

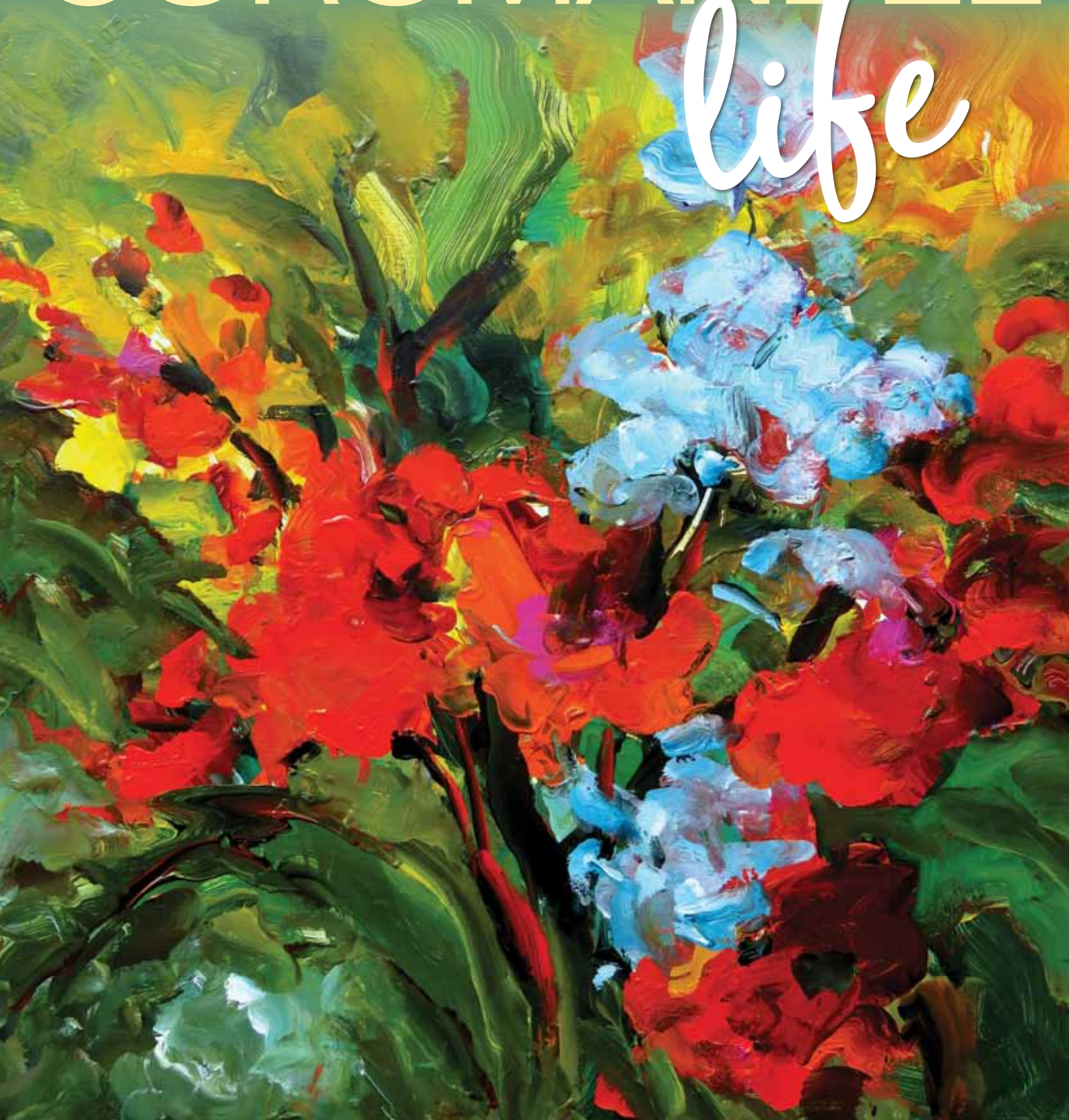
LATE SPRING/HOLIDAY 2017
COMPLIMENTARY

“Dreaming of Spring”
by BARBARA von SEIDA



COROMANDEL

life



Celebrating the people and places of the Coromandel Peninsula

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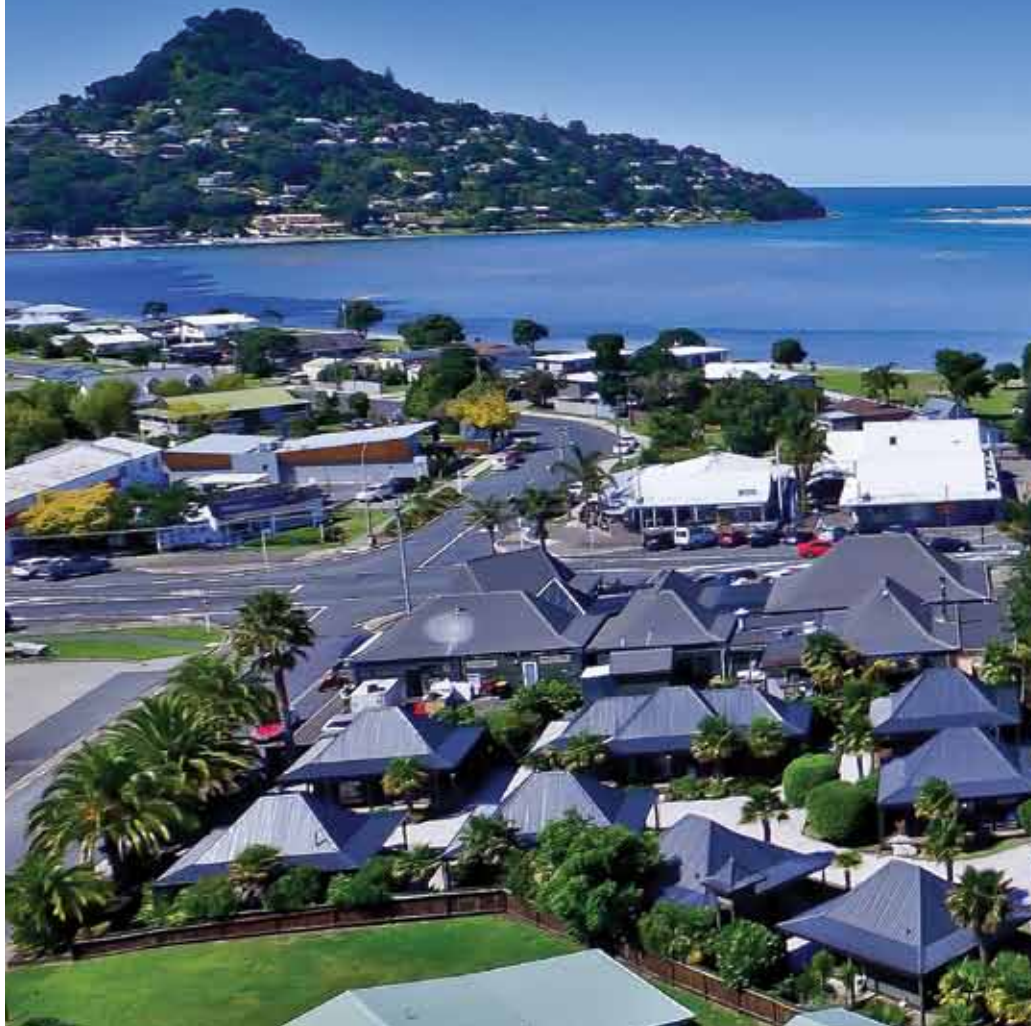
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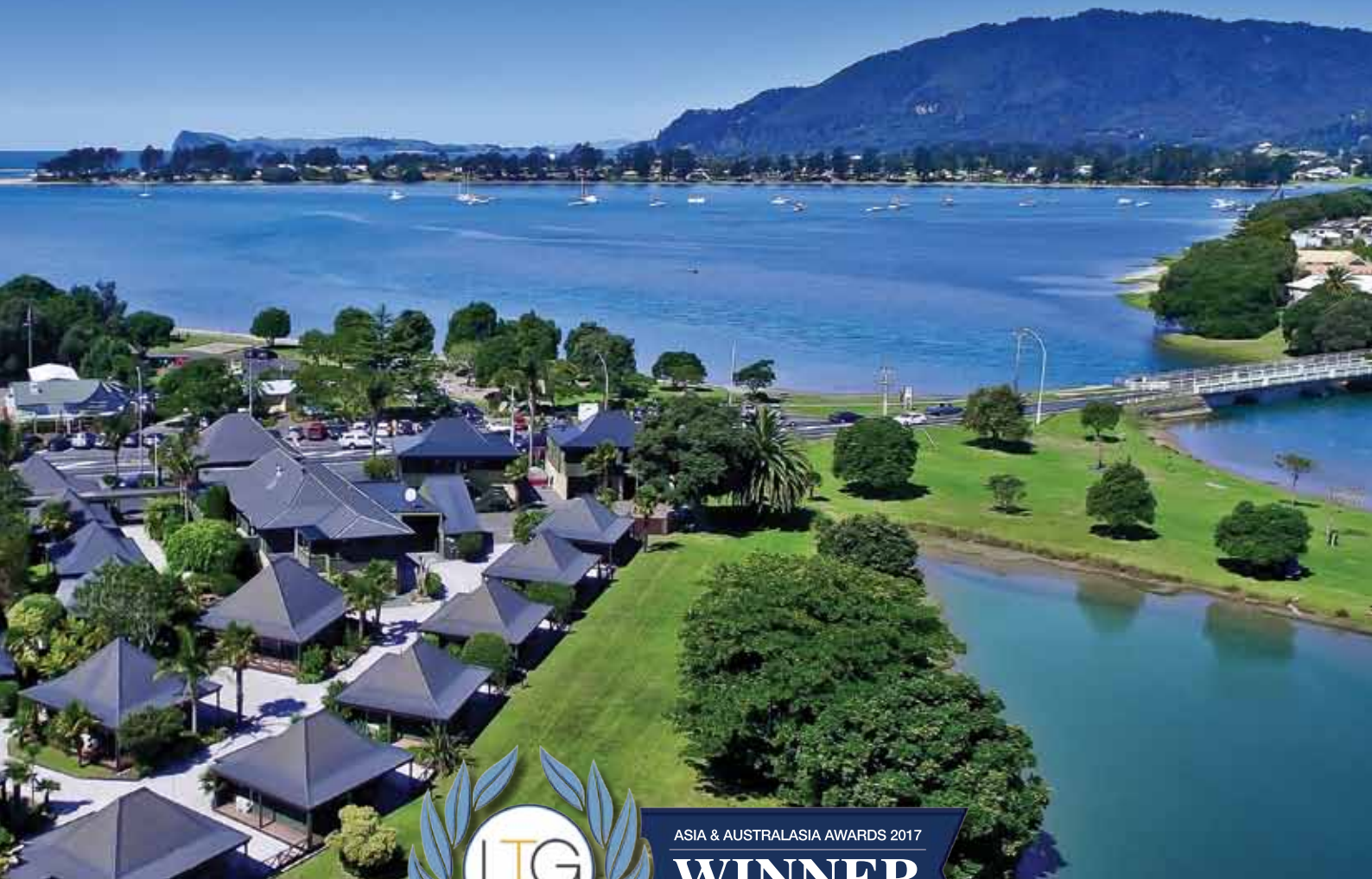
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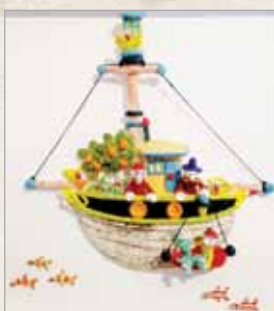


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At left: In October, Barbara's painting "Charged" was judged 'Best Landscape' at the 2017 Waitakere Trusts Art Awards, by well known judge and art commentator, Lynda Tyler (Director of Art Studies at the Auckland University).

Below: Image of "Stony Bay" that Barbara painted on the TV programme



Cover Artist

Barbara von Seida

We have been longtime admirers of Barbara's work and are thrilled to have the vibrant 'Dreaming of Spring' as our Late Spring/Holiday cover



Coromandel's Barbara von Seida has a unique, expressionistic, broad-stroke painting style, evolved over decades. Her dynamic acrylic landscapes and florals project a strong, invigorating imagery. Subject-wise, her ongoing inspiration is the ever-changing scenery as seen from her cliff top home overlooking Coromandel's Long Bay and the Hauraki Gulf.

Barbara spent 5 years studying ceramic and textile design at University of Applied Sciences in Krefeld, Germany. She then worked as a freelance fabric designer, painting, in watercolour – her preferred medium – the initial patterns that informed the final prints. She found employment with United Silk Companies.

In 1984, she moved to West Cork, Ireland where she opened her Country House Gallery to showcase her ceramic sculptures and watercolours. In 1990 she moved to Coromandel and established her Kowhai Watercolour Studio, named after the NZ tree.

A look at Barbara's website reveals not just watercolours, but gutsy, dynamic, broad-stroke

acrylic paintings. Landscapes, seascapes, and florals as well, all brought onto the surface with splashy-but-precise brushwork. She added acrylics to her palette in 1997 to take advantage of the bold, stable colours it gives, rather than the flowing hues of watercolours.

BARBARA COLOURS HER LIFE

Barbara's work caught the eye of TV's Graeme Stevenson, host of the *Colour in Your Life* show. He motorbiked over to Barbara's charming airy gallery and conducted an interview with her as she worked in her basement studio. She chose to paint a landscape of one of her favourite places, 'Stony Bay'. (See painting above right.)

The main outlines were already sketched in charcoal, but then she danced the broad strokes and twists of paint onto the surface. "With acrylics, I paint for the pure dashes of colour!" she tells him, revealing she does most of her colour mixing right on the board. And with the thick acrylics, she can scrape off paint as well, which is not an option in watercolours. "With acrylics, I do not have to be as careful."

EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

Barbara is a regular participant in October's Coromandel Open Studios Arts Tour and is looking forward to a solo exhibition at the Gallery Art Matakana, north of Auckland, 2-24 February 2018.

Barbara also has two entries in the Waikato Society of Arts members exhibition being held at ArtPost, Hamilton from 13 October to 20 November, and has entered two paintings into the Hibiscus and Bays Art Awards at the Mairangi Art Centre at Mairangi Bay, from 9 November to 10 December.

Barbara is one of NZ's most awarded artists. In 2013 and again in 2015, Barbara was won the Supreme Award at the ARTWaikino exhibitions. Barbara's work has been featured in numerous art publications, and her paintings form part of many private and public collections.

The actual cover painting, "Dreaming of Spring", is available at Barbara's home gallery. Additionally, you can view her paintings at the Thames Society of Arts Gallery in Tararu and at the Weta Studio in Coromandel Town.

Barbara's Kowhai Watercolour Studio is located at 600 Wyuna Bay Road, just 3.5kms outside Coromandel Town.

View recent works, including new watercolours, at www.barbara-von-seida.co.nz/home.html.

Enjoy the TV programme "Fine Art Show with Barbara von Seida: Come Inside her World of Acrylics" at www.youtu.be/fhRhEZoSmcw.

ROAD TRIP ARTIST moves to New Plymouth

Charlotte Giblin is the life-filled Brit immigrant who chronicled her discovery of the Coromandel in a delightful drawing style which we used to illustrate our many "Road Trip" sections. She collected these paintings in her art book, *Wandering under Big Skies*. Charlotte also teaches art workshops, and has developed an art-inspired coaching business—quite the multi-talented lady!

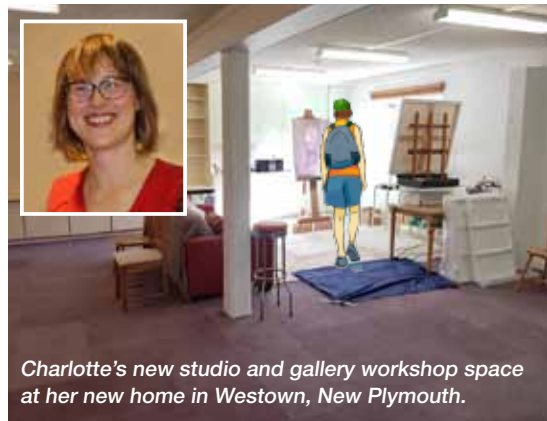
Charlotte has developed two new painting styles, portraits and bright fanciful landscapes, both seen recently at her retrospective show at Whitianga's Bread & Butter Gallery. She is now painting portraits

for a February show.

Then, suddenly, Charlotte was posting photos of packing boxes! She and partner Pete were moving to New Plymouth. Charlotte wasted no time setting up her studio in their new home. Already missing her, she assures us she will return regularly.

"I'll be staying in touch with the drawing group – having Skype classes and other kinds of distance learning – plus I'll be back every 3 months to do workshops and exhibitions, so I'm not cutting my connections, but obviously I will be a lot further away!!"

See FB or visit www.charlottegiblin.com



Charlotte's new studio and gallery workshop space at her new home in Westtown, New Plymouth.



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Kia Ora...

Yes, Spring is in the air! And what a welcome feeling it is.

I was recently telling an old friend from Hawaii how blessed I feel to live in such a 'heavenly' place. And even if I can't be outside enjoying it, I get the next best thing – to view it from my desk every day. Rain or shine, I look at those clear ocean waters, Mt Paku across the estuary, Slipper Island, the Aldermans and beyond

Though it seemed I was watching a bit too many rain showers these past few months, there were also a lot of sunbreaks and their pals, the rainbows! Many days we saw up to 5 forming, in totally different shapes and directions. I had found my silver lining.

Another boost came when artist Barbara von Seida sent a selection of paintings to consider for the cover – there was no doubt that we wanted 'Dreaming of Spring' – great name and great painting – so vibrant and full of life. It was the perfect way to greet Spring and carry us through the Christmas holidays with those bold splashes of reds and greens.

NEW HAND ON DECK

Many of you know that I have been looking for another 'right hand' to help me with the day to day responsibilities the magazine demands. I have known that I need to stop those 80 hour work weeks, reduce stress and focus on staying healthy to keep that cancer at bay.

I am pleased to announce that Len Salt from Whitianga has joined the team as Editing/ Business Manager. We are delighted to have him on board – and I'm hoping this means I can spend more time doing what I love: pulling together those great stories that 'celebrate the people and places on the Coromandel'.

Coming off the Winter season, the Spring issue can be a challenging time to bring in advertising dollars, but not so much this time. It was quite rewarding to have several new businesses ring us to get in this issue and a few current advertisers even increased the size of their ads. It feels good to know they trust the results they are getting – and this ultimately makes it all worthwhile, knowing the magazine works for both readers and advertisers.

We could not produce the magazine without those businesses, so please visit their stores and use their services – and let them know you saw their ad or learned about them from *Coromandel Life*. They make it possible to continue producing this, the only lifestyle magazine available reaching the entire peninsula... and beyond.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season – see you next year!

Tovi and Greg Daly



Checking out the new Tairua wharf with Tovi and Greg is Lulu, Ruth and Andy Pettitt's dog. Forget the photo, Lulu wants to continue playing and Greg is standing on her 'throw' stick.



The cement boat launch with floating pontoons on each side, allowing for safer boarding.

TAIRUA HAS A NEW WHARF

After six months and \$1.4M, Tairua has its 'new' wharf, boat ramp and floating pontoons at Mary's Beach.

In August, the facility opened for public use and ferry service has resumed. The official opening was held 30 September, which included a blessing and ribbon cutting by Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"It's excellent to see this project finished within budget and on time," says Bob Renton, Tairua-Pauanui Community Board Chair. Construction began in March this year.

The existing boat ramp was widened and extended to improve launching at low tide and an additional two new 30-metre floating pontoons were installed to deal with the tidal flows of the harbour and improve launching safety – one floats alongside the wharf and the second is angled on the seaward side.

These improvements will encourage more commercial, charter, and fishing vessels to the area, thus improving Tairua's economy.

And who is Mary? A Tairua pioneer! Her last name was BEACH, and Mary was mother of Eva, who died this summer. (See page 51.)

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EXPLORING THE RINGS BEACH WETLANDS

— WITH SCOTT SIMPSON —

Whenever this 4th generation 'Coromandelite' has a bit of spare time, our Honourable Scott Simpson MP enjoys revisiting some of his childhood haunts on the Coromandel. This time he takes Greg and me on one of his favourite walks near his bach in Kuaotunu – the Rings Beach Wetlands Track. Scott enthusiastically shared the history of the project inspired by his relative Bruce Smith, who passed away before he could complete his vision.

Though it was considered a Winter day, we were reminded that Spring was approaching as we encountered a blooming clematis seemingly being guarded by a raucous tui, both evidence that this wetlands restoration project is working. -Tovi Daly

Photos by Ian Patrick and Greg Daly



Scott takes a break to enjoy the vistas that now include the ocean below from a commemorative bench built by Ian Patrick to honour Bruce Smith who spearheaded the Wetlands Project in 2008.

From small beginnings, great and enduring projects are often created. So it has been with the hugely successful and environmentally significant Rings Beach Wetland Project.

Back in 2008 a relative of mine, the late Bruce Smith, and his friend Ian MacDonald set about turning a humble dream into an outstanding award winning reality.

The plan was initially straightforward – create a walking track through a piece of regenerating bush land tucked in behind the beautiful Rings Beach between Kuaotunu and Matarangi. Nearly ten years on and that plan has developed into one of the most spectacular wetland and bush restoration projects in NZ.

REALISING THE DREAM

Over those years I've watched ...and from time to time helped... the small team of volunteers as they have gone about fulfilling Bruce and Ian's simple but grand vision.

Today there is a well formed and much used track that takes hikers through an 'up hill and down dale' bush walk of extraordinary beauty.

The team has embarked on extensive tree planting as well as an active and effective pest control programme. This, and their work on the wetland itself, has seen the return of rare fernbirds and other species to the area.

I walk the track often during the summer break when I spend time at Kuaotunu and make the effort to do the 90 minute round circuit every day when I'm there. There's nothing better than getting up early and being the first person of the day to do the walk. You know you're the first as you clear the cobwebs that have been built across the track during the night before!

In addition to the terrific and ongoing work

being done by Ian's team, thousands of kauri have been planted by Kauri 2000. It was their plan to mark the new millennium back in the year 2000 by planting 2,000 kauri trees around the Coromandel Peninsula. They did that, and so successful was the venture they've just kept planting.

Today, nearly 10,000 young kauri have been planted in this area alone, and I delight in telling visitors that "the Rings Beach walk is home to the largest planted kauri forest in the world".

THE LEGACY

I like to encourage younger family members and visitors to do the track with me. Inevitably they enjoy the great personal satisfaction gained from just completing it, but even more importantly for me is that they get a sense of the scale of the project that's been undertaken by such a small, but very dedicated group of hardworking volunteers. I want those young people to return in years to come and marvel at how big these trees have grown as they remember their walk and when the trees were only tiny.

Needless to say all walkers must take careful precautions to have clean footwear to reduce the risk of the dreaded Kauri Dieback.

At present the volunteers are focusing on ridding the bush of wilding pines. Last summer many were felled and there are plans to cull more this summer.

This walk is truly one of the Coromandel's hidden jewels – well worth seeking out and doing. I can assure you that once you've done the track, you'll want to do it again and again.

Full marks to the volunteers for their hard work and effort. They have created something very special and have even bigger plans for making it even more spectacular.



A board walk has been built by volunteers that allows people to traverse the wetland area.

ABOUT SCOTT...

Elected Member of Parliament for the Coromandel in November 2011 and re-elected this year, Hon Scott Simpson MP also serves as Minister of Statistics, Associate Minister of Immigration and Associate Minister for the Environment.

Scott has deep family ties to the Whitianga area spanning back four generations. His great grandparents arrived in Kuaotunu in the mid-1800s, and members of his extended family still farm in the area. Although now living in Thames, Scott has owned a home in Kuaotunu for over 20 years. He has two adult children, and outside interests include trying to keep fit, reading, family time and, of course ... hiking and exploring the Coromandel!

Everyday Heroes realise a vision



Scott and Ian McDonald check out the growth of one of the rimu planted just four years ago by family and friends of Bruce. His memorial seat was erected at the same time.

Ian assumed leadership of the project after the passing of Bruce in 2012.



These steps at the entrance to the track from the east end of Rings Beach were erected in April 2016. It was a joint project with DOC who provided the materials and guidance.

The Rings Beach Wetlands Project was initiated in 2008 by Bruce Smith of Kuaotunu, recently retired at the time and looking for a project to give something back to the community. He shared his vision with another local, Ian MacDonald, who soon partnered with Bruce to 'make it happen'.

Sadly, in December 2012, Bruce Smith passed away quite suddenly. Since then, the project has carried on under Ian's capable leadership with the help of other Kuaotunu and Matarangi locals, all committed to realising, maintaining and extending Bruce's dream.

A memorial bench was constructed by one of those dedicated volunteers, Ian Patrick, which was placed in Bruce's honour beside the track overlooking the wetlands vista (see photo).

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

Volunteers, assisted by local schools, have planted over 4600 native trees, carefully selected to provide a food source for native birds which are indeed re-establishing themselves in this bush reserve.

Trap lines, also monitored by volunteers, have eliminated over 3700 predators since 2009. Not only is the bird life benefiting, but monitoring has established that wetas, lizards and other invertebrates are also recovering. As the new trees grow, even more species will make this their home.

Kiwi, which have been absent for a long time, have now returned to the wetland area. The goal of the group is to make fresh releases of kiwi, incubated and hand reared locally to 1kg – the optimum weight at which they can resist predators.

Several hundred wilding pines have been felled with support from DOC, which has allowed seedling natives to spring up wherever they gained sunlight. Application has been made for a significant funding boost from the Minister of Conservation's "War on Weeds" programme.

This 276ha area, that was clear felled and farmed till the 1950s, now features native forest regrowth. The ultimate result of the 10,000 plus volunteer hours restoring this forest to its former glory will provide the most benefit to future generations. "It will present a glimpse



The late Bruce Smith

of how our native forest looked before Britain colonised this country in the 19th century," shares Ian.

This conservation project is enjoyed by locals and visitors in increasing numbers. A track counter installed by DOC recorded over 16,000 walkers last year.

Last October the project was honoured with an award from the NZ Plant Conservation Network. Ian led a delegation of Rings Beach project volunteers to the awards ceremony held at the Wellington Botanical Gardens.

ACCESSING THE TRACK

Find walking tracks at either end of Ring's Beach, or walk in from the access point at the end of Goldfields Drive in Matarangi.

To donate toward track upgrades including the wilding pine felling project, or to volunteer your time, please contact Ian MacDonald at 07 866 5338 (email ianmacd@xtra.co.nz) or Ian Patrick 07 866 0751 (email igdmp@xtra.co.nz).

See a previous article in our Holiday 2014 issue: www.coromandelife.co.nz/flipview/holiday_2014/index.html#42.



Aine Barton and Sheridan O'Keeffe, from Te Rerenga School, take part in the rimu tree plantings in 2013.



In an effort to increase the educational value of the project, 50 species identification plaques are being erected along the main walking circuit with the generous support of Forest and Bird's Valder Trust.





This stunning shot of the NZ native fernbird, used for the Wetland Project's logo, was donated by bird photographer Ormond Torr.

When the presence of a few remaining pairs of fernbirds were discovered at Rings Beach, their survival became the initial focus of the project, and it soon transitioned from a 'track building' to a 'conservation' project.

The fernbirds, or matata, inhabit wetlands throughout NZ. These little chirpers are an overall indicator of wetland health as they are dependent on the ecosystem's high quality, diverse habitats and rich food supplies found only in these areas. As many wetlands were drained for farm and pastureland, fernbird numbers declined significantly, and the species is now at risk.

They are rarely seen because of their secretive behaviour and excellent camouflage. However, keep an ear out for their high pitched, clocklike chirping. You may just spot a fernbird among the low grasses and branches hopping after a tasty insect meal.

RINGS BEACH WETLANDS PROJECT TRACKS MAP



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All Stories and Photos by
Peter James Quinn

THE ICONIC KOPU BRIDGE

For many older residents and long-time visitors to the Coromandel Peninsula, the single-lane swing bridge over the Waihou River at Kopu was once synonymous with being the entrance, or gateway, to the district. The effect it had upon travellers intrinsically prepared them to slow down, change pace and get into 'Coromandel-time'. But with the only permanent set of traffic lights in the whole region, it also created lengthy waits on both sides of the bridge during peak holiday periods, and calls for a replacement two-lane structure grew louder and louder as long-weekend delays and summer holiday bottlenecks grew longer and longer. However, for those who passed over the category one historic bridge during their travels, most would recall it a memorable experience.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

My own first encounter with the old bridge was as a 10-year-old, some 40-odd years ago, on a day-long cycling trek across the Hauraki Plains from Matamata to visit my companion's grandmother living in Thames.

Equipped with two-speed 'Raleigh Twenty' push bikes, we departed at daybreak, keen to complete most of the journey before the scorching sun wore us out. Miscalculating how long and punishing a ride it would actually be, we reached the Kopu Bridge late in the day exhausted, stopping at the Turua side to wait for the lights to turn green. Plucking up courage when they did, we pedalled furiously, hoping to make it safely to one of the two passing bays strategically located halfway along it, before the lights changed again.

When they did, a trail of vehicles headed towards us from the opposite direction and we hugged the railings as they thundered past. Resuming our foolhardy crossing, we made our way off the bridge relieved and exhilarated, before another wave of traffic was ushered forward by the lights.

Some decades later I made Thames my home and regularly crossed the old Kopu Bridge on day trips to Auckland for business. The sight of it on the return journey had a strangely calming effect after a long day in the city, as though crossing it, like the mythical River Styx, you would enter into an some kind of remote and distant "otherworld".

THE FATE OF THE OLD BRIDGE

After almost 90 years continual service, calls came to see the old bridge replaced. Of course, opinion was divided, with some reluctant to see it go. For them, the bridge nostalgically represented a one-of-a-kind piece of history and 'Kiwiana' and fought to maintain the existing structure.

Others on the side of progress argued the old bridge was an impediment to the commercial viability of the region, causing visitors and holidaymakers to avoid the area during peak holiday periods.

Few people, if any, ever speak of the old Kopu Bridge as a picturesque, elegant, structure. Or it having a charming appeal like those covered bridges in Madison County, popularised by the sentimental film romance between Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood that won the hearts of movie-goers.

Yet, while the new bridge serves its purpose

well, conveying vehicles across the Waihou at a blistering 100km per hour without any delay, the experience is somewhat detached from 'the olde world' feel of the original. That sense it conveyed... that arrival on the Coromandel meant stepping back in time, in keeping with the heritage architecture of Grahamstown, the quaintness of Driving Creek Pottery and Railway, and the frontier-town countenance of Coromandel with its canopied verandas of Star and Garter hotel.

Five years on since it was replaced by the new two-lane bridge in 2012, a group is still fighting to save the historic swing bridge –the only one like it left in the country– and see it reopened for pedestrians and cyclists.

They believe it would open up a unique experience while riding the Hauraki Rail Trail section across to the Seabird Coast, without any of the worry my younger self had with motor vehicles coming the other way. As someone who has cycled across it, I can attest that this could indeed make for a very memorable journey for tourists visiting the Coromandel, and even has the potential to offer commercial opportunity for a kiosk at one end selling refreshments and memorabilia.

To learn more about the future of the bridge go to www.facebook.com/SaveKopuBridge.

Peter, one of NZ's most accomplished and versatile photographers, has worked as a contract photographer and writer for NZ Geographic for more than 20 years. He trained in professional photography and broadcast film/video production at the School of Design, Wellington Polytechnic (now Massey). Peter welcomes all enquires for his photography, writing, video or design services.

Looking Back...

From its earliest manifestation as a rift valley between the Coromandel Peninsula and the Hunua Ranges, into which the ancestral Waikato River poured debris from the Taupo Volcanic Zone, the Hauraki District has served as a gigantic flood plain, in need of some way to cross its rivers.

About 20,000 years ago, when the Waikato changed course and exited via the West Coast, the plains transformed into a wet and boggy swampland where tall stands of kahikatea and matai trees flourished. From then on several river systems, notably the Waihou and the Piako, continued to flush silt from the land into the Hauraki Gulf, or *Tikapa Moana*. Those waterways were used by Maori, and later Pakeha settlers, to navigate inland.

On 19 November, 1769, Captain James Cook sailed the *Endeavour* into a wide shallow estuary. Nearby, the banks of the Waihou River were already populated with villages of iwi who, according to the ship's journal, welcomed him with open arms.

On the morning of the 20th, Cook and the ship's botanist, Joseph Banks, set to in a longboat and Pinnace rowing up the Waihou. About 12 or 14 miles from the river entrance they made landfall to investigate the lofty trees adorning the banks, with the ship's naturalist concluding it was "the properest place we have yet seen for establishing a colony".

The expedition crew were subsequently stalled for the night by the incoming tidal "flood" and slept aboard the longboats. Before he returned to the *Endeavour*, Cook named the river the Thames, as it reminded him of its namesake back in England. Both he and Banks surmised that the swampland might easily be drained and the richness of the soils be turned into productive land.

That drainage job would later fall to the hands of ballot farmers and paid workers after an act of Parliament passed in 1908 giving permission to drain the land. By establishing canals, stop-banks and a system of flood gates, they successfully drained the water from across the plains over a 10 year period, but in turn, over 75% of the natural wetlands were lost.

This set the scene for roads to be constructed and by the 1920s the need for a bridge across the Waihou had become evident. Up until then, punts and barges ferried passengers and goods. - Peter James Quinn



THE NEW KOPU BRIDGE TAKES SHAPE

Work began on the new two lane bridge in late 2009 and it was necessary to drive its foundation pilings up to 50 metres deep into the riverbed to provide enough support for the 16 spans needed to cross the river.

Completed earlier than predicted, the new bridge was officially opened on the 10th of December, 2011, just in time to accommodate peak summer holiday traffic heading to the peninsula.

At the open day event on the Saturday, hundreds of local people were bused from Rhodes park in Thames out to Kopu, where they were free to stroll across the freshly finished new bridge and admire the result.



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Photo by Peter James Quinn - www.peterjamesquinn.com

Read Bros Hardware celebrated its 150th anniversary over the period 2-9 September. The week was a great success - due largely to the wonderful support received from loyal customers, friendly visitors, generous suppliers and random happy passers-by. Thank you all very much for making the triumph of family trading the happy and festive week it was.

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RAIL TRAIL OPENS BETWEEN THAMES



Many feel the best way to now experience the Hauraki/Coromandel District is on a bike... on the Hauraki Rail Trail. Listed as Grade 1, it is suitable for all ages. You'll traverse the breathtaking Karangahake Gorge with crystal waters tumbling over ancient rocks below the road, rolling farmland from Paeroa to Te Aroha and onto Thames, tracing the old railway routes.

"The Trail is accessible and convenient for so many people now", says the Hauraki Rail Trail's new General Manager, Diane Drummond. "The cruise market docks at both Tauranga and Auckland. The country's biggest airport is within two hour's drive. It's hardly surprising its easy grade and great scenery has become a hit with families and social cyclists. I'm a perfect example of how you don't have to be a fitness fanatic to ride it," she says.

Cyclists will also soon be able to explore the Seabird Coast. World renowned for its shore birds and home to Miranda Hot Springs. This highly scenic coastline is sure to become as popular as the rest of the Hauraki Rail Trail. There are many stopping points for great views, especially if you want to see seabirds in their natural environment – this cycle trail is a must-do.

Located in the Miranda area, the charming Miranda Farm/Gallery near the Robert Findlay Wildlife Reserve (just south of the Shorebird Centre) is a recommended stop. Homemade cheeses, the Stray Dog Café, coffee and an impressive art gallery all offer reasons for either biker or hiker to stop...yet definitely also worth a drive in your car to check it out as well.

MIRANDA FARM

Farm Shop • Café • Art Gallery

The Miranda Farm Shop & Café has seasonal fruit, eggs, jam and juice, organic coffee and homemade baked goods with plenty of GF options. Open every day 8-4pm.

The adjoining gallery represents some of New Zealand's greatest fine artists: MICHAEL SMITHER, FATU FEU'U, WARREN VISCOE, CHRISTINE HELLYAR & NEIL MILLER to name only a few. Sculptures, paintings, prints, drawings and ceramics are for sale. Open Wed - Sun 10am to 4pm.

Set in the peaceful surroundings of an organic orchard and gardens.



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FATU FEU'U

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The Thames township has already been positively impacted by the extra people visiting, while they take in the Rail Trail, and many of the public facilities have been given face-lifts. Parks and walkways along The Firth have been improved as has the playground near the shopping centre.

The ride on the latest section of trail is another stunner. I leave the car in Thames and catch a shuttle with Matthias of Jolly Bikes. As we drove across the plains I chatted with him and was interested to hear his views on the trail and how it has affected his business:

"It is amazing in which short time the (Hauraki) Rail Trail has come to popularity, with kiwis and international visitors. What makes the Hauraki Rail Trail special is that it perfectly ridable for such a broad spectrum of people of different fitness, age and experience, even if they ride in the same group.

"When we started up as an electric bike rental business almost three years ago, it was my dream to cater for much more than just equipment needs. Now with the increase in demand, this dream has come true, helping customers rent a broad variety of bicycle styles, transport, and tour booking assistance." Learn more at www.jollybikes.co.nz.



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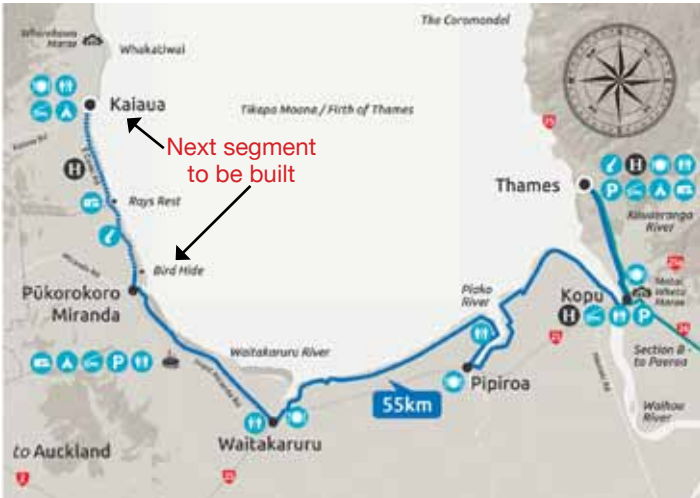


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PHOTO BY KEITH WOODLEY



GRAND OPENING – 18 NOVEMBER 2017

A full day of family fun celebrates the opening of the new Rail Trail leg between Pukoro-Miranda and Thames

Bring your bike, your family and get ready for a festival day of fun and riding or walking the newest section of the Hauraki Rail Trail.

Opening Programme:

- 4.45am - Dawn Blessing. Two blessings held simultaneously: For the east side at the **Robert Findlay Wildlife Area** on E Coast Rd, Miranda, and at the **Kopu Bridge** (access and parking will be at the layby on the Hauraki/Auckland side of the bridge).
- 8.30am - Gala Festival - 79 Kopu Road
- 9.00am - Opening Speeches
- 9.30am - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/ Rail Trail Open for riding / Festival continues.
- 9.30am to 3.00pm - Free Shuttle Services. Those who do not want to bike the entire trail return trip can take free segment lifts or 'return rides' on the two-way shuttle buses operating between Kopu and: Pipiroa - Buchanan Road; Waitakaruru - next to the Country Store; Pukoro-Miranda - Robert Findlay Wildlife Area - E Coast Rd, Miranda.
- No need to pack your lunch: Food stalls will be set up at the main Kopu venue and at these various shuttle bus stops.
- 1.00pm to 2.00pm - Best Dressed Bird Competition to honour the Miranda bird sanctuary. Registration, Judging and Prize Giving at Kopu (children & adult)

The celebration offers games, bouncy castles, music and entertainment, food, stalls, and spot prizes. A new bike, courtesy of Thames bike shop, JollyBikes, is on offer for the winner of the bird costume contest.

Purchase a \$5 Hauraki Rail Trail supporter wristband and wear it to win a night's accommodation at the Miranda Holiday Park or other spot prizes.

For information about having a market stall at the opening venue in Kopu or at one of the shuttle service pick-up locations, contact Lisa D'souza at lisa.dsouza@tcdc.govt.nz or phone 07 868 0329.

The Pukoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre, 283 East Coast Road, RD 3, Pokeno, Phone +64 9 2322781. Hours: Open every day (except Christmas Day) 9am – 5pm. They even offer bunks and other accommodations. See www.miranda-shorebird.org.nz for details.



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CAFÉ CORNER

Café-hopping is a popular Coromandel activity no matter what time of year. Many of us enthusiasts are always keen to pop into this well known café near Hot Water Beach.

Warming Up a Wet Winter's Day



This is my favourite type of Hot Waves day. It was a spur of the moment decision to come, as is often the case, on this ordinary mid-winter morning. "Shall we go for a drive?" I ask my boys. Maybe have lunch somewhere..."

"Hot Waves!" they instantly reply.

Coming to Hot Waves Café triggers a pleasurable catalogue of memories. Over 11 years, all my Hot Waves memories are filled with good vibes and good company. I have brought many a friend and visitor over the years, as I know I can rely on this great café to provide friendly service and fresh, tasty food.

Twenty years ago, Mary Channings and Terry Bright bought the Hot Water Beach property where Hot Waves now stands. Mary had worked in cafés and restaurants for years, and partner Terry was a house and landscape designer. Developing a custom-designed space where people could enjoy good hospitality was a logical decision. Terry designed the mudbrick building and together they planted the garden. In January 2005, Hot Waves Café opened its doors.

This day we are greeted by Mary's warm smile, friendly greeting and quiet voice. Her staff all seem to possess a similar easy-going, calm nature, which I find welcome relief from the usual crop of noisy wait-staff clashing with cups and coffee machines nowadays.

The cakes cabinet is filled with familiar favourites, as well as a couple of new and tasty-looking savouries and sweets. It is reassuring seeing their signature staples – nainamo bar, chocolate brownie and carrot cake – and seeing the familiar faces of the staff, many of whom have worked there for years.

Mary says her staff are 'the most important thing'. "We all get on. There's a good energy. The secret to enjoying your work is the people you work with. You get to know them so well."



Story by Emma Darragh
Photos: Jackson Bright

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Back when my boys were babies, I would take the 20 minute drive from Tairua to Hot Water Beach in a desperate attempt to get them to sleep. Mary would make me a takeaway coffee and serve me a slice in a brown bag. Hot Waves provided solace then, and it does the same thing now.

Today those same babies –now teenagers– gravitate towards the comfy couches by the open fire. Chai, the fluffy black café cat, plonks herself on my lap while the boys launch into a Connect 4 war. My americano arrives quickly, followed by their spider, iced chocolates and our shared plate of steaming cheesy nachos.

The café's garden and outdoor seating area is a 'NZ Garden of Eden'; so lush, so many versions of green, so many shapes, sizes and textures of native flora. The garden is studded with outdoor sculptures, which provide a pleasing contrast. The couple are both "really into gardening," says Mary. "It's great now the gardens are established, but it's always a work in progress."

COMFY WHEN CROWDED...

As morning becomes midday, the café has filled up behind me. Most of the tables are now occupied. I am surprised, as it hasn't altered the serene atmosphere at all. You never know who's going to be at Hot Waves and which languages you'll overhear. Today, a table of local ladies has gathered for a birthday lunch. A warm hum of chat and bubbles of laughter billow over the sound of increasingly heavy rain and crackles from the blazing fire.

Locals are important to Terry and Mary and they go out of their way to accommodate community events such as the Mercury Bay Art Escape in March, and activities for locals in the winter months. The stunning art on the walls and sculptures in the garden are created by local artists making Hot Waves a recognised destination for people seeking Coromandel art.

OPEN MIC NIGHTS

For several years, the café has hosted 'open mic' nights on Friday evenings. Mary is animated talking about the range of people who share their musical talent. "They are going so well! It's just amazing, Usually in winter it

would quieten down, but not these past years."

The casual and relaxed night is well supported by regulars, who bring their instruments to jam with whoever shows up. Terry, himself a long-time singer and guitarist, provides all the equipment, giving opportunity for anyone to pick up a guitar and give it a go. The kitchen is open for pizzas and burgers with Friday night drinks. In the summer the jam sessions are held in the garden; in the winter around the fire. And through it all, Mary moves quietly among everyone. From the fireplace with an armful of wood, to the kitchen carrying plates of food, to the tables taking orders – she is unhurried, yet efficient and remarkably unflappable. Those porous mudbrick walls have a way of absorbing sound, taking the sharp edge off shrill voices and containing the good atmosphere the café provides.

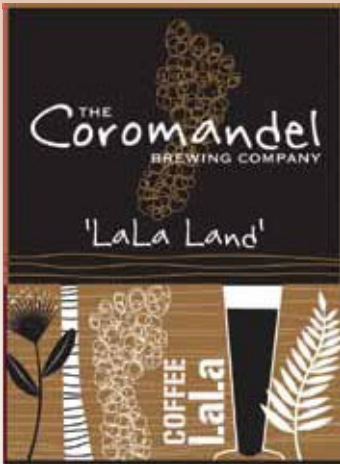
Mary considers the significance of owning and operating a cafe in the Coromandel for 11 years, recalling the various quiz nights, weddings, celebrations and community commemorations Hot Waves has hosted. She is happy they have provided a serene backdrop to so many people's memories.

As for my memory of our ordinary Hot Waves Wednesday? It is a happy one indeed, featuring me and my growing boys sharing nachos and time, together on a sofa while the rain comes down. Hot Waves is therapeutic.

We are better for visiting this place; more connected, more relaxed, well-nourished and inspired by the peace it provides. Long may this slice of 'Coromandel Goodness' last. We love it.

Formerly known by many as "the Tairua Librarian", these days Emma Darragh writes stories about Coromandel people and places. She is 'CoLab Collective's' Co-founder and Director, taking care of the writing and communications services offered. This article was first posted on the 'Coromandel Goodness' website July 13, 2017.

Hot Waves Café is open everyday 8:30am-4pm and Friday nights for 'Open Mic & Pizza night. For more about this unique café, see www.facebook.com/Hot-Waves-Café.



Coromandel Brewing Co's Neil Vowles and Coffee LaLa's Mark Tugendhaft combine talents to create a unique new beer.



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Ooh LaLa! A COFFEE-BREWED BREW

If beer and coffee are your beverages of choice, you'll love what these two Coromandel artisans have come together to produce.

'LaLa Land' is a delicious cream ale with cold infused coffee with a bold splash of Tahitian vanilla and it is the brainchild of brewer and owner of Coromandel Brewing Co and the Pour House, Neil Vowles, and Coffee LaLa's Mark Tugendhaft. The new beer has already been attracting attention, and Neil tells us, "It has been selling extremely well on tap and will soon be available by the bottle."

Owners Neil and wife Karen are passionate about creating innovative craft beers as well as working with local suppliers and products. The popular Hahei restaurant has been serving Coffee LaLa since opening 3 years ago, so it was only natural that the challenge of collaborating to create this tempting delight was irresistible to the two craftsmen.

Beaming with pride Karen says, "We make no apology for its deliciousness!" You owe it to yourself to get down to Hahei's Pour House for a taste of this fabulous new brew.

While sampling LaLa Land or one of the many other brews with a gourmet pizza or yummy fish & chips, you can actually watch Neil at work, among his shiny new brewing equipment, through the glass from the dining area.

And the coffee? Mark says that although there are several cold brewing techniques, they settled on a simple version that you can try at home. "Take 70grams of filter-ground coffee using our milder blends such as LaLa or Organic. Our single origin Columbian also works well," he explains. "Place in a bottle with 1 litre of fresh water. Leave overnight, then strain through a filter.

"Use this liquid to flavour your own home brew, or if you love a really good coffee hit, simply serve it straight, over ice, with or without sugar and cream."

Neil's recipe and brewing technique? He was a bit less forthcoming however, and simply smiled in an all-knowing way.

For more about these innovative guys see www.thepourhouse.nz and www.coffeelala.com.

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ESPY CAFÉ WINS WITH ITS SHAKES

As the weather gets warmer, so does our taste for all things cold to eat or drink. Len Salt, Coromandel Life's new Managing Editor, has been singing the praises of the 'cool' selections at Espy Café in Whitianga.

"It's very hard to go past Espy without stopping in on a hot day. It's not exactly on the way home, but somehow I often seem to end up parked outside. Sometimes it's a tough choice between one of their award winning milkshakes or my personal favourite, the famous Espy iced coffee. And then there's also the enticement of those 25 flavours of gourmet ice-cream."

Espy Cafe won the country's top prize in the 2015 Anchor Supreme Milkshake Awards with their quirky (and purely decadent) creation, "Oh Fudge, I Crushed My Nuts". They followed it up in 2016 by taking out the regional awards with "Woohoo, My Mango's Got Pashinit" shake.

The cafe is currently ranked the #1 cafe in Whitianga on Trip Advisor and is a popular choice for travellers who enjoy the prime location at the harbour side, and the great selection of home baked food at reasonable prices.

"It's a great spot to sit and enjoy breakfast or lunch, or to wander across the road to the wharf with an ice cream and watch the boats coming and going."



DRINK UP

Those cuppas may add years to your life

After receiving a 'Health Tip' email message stating that drinking coffee may help you live longer, I was immediately intrigued. After being diagnosed with colon cancer two years ago, I was aware of the studies stating coffee may help reduce the recurrence of bowel cancer. But this tip was a new angle, so I dug deeper and asked Georgina to help me report what the new research has been saying. - Tovi Daly

LOVE COFFEE?

You're in good company. Around 2.25 billion cups of coffee are consumed around the world each day.

For some it's survival juice – something warm and delicious in the morning to help us face the day, or to pick us up and keep us alert in the afternoon. And there's the social rituals around preparing coffee and drinking it with others, giving it that special, uplifting place in our lives. And, what if coffee also helps us live longer? Well, new research suggests this could be the case. At least two recent studies found a link between coffee drinking and longevity. One in Europe and another in the US compared coffee intake to death rates in over 700,000 people.

The research, published in a premier medical journal in July, the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, was immediately seized on by major news sources around the world including *CNN*, *Time*, *The Daily Mail* and *Global News*...reviving the conversation on possible health effects of one of the world's most consumed beverages.

In the largest study of its kind, researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and Imperial College London analysed data from more than half a million people across 10 European countries, including the UK. It found that despite the vastly different methods of coffee preparation common in each



Now that's a CUPPA!

by Georgina Bond

nation, consumption in any form was related to a reduced chance of death.

Dr Marc Gunter of the IARC (and formerly at Imperial's School of Public Health) states, "We found that higher coffee consumption was associated with a lower risk of death from any cause, and specifically for circulatory diseases, and digestive diseases." Data also suggested that inflammation markers in the blood lowered and liver function improved.

After comparing coffee intake to death rates, the US study discovered that consumption of one cup of coffee daily was linked with a 12% drop in the risk of mortality. And if a little coffee was good, more was better. Those who drank two to three cups daily had an 18% reduction in mortality risk. Interestingly, this beneficial effect held true whether the subjects consumed regular or decaf, which would mean the health value is in the coffee itself rather than the caffeine.

COFFEE AND COLON CANCER

One condition, a recurrence of colon cancer in those treated for the disease, is reduced in coffee drinkers. In a 1000 patient study at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, the patients had received both chemotherapy and surgery. They seemingly benefitted from drinking "at least four cups of coffee" daily.

Dr Charles Fuchs, the study's lead investigator, said it was unclear though why coffee didn't prevent the patients' cancer in the first place.

Fuchs also wrote in the study that apparently the beneficial effects were related to the cancer's relationship to metabolic disorders, such as high insulin levels in the bloodstream. And caffeine has been shown to help lower insulin levels and is associated with decreased risk of type 2 diabetes.

IN SUMMARY...

Of course, these statistical data studies are observational only and have limits. Coffee drinkers in the research might have healthier lifestyle habits, or just be generally healthier than those who didn't drink coffee.

And experts can't say outright that coffee consumption will prolong your life. You don't have to look far on the internet to find plenty of other opinions alluding to the negative effects of drinking coffee.

Indeed, the journal clearly states that while drinking coffee cannot be recommended as being good for your health on the basis of these kind of studies, they do suggest that for many people, no long-term harm will result from drinking coffee.

So relax, sit back, and enjoy your coffee.

*Everyone should believe in something...
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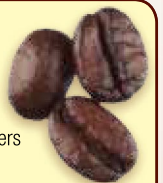
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HOW DO KIWIS STACK UP?

Kiwi coffee drinkers will go a long way to get their daily fix. According to industry experts, total retail sales for home brewing in NZ were \$150 million last year. A Canstar survey estimated that Kiwi café sippers also spend about \$14/week (a whopping \$710 pp each year).

Our per capita consumption ranks in the top 20 in the world, at 0.94 just shy of 1 cuppa per day for every man woman and child, says Statista.com (even ahead of the US at 0.93 cup per day. World champs? Those would be the Netherlands (2.41 cups) and Finland (1.85 cups).

More ethically aware Kiwis are increasingly choosing "Fairtrade" certified beans, with sales climbing to \$16 million last year.



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WATERFRONT LOCATION

10 The Esplanade, Whitianga

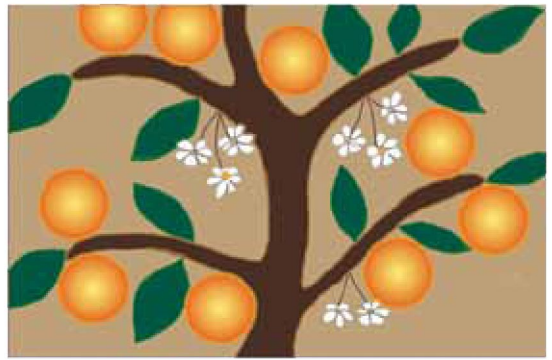
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Their brand new showroom, located at 2/9 Joan Gaskell Dr, occupies a prime spot in a growing Whitianga retail zone. With the opening of the new 1100m2 store everything is now in one convenient location. "We used to be spread between Blacksmith Lane and a couple of off-site warehousing units. Now we have everything under one roof which means a significant improvement in our ability to access stock and respond more efficiently to customers' enquiries", says Rachael.

Nearly two years ago Rachael and Julian

became distributors for a covered patio roof structure know as Bowranda, opening Outdoors Covered as a separate business to augment their range of exterior blinds, awnings and aluminium shutters.

Opening day on Saturday 9th September was a celebratory occasion for both GB and the community with many local customers visiting to congratulate the team and see for themselves the fresh new face of Guthrie Bowron Whitianga.

Walking through the store you get a feeling of light and space, with plenty of room for their impressive displays of window treatments, tiles, paint, wallpaper and floor coverings. The interior design and finish of this store will leave you confident about what they can achieve for your home.



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Saturday 21st October

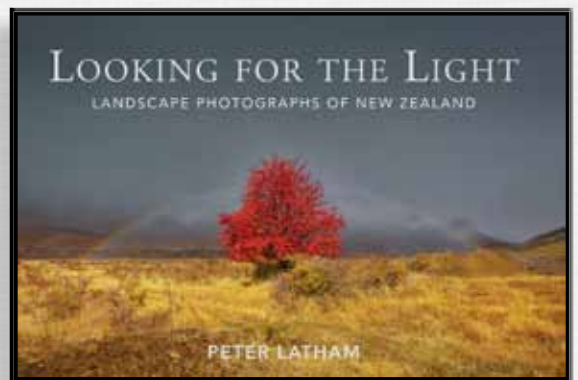
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Drinks & nibbles • Book signing with
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GLOWING EMBERS



ALONE IN PARADISE

NZ GEMS

by Robert Simmons

COROMANDEL CARNELLIAN

One of my favourite stone treasures native to the Coromandel Peninsula is Carnelian. It has long been viewed as a talisman of good fortune and was used as a gemstone for over six thousand years, highly prized in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. A relatively hard (mohs scale 7) and highly versatile gemstone, it has been cut into faceted gems, carved into signets and seals, honed and drilled for beads, and tumbled into lovely ornaments and talismans.

A member of the quartz family, this gemstone is closely related to agate and chalcedony. Its colours can range from a milky, semi-transparent white, through a range of yellow shades, and on into bright orange and red-orange. The stone's colours derive from iron oxides within its quartz base. The name Carnelian (or Cornelian) is derived from the Latin word cornum, the cornel cherry, whose translucent red fruits resemble the stone.

New Zealand Carnelian from the Coromandel occurs in all of these colours, and stripes of multiple shades can often be seen in a single piece. Fossickers can still find beautiful specimens of raw Carnelian almost anywhere on the peninsula, and especially in the rivers of the Thames area, as well as the creeks and beaches around Coromandel Town and



Colville. The beds and banks of rivers and streams are among the best places to look.

For those who, like me, are interested in the metaphysical qualities of minerals, Carnelian offers many benefits. It is a stone of strength, vitality, enthusiasm and good humour. It is believed to enhance creativity and stimulate the mind. It is a stone of passion, fun and recreation.

The fun-loving qualities of Carnelian may explain why children seem especially attracted to it, but it is a stone everyone can appreciate and enjoy. In fact, the very first gemstone in my rock collection, which I started almost 60 years ago, was a Carnelian!

At our crystal gallery in Tairua, Heaven and Earth, we carry a large selection of Coromandel Carnelian, including raw pieces, tumbled stones and jewellery. We also have Carnelians from India, Brazil and other areas around the world, in a variety of forms.

Although it's enjoyable to see and compare them in a shop like ours, I must admit it's an even bigger thrill to find your own out in the beauty of the Coromandel peninsula.

Or... why not do both?

Robert Simmons, author of *The Book of Stones* and *Stones of the New Consciousness*, is also co-owner with wife Kathy Helen Warner of Heaven and Earth gallery on Main Road in Tairua. Open 10-5pm every day. PH: 07 864 8875.



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THE KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE IN THAMES *Presents*

'SUMMER FUN'

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

See inside for the complete event schedule that starts
2nd January, 2018.



Don't miss the
FREE
Summer Concert

**'PICNIC IN
THE FOREST'**

13 JANUARY, 2018

THE COOKSON KAURI

The Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre (KVC) is extremely proud of this magnificent kauri and have chosen it as the theme of the "2018 SUMMER FUN" Programme.

You'll find this beauty above on the Wainora Kauri Track – just one of the activities planned for this year's Programme (see inside). The walk also takes you past two other kauri stands.

The Cookson Kauri is estimated to be between 900 and 1200 years old. It is named after Tom Cookson (officer in charge of that area of the Park until he retired in 1989) in recognition of all the work and effort he put in during his time with the Forest Service.

This particular kauri survived the early massive timber harvest in the area because of its location – it would have been difficult to access the log from where it would have fallen. However, the tree (trunk) bears many scars from when it was bled for gum.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Descriptions and schedule of classes and nature activities
Visitor Centre Services • KVC Café & Catering • Booking your function at KVC
Campgrounds, Cottages and Camping Huts information

The Kauaeranga Valley still recovering from March storms

The Valley was severely hit by storms in March, causing major road and track closures. As a result of unforeseen repairs, the opening of the road and some of the Valley facilities have been delayed until 20 December 2017. This includes Pinnacles Hut, Dancing Creek and Billygoat Basin Campsites and the campsites located in the Valley past the Visitor Centre.

In the meantime the Visitor Centre is operating fully, and there is a large range of activities and facilities available from there. Kahikatea campground is still open and Shag Stream will open Labour Weekend if the ground dries enough.

KVC looks forward to the reopening and the long term improvements that will come with that – all in time for the 'Summer Fun' Programme. For up to date information, refer to the DOC website, visit the KVC's Facebook page, or ring the Visitor Centre on 07 867 9080.



The Kauaeranga Café offerings range from espresso drinks, ice cream, lunch entrees, high teas and group catering.



THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY & Visitor Centre

The Kauaeranga Valley near Thames, is one of NZ's true hidden treasures. The Department of Conservation (DOC) has supported the development of this area into an outdoor destination of unrivalled natural beauty.

The many majestic towering kauri, lush bush, lofty peaks offering magnificent views, and crystal clear river and streams delight the large number of visitors to the area.

The well-marked tracks and biking trails cater to all levels of fitness, and the Pinnacles Track is the jewel in the crown. It traces the steps of the old bushmen, who logged and dammed this Valley, to the top of the mountain. Views from the Pinnacles are 360 degrees. The DOC Pinnacles Hut is the ideal location to catch either sunrise or sunset from the heights.

Although nearly all of the significant kauri were logged from the valleys, there are still some great ones to visit, such as the Cookson Kauri on the picturesque Wainora Track.

The Kauaeranga River has great swimming holes, and at Hotoritiri there are well defined bike trails, 'CanyonZ' offers both abseiling and canyoning adventures... or just relax with a good book and listen to the bird songs.

KAUAERANGA VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE
The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (KVC) was rebuilt in 2008 after the old Coromandel Forest Park headquarters burnt down. Architecturally designed, it has won many design awards and is an impressive destination with its own stunning views.

The KVC is a hub of information offering an extensive range of maps, brochures, outdoor activity supplies, video programmes, and conservation related gifts. Enjoy informative movies on history and conservation and a shop selling conservation related gifts and books. Free public wifi connection is also available.

Friendly staff will provide up-to-date recreational information, help you plan your stay and trek, or book your overnight stays at the camping sites, cottages or the two DOC huts (see more at right).

To complete the visitor experience the vibrant Kauaeranga Valley Café opens over the peak summer season. Healthy fare to decadent

treats, all fresh baked, are on offer, as are cold drinks, great coffee, high teas, and ice creams.

An easy 5-minute walk from the KVC is the Kauaeranga Model Dam, a 1/3 scale replica of the old Kauri stringer dams. Incorporate this walk with our wonderful Treasure Hunt and learn things you never knew about our native flora and fauna!

JANUARY'S SCHEDULE OF ADVENTURE

To celebrate each new year, the Centre offers the 'Summer Fun' programme. See the following pages for more details. These activities are for everyone, not just campers. Many are free or just a gold coin donation.

On Saturday 13 January, from midday on, enjoy the "Picnic in the Forest Park" with Live Music on the grass outside the KVC.

The Toyota Kiwi Guardians programme offers children fun outdoor nature projects where learning and good times go together. And there are awards to be won. See last issue of *Coromandel Life* for details. Download your adventure maps from www.goo.gl/t6GkOR.

GETTING TO THE VISITOR CENTRE

From SH25 at the southern entrance to Thames, turn into Banks Street beside the BP service station. This veers right into Parawai Road, which then becomes Kauaeranga Valley Road. The road becomes gravel after 10km and you'll find the Centre 2.2 km after the seal ends.

Download the KVC visitor guide from www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/waikato/kauaeranga-booklet-web.pdf



KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE
+64 7 867 9080
995 Kauaeranga Valley Rd

Open 8:30am–4pm daily
8:30am–5pm peak summer season
Closed Christmas day and during severe weather
www.kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz



VALLEY CAMPGROUNDS

The Valley's 8 campgrounds are family-friendly environments in the forest and all have good access to the river. For complete site details and online reservation info see www.googl/8XZdLF then click on Camping tag.



Booms Flat Campsite 6km north of KVC, 65 non-powered campsites. Dogs on leash.

Catley's Campsite is on the river bank, 6km north of KVC. 30 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

Hotoritori Campsite Camp river side in the Valley. 3km north of Visitor Centre. 30 non-powered tent sites. Dogs on leash.

Kahikatea Campsite Self contained vehicles only, 18 powered sites. Camp across the road from the river and explore the Valley on one of the many short walks. No dogs.

Shag Stream Campsite This riverside site is an ideal base for exploring the Valley. A replica kauri dam is a 20min walk. 30 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

Totara Flat Campsite 7.5km beyond KVC. Camp alongside the river or higher up. Take a walk through forest. 20 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

Trestleview Campsite is an attractive campsite at the end of the valley. It is closest to the Webb Creek Track up to the Pinnacles and Billygoat Basin Track. 30 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

Wainora Campsite A scenic location 7km north of KVC at the start of the Cookson Kauri Walk/Wainora Track. 30 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

Whangaiterenga Campsite 5km north of KVC where the Whangaiterenga Stream and Kauaeranga River meet. Take a 1hr return walk to a lookout. 50 non-powered tent sites. No dogs.

NEW COTTAGES and the REMOTE CAMPING HUTS



The Cookson and Kauri cottages above sleep 8-10 and have fully equipped kitchens, bathrooms, hot water and bunk beds. All you need is your linen. There are also fireplaces (wood can be purchased at KVC).

Located near the Visitor Centre and in a gated area, they are ideal for families or groups.



Both remote huts are serviced - beds and heating is provided. Gas cooking is available at the Pinnacles.

Left, the Pinnacles Hut is one of the most popular and largest (80 bunks) in NZ. Right, Crosbies Hut is a 4-6 hour trek and accessed from one of many trails. Sleeps 10.

ALL MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE.

Consider the KAUAERANGA VALLEY for your event or retreat...



Whether for the day or overnight stays, KVC offers meeting facilities, accommodation and catering to meet your needs – inside or outdoors.

Infuse your event with nature at its best!

- Corporate meetings & team building
- Homeschooling, school, scout – or assisted living – fieldtrips
- Family functions, Church, community & service groups.
- Historical, birdwatching, gem, nature & rescue organisations
- Morning, afternoon, and Devonshire teas

Accommodation and facilities (indoor & outdoor)

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

KVC's activities and classes can enrich your event!

Take advantage of our existing classes and nature adventures. We can organize a number of talks and activities that are ideal for large groups of children or adults. Outdoor activities offer relaxing trails and cozy car camping to rugged backcountry treks.

The adventure company, CanyonNZ, offers teamworking courses in climbing, abseiling and more.

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

The café will also cater to your group's needs.

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

THE KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE

Presents

'SUMMER FUN'

DATE	EVENT GUIDE JANUARY 2018 <small>See descriptions at right</small>
2	9am and 12pm: Abseiling Edwards Lookout
3	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning. 10am: Ranger Donna - kids activities
4	11am: Where is the Wildlife?
5	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning. 10:45am: "We are going on a Bear Hunt"
6	9am: Kiwi Aversion Training. 11am: Gerry the Moa. 8pm: Movie Night
7	11am: Gecko Encounter
8	9am: Wainora Walk - See the Cookson Kauri. 8:30pm: Twilight Walk
9	9am & 12pm: Abseiling Edwards. 10am: Stream Study.
10	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning. 10am: River Crossing. 10am: Kauri Gum Polishing
11	10am: Dave Wilton, History of Crosbies. 11am: Where is the Wildlife?
12	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning. 10am: Boulder Hopping. 11am: Bats, Dactylanthus and other fascinating things
13	Midday start: Annual Concert 'Picnic in the Forest Park'
14	11am: Gecko Encounter
15	8:30pm: Twilight Walk
16	9am & 12pm: Abseiling Edwards Lookout. 8:30pm: Twilight Walk
17	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning
19	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning
21	11am: Gecko Encounter
23	9am & 12pm: Abseiling Edwards Lookout
24	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning
26	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning
27	9am: Kiwi Aversion Training. 10am: Bikes, Boards and Bumps 11am: Gerry the Moa. 8pm Movie Night
28	11am: Gecko Encounter
29	10am: Donna - Kids Activities
30	9am & 12pm: Abseiling Edwards Lookout
31	10am & 1pm: Gold Panning

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

ALL EVENTS ARE A GOLD COIN DONATION UNLESS SPECIFIED. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION CAUSES.

PICNIC IN THE FOREST PARK.

13 January, This year, KVC's annual event celebrates the opening of the park after months of repairs. It is a Gold Coin Donation concert event An enjoyable day for everyone – great music, entertainment and much more (see next page).

GOLD PROSPECTING. 10am-12pm, 1-3pm.

3/5/10/12/17/19/24/26/31

January. Learn how to pan for gold and take away your very own. Children to be with adult. Bring water, sunscreen, togs and towel. \$10 pp (cash only), bookings essential. Commitment required if you register.*



DONNA – KIDS ACTIVITIES. 3/29 January, 9:45am till lunchtime at Visitor Centre. Have fun with your smaller ones making bird feeders and other conservation projects.* Small children need to be accompanied by an adult. Ring us and we will let you know what to bring.

WHERE IS THE WILDLIFE? 4/11 January, 10:45am-11:45am at the Visitor Centre. Fun for the little ones. Find hidden treasures in the bush with our Kauaeranga DOC ranger.* Hear how these creatures live in our bush. Age 10 & under should be with an adult.

'WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT & PICNIC' 5/20 January, 10:45am at Centre. A DOC ranger will take you on a special journey to find the hidden treasures in the bush.* "We'll go 'a swishing and a stomping' and 'a giggling and a laughing', cause 'We're not scared'." Bring your teddy bear and food for a picnic after. Age 8 and under, should be with an adult

KIWI AVERSION TRAINING. 6/27 January, 9am. Help protect kiwi. Any dog, regardless of size, breed or obedience, can kill kiwi. Bring yours to learn that kiwi is something to stay away from.* Free. Bookings essential. 6th Jan: 9am at Hotoritori Campground 27th Jan: 9am at Booms Flat Campground

MEET GERRY THE MOA. 6/27 January, 11am at Centre AV room. 1000 years ago giant flightless Moa birds roamed here. See a real Moa skeleton. Learn about them & why they became extinct. All welcome.



HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE.

6/27 January. Meet: 7:50pm at the Centre AV room. Much of this movie was filmed in the Kauaeranga and Coromandel ranges. Bookings essential.

GECKO ENCOUNTER. 7/14/21/28 Jan. 11am at the Centre AV room. Doug Ashby has spent a life time learning about all the quirky secrets of our native geckos and lizards. Have a hands on encounter with his Geckos.



WAINORA WALK.

8 January at 9am, meet 8:45 Wainora Carpark. DOC Ranger, Keith, has a world of knowledge of the Valley and its history, flora and fauna. One of the park's best walks – see the Cookson Kauri up close. Best suited to 12+. Children must be with an adult. Moderate fitness required. Bring water bottle, sunscreen, sturdy footwear

TWILIGHT WALK. 8/15 January. Meet 8:15pm at Hotoritori Campground. Join DOC rangers on a twilight 1hr adventure along Jasper Creek track.* See glow worms and other natives that come out at night. A torch and sturdy footwear essential. All ages, under 12 should be accompanied by adult.

STREAM STUDY. January 9, 9:45am at Visitor Centre. Join DOC ranger Ken to discover our native fauna living below the surface of the Kauaeranga River. Ken has put out traps to see what is there. Come help him find and clear them to learn about our native fish.* Bring water and sunscreen.

KAURI GUM POLISHING. 10 January, 10am. Meet 9.45am at Centre. Learn the early settler's art of kauri gum polishing. Ranger Donna teaches you this old-time process.* All welcome. Knife work involved so children will need to be with adult. Bring a pocket knife.



BUSH CRAFT & RIVER CROSSING.

10 January 10am, 9:45am at Centre. Join Neil, from Search & Rescue, and learn the skills to safely cross and float down the river - be prepared to get wet. Ages 15+. Bring water, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, a daypack with a dry change of clothes.

HISTORY OF CROSBIES SETTLEMENT.

11 Jan, 10am at the Centre AV room. Dave Wilton, a well-known local archaeologist tells the fascinating story of an 1880s farm settlement near the summit of the Coromandel Ranges. Dave shares his knowledge with the help of video & historic and modern photographs. Suited for a mature age group.

BATS, DACTYLATHUS AND OTHER FASCINATING THINGS. 12 January, 11am at Centre AV room. A spell-binding talk with Avi Holzapfel, DOC's Hauraki Operations Manager highlights two of NZ's unique species – the short-tailed bat and dactylanthus, our only native fully parasitic flowering plant. Footage of our bats feeding from this fascinating plant.* Suited for a mature ages.

BOULDER HOPPING (Upper Valley Exploration). 12 January, 10am at Trestle View Campground. A DOC ranger with a huge knowledge of this lovely valley guides this 5-hour trek that begins on Pinnacles track and follows the river up the Gorge. Lunch at its mouth before heading back.* All welcome but more suited to 12+, under 15 must be with an adult. Moderate fitness required. Bring water, sunscreen, lunch, swim gear & sturdy footwear.

BIKES, BOARDS & BUMPS. 27 January, 9:45am at the Centre. A skills challenge course of boards, cones, planks, seesaw, and log hop to build confidence in riding. All ages. Set up on the lawn next to the Centre. Bring your bike, helmet, water and sunscreen.

SINGLE TRACK SKILLS. 27 January. 11:30am at the Centre. Explore the Hotoritori Mountain bike trails and learn tricks to ride on single track (off-road) trails. Suitable for intermediate ability and stamina to ride 10k round trip. Potentially a lunch stop for a swim. Bring your own bike, helmet, water, sunscreen. For an optional swim bring togs and a towel.

**Please note: we need commitment if you register for these starred events, as rangertime is valuable.*

GUIDED ADVENTURES WITH CANYONZ

Phone 07 867 9080 or 0800 422 696

Email: info@canyonz.co.nz

ABSEILING EDWARDS LOOKOUT WITH CANYONZ. 2/9/16/23/30 Jan, 9am & 12pm at Whangaiterenga campground for this 2hr adventure. The Lookout is a perfect spot for learning to abseil with Canyonz experienced guides – stunning views! Bookings essential. Minimum age 10 yrs. Bring water, sunscreen, sturdy footwear, camera.

CANYONING IN THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY, THAMES. Half (5hrs) and full day (9-10hrs) are available year round - conditions apply. See article next page. www.canyonz.co.nz. Reference KVC when enquiring for 'Summer Fun' deals.



A Novice In Nature's Playground

"I said 'yes' with mixed emotions. Canyoning in the Kauaeranga Valley sounded like something at the farthest reaches of my comfort zone. I am not a thrill seeker. But I am a nature lover. This adventure offered both."

Story by Emma Darragh

Article and photo courtesy of
Destination Coromandel
www.thecoromandel.com

My friend Sam invited me to accompany her on Canyonz Adventure Company's Sleeping God Canyon trip. I respected her grit, so figured she was the right person in which to share this totally new, watery adventure.

On the way, I was nervous as hell. I didn't know what to expect, preferring the bliss of ignorance to the paranoia of my overactive imagination. All I knew was to bring shorts for the hike, togs for under the wetsuit, and water for a huge day – from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Sometimes when you meet people there is instant rapport. Meeting Canyonz co-owner Russ Hodgson and fellow guide T (Teri) Brown, was like this. It wouldn't have mattered if we'd done nothing more than hang out with these guys. Their easy-going, friendly charm set the tone for our trip and threaded its way through the group, which consisted of myself and Sam, Emma and Matt from Whakatane, and Rik from Belgium. Eager anticipation soon outplayed our collective anxiety – none of us had done any canyoning before.

The Kauaeranga Valley is one of my favourite places, having hiked and run its earthy trails many times. Setting off up the Billygoat track was a great way to start, with its river crossing, steep steps and stunning views. After 45 minutes walking, we arrived at Atuatumoe – Sleeping God Canyon – shucking off shorts and pulling on wetsuits and harnesses.

Following Russ and T, we came to the crest of the canyon, torrents of water spilling forth over a jagged ledge. It was here I first learnt we would make the vertical descent of over 300m down a steep set of waterfalls. We would be abseiling up to 80m, sliding on our backs down rock face water slides and jumping from as high as 14m into dark pools of ice cold water.

The Kauaeranga Valley looked different from the canyon compared to the trail. It is a vast, dramatic space and we were deep in the V of it, green peaks rising steeply up either side. Whereas I have learnt to pick a path on pre-formed trails by navigating over roots, dirt and branches, Teri and Russ see invisible paths in the shapes of rocks and water. Watching them traverse the landscape, they too had picked out a clear vision of the direction to take. The difference? It is vertical. It is a rock face. It is a waterfall. I was impressed.

The first abseil was gentle yet I felt awkward, like a kid doing something for the first time. I let out the rope, taking clumsy cautious steps, trying to coordinate hands and feet and head. Sam summed it up, saying "I wish we were already good at this."

Seeing T rappel the canyon was like watching a ballerina hop, skip and jump along a vertical stage. Graceful and assured, she made it look easy! I was the novice and it was thrilling, but I could see how it could get even better, even more fun, with more practise and experience.

Partway through our descent, we had a two-part waterfall abseil to complete. One by one we perched on a rock ledge, clipped to a safety line, waiting for our team to finish. As I watched from the ledge, the immensity of the valley suddenly became overwhelming. The cliff face curved in a semicircle, so there was no escaping the height or steepness of the drop. Panic churned in my belly, causing my heart to pound – the white noise of fear imploding in my head. I breathed slow and deep, talking myself through like I do with my kids.

Fear had a habit of presenting itself in the pauses; still, solitary moments when nothing was happening. When my turn came to abseil, trepidation became a twisted rope in my gut. T patiently repeated instructions – her eyes clear and reassuring. I trusted her and once I started moving, there was no room for overwhelm. I became present and calm, letting her voice guide me down gently. One foot after another, all the way to the bottom.

Near the end of most lines was a cool pool of water, so we would finish our abseil by leaping in and swimming out, or zip-lining over the pool. It was a refreshing way to finish. The biggest thrill came in stopping to look up and see where I had come from. Wow. Thanks to the expertise of Russ and T, I never doubted my safety.

Watching Russ launch and somersault himself off cliffs into pools was like watching a languid seal. Russ and T were a terrific team and it was a gift watching their harmonious and respectful interaction with the environment. The flicks and twists of a shared length of rope and their sign language of hand-signals made a masterful choreography. I was grateful for their patience with us newbies. It was really something to be on the receiving end of their expertise. The canyon was their playground. It was a privilege to 'play with the big kids'.

Team atmosphere was incredible too – the simple act of encouragement enabled us all to leap off cliffs, to take that first scary backwards step over the ledge, to do what we wouldn't have done without the support of each other. Stopping halfway for sandwiches and snacks,

"Watching T rappel down the canyon was like watching a ballerina hop, skip and jump along a vertical stage"



we were a quiet bunch, content to take it all in and say little. The beauty, the lessons and the challenge of new experiences quietly consumed us – a wonderful moment to share.

Russ and T's knowledge of the Kauaeranga Valley added context to the adventure, as did their constant good humour, light-hearted banter and personal effort to connect with each and every one of us. As we hiked out at the end of the day, Russ raced ahead, rock hopping down the river, agile as a bouncing cat. Arriving back at our start point we could see the reason for the rush. Russ had been busy preparing a surprise picnic. Tablecloth-covered-table laden with drinks, fresh food, and hot, salty burgers grilling on a portable barbecue. What a finish!

I left the Valley feeling like I'd done something tremendous – feeling bigger and bolder than before I arrived, but more humble too. I was a beginner there. A novice in nature's playground with fumbling feet and awkward arms. Yet I couldn't have loved it more.

I also left with more love for people, place and life itself. The canyon, Atuatumoe, heard our karakia (prayers) at the start of the day. She held us safely in our vulnerable, flawed and fear-fueled states, showing us to one another in total authenticity as well as emphasising our capacity for great kindness for each other and tremendous generosity of spirit.

The sheer immensity of it all left me with no doubt in my mind about saying "yes" now – I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Spend an unforgettable day in the magical Sleeping God canyon – one of the most exciting and challenging adventures in NZ. Half day outings also available. Contact Canyonz at 0800 422 696 or see www.canyonz.co.nz

Picnic in the Forest Park...

FREE LIVE MUSIC EVENT & FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE KVC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13
KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE
MIDDAY START

CELEBRATING...

"THE KAUAERANGA COMEBACK" THE OPENING OF KAUAERANGA VALLEY

By December 20, all road and trail damage from the severe March storms should be completed, and the park facilities better than ever. Come celebrate!

bring a picnic or lunch at the café
face painting conservation dogs
treasure hunt camping and more

For the latest updates check online at: www.doc.govt.nz/kauaerangavc
or facebook: @KauaerangaValleyVC
or phone The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre: 07 867 9080





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THE COROMANDEL'S DESTINATION BOOKSHOP

EST. 1906



Topp Twins Jools and Linda in store recently signing copies of their brilliant children's book/CD titles. Some signed copies are still available but be quick.

A RENEWED CARSON'S EXPANDS ITS OFFER

Carson's Bookshop marks National Bookshop Day this year with real flair by relaunching the long-established, now newly refurbished, shop. "Lots of people were wondering what we were up to during the renovations," says owner Greg Hampton. "It's been a labour of love, preserving the heritage, yet freshening up the décor. Plus we added a gallery and venue space. It will be ongoing over the next few months so 'watch this space'. Call in and have a look for yourself."

Regular events will become a feature of the new Carson's with visiting authors and artist exhibitions being held in the new gallery space. Carson's has also freshened its offerings, adding art, music, gifts and something to warm the hearts of many a booklover – coffee!

The extensive summer recommended reading catalogue is due in November, featuring new releases in time for Christmas and holiday reading and gift buying. There's a fantastic range of titles including fiction and non-fiction, gorgeous cookbooks, Māori, travel guides and an outstanding selection of children's books. Laybys are welcomed for those wanting to secure their Christmas gifts early.

To make shopping even easier, the shop now offers a website service that includes both local and overseas delivery. "Carson's is a long established local landmark," says Greg. "We hope even more people will find us and enjoy sharing our great new space and extensive collection with our knowledgeable and friendly staff."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat Oct 28th – National Bookshop Day. This will become a regular annual celebration and sale event for Carson's. This year local author Dawn McMillan will be in store to celebrate her fabulous new book **'Charlie and his Amazing Tales'**.

STEAMPUNK EVENTS:

Fri Nov 10th, 2pm – The Alchemy of Cheese. Join Dairy Maid Tinka Mozzarella to turn fresh farm milk into solid gold. Two-hour session of hand stretched mozzarella and tasting. Limited tickets \$35 each. Including your very own book of home cheese making, **'Cutting the Curd'** penned by Tinka herself. Cheesy prize awarded for best dressed Steampunker.

Sun Nov 12th – "The Magic of Writing Steampunk" Award winning author Gareth Ward will talk about writing Steampunk and about his award winning novel **'The Traitor and the Thief.'** He may be persuaded to throw in a little magic as he steps into his Steampunk persona of The Great Wardini.

Fri Nov 24th, 3:30pm – Stacy Gregg signing (see left). **Thames Acoustic Musician's Club** – Carson's will be hosting the monthly club night get together (**3rd Wednesday of each month**) from November onwards.



NZ's international bestselling author Stacy Gregg will be in store on November 24th to meet and greet fans and for signings of her new book **THE THUNDERBOLT PONY**.



600 POLLEN STREET, THAMES • PHONE 07 868 6301
Visit www.carsonsbkshop.co.nz or Facebook for latest titles & events

MUST READS and for HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

AOTEAROA: The New Zealand Story by Gavin Bishop. Navigate your way through the defining moments of our history, captured by award-winning children's book creator Gavin Bishop.



This lavish, special book deserves a space on every bookshelf, treasured, time and again.

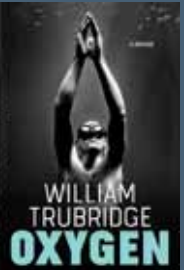
THE MIDNIGHT LINE by Lee Child (Jack Reacher #22). #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Lee Child returns with a gripping new thriller featuring Jack Reacher, "one of this century's most original, tantalizing pop-fiction heroes." - *The Washington Post*. What starts as an idle quest to track down the owner of a West Point class ring takes Reacher on a harrowing journey encountering bikers, cops, crooks, and a missing persons PI who wears a suit and a tie in the Wyoming wilderness. *The Midnight Line* sees him set on a raw quest for simple justice. Best advice: don't get in his way.



EAT UP New Zealand by Al Brown. A stunning and substantial new cookbook from Al Brown, with more than 150 wonderful recipes making it THE cookbook of the year.

With great stories about NZ food as well as over 150 recipes (including updated Kiwi classics), this is a nostalgic treasure trove that gets to the heart of what NZ culture is. Stunning food photography and beautiful on-location shots. A perfect gift for every Kiwi.

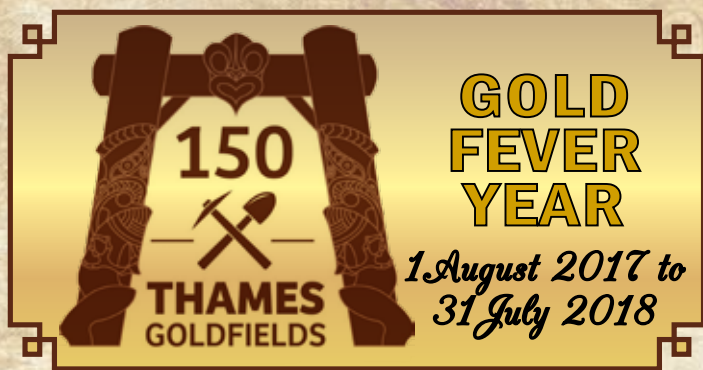
OXYGEN by William Trubridge. The incredible underwater world of "the greatest freediver of them all", NZ's William Trubridge. More than a memoir about his journey to the deepest seawater sinkhole in the world, Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas, where he broke his own world freediving record – a dive he describes as 'terrible', An exquisitely written meditation on life and death, risk and mental toughness.



LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT by Peter Latham. Landscape photographer Peter Latham presents this epic collection of his most popular fine-art prints, together with new images of the NZ landscape, never released before.



Peter's poetic eye and unique presentation has earned him a coveted reputation in the elusive art market.



I LOVE A PARADE

The morning of 1 August could have been like any other in Thames – its usual flow of cars and shoppers, some taking pause for a caffeine hit – when a woman adorned with a mass of blonde curls and voluminous green and yellow silk skirts appeared, takeout coffee cup in hand. (It was author Angela Curtis shown right).

By noon, many costumed men, women and children had gathered at opposite ends of Pollen St and the cars had temporarily disappeared for the street parade to begin.

Retired nurses dressed in white and red matronly uniforms (representing Thames Hospital) joined children from Thames High, Thames South School and St Francis, Moanatairi and Parawai schools, which were founded around the time of the opening of the Goldfield.

Children chatted excitedly, dressed in adorable costumes of caps, breeches, or pinafore dresses with floppy bonnets.

The procession was led by the blood-stirring thrum of bagpipes and Scottish drums, all the way to a ceremony at the Civic Centre where a karakia by Waati Ngamane of Ngati Maru was followed by a waiata (song) by South School and Kapa Haka by Thames High School.

The goldfields proclamation was the birthing and booming of a new town, sparking an industrial era that would change the lives of Maori, the surrounding forests, and its inhabitants, forever. It would also create new New Zealanders, to be known as 'pakeha': the Irish, Cornish, Dalmatian, Scottish and others who settled here.



150 years on is a time to pause and reflect on the pioneering spirit and consequences of their actions, and give thanks for the comforts of today.

– by Alison Smith

The August 1 opening day of the Thames “Gold Fever Year” was kicked off by the parade followed by well attended ceremonies at the Civic Center with a presentation by historian Russell Skeet and storytelling by Rosalie Steward. A variety of speakers included Mayor Sandra Goudie, Thames Community Board Chair Diane Connors, and a video message from the Mayor of Misaki, Thames’ sister city. The afternoon ended with a high tea.

“The year’s overall goal”, says the Heritage Trust’s Margaret Cropp, “is to have ‘150’ activities that celebrate our home town and acknowledge the people and families who laid the foundations of commerce, economy and culture in Thames.”



Shown at the Civic Centre in Thames on opening day are: Margaret Cropp (Heritage Trust), Russell Skeet (Historian & Guest Speaker), Angela Curtis (author of ‘The Shotover’), and Marlene Perry (TCDC).



On 12 August, author Angela Curtis signed her book “The Shotover: 150 Year Souvenir” at Carson’s Bookstore (shown with owner Greg Hampton). Her new book recounts the tale of four men who made vast fortunes from The Shotover mine. One of the four was William Coble, Angela’s great-great-grandfather.



READ BROS MARKS ITS 150TH IN A BIG WAY



As you can see, a good time was had by all. Although the major anniversary events are over, the Read Bros. team will continue to celebrate Gold Fever Year with the rest of the town. Call in for a look at the displays and their 150th merchandise: t-shirts, tin mugs, pencils and calendars.

Thames’ 150th anniversary of the opening of the goldfields has been commemorated with a variety of programmes and activities, décor and costumed events. And, as befits the significance of the celebration of 150 years of trading as the oldest family owned business in NZ, the Read Bros Hardware events for the year’s first week were very carefully organised. It even included costumed staff, a retro décor, a variety of historic displays, and a refreshed ‘goldfields design’ of the website, www.readbros.co.nz.

“In-store, we encouraged our customers and visitors to sign and comment in the 150th celebration guest book”, says fifth generation Director John Read.

Starting the ‘150th Birthday Week’ on 2 September, the historic hardware store offered street demos, vintage cars, gold panning, in-store activities, raffles, give-aways, cake and balloons. A mid-week evening function for suppliers and customers, with more

than 20 prizes, including a weekend at Grande Mercure Puka Park in Pauanui.

The final event was a ‘black tie’ dinner at the historic Bella Street Pumphouse, with family, suppliers and local dignitaries that included Mayor Sandra Goudie who presented the Read team with a giant cardboard nut and bolt saying, “You are the nuts and bolts that make our communities so great.” And all concurred wholeheartedly.

At the end of the month, the prize draws were broadcast on MoreFM, and included a charter fishing trip, a house lot of paint, and a second weekend stay at Puka Park. There was even a colouring competition for Thames school children.

“The level of support from customers was overwhelming, with a great number of positive comments in the guest book, about our celebration activities as well as about the firm.

“I guess that’s what trading in a small, loyal community is all about”, said John.

OCTOBER – DECEMBER EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS

OCTOBER 2017

SAT, 14 OCTOBER

Bella Street Pumphouse Poker Run.

Sponsored by the Thames Classic Car Club. 10.30am. Registration at the Kopu Station Hotel – prize giving at Bella Street Pumphouse at approximately 4pm.

\$20 per poker hand. Come one, come all! Bella Street Pumphouse 75 Mile Poker run for Classic Cars, hot rods and motorbikes. Family day out, fill your car, bring the kids, your neighbours and your mates. \$1,000 in cash prizes to give away plus spot prizes.

SUN, 22 OCTOBER

The Treasury – “Talk and Walk”.



To the Eureka Mine settlement, Kuranui Valley. Introduction and presentation by David Wilton and Dick Wilkins (a descendant of miner Richard Ross, an owner of one of the early claims known

as the “Eureka”) followed by a field trip to the Ross family residence in the settlement. Meet at The Treasury 9am; bring lunch, walking shoes, and own transport to the start of the track. \$5 donation to The Treasury. See www.thetreasury.org. Contact: info.thetreasury@gmail.com

FRI – SAT, 27-28 OCTOBER

Parawai School 50th Jubilee.

Parawai School, Lowe Avenue, Thames. The school will be open to view on Friday 27 October, 1.30 - 3pm (Report to the office on arrival.) View over 1,000 photos of the school and its community from 1967 – present at www.facebook.com/parawaischool50thjubilee. Contact: Annette Harrington administration@parawai.school.nz

SAT, 28 OCTOBER

Thames Lions Club

Heritage Signs Unveiling Walk.

Time 10am – starting at KMG Pollen Street, Thames. Contact Michael & Christine Kemp email: z5898813@slingshot.co.nz phone: 07 826 7892

TUE, 31 OCTOBER

Saints and Angels Evening for kids.

5pm-7.30pm, St James Church, Pahau St, Thames. Free. An invitation to children to come dressed as they would 150 years ago, or as a Saint or Angel. Old fashioned games, sausage sizzle, bouncy castle, story time, face painting, craft making, fancy dress parade & more. A safe environment to celebrate Halloween the evening before All Saints Day. Please bring an adult to watch over you. Volunteers appreciated. Contact Lynne 868 7550 or Karen 868 3212.

Tourist Mark Warren from Hawkes Bay with the restored Goldmine-Experience steam engine. It is one of seven on-site; work to repair it started more than 30 years ago. Experience the engine in action during the Steampunk Festival, Thurs - Sun, 9-12 November.



NOVEMBER 2017

FRI – SUN, 3-5 NOVEMBER

Catholic Parish of St Francis Celebrating 150 years of the Catholic Faith Community

in Thames, 1867 – 2017. Bishop Denis Browne will open the weekend re-union with a school-led Mass at **10am on Friday**; and Bishop Pat Dunn will celebrate the **closing mass at 10am on the Sunday**. In-between times they will be celebrating and catching up with former friends and colleagues. For more info, see www.coromandelcatholic.org.nz. Contact: Mike & Viv Lander 150stfrancisthames@gmail.com or 027 479 8898.

THURS – SUN, 9-12 NOVEMBER

Steampunk the Thames Festival

Full programme: www.steampunkthethames.org. Contact John: johnmckeowen@hotmail.com, 021 063 5483.

Inaugural Steampunk Art Exhibition, view fine works by steampunk artists from near and far at the Thames School of Mines, 101 Cochrane St. 10am-4pm. Gold coin entry. Contact: karen_woodhall@xtra.co.nz

Thames 150 Years of Gold: An Art exhibition by Rick Fisher. Rick's pencil sketches are incredibly detailed and capture the essence of a character. View them at the Grahamstown Bar & Diner (GBD), 700 Pollen St Thames.

Restored Steam Engine demos. Goldmine Experience is bringing real steam back to Thames, firing up a renovated stationary steam engine – one of very few such operating engines in the country and the only one set-up to run a stamper battery. Guided tours through 19th Century tunnels and working gold mining machinery. Open daily from 10am to 1pm to Christmas, then 10am to 4pm through summer (see story next page).

THURS, 9 NOVEMBER

Old Time Music Hall. 7 pm. An all new show by Thames Music And Drama with some of your favourite artists. Tararu Cultural Centre, 604 Tararu Road, Thames. \$20. Friday & Saturday shows sold out.

FRI, 10 NOVEMBER

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne was written 150 years ago! The 1954 movie starring Kirk Douglas will be shown at the Embassy Theatre, Pollen St. at 1.30pm. \$20. Fundraiser Thames RSA.

SAT, 11 NOVEMBER

Gemboree Gem Rock & Mineral Show.

Thames School of Mines, 101 Cochrane St., 10am-1pm. Space between The Battery Room & Courtyard between Rock Shop & Old Sunday School Building.

The Tauranga Gem and Mineral Club brings the Gemboree to Thames; rare, precious and beautiful rocks, minerals and gems for view and sale. Goldpanning \$10 person! Info: John Isdale, tsm@heritage.org.nz, 07 868 6227.

Steampunk Carnival.

Come one, come all – to the greatest show on earth! Sat., 3-7pm, Danby Field. Free carnival rides, old time Victorian games, food stalls, wandering artists & fun entertainment – young and old.



‘Golden Gears’ and the ‘Gold Ball’ SOLD OUT!

SAT – SUN, 18-19 NOVEMBER

St Georges’ Choral: Handel’s “Messiah”.

7pm on Saturday; 2pm on Sunday. In 1871, the Auckland Choral performed Handel’s “Messiah” in the nearly completed Saint Georges’ as a fundraiser. These concerts mark that first Thames performance using the same venue. Over 60 choristers and soloists from throughout the Thames/Hauraki/Bay of Plenty areas will make up the chorus. Anita Banbury will conduct the orchestra, with an organ accompaniment. Contact: Karen Ruddock karen.m.ruddock@gmail.com or phone 07 868 6489. 600 Mackay St, Thames. www.thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

SAT – SAT, 18-25 NOVEMBER

A celebration of 150 years of weddings in St James Church.

Lynne is looking for bridal clothing going back through the ages, photographs, and vintage cars, a horse and cart or wagon and names of persons who have been married in St James Church. If you have ideas and would like to help please contact her at 07 868 7550. Thames Union Parish, Pahau Street, Thames.

DECEMBER 2017

TUES, 5 DECEMBER

150 Years+ of Volunteering in Thames

Enjoy International Volunteering Day. 10 am onwards. Free Morning Tea at Thames War Memorial Hall – Civic Centre, Mary St, Thames. To thank, meet and greet all the volunteering community. RSVP to Charmian.Nell@tcdc.govt.nz phone 07 868 0328

SAT, 9 DECEMBER

Thames Santa Parade.

All schools/businesses welcome to theme up for gold for 150 years! 11 am start. Winners congregate in Pahau St, Info: Karl at GBD: 07 868 6008 or gbd@thejunction.net.nz, www.totallythames.co.nz

MON, 25 DECEMBER

A Place at the Table. 12 noon-1.30pm at the St James’ Union Parish Hall, Pahau Street, Thames. This is a FREE Christmas lunch for the citizens and visitors featuring live music and a visit by Santa (always the highlight of the lunch!). Diners are welcomed at the door and escorted to a seat at the Christmas themed table. A pre-lunch non-alcoholic punch is followed by a hot meal and beautiful dessert, served to the table. A bag of shortbread is given out to those leaving the hall. Everyone is welcome – this is a community Christmas lunch like no other! Contact: Adrian Catran adrian@twentyfives.com or phone 07 868 6003.



The Goldmine Experience





THE HISTORIC JUNCTION HOTEL AND GBD

While enjoying the Goldfever celebrations, why not make your visit even more authentic – stay in the oldest operating hotel in Thames – The Junction – still standing in its original location. Grahamstown Bar & Diner (known fondly as the GBD), is the venue for many of the performances and events throughout Goldfever year.

As a valued historian in the community (and frequent blogger) Althea Barker writes in her book, *Hotels of Thames*, “Like the remaining old goldfield ‘pub’ (Hotel Imperial), the Junction Hotel is worthy of its own history book. Renovations over the years have been many, but the house has stood proud on the Pahau and Pollen Street intersect for 148 years. The hotel was named Junction, as the site marked the boundary between the two early goldfield towns of Shortland and Grahamstown.” Althea has certainly piqued our interest in this historic hotel and we plan to investigate further. Look for more as we uncover stories about this and other historic buildings in upcoming issues of *Coromandel Life*.

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PREVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS

There are numerous events in the planning stages—be sure to check www.thamesheritage.co.nz for updates and details.

JANUARY 2018 EVENTS

Thursday 4 January. 150 years of Racing at the Thames Jockey Club. Parawai, Thames. Gates open 10am at the Thames Jockey Club. Tickets: \$10 each. Contact: Jim McConnell on 027 460 5826 or email ejamc1@gmail.com.

Tuesday 9 January. Thames Rotary Goldrush Market. Pollen Street along roadway from Sealey St to Walter St. The market features over 60 stallholders offering a variety of items for sale. Time 9am–3pm. Contact: John Uffindell, Phone: 07 868 9535, Email: thamesrotary@hotmail.co.nz

FEBRUARY 2018 EVENTS

Sunday 25 February. Picnic & Praise in the Park, Southend of Victoria Park. Bring your picnic and picnic blanket to join with all the churches of Thames to praise God for His blessings to the town of Thames over the last 150 years. Enjoy a balmy summer evening with contemporary Christian music and a free sausage sizzle. Contact: Alyson McIntosh Phone 07 868 3900, Email: mcgavel@slingshot.co.nz

MARCH 2018 EVENTS

Saturday 3rd March: Bluelight Fundraiser - Trillian Trust (TREK) Thames. This extravaganza of cars, bands, musicians, activities as a fundraiser for Bluelight children of NZ. Contact: Murray O'Donnell - Trek Director, Phone 022 109 0327 / murray@trekevents.co.nz www.trekevents.co.nz

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 March. Thames Heritage Festival. Grahamstown, Thames. More information: www.thamesheritage.co.nz/goldfields

For more information about Thames visit www.thamesinfo.co.nz

THAMES SMALL GAUGE RAILWAY.

Sunday 12th Nov. As part of Steampunk, “steam train rides for the family! Only \$2”. 07 868 3044.

Open on Sundays in good weather, Family fun rides – also \$2. 10am-3pm.

Search YouTube, “Thames Small Gauge Railway” to find videos. Also see www.facebook.com/@thamesrailway.



FOR ONGOING NEWS AND INFORMATION

MEGHAN HAWKES' WEEKLY BLOG

Life as it Happened on the Thames Goldfield from 1867 to 1868

Read online now – or sign up for weekly deliveries straight to your mailbox!

This well researched blog presents the “news” of daily happenings (often pinned to the hour) of the Thames goldfield. What boats landed, who arrived with stolen goods for sale? The problem of too much quartz, not enough stampers. Get real with history! Written by Meghan Hawkes, the author of the *Dead Cert* books, colourful historic biographies discovered via news of deaths in goldfields. Available to read until end of July 2018 at www.firstearththamesgoldfield.co.nz.



LOOK UP DATABASE OF 52,000 MINERS!



Do you have a Thames goldminer in your family's past? Kae Lewis did, so she spent over ten years entering data about individual miners and their claims at both the Thames and Otago fields. The searchable database, a valuable resource for goldmining and family tree research, is at www.kaelewis.com. She also posted information about mining techniques, tales about the miners and more.

Kay's book, *Goldrush to the Thames NZ, 1867-1869*, is available at The Treasury, School of Mines, Thames Museum, Driving Creek Book Shop and Carson's.

STEP BACK IN TIME AT THESE HISTORIC THAMES VENUES



THAMES MUSEUM on Cochrane Street. This historical museum traces the town's history with recreations of Victorian rooms, a miner's hut, and treasures from the past. The past few years, the history museum has upgraded its look with modern display areas. One room is devoted to a handsome display of Ted Egan's finely crafted wooden models of iconic Thames buildings.

The newest display areas feature "images, stories and artifacts from the first 5 years of the goldfields," says Thames storyteller Rosalie Steward, who helped shape the new exhibits. Other displays highlight the town's two foundries, A&G Price and Judd Foundry, and a large exhibition detailing the "unique bicultural relationships in Thames," from before the goldfields were discovered.

Visit the museum's gift shop also. 10am-4pm. 07 868 8509, see online at www.thameshistoricalmuseum.weebly.com. Adults \$5 Children \$2.



Thames School of Mines and Mineralogical Museum

THAMES SCHOOL OF MINES AND MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM. Step back into this world at the most intact school of mines in the southern hemisphere. An awesome rock shop is also located between the school buildings and the Mineralogical Museum. Open daily 11am till 3pm Jan-Mar, and rest of year Wed-Sun only. 07 868 6227. 1hr guided tours, approx. \$10. Corner of Brown and Cochrane Streets, Thames.

BELLA STREET PUMPHOUSE. This fascinating museum showcases some of the massive equipment needed to pump water from the deep mine shafts. Open Weekends 10am-4pm, \$5 Adults & \$2 children. Available as an entertainment venue. See www.bellastreetpumphouse.com. Contact: Malcolm 07 868 8696 or Merv 07 868 1027.

THE TREASURY. Local historical books for sale. A great place for family research (may be a charge), and the organization often sponsors lectures and tours. Open Monday, Thursday thru Saturday 11am-3pm, www.thetreasury.org.nz. Phone: 07 868 8827.

THE GOLDMINE EXPERIENCE. On 6 August, Mayor Sandra Goudie honoured volunteers who restored the only set of fully operational stamper batteries in the country, a restoration challenge that took "forty years of hard toil." Experience the stampers in action at www.goo.gl/md8dQd. Also explore the museum. A newly restored steam engine will be demonstrated during Steampunk, 9-12 Nov. Try your luck gold panning. Cnr Moanataiari Rd & SH25. See www.goldmine-experience.co.nz for hours & admission.



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INTERIOR DESIGNER &
WINDOW FURNISHING CONSULTANT

My love for fabrics and colour started at a very early age watching my mother create and design beautiful clothes for Vogue. I went on to study Design and Architecture at the University of Salamanca in Spain, and Interior Design at Van de Bruens in Knightsbridge London. I worked for a company based in London specializing in the interior design of numerous hotels and private residences in UAE. On coming to NZ I achieved an International Diploma of Interior Design. I have worked for Colourplus as an Interior Design Consultant for the past 5 years. I enjoy the diversity the Coromandel offers - houses, apartments, villas, cottages, new builds, batches and mobile homes. Every job is different and trends are constantly changing. Style is very individual and at Colourplus with the wide range of fabrics, wallpapers, colour cards I would love to help you to achieve the look you are after.

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Port Jackson Campground
Department of Conservation

Port Jackson is an area rich in both Maori and nautical history – evoking beauty and peace and tranquillity (most of the year!). Nearby Maori archaeological sites include middens and a wahi tapu (sacred) site. A great area to explore by foot or relax on the beach. Between Cape Colville to the north and Kaiti Point to the south lies the Jackson Bay. A lovely stretch of sometimes sand and sometimes pebble beach, which is very safe for swimming and boat launching using 4WD.

Between the road and the beach is the Department of Conservation's Port Jackson Campsite. Even with its remoteness, this large 460-person campground, nestled along the beach edge, is chock-a-block with campers over the summer period. Some family groups are now into their third generation stay! There are two electric BBQs available by the dining shelter. Nightly camp fees are \$13 adult/night. Be aware that since this is a 'conservation area'...pets are not permitted. Outside of the summer fire ban period, fires are permitted within the designated fire pits, so don't forget the marshmallows!

Fishermen can expect some great spots



BBQ shelter and games area

Perched at the northern tip of the Peninsula, this campsite is at the water's edge next to a sandy beach. At the eastern end of the campsite, the Muriwai Coastal Walk leads up the headland towards Wharekaiatua Pa and along the coast, offering stunning coastal views.

around the cape to catch blue cod, snapper, kahawai, and kingfish. Reefs at either end of the bay are well stocked. Snorkelling and diving can bring crayfish, butterfish (greenbone), and a wide range of other kaimoana.

Be aware that the piece of water between Cape Colville and the island of Aotea (Great Barrier), is the Colville Channel – NZ's third worst stretch of water after Foveaux and Cook straits. The Hauraki Gulf enters and leaves through here and when the wind is against the tide, it is easy to get 2-3 metre swells that behave like water churning in a washing machine, and tidal currents of around 6 knots. So please take care in and around the area.

TOYOTA KIWI GUARDIANS PROGRAMME

DOC rangers at Port Jackson run the conservation-based 'Toyota Kiwi Guardians' programme year round. Kids follow an activity sheet in and around the campground. Then they can go online, register their activities, and get a medal and certificate, along with more ideas for conservation activities at home. See www.kiwiguardians.co.nz.

HIKES AND WALKS

The popular Muriwai Walk, a 2-hour loop walk from the beach to the cliff tops and along to the carpark back on Fletcher Bay Road, starts from the northern end of Port Jackson Campground. This pleasant 6km walk returns down the road through farmland, and then back to the campground.

On the way back keep an eye out for multi-coloured wild turkeys and peacocks as well as kaka, kereru, kotare, piwakawaka and banded rail. On the beach you will see the antics of dotterel, variable oystercatchers and caspian terns – so take care over the nesting season of October thru February.

From the cliff tops, keep your eyes peeled for seals, dolphins, orca and whales, seen often throughout the year. There is nothing quite like looking down on a formation of gannets flying along the coastline below you.

Another well known hiking and bike trail is the 10km Coromandel Coastal Walkway along the east coast, with endpoints between Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay.

This area of the northern Coromandel is a wonderful place of extreme beauty all year round – even in not-so-good weather. Enjoy, but be sure to check out weather, campgrounds, and road conditions before you set out on your journey!

Check out the amenities at www.doc.govt.nz/portjacksoncampsite. Reservations required.

Caspian tern parents with chick



Getting there...

Port Jackson is located 58km north of Coromandel Town (allow 1.5hr). Expect a 30 min drive north on a sealed road to Colville, where a 30km stretch of unsealed, rough road leads north to Port Jackson – one of the most magnificent coastal roadways the North Island has to offer!

Note: The last petrol pumps, stores and cafés are at Colville, so fill up there.

A stunning sunset over Kaiti Point, southern end of Port Jackson

COLVILLE...

This *little town* has *lots* to offer, and is the last petrol and supply stop on your way to Port Jackson.

Be sure to plan a stop in the quaint village of Colville, just north of Coromandel Town, where you can put your feet up, find a little peace and rejuvenation, and still have lots to do.

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

The town itself is small yet the service and social centre for the area. It's well known for its co-operatively owned and run Colville General Store that offers a huge variety of goods including fresh organic produce. There's also a café, historic post shop, community hall, school, motel, doctor's clinic, and several other small businesses (see right). Even locals drive miles for the unique products available. It's worth remembering that these Colville shops also happen to be the last opportunity to stock up on provisions and fuel if you are heading north.

Many of the names on the northern peninsula were given by Captain Cook during his exploration of the area in 1769. Cook named Cape Colville (the peninsula's northern most point) and Colville Bay after Rear Admiral Lord Colville, under whom he had previously served.

Colville was also known as Cabbage Bay, in reference to the cabbage trees in the bay which Cook insisted his crew eat to avoid scurvy.



THE COLVILLE GENERAL STORE

Step back in time and experience shopping as it used to be. Our old fashioned 'General Store' offers general grocery items, including a good selection of gluten and dairy free items, as well as a wide range of camping, fishing and automotive supplies.

We feel strongly about working together as a community so we have local produce and manuka honey on our shelves. We believe in protecting the world we inhabit, so we offer organic produce and products whenever we can, at competitive prices.

If you are heading north for a few day's stay, we are the last stop on the peninsula for stocking up on supplies and fuel, so don't pass us by! **07 866 6805**



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Ph/Fax 07 866 6814



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Greg Taylor creates unique handcrafted wooden furniture from a range of local timbers. Pohutukawa and Macrocarpa feature in his work and lately he has been using ancient Kauri, Puriri, Rimu felled on his farm by loggers. The furniture that Greg creates is beautiful both in and outdoors; it's comfortable, rustic and relaxed. His work will outlast both you and me.

Visit Greg's place to view his authentic New Zealand woodwork in a real Coromandel setting. **1925 Colville Road, Colville 07 8666846**
www.branchcreek.co.nz



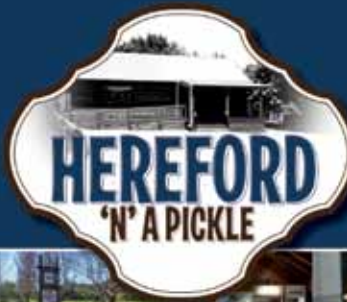
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Preserving Whangamata Islands

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Article and photos courtesy
of Destination Coromandel
www.thecoromandel.com

Whenuakura (Donut Island) is shown in the foreground.

THE WHANGAMATA ISLANDS

There are four islands in this group off the Whangamata coast – Hauturu (the biggest aka 'Clark Island'), Maukaha (the smallest), Rawengaiti (the rock), and Whenuakura (aka 'Donut Island') – all remain under private ownership. Three of the Islands (not including Hauturu) are classified as Wildlife Sanctuaries under the Wildlife Act administered by the Department of Conservation and the Kaitiaki (guardians).

The land owners have been eager to see the islands return to their former glory as a protected wildlife habitat for native flora and fauna, preserving the special features that earned their status in the first place. As recently as the 1980's the unusual tuatara* has been found inhabiting the islands as well as many native NZ birds.

They're also keen to empower the community to continue helping to protect these treasured islands so future generations can experience them in their primal state. Slowly the local community is being educated on the cultural and ecological significance of the islands.

PRESERVE WHENUAKURA ISLAND

The Island with the emerald lagoon, more commonly known as 'Donut Island' lies one kilometre east from Whangamata Beach. It has two small beaches in the centre of the island's collapsed blowhole, resembling a donut.

While the scenic beauty of Whenuakura is on a par with world renowned spots along the Pacific Coast such as New Chum Beach, Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach, it was never intended to be a visitor attraction. For decades the Whangamata community enjoyed this piece of paradise as their own.

Many visitors who venture to Donut Island are oblivious to the fact that they're visiting a wildlife sanctuary, established to preserve the very attributes that have lured them there. The conditions of the sanctuary, put in place to protect the flora and fauna, advise "no landing or climbing on Whenuakura".

Travel there with a certified tour company who will bring the Whangamata Islands to life with commentary detailing why this group of islands is regarded as taonga (treasure) to the local people.

THE HISTORY

The Islands are the ancestral home of Nga Marama, the first Polynesians to occupy the Whangamata area. They predated the Hawaiian and Tahitian migrations. Their descendants, who are Uru-Nga-Wera (which means the weapon of fire) and their whanau, Ngati Pu, are the kaitiaki of the Islands and tangata whenua of Whangamata.

Whenuakura is regarded as a very spiritual place to local iwi and many Whangamata locals. The owners continue to work with DOC, TCDC, Whangamata Surf Life Saving, Whangamata Harbour Master and other community groups in a quest to establish this special place as a safe world-class eco-tourism experience.

Join them in the drive to protect and enhance the natural attributes of these unique islands and the surrounding marine environment.

* Tuatara are rare, medium-sized reptiles found only in NZ. They are the last survivors of an order of reptiles known as Rhynchocephalia. They first appeared over 200 million years ago and thrived before and during the age of the dinosaurs.

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16-18 February • 2018 • Whangamata 'BRITS AT THE BEACH'

This October saw the last **Brits at the Beach** to be held in the spring. After struggling with inclement weather three times over the past five years, the organizers decided to move the event to a warmer season.

SO ... THE 2018 'BRITS' WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY.



PADDLING SAFELY TO

Donut Island

Tour guides will take you on a 2-hour paddle board or kayak tour. You will need an adequate level of fitness and confidence in the water to complete the return journey.

While relatively close to the mainland, the islands are located in a wild environment subject to unpredictable ocean conditions and terrain.

WIND: There have been countless rescues of people visiting Donut Island. Even on calm days people can be caught out by strong westerly winds which make it difficult to return to shore. Don't underestimate the challenge paddling to the mainland into a westerly (offshore) wind.

SWELL: The island is subject to swell and tidal conditions that require local knowledge to negotiate. Tour guides can act as guardians while also looking out for the safety of paddlers exploring the coastline.

DONUT ISLAND ENTRANCE: The narrow entry channel can experience hazardous swells making it dangerous to paddle under the archway, however paddle board and kayak operators can help guide you safely and comfortably into Donut Island.

TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS: And remember – no landing or climbing anywhere on the island. Also leave bags and food behind, so as not to attract predators.



...relaxing close enough for the sound of the ocean to lull you to sleep!



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This celebration of "All Things British" is based around multiple British Car & Motorbike Shows.

This great day out began eight years ago and was formerly held in

Tairua. Featured on display are the very best that British motoring has to offer, as well as British Bake Offs, Scruffs Dog Shows, Best Costumes, Knotted Hanky Tying and loads of other uniquely British silliness. Car and motorbike owners bring their vehicles from all over the country to participate.

The event is mostly self funded through registration fees, but also has the support of two long standing sponsors, Classic Cover Insurance and radio station 97.9 Kool FM. Kool's owner Colin McCabe says, "We're proud to have Kool FM involved. The event

was created to bring activity into our district, and over the years it has contributed millions to our local economy."

FESTIVAL MOVES TO FEBRUARY IN 2018

"We see the move as a brilliant idea that should allow the event to grow and benefit the whole region for years to come," Colin adds.

So circle the dates, February 16-18 for the first 'summer time' Brits, and watch schedule to see if the cars make a registration rally stop in Thames. A bonus feature: free registration for all British soft top convertibles. As Colin says "There'll be a run on sunblock in February".

Local businesses and community groups are invited to get involved and have a stall at the Great British Village Fete.

Colin says to look for exciting new events additions to the February celebration. Stay updated and see details at www.britsatthebeach.co.nz.

Left: 2016's Best of Show car was Ian and Jenny Patton's 1923 Boat Tail Vauxhall
Photo by Pete Stretch - www.facebook.com/petestretchphotography/

COROMANDEL *life*

calendar

CLEMATIS
by Jane Galloway
www.palmprints.co.nz

OCTOBER 2017

SAT 7 - SUN 15 OCT



ARTS - Coromandel Arts Tour During the first two weekends of October artists in and around Coromandel Town will welcome you into their studios and share their process as well as the finished results. www.coromandelartstour.co.nz. See p46.

FRI 12 OCT

FAMILY - Rock Art @ The Museum! Mercury Bay Museum, Whitianga, 10-11:30am. Design, paint and hide rocks with the Mercury Bay Rocks group! \$5 per child. Info: Rebecca Cox 07 866 0730.

FRI 13 - MON 16 OCT

RETREAT - Experiencing Self-Love Retreat Te Moata Retreat, Tairua. Incorporating psychological exercises, karma yoga, formal instructions and practices, movement & free exploration. Discover a new way of being with yourself and your loved ones. Contact bhavna@alivepsych.co.nz or 022 0843 095.

SAT 14 OCT

CONCERT - Alice Sea Chambers Bar, 22 Haszard Street, Waihi, 6-10:30pm. Taking you down the rabbit hole of musical mystery with the wide variety of world instruments she plays & loops together. Indian style Tapas are included. Tickets \$20: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849)

FRI 20 OCT

ART - Lynden Over Exhibition Bread & Butter Gallery, 26 Albert St, Whitianga, 10am. Lynden continues to explore the natural landscape with his exploratory works. www.breadandbutter.co.nz.

SAT 21 OCT



SPORT - XTERRA Trail Challenge Waihi A trail running/walking event in the historic Karangahake Gorge which has a myriad of old tramping, rail and tramway tracks completely surrounded in native bush. www.trailrun.co.nz/waihi-home.html.



MARKET - Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market Memorial Hall, 326 Port Road, 8am-3pm. Nearly 100 stalls with crafts, farmers produce, fruit & veges, sausage sizzle, art exhibition, face painting, book sale...Facebook for more.

ART - 'Past Meets Present' - Souzie Speerstra Exhibition Bread & Butter Gallery, Albert St, Whitianga, 12-2pm. Meet Artist. "My past. My present. Both involve the Coromandel. I guess its in my blood." www.breadandbutter.co.nz.

SHOW - Eagles Tribute Show Mercury Bay Club, 6-10pm. "One of these Nights" tour playing hits such as Hotel California, Tequila Sunrise and many more! Tickets only \$25 (includes Dinner and Show)

SAT 21 - MON 23 OCT



COURSE - Mindful Photography Mahamudra Centre, Colville. Exploring the skills of photography and the concept of mindfulness in the creative process and everyday life. Course \$175 (inc meals & accommodation) www.mahamudra.org.nz.

ART - ARTWaikino The largest art exhibition in the area is now in its 17th year. A fundraiser for the local community hall with entries from all around the North Island. All art work is for sale. See p45

SUN 22 OCT

TOUR - Talk & Walk to the Eureka Mine Settlement The Treasury, Queen Street, Thames, 9am-5pm. An introductory presentation followed by a field trip to the Ross family residence in Eureka Settlement. thetresury@gmail.com.

FAMILY - Big Beach Dig! 100 Beach Rd, Waihi Beach, 2-4pm. Come & dig up chocolates, chippies & other goodies! Ages 1-10, no spades - hands and feet only.

FRI 27 - SAT 28 OCT

JUBILEE - Parawai School Golden Jubilee. We've created an informal and fun programme. To register, or for more info, phone the office: 07 868 8117 or email: administration@parawai.school.nz.

SAT 28 OCT



RACING - K2 Cycle Race Whitianga. Possibly the toughest 1-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also one of the most scenic and varied with the route traveling through sub tropical forest, pacific coastlines, rural farmland and the Pohutukawa coastline of the Hauraki Gulf. www.arcevents.co.nz/k2home.

FIREWORKS - Paeroa Lions Fire Works Display Paeroa Domain, Willoughby St, gates open 5pm, display 9pm. Only public fire works display held on the Coromandel. Larger display than previous years - fun for the whole family. www.lionsclubs.org.nz/Clubs/202L/Zone-7/Paeroa.

FAMILY - Night @ The Museum Mercury Bay Museum, 6-9pm. See what happens when we close the doors at night! Sausage sizzle, children's activities and special guest speakers. Adults \$10, Children \$5. Info ph Rebecca Cox 078660730.

TUE 31 OCT

HALLOWEEN - Trick Or Treating Friendly Houses Whitianga, 4pm. Use the map to find houses that are happy to have you Trick or Treat at on Halloween. Download the Map from www.allaboutwhitianga.co.nz/mercury-bay-events-guide/community/halloween-trick-or-treating-friendly-houses.

NOVEMBER 2017

FRI 3 - SUN 5 NOV

REUNION - St Francis School and Parish Reunion, Thames. A special time to catch up with old friends, parishioners and school mates. Registrations open: email 150stfrancisthames@gmail.com.

FRI 3 - SUN 12 NOV

THEATRE - 50 And Fabulous The Theatre, 21 Boyd Road, Waihi. A musical romp through the 60's with a group of friends celebrating the big 5-0. www.waihidramasociety.co.nz.

WED 8 NOV

COMMUNITY - Free Driver Refresher Course Waihi St Johns, 9:30am-2pm. 65+ this is for you. Light refreshments provided. Age Concern on 07 868 9790 to book.

THU 9 NOV

ART - Liz Turnbull's "Beneath Luminous Skies" Bread & Butter Gallery, Albert St, Whitianga, 10am. Renowned for the luminous depictions of the landscapes she loves, her evocative paintings are highly textured & layered. www.breadandbutter.co.nz.

THU 9 - SUN 12 NOV

STEAMPUNK

FESTIVAL - Steampunk The Thames The programme includes steampunk balls, banquet and burlesque, as well as exhibitions and concerts. Many events are family-friendly and free. www.steampunkthethames.org. See p35.



The Little GALLERY

What's your Ism?

Sun 22 October 2017 at 4pm



Jane Galloway



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Paula McNeill



Sharen Watson

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SAT 11 NOV

SHOW - Country Night at The Club 29 Sheppard Ave, Pauanui Beach, 7pm. Special guests Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers Experience. Light meal included, \$45 members, \$50 non-members. www.pauanuiclub.co.nz/events.php.

SHOW - Gemboree Gem Rock & Mineral Show: Thames School of Mines, Cochrane St, 10am-1pm. Gold Panning. Rare, precious rocks, minerals & gems for view and sale. www.thamesschoolofmines.co.nz.



RACING - Whangamata Adventure Race 3, 6, 12 & 24-hour Adventure Races based around stunning beaches and forests. www.whangamataevents.co.nz.

SAT 18 NOV



GRAND OPENING - The Pukorokoro-Miranda section of the Hauraki Rail Trail 8:30am-2pm. The new trail connects Thames to the Shorebird Coast. Come along dressed in your best bird costume, and be in to win a brand new bike, courtesy of Jolly Bikes in Thames. www.haurakirailtrail.co.nz.

SAT 18 - SUN 19 NOV

CONCERT - "Messiah" St Georges' Choral St George's Church, Mackay St, Thames, 7-9pm. Soloists and over 60 choristers from all over NZ. www.thamesmusicgroup.com.

SUN 19 NOV



FESTIVAL - Vegetarian Festival 132 Landlyst Rd, Waihi Academy, 10am-4pm. Over 40 food stalls, cooking demos, music, entertainment! Free entry. www.waihiacademy.co.nz/events.

THU 23 NOV

SHOW - Arts on Tour - Delaney Davidson Presents MAGIC LIGHTBOX Whitianga Town Hall. World debut. Live music with projected images. A Mexican songbird with timeless voice. www.delaneydavidson.com.

SAT 25 NOV

FILM - Show Me Shorts Film Festival: The Sampler Colville Hall, Colville Rd, 7:30-9pm. These shorts were selected from almost 2000 submissions, so you can be sure of a fantastic night out. Tickets \$12: 07 866 6920. www.showmeshorts.co.nz.

SPORT - Omaha Valley Bull Ride Omaha Valley Road, Hikutaia, 10am, Bull Buck 11am. Adults \$20, child (under 16) \$10, under 5 free, family (2 adults, 3 children) \$50. www.rodeonz.co.nz.

MUSIC - Paeroa Country Music Club Wharf Street, Paeroa, 12:30-4pm. All Welcome... \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Info: Carolyn 027 484 9449.

ART - Nick Fedaeff's "World of Fun, Fantasy and Desire" Bread and Butter Gallery, 26 Albert St, Whitianga. Meet Nick Fedaeff between noon-2pm. His new collection showcases glamour and simplicity, exclusivity and kitsch, temptation and humour. See more at Facebook page or www.breadandbutter.co.nz.

SUN 26 NOV

FAMILY - Museum Store Sunday Mercury Bay Museum, 10am-4pm. A global event to encourage Christmas shoppers to experience the unique offerings they can buy at museum stores, a non-profit retailer. Bring along your Christmas gift list. Info: Rebecca Cox Ph 07 866 0730.

TUE 28 NOV

FILM - Show Me Shorts Film Festival: The Sampler Embassy Cinemas, 708 Pollen St, Thames, 7:30-9pm. These shorts were selected from almost 2000 submissions, so you can be sure of a fantastic night out. Ticket info: 07 868 6602. www.showmeshorts.co.nz.

DECEMBER 2017

FRI 1 DEC

ART - Claire Bryers' "Passage of the Moon" Bread and Butter Gallery, 26 Albert St, Whitianga. Meet Claire Bryers from 12-2pm. Clay work that has been created in conjunction with the monthly passage of the moon. www.breadandbutter.co.nz.

SAT 9 - SUN 10 DEC

SHOW - En Pointe Dance Studio - Wonkalicious 24 Monk St, Whitianga, 4pm Sat, 2pm Sun. Showcasing all the studios dance skills; including ballet, tap, hip hop, urban, contemporary, lyrical and acro dance. www.enpointedancestudio.co.nz.

SAT 9 - SUN 24 DEC

SHOW - Christmas Lights Extravaganza 6894 Puke Road, Paeroa, 8:30-11pm every night (entry closes at 10pm), weather permitting. Paeroas historical Maritime Park turns into a magical wonderland during December. Bring the family to experience the brilliant light show, meander through the Enchanted Forest and watch children playing in the snow and bubbles. www.historicalmaritimepark.co.nz/events/paeroa-christmas-light-show.

MON 11 - SUN 24 DEC

SHOW - Thames Christmas Wonderland Thames Civic Centre, 7:30-10:30pm. A combination of light and static display and hands on creativity. Make this part of your Christmas tradition and spend an evening out with the kids.

SUN 24 DEC - SAT 20 JAN 2018



FESTIVAL - Whangamata Summer Festival Something for everyone: youth, young families, locals, holidaymakers and the elderly with night time concerts, volleyball competitions, kid's holiday programme, a night market and a huge craft market-day.

MON 25 DEC

CHRISTMAS - Christmas Day - A Place at the Table St James' Church, corner of Pauhau & Pollen Streets, Thames, 11:30am-2:30pm. Everyone is welcomed no matter what your circumstances are - this is a Community Christmas lunch like no other! Live music is supplied and a visit by Santa is always the highlight of the lunch.

WED 27 DEC - TUE 2 JAN 2018

EVENTS - Whanga Week Corner Of Esplanade & Low St, Whangamata. A week of spectacular activities! Just a few include 10 and 5k runs, Miss Whangamata and a Surf Boat Spectacular. Visit www.whangamatasurf.co.nz/ whangaweek-1/2017-3 for a full list.



*from the team at
Coromandel Life Magazine!*

THU 28 DEC

FISHING - Kids Wharf Fishing Competition Whitianga Wharf. Contact the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club for more details.

FRI 29 DEC - SUN 7 JAN 2018



MARKET - Whitianga Wellbeing Market

Whitianga Town Hall, 24 Monk St, 10am-5pm. Gathering of those who are passionate about making the world a better place! Free. Whitianga Wellbeing Market Facebook page.

FRI 29 DEC

MARKET - Onemana Market Day 10am-3pm. Annual market day on the Onemana Beach Reserve. Food and Craft, free face painting and beach dig.

SAT 30 DEC

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

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

A TASTE OF
MATARANGI



7 APRIL
2018

atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

SUN 31 DEC



CONCERT - Rocky Rhodes - New Years Waihi Memorial RSA, Seddon Road, 8pm-1am. A 4-piece live band performs Kiwi & classic rock & pop dance hits to celebrate New Year. Free. www.crossrhodesband.com.

JANUARY 2018

TUE 2 JAN

FAIR - Keltic Fair 155 Tiki Rd, Coromandel Town, 9am-4pm. Over 300 stalls, arts and crafts, yummy food and entertainment all day. Entry \$2 (under 5 free), gate proceeds go to Area School of Coromandel.

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WED 3 JAN

MARKET - Pauanui Summer Series Market Day. Enjoy a fun day in our beautiful town. www.pauanuiclub.co.nz/market-day.php.

THU 4 JAN



CONCERT - Sol3 Mio - Summer At The Beach Williamson Park, Lowe St, Whangamata, 5pm. The Samoan trio of tenor brothers Pene & Amitai Patin, & their baritone cousin Moses Mackay with program to celebrate Christmas and the beloved kiwi summer. www.civicevents.co.nz/events/sol3-mio-2.

GALA - Cooks Beach Summer Gala Banks St, Cooks Beach, 9am-2pm. Over 100 stalls; Games, Rides, Food, Music, White Elephant & the Daisy Dung Drop. Fun for whole family. All proceeds to Whenuakite School. www.cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz.

RACES - Interislander Summer Festival Thames Races Thames racecourse, Parawai Road, 10am-7pm. Delicious local food, wine of The Coromandel, live music. See www.racingthames.trac.co.nz.

FRI 5 JAN

MARKET - Hahei Market Day Kotare Reserve, Pa Road, 9am. Hahei Community Library Fundraiser: Over 120 stalls, family fun, great food, & music room to relax in.



FAIR - Waihi Beach Summer Fair Wilson Park, Citrus Ave, 10am-4pm. Quality wares & yummy, gourmet food, with 200 stalls, entertainment, music & fun for kids. Entry \$2 (kids under 12 free). Cash only at gate but EFTPOS/cash out avai inside event.

SAT 6 JAN



SPORT - Otago Cup Whangamata Esplanade. The course is based around the Otago river & estuary. Open for SUP, kayak & waka ama. 1km Kids Race, 5km & 10m Endurance Races, & Surf Race. Info at www.whangamataevents.co.nz/otahu-cup.

FESTIVAL - Tairua Wine and Food Festival 110 Main Rd, Tairua. Delicious offering of food & beverages, plus NZ crafts. See page 48 and www.tairuawineandfood.co.nz.

SAT 6 - SUN 7 JAN



FAIR - The Extravaganza Fair Whangamata Area School, Port R, 9am-5pm. Market stalls, arts & crafts, food, music, entertainment, circus shows, tiny homes, kids shows & games. Free. www.extravaganza.co.nz.

MON 8 JAN



CARNIVAL - Mercury Bay Seaside Carnival Buffalo Beach, Whitianga. Right by the sea! Jewelry, furniture, children's toys/puzzles, food, rides & games for the whole family. See www.mercurybayseasidecarnival.co.nz.

TUE 9 JAN

MARKET - Thames Goldrush Market Day 9am-3pm, Pollen Street. Loads of stalls from local businesses and visitors. Kids amusements, buskers and great food.

FRI 12 JAN



CONCERT - Concert in the Vines Mercury Bay Estate and Lonely Bay Vineyard, 761 Purangi Rd, 3-9pm. Great food & wine, & musici. Fundraiser for Westpac Helicopter. www.concertinthevines.org.nz/index.html.

SAT 13 JAN



CONCERT - The Deep Purple Project Whangamata Club, 404 Port Rd, 9-11:30pm. Deep Purple fans will love this tribute act. Free entry. www.deeppurpleproject.nz.

RACING - Harness Racing Parawai Road, Thames. Enjoy thrilling holiday racing both in the "Infield" and on the Grandstand side of the track. www.racingthames.trac.co.nz.

THU 25 - MON 29 JAN

SPORT - Ice Skate Tour Waihi Memorial Hall, Seddon St, 10am-4pm. Cool but not cold ice skating, MoreFM bubble machines and music. See iceskatetour.co.nz.

FEBRUARY 2018

SAT 10 FEB

CULTURE - 25th annual Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo Paeroa Domain, 9am-9pm. Fully-fledged Highland Games, the only games in New Zealand with an Evening Tattoo. www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz/index.html.

FRI 16 - SUN 18 FEB

FESTIVAL - Brits at the Beach A celebration of all things British. Includes a car and bike show, whiskey dinner, village fete, live concerts, organized drives and more. www.britsatthebeach.co.nz. See p 41 for more.

SUN 18 FEB



RACING - Paeroa Battle of the Streets Going for over 18 years, riders from around the country and overseas converge on this otherwise quiet town to compete in the race. Plenty of free parking and camping available for spectators. www.battleofthestreets.co.nz.

Looking for the LIGHT

LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW ZEALAND

Peter Latham's photographic artwork is now featured in a new coffee table book.

For a landscape photographer like Peter Latham, the ability to capture that fleeting moment – when timing and light synchronise to create a stunning image– is everything. The book's title **'Looking for the Light'** was an easy one for Peter to settle on, as it aptly describes what he strives to achieve. Featuring a vast body of work acquired over many years, this long-awaited first book of Peter's generously displays his combination of skill, patience and poetic eye. Attributes that have earned this Whitianga-raised photographer an enviable reputation in fine-art galleries, with thousands of collectors worldwide.

Packed with 230 spectacular colour photographs from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island, 42 of these are beautiful double-page panoramas, all carefully chosen to represent the best of his life's work. "Almost half of these images have never been released before," shares Peter, "and they showcase many of my favourite places that are little known treasures, tucked away in quiet little corners of NZ."

He personally worked on the design layout, curating of all the content from his extensive image library – though he admits he did struggle to stick to the 224 page limit! Accompanying his stunning imagery is over 17,000 words written by Peter, which include personal anecdotes and background information about the locations. It's all beautifully printed by New Holland Publishers and weighs in at a hefty 2.5 kg, making for one very impressive book indeed!

Working on the project for almost a year, he divided the book into distinct chapters: "Beaches & Coastline", "Rustic & Rural" and "Mountains & Forests" – all covering a wide range of landscapes, from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island (with many of the Coromandel Peninsula!). He then closes the book with a unique chapter – "Behind the Scenes".

GOING BEHIND THE SCENES

This unique appendix shares technical information and extended stories, whilst 'before and after' photos illustrate the changing light and some of the challenges Peter faced. It illustrates how "light is everything" and explains technical details, for those with an interest in photography that are keen to learn more. It also highlights some of his large scale installations, pieces that exhibit incredible detail – even when spanning 28 metres wide, such as his commission for a Russian home's indoor pool, showcasing Mt. Cook and Lake Pukaki.

Peter combined 120 overlapping images like a big jigsaw puzzle, resulting in a single high resolution image in excess of 4 GB. Wow!

Similar commissions are currently under development with Auckland



"The rainbow over the red tree was captured in Central Otago's Nevis Valley with just seconds to spare – driving rain was determined to ruin my efforts and by the time I had cleared my lens to pinch a second frame, the rainbow had already faded!"

International Airport – the perfect venue to share Peter's vision and draw attention to our country's majestic landscape.

Colourworx in Auckland is the printer for these revolutionary installations; Peter's photographs are printed by CX to both low-iron glass and textured fabric, durable enough to survive display in public areas. Overall, these architectural projects involve endless hours of planning and execution, working closely with architects and interior designers. These collaborations can stretch to several years before they become a reality...there's that patience again!

To gain an appreciation of the impact and scale of Peter's work, pop into Mosaic Gallery in Whitianga (opposite the i-Site) to view a great selection of his photographic art works – large and small.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Whilst the standard version of 'Looking for the Light' is available from bookstores nationwide, Peter has released a special Collector's Edition, reserved for his galleries such as Mosaic in Whitianga and Weta in Coromandel.

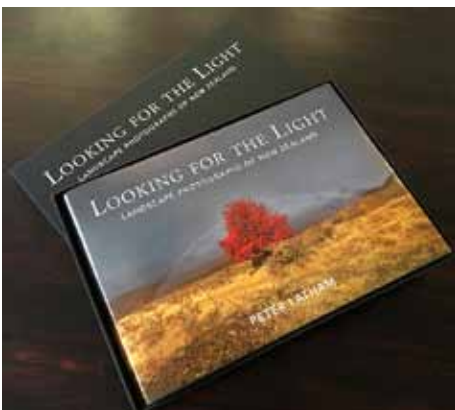
For the cover of this version, Peter features his hero shot 'Jackpot' – an extraordinary image of a scarlet tree in Otago's Lower Nevis Valley – complete with a rainbow that lasted only seconds – what a catch!

This collector's edition is also signed by Peter and comes in a stunning black presentation box – designed to not only look good, but also to protect your book for many years to come! And all this for only \$79.95, it represents incredible value and makes for the perfect present – for both loved ones and yourself!

Peter will be at Mosaic for Booksignings over Labour Weekend. See page 23 for more details.

During a recent book launch tour, Peter was interviewed by both Radio New Zealand in Wellington & Radio Southland in Invercargill.

If you missed these on air, you can listen to them by going to Peter's website www.peterlatham.com and clicking on the "BOOKS" menu.



Peter's awesome 'Jackpot' image, left, graces the cover of the boxed collector's edition priced at only \$79.95. The book offers a generous 224 pages featuring 230 photographs, with dozens of those images covering a panoramic two page spread. The bookstore edition features a stunning cloudy grey landscape photograph and does not include the cover box, retailing at \$69.95.

ART waikino
 Saturday 21st to Monday 23rd October 2017
 Waikino Victoria Hall 10am - 4pm

THIS LABOUR WEEKEND ART EXHIBITION IS NOW IN ITS 17TH YEAR!

This popular Coromandel art exhibition runs through Labour Weekend, Saturday 21 October – Monday 23 October, 10am-4pm.

Friday at 6:30pm enjoy a wine and cheese opening with viewing, judges' announcements, and live music from Quarter Acre. Cost for the opening is \$10 with entry into the exhibit a Gold Coin donation.

ARTWaikino, now in its 17th year, is recognised as a major art exhibition and competition on the Coromandel Peninsula featuring paintings, crafts, photography and sculpture, which will be displayed at the nearby Falls Retreat.

Look for art projects display from students at Waikino School. We heard that some of the students were learning how to use a high tech 'laser cutter' on some projects.

All artwork is for sale, with proceeds supporting the upkeep of the historic community hall. The Waikino Victoria Hall is located on SH2 in Waikino, with the exhibition is organised by the Waikino Victoria Hall Committee.



TAIRUA-BASED LITTLE GALLERY OPENS NEW VENUE IN WHANGAMATA

The new gallery, showcasing local artists from the area, opens 1 November in Shop 3, 427 Port Road. There will be an official opening event on Saturday, 16 December (more details to come).

A team of artists will cooperatively manage the gallery with works including painting, sculpture, prints, pottery, and jewellery from over 50 Coromandel and NZ contributors. The gallery will operate cooperatively, with a team of artists working to produce artwork and manage the gallery. It will showcase the work of over 50 Coromandel and NZ artists, working across a range of media including painting, prints, pottery, sculpture and jewellery.

Gallery owner Sarah Holden says, "We want the new gallery to be a touch point to discover the vibrant creative culture of the community – a

hub where locals, visitors and holidaymakers can actually engage with our artists. We've lots of exhibitions in the pipeline that we're excited to present."

Joanne Mahoney, a long-term volunteer and artist at the Little Gallery in Tairua, has been a resident of Whangamata since 1996, and she will be a part of the new gallery's managing team. "Whangamata has definitely been missing an art gallery", says Mahoney.

"There is a strong community of artists here as well as an arts collective, but there has been nowhere locally to exhibit. In Tairua we regularly hold new exhibitions and offer art talks. I think our new gallery will definitely boost our community here."

Contact 027 368 1181 or info@thelittlegallery.co.nz

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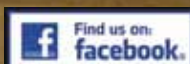


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Tairua's Little Gallery theme exhibition: WHAT'S YOUR 'ISM'?

Opening Sun, 22 October, 4pm - 7pm

To kick off the Summer exhibition season this Labour Weekend, The Little Gallery presents a new exhibition, "What's Your 'ism'?" – Impressionism, cubism, fauvism, expressionism, modernism, minimalism, realism, futurism ... These art movements of the past were groundbreaking in their time and sequentially helped to shape the future direction of art.

Celebrating the diversity of style and the grandeur of history, the artists have been encouraged to employ or reference particular styles or movements, whether overtly or integrated, into their own signature methods. For her exhibition pieces, Artist and curator of The Little Gallery, Paula McNeill, has selected the paintings shown above: *Josephine* – 'Romanticism' (left) and *The Framer* – 'Expressionism' (right).

Paula says, "For me personally, this is an opportunity to express and show a new direction in my work. We imagine the artworks will converse with one another to lead the viewer through a whirlwind of art historical movements, a timeline towards the present moment."

The exhibition a snapshot of history, a smorgasbord of artworks to delight all tastes "in true Little Gallery fashion".

Location: 228 Main St, Tairua. See FB and www.thelittlegallery.co.nz



Printmakers in 'residence' preparing for their first exhibition.

First exhibition opens at the Thames Society of Arts gallery, Sunday November 5th at 1.30pm

PRINTMAKERS COMBINED

'Patience' is her name and she is loved by many. 'Patience' is the name that a group of bright, intelligent, artistic women have given to a printing press they have invested in. This group, who have named themselves "Printmakers Combined", consists of ten well known Coromandel Peninsula artists, whom are stepping outside their usual mediums and comfort zones to explore 'an adventure in print making'.

The ten meet regularly to share their resources and knowledge, which has also lead to some amazing works of art. The 'Patience' Printing Press is moved between the members, which has not only created wonderful art pieces but also good friendships.

The group is creating excitement regarding their keenly awaited exhibition to be held at the Thames Society of Arts gallery Tararu, with the opening on Sunday November 5th at 1.30 onwards where up to 40 works of intriguing, inspiring works can be viewed.

The public is most welcome to attend the 'Printmakers' Combined' exhibition, which will be also included in the 2018 Mercury Bay Art Escape in early March.

Check the MBAE website for further information about this must-see group and exhibition: www.mercurybay-artescape.com/

COROMANDEL OPEN STUDIOS – TOUR ANY TIME

The Coromandel ArtsTour, aka the Coromandel Open Studios, started with an art exhibition at the Hauraki House Gallery in Coromandel Town, followed by two weekends of open studio tours of Coromandel area artists.

Though the official tour happens the first two weeks of October, you can "tour" any time, a Year Round Arts Trail, by calling participating artists found in the official Tour Guide or via the listing of artists found online at www.coromandelartstour.co.nz.



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ARTIST



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TAIRUA SCHOOL WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

SAT 6th JAN



The Tairua School Wine and Food Festival, which will take place Saturday 6th January 2018, remains a favourite staple of the Coromandel summer, bringing together great music, sumptuous food, wines and beers, kids entertainment and great NZ produce.

MUSIC, FOOD, WINE, CRAFTS, KIDS, PRIZES

The 2018 festival will host numerous live bands. Headlining will be **Radio Baby**, who finished last year's festival with everyone singing and dancing, wanting more!

New to the festival are **Daughters of Ally**, two sisters from Tauranga who have sung all over the world, and **Cosha**, a Tairua band with a large local following. **Crimson Coast** will also be on the stage performing their original songs, and there will also be special performances by the school's students.

Kids will enjoy an assortment of competitions, games and fun activities in addition to street performers. There will be loads of great prizes to win from our generous sponsors, and

numerous food, wine and beer stalls. Kids under 18 free; adults only \$15 and it includes a fun cup designed by the school's students.

ARTS & CRAFTS STALLS

There will be an array of authentic NZ arts & crafts stalls, and it is still time to be a part of this awesome event by having your products on sale throughout the day.

HOW TAIRUA SCHOOL BENEFITS

Now into its 24th year, this iconic Coromandel festival continues to provide the students of Tairua School with support programmes, upgraded school facilities, sports equipment, trips and events that simply are not possible through government funding.

"Last year's funds had a significant impact on many areas across the school," Principal Brendan Finn says. "We are in the final stages of completing our extensive decking project that allows our three junior classrooms direct access to our enviro area.

"Financial assistance towards four camps,

LIVE MUSIC
INCLUDING
Radio Baby
Daughters of Ally



numerous specialised performances, the purchasing of new equipment to enhance our Kayaking programme, along with additional digital technology for classrooms has certainly made a significant impact on our children's education.

"We are so grateful for the hard work and ongoing commitment our dedicated parents, caregivers and the wider community provide, and the role they have in shaping the future of our school, ensuring our students have the best opportunities to succeed."

MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS

Major Sponsorship was introduced in 2015 and this year David Reid Homes has come on board as the festival's major name sponsor and First National Tairua as gate sponsor. "It is fabulous to be associated with these award winning companies and we are so grateful for their support", says Amanda Iggulden, sponsorship coordinator.

For further details or to enquire about a stall, visit www.tairuawineandfood.co.nz.



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Tairua senior class wins conservation competition Habitat Heroics... making a difference



Front row, from left, are Tairua School seniors Mikey Ellis, Hunter Crowe, Sarah Ellis, Tayla Collins, Bella Muir, Libby Hughes, and Jessica Kinzett. Speakers at a ceremony on Paku Mountain commending the students' project included Jo Fearn (DOC), John Drummond (Tairua Environment Society), Samantha Telfar (teacher), and Brendan Finn (Tairua School Principal).

Tairua is proud to have a group of young Habitat Heroes in their midst, making a positive difference to the local environment. Senior class students from Tairua School won first prize in Department of Conservation's 2016 Habitat Heroes competition, and received a \$750 award to use on a conservation action project of their choice.

Encouraged by teacher Samantha Telfar, the students developed action plans to help save native species such as Archey's frog, native gecko, fernbird/matata, kaka, NZ dotterel and native weta. The common theme across all the proposals: predators were the problem.

The students spoke to John Drummond, President of the Tairua Environment Society, who suggested their prize money go toward pest control on Paku. The students agreed, and the award money was used to purchase six 'Good Nature' traps; specialised non-toxic, economical possum traps as well as two 'DOC 200s'

traps for rats and stoats.

Not only do these predators consume the birds and their eggs, the rats and possums eat the same berries the birds eat. So, puriri trees were planted to increase the native birds' food supply. Students learnt that a pest-free Paku would possibly even encourage the return of kiwi to the area.

Sarah Ellis, one of the students who participated in the project, said, "Who knew that giving back to the environment and taking the time to improve something else's future would have such a positive impact on our knowledge, personalities and even our ego?"

"It's so good to see that the money we won for our environment is going to good use, and I can't wait to see our New Zealand native species hopefully making another appearance."

STUDENTS GROW BEYOND PROJECT

Because the students were required to reach out to the community to promote and inform people about what they were doing, it further consolidated their knowledge. This was not just a school report on a native species; opportunities grew from winning the award.

They had to have real conversations with real people, they had to make phone calls, talk to community elders and gather local knowledge of a kind not available on a Google search.

"The skills acquired throughout the experience were invaluable to the students. It was beneficial for them to see what a difference their research and hard work was going to make," said Miss Telfar.

John Drummond demonstrates how the trap works to Bella Muir.



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Tairua group sews reusable shopping bags

The Tairua Bring Your Bag movement celebrates a grassroots initiative toward sustainability. Group members have been busy sewing cloth bags from repurposed fabric since May of this year.

These bags encourage shoppers to use durable alternatives to single use plastic.

Bags are available from several of our local retailers. Contact the group on Facebook @ Plastic FreeTairua if you have missed out on a

bag and would like one.

Similar projects are happening in many parts of the world. Boomerang Bags originated in Burleigh Heads Queensland about 3 years ago, with similar projects seen in Whitianga, Thames, Coromandel and Whiritoa.

Be kind to the environment and remember, refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle! Let's all do our part to keep non-degradable plastic off the land and out of our waters, one bag at a time.



Waihi Museum gets a 'thumbs up' makeover

The Heritage Rescue show brought museum décor experts to transform the history displays of the Waihi Museum.

Kidlets will be pleased to see that their favourite exhibit, the "severed miner's thumbs" has been carefully, tastefully, preserved for posterity.

The actual TVshow aired in September.

Stop by and admire the transformation at 54 Kenny St, Waihi.



Castle Rock Cafe's Andy Corles trains for grueling 50k hand pedal bike race

It was just three years ago that Castle Rock Café owner Andy Corles was in a severe car accident that left him hospitalized for months and ultimately paralyzed without the use of his legs. We followed his progress – his brief outings, using a wheelchair, a return to the restaurant and participant at food festivals... and now a bike racer!

Andy has been training for months on a hand propelled layback bike, and 28 October he is registered to compete in the Flight Centre K2 Road Cycle Classic around the Coromandel. Andy is shooting this year for a 50k race, then a 100k, until finally he joins the 200k racers.

And Andy wants to "give something back" to those who airlifted him to the hospital. Donate to Andy's fundraising page to benefit the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust at www.2017k2.everydayhero.com/nz/andy-k2. On 12 October TVNZ aired a long segment on his inspirational story (see right). View it at www.oo.gl/DkCqUF.



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PHOTO BY TOVI DALY



Bill & Eva Darrah

BELOVED COROMANDEL COUPLE... pass away within hours of each other

This past August, the Coromandel lost a pair of treasured pioneers. After living together almost 80 years, Bill and Eva Darrah departed the world together as well.

The couple met and fell in love in Tairua in 1938 and soon married. They had just celebrated their 76th anniversary in July, and though Bill (94) was in ill health, he did rouse for the occasion.

Eva had been caring for him at their Thames' home, and on 3 August, she collapsed from the pure exhaustion of nursing Bill. From that night forward family members cared for them both at their home. Just a week later it was Eva who passed away first, and sadly, Bill joined her a mere 17 hours later.

Jan Collier, one of the couple's daughters, said, "Dad didn't want to live without her and she didn't want to live without him. They had

said for years 'we want to go together' and somehow they did."

"Dad knew he had lost Eva ... he just looked and held her."

LEARN MORE ONLINE: We were saddened to hear of Bill and Eva's passing. We got to know them while doing several features that appeared in *Coromandel Life* over the years. It was a pleasure to honour their contributions to both the Tairua and Thames communities.

Eva, a member of Tairua's Beach family, shared remembrances of her early school days in our Autumn/Winter 2013 issue. Bill took the spotlight when we interviewed him about Tairua's early rugby team (Spring/Holiday 2013). And we saluted them both when we featured the pair as the 'Coromandel Couple' in our Spring 2015 issue. Access these stories www.coromandelife.co.nz. -Tovi Daly



INTRODUCING CO-LAB COLLECTIVE...

Emma Darragh has teamed up with Melissa Conder of Pauanui to form Co-Lab Collective, to focus on raising the profiles of people and services on the Coromandel. Their aim is for the Coromandel to thrive, and will "provide any business with the best tools and skills to promote themselves and communicate their message to the wider world," says Melissa.

"We also collaborate with Coromandel-based graphic designers, photographers, IT programmers and writers to deliver marketing campaigns, create Facebook and Instagram

posts, write newsletters, develop websites and post blogs," adds Emma.

We've long known of Emma's talents as a writer even when she served as Tairua's awesome librarian. We love her enthusiastic style and were delighted to include three article contributions in this issue (see p19, 30, & 49).

Find out more at www.colabcollective.co.nz or www.facebook.com/CoLabCollective/. Or give them a call: Emma at 021 122 9017 and Melissa at 021 179 8576.



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