

Katherine Austin will return with piano students for this 45 minute lunchtime concert.

Friday 26 May, at St George’s Church, Thames, free, koha accepted. Enjoy hot soup and a bun after the concert for \$5.



Katherine Austin

On Our Watch

Four poets, eight artists, twelve women – a book launch and creative collaboration – 3pm **Saturday 10 June.**

A book of poetry is shortly to be published jointly, by Hauraki writers Julie Sargisson, Lora Mountjoy, Alison Carter and Catherine Delahunty. The group, with some connections that go back to Colville in the 1970s, began meeting regularly two years ago to share and critique their poems. While varied in style and content, there is an overall theme of feeling for the land, family, relationships and the political and environmental concerns which have been key to these women’s lives. The poems are now gathered into the coming book *On Our Watch*.

Inspired by the strong visual arts community here in Coromandel, Julie also went on to suggest a collaboration between poets and artists; and this has been taken up with vigour by eight local artists working in diverse media and working closely with the poets, in direct response to a selection of poems from *On Our Watch*.

We are all excited to invite you to the combined book launch and art exhibition opening of “On Our Watch – A creative collaboration” at Hauraki House Gallery, 3pm on **Saturday 10 June.** Meet the poets and the artists, enjoy live readings, hear about our experiences in working together, dip into a copy of the brand new book by four strong, intelligent writers; and contemplate artwork by Benni Bonnin, Briar van Dort, Lisa Corston, Fran Campbell, Jane MacAllister, Sally Tennent-Brown, Lettecia Williams, and Kyoko Yamaguchi.

Exhibition will be open daily 10am-4pm until **Sunday 18 June.** Funded by WTS (Watch This Space) Coromandel. Curated by Sally Tennent-Brown. Technical support by Matt Sephton.

evocative works by
COROMANDEL ARTISTS
a WTS Coromandel themed exhibition

dimensions

May 12-21 2023

opening 5.30 - 7.00 pm Friday 12 May
Hauraki House Gallery, Coromandel Town

curated by Sally Tennent-Brown and John Eaglen
WTS (watch this space) coromandel

te taiao ENVIRONMENT

COBY: Coromandel Our Backyard

By Stephanie McKee



Roadside Spraying

A survey is underway: Should roadside spraying continue or cease?

Please flick your views to corobackyard@gmail.com with "Spraying Survey" in the subject line of your email.

A) Would you like to see roadside spraying with herbicides to stop? If so, please add your reasons.

B) Would you like to see the roadside spraying with herbicides to continue? If so, please add your reasons.

What is the spray being used?

AG-Pro Glyphosate 500.

Is it really "safe" as claimed?

No. The manufacturer's SDS Safety Data Sheet, for starters, calls glyphosate "ecotoxic" and instructs that it must be kept out of "aquatic systems" including drains. This is being ignored by council contractors.

This is a huge topic and the EPA in 2021 put out a call for more information on the use of glyphosate, receiving hundreds of submissions.

To quote his view on glyphosate, Prof. John Potter, Former Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University: "There are a large number of countries that have banned or restricted the use of it. So we need to think seriously about what we are doing in New Zealand... Councils need to think about how they are using it on verges, greens, etc. They should reconsider its use." August 2018. *Source: Submission to EPA, Oct 2021, by Weed Management Advisory.*

How much does it cost us, the ratepayers?

The answer to this was received recently under LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information Meetings Act) / Answer: \$1,029,016 annually from 1 July to 30 June, across the whole district.

Think of a better use for a million dollars? Let the Council know!

Use the No-Spray register

Our roadside frontage has been on the no-spray register since 2019. Recently it was sprayed, despite two prominent "no spray" signs. We received an apology from the contractor via TCDC staff, and what's more, they said, "It won't happen again".

That shows that the TCDC acknowledges and respects people's choice on this matter. So if you haven't yet put your road frontage on the No-Spray Register, contact TCDC Customer Services on (07) 868 0200. Customer Services will create a Request For Service, to be sent to the roading professional service provider, Pinnacles Civil, which maintains the No-Spray Register. Pinnacles Civil will update the register and distribute it to all affected contractors. See www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Wildlife-Insects-and-Vegetation/No-Spray-Register.

As part of the deal, property owners on the No-Spray Register are meant to "mow their berms". That is easy enough in a town situation, and more like "weed-eat your road frontage" in rural areas.

Northland's Nature's Verge Campaign

A better option instead of just keeping our road frontages "free of weeds" is to plant it in a mix of bee-friendly, nectar-producing, pollen-producing plants. Not only is this attractive but also supports our local organic honey industry.

Read about the Northland Nature's Verge Campaign and download free No Spray signs here: www.floraandfaunaotearoa.co.nz/natures-verge/.

Of course your Nature's Verge has to exclude any plants that are deemed noxious, invasive or unwanted pests, as listed here: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/plant-and-animal-pests/.

Glyphosate is a controversial weedkiller, drenching Aotearoa for half a century. Its inventor, the US company Monsanto, was ordered to pay \$10 billion to 95,000 plaintiffs who were suffering from non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The European Food Safety Authority, EFSA, will withdraw glyphosate's approval for use at the end of 2023.

It's past time to change to healthier, climate-friendly, poison-free methods.

Coromandel Our Backyard is an informal network of Coromandel citizens, who prefer to care for our lands without poisons. Te tiakitanga o nga whenua hei paitini kore

UCLA

By Reihana Robinson

Great news.

To inspire urgent action to protect and restore the health of our seas in the Hauraki Gulf, Jono Ridler will make a record-breaking attempt to swim across the Hauraki Gulf from Karaka Bay on Great Barrier Island to Narrowneck in Auckland.

A 100km swim taking 35 hours in conjunction with the group Live Ocean, founded by acclaimed sailors Blair Tuke and Peter Burling, could not have come at a better time

It will probably take place on 25 April, but on 17, 18, 19 April the hearings will have taken place in Paeroa on the proposal for the caged finfish farming in the Hauraki Gulf.

The Waikato Regional Council has approved the plan prior to these hearings, and the only thing left to negotiate are the conditions.

Section 42A restricts what can be set up as a condition and there is no acknowledgment of the morality or ethics involved in impoverishing poor countries on the coast of Africa and South America, whose small pelagic fish will be hoovered up to feed kingfish at a rate of 2 to 1 (pelagic fish to produce one tonne of kingfish).

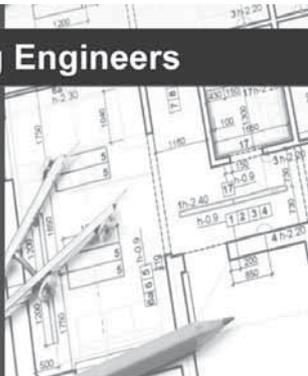
Worse news is that the plan change requested by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana, to expand the footprint of the farm by more than 30%, has also been approved in the draft of the new coastal plan that only became public on Friday. So the farce of public consultation once again is grinding to a close and no one should be surprised at the lack of public submissions, as sadly it is a total waste of time.

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Driving Creek Conservation Park – Festival

Coromandel's 2nd Festival at Driving Creek Railway Gallery
 Driving Creek Conservation Park is thrilled to be hosting our second ever Festival on **Saturday 6 May** at the Driving Creek Gallery, 380 Driving Creek Road, Coromandel Town. This free all-day event will be focused on our native species and what we can do to protect them. The Festival is open to everyone interested in conservation.

The event will be an ideal opportunity for learning, networking, hearing about new innovations and best-practice methods, by listening to presentations from environmental experts from our backyard and



around the country. Presenters include Dr. Trevor James, Dr. Andrew Veale, Danilo Hegg, Doug Ashby, Richard Johnson (and his two conservation dogs), Diane Prince, and Benson Lockhart. Check out our schedule for more



information on topics and presentation times, also on www.drivingcreek.nz under events, on Facebook under drivingcreek and on Instagram under drivingcreeknz.

With presentations, conservation exhibits and stalls, children's activities, and guided tours throughout the day, it will be a fun day for the whole family.

The Festival is a free event, but a koha is much appreciated. Bring some extra cash for our raffles and come and have a good time!

Schedule

- 10am – Conservation Tour with Luke (45min) – Meet by the Driving Creek ticket office
- 11am – Gecko encounter – Doug Ashby
- 11.30am – Conservation dogs – Richard Johnson
- 12pm – Working with Coromandel Brown Kiwi – Diane Prince
- 12.30pm – Lunch break – Café Solo open to purchase lunch, exhibits and stalls
- 12.30pm – Conservation Tour with Luke (45min) – Meet by the Driving Creek ticket office
- 1.30pm – Stoat control in Aotearoa – Dr Andrew Veale
- 1.30pm – For the kids – Play with Clay: Hands-on clay experience
- 2.30pm – Today's and tomorrow's weeds – Dr Trevor James
- 2.30pm – For the kids – story time with Karen
- 3pm – Afternoon tea break, exhibits and stalls, snacks provided
- 3.30pm – Bugs – the humble critters running the world – Danilo Hegg
- 4pm – Kauri protection – Benson Lockhart
- 4.30pm – Networking and light refreshments. All welcome.

For more information on topics go to www.drivingcreek.nz

The Wetlands: Manawa/Mangroves/Mangals

By Julie Sargisson

Over the expanse of the wetlands at high tide, pools form and open streams run through the rushes. These are the areas where the mangrove seed pods or propagule are lodging in the silt and the mangal forest is spreading.

The existing mangroves are lush and thriving and the expanding forest will form a natural barrier between land and sea. Their twisting root system traps silt, raises the estuary floor and filters the runoff from the farmland behind.

In the far north, manawa can grow nine metres high, but here, further south near their southern border, they are more squat with a wide canopy that extends above the high tide. The root system spreads way beyond the drip line of the canopy, providing a large base in wild sea conditions and the multitude of aerial roots sticking up in the mud absorb oxygen for this extensive root system. As gnarly and inelegant as the mangrove may appear, they create a home for many sea creatures, from marine invertebrates to shellfish to young fish, feeding fish and eels. The mangals are a plantation of food, a reef of aquatic life, "the most productive of all natural environments".

The intertidal zone beside the causeway will, over time, be a forest of mangroves with all of its protective and filtering benefits and the myriad of life that comes with it.



EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Coromandel's 2nd

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te taiao ENVIRONMENT continued

Forest & Bird

By Jill Pierce,
Upper Coromandel Branch Forest
& Bird committee member



Coromandel Area School helps look after Torehina Bay

Native plants at Torehina Bay had a good going-over recently, by Year 9 students from Coromandel Area School. Led by teacher Chris Long, in conjunction with local Forest & Bird members, the plants were weeded and freed from the ever-present kikuyu grass which both chokes and easily outgrows the best of plants. This was a valuable and essential exercise after a wet summer of intense growth.

The reserve has been the focus of Forest & Bird efforts since 2020, when with the assistance of a TCDC community board grant, a large number of flaxes, pohutukawa, and other natives were planted on the banks above the beach, with local school's help. In 2021 despite a lag due to Covid, the plants grew steadily and were weeded and tended. Last year another focused burst, courtesy of another grant and in-person assistance from Council staff, saw the

area extended and gaps filled. Knobby rushes were additionally planted on the foreshore, below more flax and pohutukawa.

Forest & Bird has devoted considerable effort to this reserve and enlisted community support along the way. Now in its 4th year, the commitment in 2023 is to keep planting primarily flax and pohutukawa further along the steep banks above the beach. This will take place in June or July (date to be confirmed) and besides the anticipated continued support from the school, we invite you to join forces with us, in continuing to improve this beautiful bay. Around that time Forest & Bird will hold its Upper Coromandel Branch AGM on **Sunday 22 July**. Venue TBC; Keith Woodley from the Pūkoro Kororo Miranda Shorebird Centre will be guest speaker. All welcome.



Moehau Environment Group

By Genevieve Morley



Create a lizard friendly garden

Being the mother of an inquisitive ten-year-old, it came as no surprise when my daughter started creating a rock garden for the skinks that she had found in the backyard. I was mighty proud of my daughter for her dedication in helping the local skink population until we attended Doug Ashby's presentation at the MEG Summer Holiday Programme and found out that those skink eggs which we were finding under rocks or bark are not native skink eggs at all, but belong to the plague/rainbow skink. In fact, no gecko or skink endemic to Aotearoa lays eggs; instead, they deliver live young. The little baby is completely independent as soon as it's born.

Doug and his wife Jane have worked for over thirty years raising awareness about lizards and geckos. Ashby's favourite gecko species is the Duvaucel's gecko. "Duvaucel's gecko is the largest in NZ, is an active hunter, nocturnal and can bite. This lizard is extinct on the mainland and can only be found on offshore islands where predators have been eradicated. When they are abundant, they can be found everywhere all over the ground and up trees. Lizards pollinate flowering plants and they are a really important part of our ecosystem. However, 90% of geckos are at risk. Rats and cats are a major problem, especially feral cats which are basically living on skinks," says Doug Ashby.

An important part of MEG's rat control project over 450 ha in Port Charles is to protect the whole ecosystem, including our native lizards and geckos. But if you want to protect these creatures in your own garden, consider trapping rats as well as providing a north-facing rock habitat which skinks and geckos will enjoy.

Ngārara, karara and mokomoko are some of the Māori names for lizards, depending on which part of the country you are in. To Māori, they are considered incredibly sacred and important creatures which means you have to have a special permit to hold a native gecko or skink in captivity as they are fully protected under the wildlife act. Currently there are 126 species of lizard that have been identified in



Aotearoa and new species are still being discovered. Te mokomoko a Tohu is the latest species of gecko to have been added to the species list in January this year.

Doug and Jane Ashby are returning this **Saturday 6 May** to present and share their fascinating knowledge and passion at the Driving Creek Festival. Children and families are all welcome and it's free. Come and learn about how you might encourage geckos to make their home in your garden. Another speaker presenting at the Festival is Dr Andrew Veale, who is an incredibly clever stoat geneticist and wildlife ecologist based at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research where he leads research focusing on the use of genetics to aid conservation management. Diane Prince (MEG's local kiwi handler) and her dog Neo will also be presenting as well as Richard Johnson with his rat sniffing dog, Dr Trevor James, who is an environmental weeds expert, Danilo Hegg presenting on invertebrates and Benson Lockhart, who will be updating us on kauri dieback and myrtle rust. We look forward to seeing you there!
Come and join our volunteers
We are looking for volunteers to join our team! Are you interested in conservation? If so, get in touch and we look forward to working with you.

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

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hākinakina SPORT

Coromandel Golf Club

By Malcolm Stone



A busy month for competitions.

I know I keep banging on about our amazing volunteers, but it has to be said, the course is looking fantastic despite all of the wet weather we have had. The fairways and rough are beautifully mown, the issues on the greens are being addressed religiously with the guidance of NZ Golf and the drainage issues are being sorted diligently bit by bit. Great job guys!

The third round of the Hector Cup was hard fought on Saturday 25 March. Just one shot separating first and second and three players tied for that second slot. Our Men's Club Captain, Ron Brooking, took out the Hector Cup for 2023, with 67, 68, net 135. The day wasn't without its challenges however. None more so than Bruce Fitzpatrick's 9th hole ball location – wedged in the fork of a tree. "Unplayable", I think was the decision.

On Sunday 2 April, Coromandel Golf Club (CGC) hosted Thames Valley Goldfields Fire Brigade Sub Association's golf tournament. This was a three-person Ambrose competition with each team having to include an active firefighter. The day was action packed with so much to play for. There were seven trophies and a huge array of prizes to win. An emergency callout that day reminded us just how special our firemen are in our everyday lives. Special thanks are extended to the sponsors and helpers on the day. We couldn't have done it without you: Peter Richardson for bringing this tournament to CGC and for all of the work behind the scenes to make it such a success; Richard and Fiona Neal for all of the administration work and helping with the general running of the day; the ladies running the watering hole; Kate Richardson for feeding the hungry golfers; our wonderful bar staff at the 19th hole; everyone in the kitchen; Ross and his greens team for presenting the course in such a wonderful condition; Golf Warehouse; Coromandel ITM; Chopping Block; Pipeline; Star and Garter; Coromandel Four Square; Sonia and Kelvin Wirihana; Coromandel Golf Club; Coromandel Bakery; Coromandel Electrical; Noel Leeming; James & Turner, Fish & Dive. Thank you!

Ladies' Golf

A really special moment for one particular member and for Coromandel Golf Club – Glenise Robertson has been made a life member of Bay of Plenty Golf. Glenise has been in golf management for BOP, devoting a huge amount of time, from 2003 through to 2020. What a wonderful achievement! We are so proud of her.

Our Ladies' team for the Thames Valley Association Pennants: Peg McClean, Lynne Fenwick, Greta James, Jenny Gilmore, Gina Carr, Philippa Medlock came 3rd on the last day of competition, resulting in a 3rd place overall placing after a hard-fought competition. Well done ladies.

19 March – Rd 2 of the Nancy McCormick Memorial Foursomes was played at CGC. Anne Beston and Glenise Robertson played a blinder with a nett 56 over 18 holes. This has now been added to Rd 1, a 62 nett, bringing their net total for 36 holes to an incredible 118, 17 under. This is a national tournament so we will now wait until the later in June to see how this stacks up against the rest of the country.

20 March – An excellent day at the Coromandel Course with five clubs contesting Round 2 of the BOP Pennant competition. Coromandel ladies were clear winners.

On Saturday 8 April CGC hosted the Coromandel Hotel Mixed Open Tournament. Thanks to our very generous sponsor, The Top Pub. So many liquid prizes! If you didn't make it, you missed out big time! It certainly brought out the thirsty players. There were a number of visitors who entered the tournament challenging the local members. Thank you to everyone who made it such a successful day.

New to our calendar this year was the Top Town v Bottom Town Ambrose Challenge which took place on Saturday 15 April. Although the geographical boundaries were a little blurred and there was a certain degree of ship jumping, the eventual winners were the "Bottom Town" team of Ron Brooking, Paul Kasper, Richard Neal, Bryan MacLeod, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Tony Edgar, Malcolm Stone, Shaun Hovel and Fiona Neal.

Happy golfing!



Glenise Robertson with Mark Webb from NZ Golf

Coromandel Croquet Club

By Raewyn McKinney



Croquet is a great game and is played all the year round. Our greens drain quickly, and it is not often play is called off because of inclement weather. It is a gentle way to get exercise that provides a greater challenge than walking.

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

We meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9.30am, provide all of the equipment and a six-week period of coaching before you decide to join. The club is situated in Woollams Ave next to the Bowling Club.



Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club

By Lorraine Chick

The club's "Fish of the Month" competition for \$100 cash for March was kahawai and was won by Shevana Davies; well done Shevana!

Fish of the Month for May is snapper so get those fish weighed in, members, to get a chance at the \$100 cash.

There are plenty of snapper around still and a young local angler, Juan-Kaito, managed to catch a gurnard off the town wharf. Go Juan!



Juan-Kaito

CORO GYM

COROGYM@GMAIL.COM

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ALL BUILDING AND HOME REPAIRS and maintenance, roof, spouting, timber work, painting and more. 25+ years' experience. Ph/txt Andy 022 346 2040.

BALLET CLASS FOR ADULTS. Venue Coromandel Citizens' Hall, 455 Kapanga Road. Wednesdays, 10am to 11am. \$10. Phone Marilyn Swan 027 336 5263. Registered Teacher and Life Member Royal Academy of Dance. Visitors are welcome.

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WANTED

BACH, HOUSE OR SHED around Coromandel town for 10/15 people to park up for 10/11 days 26 Dec – 5 Jan for some r&r and a bit of fishing. We have an 8 metre truck and tents, we are tidy and respectful Kiwis from a farming background. Please text/ring Darryl on 021 245 6035 or Tania 027 440 3624.

VEHICLES WANTED Dead or Alive. Cars, Vans, Utes, 4WD, Trucks. In any condition damaged or de-registered we buy them all. Call 0800 333 398 or text 021 344 449.

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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.

And finally...

ChatGPT writes about SH25A

By Chris Oglivie (and ChatGPT)

My son and I asked ChatGPT (AI programme) to write a story about fixing SH25A in Biblical terms. This is what it wrote:

“And it came to pass that the heavens did open, and the rains did fall upon the land. The road called SH25A, which wound its way up the steep hills, was not spared from the downpour. The deluge caused a great under-slip on the road, causing it to be treacherous and difficult to pass.

The people who travelled upon the road cried out in dismay, for it was a vital link that connected them to the outside world. But the contractors were not deterred, for they knew the importance of the road to the people.

With their tools in hand, they worked tirelessly day and night, carving and shaping the land, building retaining walls and shoring up the hillside. The rain continued to pour, but the contractors were determined to restore the road to its former glory.

And it came to pass that their hard work paid off, for the road was made straight and true once more. It was widened and strengthened, and the under-slip was no more. The people who travelled upon it rejoiced, for they knew that their journey would be safe and swift once again.

And it was foretold that the road would be restored by Christmas. But such was the dedication of the contractors that the work was completed even before the appointed time. And the people who travelled upon it gave thanks for the hard work of the contractors, who had brought safety and comfort to their journey once more.”

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, Colin & Elspeth (07) 866 71379am

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

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

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

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

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

Every Tuesday

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 26619.15am

Coro Walking Group, Lotto Dairy, Ruth (07) 866 72469am

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

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

Every Wednesday

Step Aerobics at Coro 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, \$10 per class. Marilyn 027 336 5263..... 10-11am

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

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

Every Thursday

Coro Walking Group, Lotto Dairy, Ruth (07) 866 72469am

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

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

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

Free Guided Meditation, Havalona Pyramid 10-11am

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

Recova 12-step addiction recovery meeting, 100 Pound St (orange house), Liz 027 436 2800 6.30pm

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

Every Friday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am

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

Community Gardens volunteer day 8.30-11am

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

Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn 027 466 26619.15am

Chess Club, Umu, Mike 027 304 92529.30am

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

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

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" 4pm

Coromandel Flying Club social gathering, all welcome 5.30pm

Every Saturday

RSA Coromandel, RSA Club Rooms Woollams Ave. President Kevin Stone (07) 866 7576..... 3.30-7pm

Every Sunday

Anglican Church Service 10am

Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" 1pm

Monthly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last Thurs – Green Drinks at Star & Garter 5pm

Last Thurs – DCR Music and Art Night 6.30pm

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

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

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Calendar of events Coromandel Town May 2023

Coromandel Recreational
Fishing Club members
Fish of the Month for May is
snapper

**COROMANDEL RUBBISH
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Saturday, Sunday
9.30am-4pm.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<p>1</p> <p>Sale of Paintings and Sculpture (see pg 22)</p> <p>High tide 3:27am (2.4m), 3:57pm (2.4m) Low tide 9:44am (0.9m), 10:05pm (0.9m)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Coromandel-Cowville Community Board meeting (see ad pg 13)</p> <p>High tide 4:18am (2.5m), 4:50pm (2.4m) Low tide 10:32am (0.8m), 10:54pm (0.8m)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Star & Garter Quiz Nights start (see ad pg 19)</p> <p>High tide 5:03am (2.6m), 5:38pm (2.5m) Low tide 11:18am (0.7m), 11:39pm (0.7m)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bowling Club closing day (see pg 10)</p> <p>High tide 5:47am (2.6m), 6:23pm (2.6m) Low tide 12:01pm (0.9m)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>WTS (Watch This space) Coromandel: Dimensions Variable art exhibition opens (see pg 23)</p> <p>High tide 6:30am (2.7m), 7:06pm (2.8m) Low tide 12:21am (0.5m), 12:44pm (0.5m)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Driving Creek Festival (see pg 25) RSA Coronation Party (see pg 11)</p> <p>High tide 7:14am (2.8m), 7:49pm (2.9m) Low tide 1:04am (0.6m), 1:27pm (0.4m)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Thames Music Group Sunday Afternoon Concert – Katherine Austin and Hyein Kim (see pg 23)</p> <p>High tide 7:59am (2.8m), 8:32pm (2.9m) Low tide 1:47am (0.5m), 2:11pm (0.4m)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>High tide 8:46am (2.8m), 9:18pm (2.9m) Low tide 2:32am (0.5m), 2:55pm (0.3m)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Quiz Nights start at The Club (see pg 11 and ad pg 10)</p> <p>High tide 9:34am (2.8m), 10:05pm (2.9m) Low tide 3:19am (0.5m), 3:41pm (0.3m)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Coromandel Garden Circle AGM (see pg 15)</p> <p>High tide 10:24am (2.8m), 10:56pm (2.9m) Low tide 4:10am (0.5m), 4:29pm (0.4m)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Coromandel Grey Power AGM (see pg 8)</p> <p>High tide 11:17am (2.7m), 11:51pm (2.8m) Low tide 5:04am (0.6m), 5:21pm (0.5m)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>High tide 12:12pm (2.7m) Low tide 6:02am (0.6m), 6:18pm (0.6m)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>High tide 12:50am (2.8m), 1:12pm (2.6m) Low tide 7:03am (0.6m), 7:22pm (0.6m)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <p>High tide 1:51am (2.8m), 2:14pm (2.6m) Low tide 8:04am (0.6m), 8:28pm (0.7m)</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>DEADLINE: Coromandel Town Chronicle June Issue</p> <p>High tide 3:51am (2.8m), 4:21pm (2.7m) Low tide 10:03am (0.5m), 10:33pm (0.8m)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>High tide 4:46am (2.8m), 5:19pm (2.8m) Low tide 10:58am (0.5m), 11:27pm (0.6m)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Parahaka Block, Mania meeting (see ad pg 13)</p> <p>High tide 5:38am (2.8m), 6:13pm (2.8m) Low tide 11:50am (0.4m)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>High tide 6:30am (2.9m), 7:02pm (2.9m) Low tide 12:17am (0.5m), 12:40pm (0.4m)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>High tide 7:19am (2.8m), 7:46pm (2.9m) Low tide 1:05am (0.5m), 1:26pm (0.4m)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>WTS (Watch This space) Coromandel: Dimensions Variable art exhibition ends (see pg 23)</p> <p>High tide 8:06am (2.8m), 8:32pm (2.9m) Low tide 1:50am (0.5m), 2:11pm (0.4m)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>High tide 8:52am (2.7m), 9:14pm (2.8m) Low tide 2:38am (0.5m), 2:59pm (0.4m)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>The NZ String Quartet (see pg 22 and ad pg 11)</p> <p>High tide 11:02am (2.5m), 11:22pm (2.6m) Low tide 4:48am (0.8m), 4:57pm (0.7m)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thames Music Group Free Friday Lunchtime Concert – Katherine Austin (see pg 23)</p> <p>High tide 11:46am (2.4m) Low tide 5:38am (0.8m), 5:42pm (0.8m)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Wilderness Warriors rally: Updates on Facebook "Stop Poisoning Coromandel Peninsula"</p> <p>High tide 12:08am (2.5m), 12:32pm (2.4m) Low tide 6:25am (0.9m), 6:32pm (0.8m)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>High tide 12:57am (2.5m), 1:21pm (2.4m) Low tide 7:15am (0.9m), 7:26pm (0.9m)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>High tide 1:47am (2.5m), 2:14pm (2.3m) Low tide 8:06am (0.9m), 8:23pm (0.9m)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Make sure your event gets listed</p> <p>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.</p>			

KEY
● New moon
○ Full moon

Tide times and heights from Land Information NZ and are for Coromandel Harbour.
For Thames times -15min High and -18min Low.

- Blue bin bags out
- Put recycling out (plastic 1, 2 & 5
tins, paper, cardboard)
- RN = Rural North CT = Coromandel Town & Te Kouma
TC = Thames Coast & Mania

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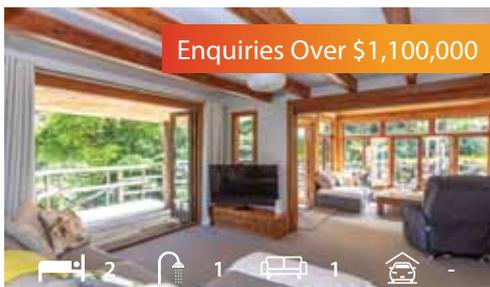
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