

LATE SUMMER / EASTER 2017
COMPLIMENTARY



COROMANDEL

life

"COROMANDEL SUMMER" Acrylic on canvas by Liz Hart

Celebrating the people and places of the Coromandel Peninsula

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The Little
GALLERY

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Paula McNeill

Painter

07 864 8821

Mercury Bay Art Escape
Participant 2017

**2015 Winner of
"Artists' Choice"**

"First in Sight"



"Ladies in Red"



"Paku - In the Beginning"

paula.mcneill@xtra.co.nz



"Washed
Ashore"



"Still Life -
Poppies,
Daisies,
Orchids &
Delphiniums"

Joanne Mahoney

**Watercolour &
mixed media artist**

07 865 7355

joanne.mahoney@outlook.com

Susan Dunster Artist

027 6387 695

Mercury Bay
Art Escape
Participant
2017



"Blooming Lovely"



"Towards the Coast"

notecard@xtra.co.nz

Kirsty Black
Contemporary Artist

021 549 193



"Gumdrop Necklace"



"Tadpole Nursery"

kirsty@kirstyblackstudio.com
www.kirstyblackstudio.com

Liz Hart Painter

Mercury Bay
Art Escape
Participant
2017



"Morning Walk,
Tairua Beach"



"Morning
Windowsill"

"Boys will
be Boys"



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"Busy Day on the Mount Beach, 20"x30"



ianliven@gmail.com • www.iangiven.com

"Whangapoua Beach"



Ian Given Painter

021 943 727

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Sharen Watson
 Contemporary Artist
 021-571224

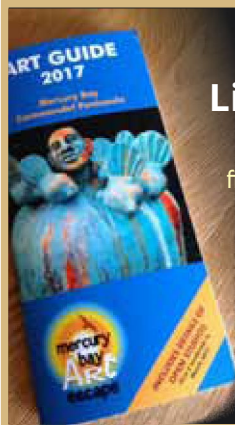


“Grazers”



“Pohutukawa Shade”

2painters@vodafone.net.nz
www.smwatson.co.nz



Visit The Little Gallery

to see a selection of fine works from artists who are part of the Mercury Bay Art Escape and beyond.

PICK UP YOUR FREE GUIDE

Kate Hill Artist • Printmaker
 Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant 2017



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k.hill@xtra.co.nz

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simplymega@me.com
www.simplyMegA.etsy.com

Julie Whyman Artist
 07 853 7250

Mercury Bay Art Escape Participant 2017



“Wave Series”

www.juliewhyman.co.nz
scottandjuliewhyman@gmail.com

Tina Carey Artist

07 864 7411 027 3516352



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 Member

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“VW in the Green Room”

Paul Herbert Painter



“Letters with No Names”

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Hop on in for Hatched!

EASTER SHOW OPENING ON
Sunday 16 April • 4 pm

Our fantastic gallery artists are challenged to use concrete orbs as their canvas to create unique pieces of art.

All orbs shown are by Gary Brooks



“Vortex”

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

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Publishers

Tovi and Greg Daly

Executive Editor/Managing Editor

Tovi Daly Carol Wright

Office Manager

Sarah Steinemann

Design & Layout

Matt Hishon, Anomaly Design

other design support...

Carol Wright Shannon Okey

Contributing Writers/Editors/Proofing

Brando Yelavich Carol Wright Tovi Daly Kate Palmano

Sandra Scott Monett Johnston

Advertiser Liaisons

Tovi Daly Sarah Steinemann

Contributing Artists/Photographers

Liz Hart (Cover Art) Brando Yelavich

Greg Daly

Printing & Pre-press

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Gavin Hedwig Tracey Salkeld Leanne Adams

Althea Barker Karen Vowles Tony Keyworth

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P: (07) 864 9908 E: info@coromandelife.co.nz

Dreams. Visions. Goals ... Just give it a go!

The new year always motivates us to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we are heading. So it was appropriate that this issue would attract individuals that might inspire us to follow our dreams, believe we can do anything with faith in ourselves.... and just give it a go.

Achievers like Brando "Wildboy" and businessman Lester Gray, although two totally different personalities, have 'pivoted' (the new business buzzword I am told!) to overcome obstacles.

We need these modern day 'regular folk' heroes, and they are the sort that inspired me through my health crisis – so many are now beating even terminal cancer which helped me believe I could beat it too... and so far, the doctors say I have!

Thoughts are powerful as well – they can help protect, support and heal us too. Just as our contributors realised, ultimately, how important others are in our lives, I learned this too. So thanks for all those good wishes, blessings and prayers for my recovery – I know it works!

GOOD NEWS. Local businesses are reporting a fruitful summer season. Our communities need these hardworking people, so let's be sure to support them through our autumn and winter by purchasing locally whenever possible. And while you're there, don't forget to tell them you saw them (be it in print or online) in *Coromandel Life*.

We are thankful for the enthusiastic embrace our communities have given our magazines over the past seven years. It took 'a whole village' to pull *PakuViews* together at the start, as it has taken 'a whole peninsula' to support its expansion into *Coromandel Life*.

Greg and I enjoying a 15-day Holland America cruise around NZ aboard the MS Noordam. What a fabulous trip – it was less than hiring a campervan...and I didn't have to cook!

The Coromandel was once our holiday destination, then our home, now our 'masthead'. See the entire legacy – all the issues – flipview style at www.coromandelife.co.nz.

As CL embarks on a very exciting 2017, we are thrilled to report that our reputation has expanded well beyond the Coromandel. We are getting more and more requests from all over NZ. Tauranga iSite rang saying many people had come in asking for CL, so they now offer it. Several groups ask for magazines to send members or potential attendees in advance of events or gatherings or to place in gift bags once here because the magazine promotes what a great place the Coromandel is to visit...and to LIVE, which those of us here already know.

Here's to LIFE!!

Tovi and Greg Daly

It's YOUR Coromandel Life!

This is a group project we can all be proud of – for the region, from the region. **GET INVOLVED.** As a reader, a contributor (writer/photographer/artist/news source/distributor), or an advertiser. Tell us your ideas.

Contact us: (07) 864 9908 or by email at info@coromandelife.co.nz



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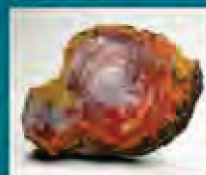
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Feathered

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FLY DC3

Season's End Exhibition

4th Mar – 18th Mar 2017

Meet the Artists 11am - 1pm

4th March 2017

featuring:

Michael D Smither

Souzie Speerstra

Jacqueline Elley

Ingrid Boot

Brad Novak

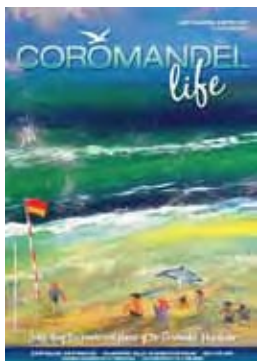


26 Albert St, Whitianga - Ph: 07 866 4927
breadandbutter.co.nz

Liz Hart

Cover Artist

"Coromandel Summer"



"In *Coromandel Summer*, I have tried to capture the feeling of summer on all our beautiful beaches", Liz explains.

"Beach scenes are a great opportunity to study skies, wet and dry sand, reflections and breaking waves.

I have long admired Liz's art and recently fell in love with another large summer scene she did of Tairua Beach, but I missed out when it sold very quickly (as many of Liz's paintings do). I did purchase another cover piece featuring the belted galloway cows "Grazing under the Pinnacles" for my mother-in-law, who adored that one.

"I enjoy painting in most mediums. *Coromandel Summer* is acrylic on canvas," adds Liz. "But I also use watercolour and water based oils – and create etchings and mono prints. However, loosely painted, wet-into-wet watercolour is probably my favourite. I limit the amount of colours I use in a work which helps to ensure harmony."

Liz thinks "some people may perceive watercolour as a 'wishy-washy' medium. How wrong they are! Watercolours have a certain immediacy and charm that fascinates me. The essence to me is the delicate balance between control and the natural flow of the medium."

Liz attended Whitecliffe College of Art in Parnell and Mairangi Bay Art School on the North Shore where her interest in watercolour blossomed



while studying with Ted Sherwen. She also trained there in print making with Joan Taylor.

She immersed herself in the Italian art world when travelling with Argentinian artist Alvaro Castagnet, and also travelled with renowned Australian David Taylor, both highly respected watercolourists.

"I've always thought, 'learn what your style of painting is and accept that'. Each of us has our own personality for a reason, and we should use it in our painting. This is reflected in The Little Gallery artists' work."

Liz admires that there's something for everyone at this eclectic haven in Tairua. Her artwork is also displayed at the Bread & Butter Gallery in Whitianga and the Tararu Gallery in Thames. She has exhibited in solo and group shows, and artworks by Liz are held in collections both here and overseas.

Liz's studio is open during the Mercury Bay Art Escape in March, so stop by 64 Manaia Road in Tairua to meet her and discuss her work. She also welcomes studio visits by appointment and invites commissions. Contact her at Ph: 07 864 7969 M: 022 406 1357 E: brethart@extra.co.nz. – Tovi Daly

Note: Read here for a lively 'Art Chat' Liz presented at The Little Gallery, www.goo.gl/q8RNCm. The answer to her final question? "Make brilliant colour your hero!"



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MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

"Milky Way over Matarangi"
by Ian Preece Photography

ART ESCAPE CELEBRATES ITS 10TH YEAR WITH FRESH CHANGES

Over 42 participating artists – including 6 new artists and 2 art groups – will open their studios and workshops the first two weekends in March.

The popular Mercury Bay Art Escape Artists Open Studios offers visitors exposure to a diverse range of artistic media: drawing, fine woodwork, harakeke weaving, hand forged knives, jewellery, glasswork, mixed media, mosaics, painting, photography, pottery and prints.

Member artists look forward to sharing fresh new works, produced especially for the event, with welcome attendees. Visit the studios and workshops at your own pace, meet the artists and learn about their creative process.

NEW FOR 2017

The MBAE Trust has produced a new 54-page Art Guide booklet and a new website.

Unlike previous years when the guide book was sold, this year's edition is Free and more widely distributed.

The reference guide features each artist's statement, an image of their work, easy-to-read maps, ads, accommodation, cafes and other attractions. The Guide is available at i-Sites, most art galleries, and many cafes. View it online, www.goo.gl/HPRhHk.

"The new website was designed by Lisa Brauns of Dreamland Design in Whitianga," shares MBAE administrator Marion Manson. "It offers a more modern look with easy

navigation. It is also mobile friendly (responsive), and is easier to use on tablets and phones. Visitors can scan the QR code on the website and even use it to navigate to the studios of their choice."

Another new initiative during the Open Studios, and in the spirit of the recently adopted Arts Strategy by TCDC, the Trust will be opening a Pop Up Guest and Emerging Artists Gallery in the Ray White Auction Rooms, Whitianga. Invited artists from other areas of the Coromandel Peninsula will be exhibiting and selected emerging artists from Mercury Bay will have a first exhibition of their works.



GALA OPENING - FRIDAY 3 MARCH 7:30pm

Hot Waves Café in Hot Water Beach will again host the official opening of the Mercury Bay Art Escape and Showcase Exhibition.

Mingle with the artists while enjoying bubbles and dessert nibbles. View the exhibition that will feature a work from each member artist and the 2016 Scholarship recipients, based on the challenge theme of 'Growth' in their chosen media. It's a great time to network and make personal connections with the artists prior to the studio tour days.

Stay till the end of the evening to see which artist will be awarded the 'Artists Choice Award', as voted by the artists themselves.

The exhibition continues until Easter Monday and the public is encouraged to vote for their



favourite artwork in the 'People's Choice Award'. The winner will be announced at the end of the exhibition.

Member artists look forward to seeing you at

the launch and welcoming you to their studios and workshops in the following weekends.

Buy tickets early – at the MBAE website or Hot Waves – for this special event is always a sell out.

STUDIO HIGHLIGHTS

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ART
escape

Artists
Open Studios

MARCH
4-5 & 11-12

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Flags!

www.mercurybayartescape.com



CLAIRE ELLIOT PAINTING

Kuaotunu artist Claire Elliot specialises in metallic seascapes such as 'Image Rocks at Kuaotunu Boat Ramp' – mainly local scenes using metallic paint.

Meet Claire in her studio in the lovely Otama beach area. She loves talking about her work and you are welcome to linger and enjoy a picnic nearby. Take a 6 minute drive from Kuaotunu over the Blackjack, enjoy the spectacular coastal views and stop along the white sands of Otama Beach.

TREVOR BAYLY

Visitors to Trevor's Hahei studio will be treated to a variety of media including photography, drawings and painting. Of particular interest will be his striking images taken in Antarctica when he visited on a Russian Icebreaker in February 2016. Trevor has managed to capture the enormity of the icebergs as seen in 'Iceberg Encounter'.



GARY NEVIN - POTTERY

Gary's 'Attack of the Killer Fantails' sculpture featured on the 2017 Guide is made of cement fondue, finished with paint effects. Standing 110cm, it is Gary's interpretation of a biblical, saintly figure.

Visit his studio and garden shop (a triple whammy of artists including Alan Rhodes Pottery and Michalea Palacios with her lampworked glasswork) at 1307 SH25.

NEW ARTISTS THIS YEAR

IAN PREECE PHOTOGRAPHY

Kuaotunu's Ian Preece specialises in nature photography of the Coromandel such as 'Milky Way over Matarangi' featured above. Astro-photography is particularly rewarding due to the clarity of the air with great vantage points for the Milky Way. He runs photographic field workshops of 1 to 4 days duration aimed at all levels from beginner to expert.



MONIQUE RUSH MULTI-MEDIA

Painting, acrylics, photography, mosaic, garden art, jewellery, art cushions.

Monique is one of the tour's most versatile artists. "Years of practice and many commissions have evolved my ability to create a wide range of subjects." Everyone will find something to love in her Whitianga studio. Birds, landscape and classic cars. Monster and fish characters. Mosaic and flax weave. Clever garden art and sculptures. Designer art cushions with a crafty flair. Even jewellery with miniature artworks inside.



SUE PRESTON PRINT

Sue Preston works with in etching and dry point engraving, which she learned at the Waikato Society of Arts. "I enjoy the complex process of producing a printing plate, especially etching with acid onto a zinc plate, inking the plate and running it through the press. It is an exciting moment, culminating in seeing the finished print as you peel up the paper - but not always getting the anticipated result". Sue, who also works with watercolour and chalk pastel, has her studio in Tairua.



PAM MUNDELL PAINTER

Recently we moved to Whitianga," shares Pam. "I'm interested in exploring the play of light on complex surfaces. I enjoy playing with reality – creating works that may or may not be real. I use a range of approaches. When I imagine a scene, I think about the effects I want to achieve, and use oils, acrylics, brushes, palette knives and other tools and media, to create them".



KAY EVISON PAINTING, GLASS, FABRIC

Acrylics, dichroic fused glass pendants, printed pillows.

"I have now been painting for 8 years. Sometimes my work is loose and playful with warm vibrant colours, and others precise and meditative. Some have a braille message hidden amongst the dots. Each painting creates its own journey, and I never know where my art takes me until the final brushstroke". Kay's studio is located in Whitianga.

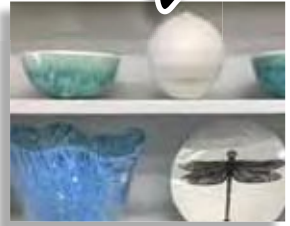


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"Brilliant! It looks fabulous, and we love it!"

VERNICE & JIM BEGG, WHITIANGA

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07 866 5224

or Peter Latham on
021 765 802

Gallery viewing locations

Stop by a gallery or cafe to preview works by many tour artists

Join Mercury Bay artists in their home studios during the Mercury Bay Art Escape March weekends or view their works every day throughout the year in the region's fine art galleries, art group halls and the interiors of cafés and restaurants.

Some studios will be extending their hours this year to cope with the visitor numbers, and other artists not opening their studios will be hosted in local galleries.

BREAD & BUTTER GALLERY HOSTS MICHAEL SMITHER

Once again, famed Otama Beach painter **Michael D. Smither** will be at exhibiting at the Bread & Butter Gallery in Whitianga during the Art Escape tour days. Michael, displaying 6 new works, will be available to meet and discuss his new ink on paper works, such *Eastern Tree*, on Saturday 4 & 11 March 11am-1pm.



GALLERIES...AND EVEN CAFES

Also in Whitianga, visit Mosaic Gallery, Whitianga Art Group, and a special MBEA Pop Up Gallery at Ray White Auction Room on Monk St.

Many MBEA artists exhibit year round at The Little Gallery on Main Street in Tairua. Their ad this issue marks some of their MBEA artists.

North along the coast, visit Moku Artspace, near the Hot Waves Café in Hot Water Beach, the official tour exhibition hall for the month of March. In nearby Hahei, stop by Beach Habitat, a gift shop and art gallery, in same building as the Hahei Beach Café on Grange Road.

Other cafés that regularly have artworks exhibited include Luke's Kitchen at Kuaotunu, Mercury Bay Estate (winery and restaurant) on Purangi Rd, Cooks Beach, and Colenso Café on SH25 at Whenuakite.

A new member this year is the Hikua Art Group located in the Hikua Hall on 45 Morrison Road.

Hatched

The Little Gallery Tairua's Easter group exhibition

Opening this Easter weekend, 14-17 April, The Little Gallery in Tairua presents 'Hatched' – a group exhibition of new collaboratively-produced work by the gallery's represented artists.

The unique theme of the show features the concrete orbs of Auckland-based artist Gary Brooks, one of the gallery's most popular artworks.

Gallery owner Sarah Holden says, "Each orb is individually hand-cast in concrete, and inlaid with gold or silver leaf or shimmering paint, giving them a beautiful iridescent quality. Their forms have been likened to cracked eggs, and no two are alike. They are appreciated as both beautiful art objects and functional home décor pieces".

For 'Hatched,' Gary has provided the gallery's artists with unadorned concrete orbs, and they will create unique designs using the orbs as blank canvases. "Our artists' span a diverse range of styles and mediums, and we are excited to present the unique and quirky outcomes of this collaborative initiative," says Sarah.

'Hatched' opens Sunday 16 April, 4pm, at The Little Gallery in Tairua, 228 Main Road. See www.thelittlegallery.co.nz.




14-17 APRIL

Annual arts festival slated for Colville



This annual arts festival is a cherished community celebration for the northern Colville area. Music, exhibitions, arts, crafts....with a strong kid focus. Entertainment nightly. See page 44.



Jeanne-Marie Cantereau


Watercolour Artist

birds • landscapes
seascapes • still life

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Jacquie Ellis | Karangahake artist

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BREAD & BUTTER
ART EXHIBITION LAUNCHES

flights of fancy

Ingrid Boot's "En Vogue" Delivered by DC3

Many of Ingrid Boot's past works have a high fashion flair, but with the models poised like slender dolls, perhaps on tea cups. However, for her "En Vogue" solo show, which closed 24 Dec, all works were inspired by vintage *Vogue* magazine covers and their powerful mysterious models, real women facing the world alone, confident, and fashion perfect.

Ingrid explains that the paintings included realistic details such as precise thread lines. And the model she decided to use for all the pieces was none other than burlesque performer Leda Petit. "She exudes classic beauty, confidence and poise and fits the role of 'Vintage Vogue' model to perfection," Ingrid says.

"Not only did I require a model of the human kind – but also one of the aviation kind too." The actual aircraft she used as a model, and

VOGUE-STYLE ARTIST INGRID BOOT LANDS 'FILM NOIR' VIA NOSTALGIC RESTORED DC3

was featured in two of her exhibit paintings, was a classic Royal Air NZ DC3, named *Betsy*, that just happened to be part-owned by Ingrid's friends Geoff and Jessica Cooper.

So to add a touch of fantastico, Ingrid and guests flew into Whitianga for her exhibit aboard *Betsy*, now based at Ardmore.

Betsy, The DC3

The DC3, built in 1941, logged wartime service in the Pacific Theatre. After the Korean War, the plane was in the fleets of airlines in the Philippines, New Guinea and Australia, eventually retiring to an air museum. In 1987, she was purchased by a NZ Warbird group and refurbished.

"There were four return flights to Whitianga in *Betsy* for Ingrid's exhibit", notes gallery owner Christine Rabarts, "with one later in the month for locals to have an opportunity to fly around the area. The show and these flights proved very

successful, where everyone seemed delighted to fly on one of only two DC3 planes left in NZ."

The flight from Auckland takes only 20 minutes and, at only \$125 return trip for the day, was a great way to get to Whitianga, enjoy the gallery exhibit, have a leisurely lunch, and browse the shops before flying back to Ardmore by 5pm.

"We intend to continue to help keep *Betsy* in the air and support the mainly voluntary DC3 crew", says Christine. "We look forward to a closer relationship with this great team of aviation enthusiasts. Check the link on our new website for upcoming 'Betsy Flights'. The next one confirmed will be the 4th of March to our group showing, *Season's End 2017*."

This exhibit runs through 18 March – a collaboration of works by Bread & Butter artists Michael D. Smither, Ingrid Boot, Jacqueline Elley, Brad Novak and Souzie Speerstra. Meet some of the artists between 11am to 1pm 4 March, opening day.

ARTISTS EXHIBITIONS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

BRAD NOVAK

- REAL LIFE
COLLIDES
WITH POP LIFE

As work progressed to install prints for pop artist Brad Novak's show, "Beauty of the Beast", the inspiration for one of his recurring images – Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia – suddenly passed away. He admitted he was heartbroken, as Carrie Fisher was his first crush.

Brad immediately created an alteration to the Leia work, *Digital Tear* (with the printed circuit motif turning into a tear) while also honouring David Bowie and Muhammad Ali – all sporting her iconic hairdo.

Brad's new works for his current exhibition, "Beauty of the Beast", which runs through 4th Feb, are selling fast. Here, Brad shifts to a 'softer' subject, wild animals, set against printed circuits and images of icons legends such as Queen Elizabeth on *Lagomorph* 1.5.



Jennie De Groot's *Treasure Island*.

JENNIE DE GROOT

- BLURRED LINES

21 January through 23 February

This emerging oil painter includes *plein air* (in the outdoors) as part of her painting process, with work then finished at her studio.

Jennie is interested in the abstract within the image and focuses on being inventive with her application of materials. Much of her art is visually based in the realities of a landscape, and even if the strokes are broad or slashing or dripping, one can make out – or rather experience – the power of the wind pushing the clouds, the jagged line of the mountain range, the reflection of a stream cutting through paddocks, the drippy heaviness of the weeping *Wisteria*.

GINNEY DEAVOLL

- FEATHERS

11 Feb through 12 March

Ginney has always taken 'nature' seriously. Kayaking extensively along NZ's shorelines, she learned the shapes, colours, lines, and twined relationships between all the elements.

This acrylic on canvas was inspired by Ginney's latest kayak adventure around Great Barrier Island, showcasing its highly regarded birdlife. The interplay of patterns is a favourite style shown in her work, here layering textural rows of feathers like the shingles of a cottage.

Meet the artist at the 11 Feb. launch, midday.





'Betsy'



This DC3 Air New Zealand plane flew from Auckland to Whitianga to deliver artist Ingrid Boot (shown right) and others attending her exhibit. Even the crew came to the show!

Both paintings shown above have sold.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS IMPACT CAREERS OF LOCAL ARTISTS

Whitianga's Bread & Butter Gallery, has been celebrating its stunning new upstairs exhibition space with a full year of solo and combined artists shows.

Gallery owner Christine Rabarts shares, "As an arts dealer, I have been very pleased with the quality of work selected for the gallery. Collectors know they can expect only the best from the artists I showcase. Many clients are in regular communication and often make special day trips to view the latest collection. Some even come in from overseas. They can also check new gallery art on our website and follow us on Facebook."

Christine notes that "the upstairs extension and additional rooms have really come into their own this summer. It's great for showcasing other artists' work in between exhibitions as well." The artists she chooses to work with have to "demonstrate professionalism and develop forward. I encourage them to define a theme for their show and then create a whole body of new works for their exhibition."



Gallery owner Christine Rabarts with two of Ingrid Boot's paintings.

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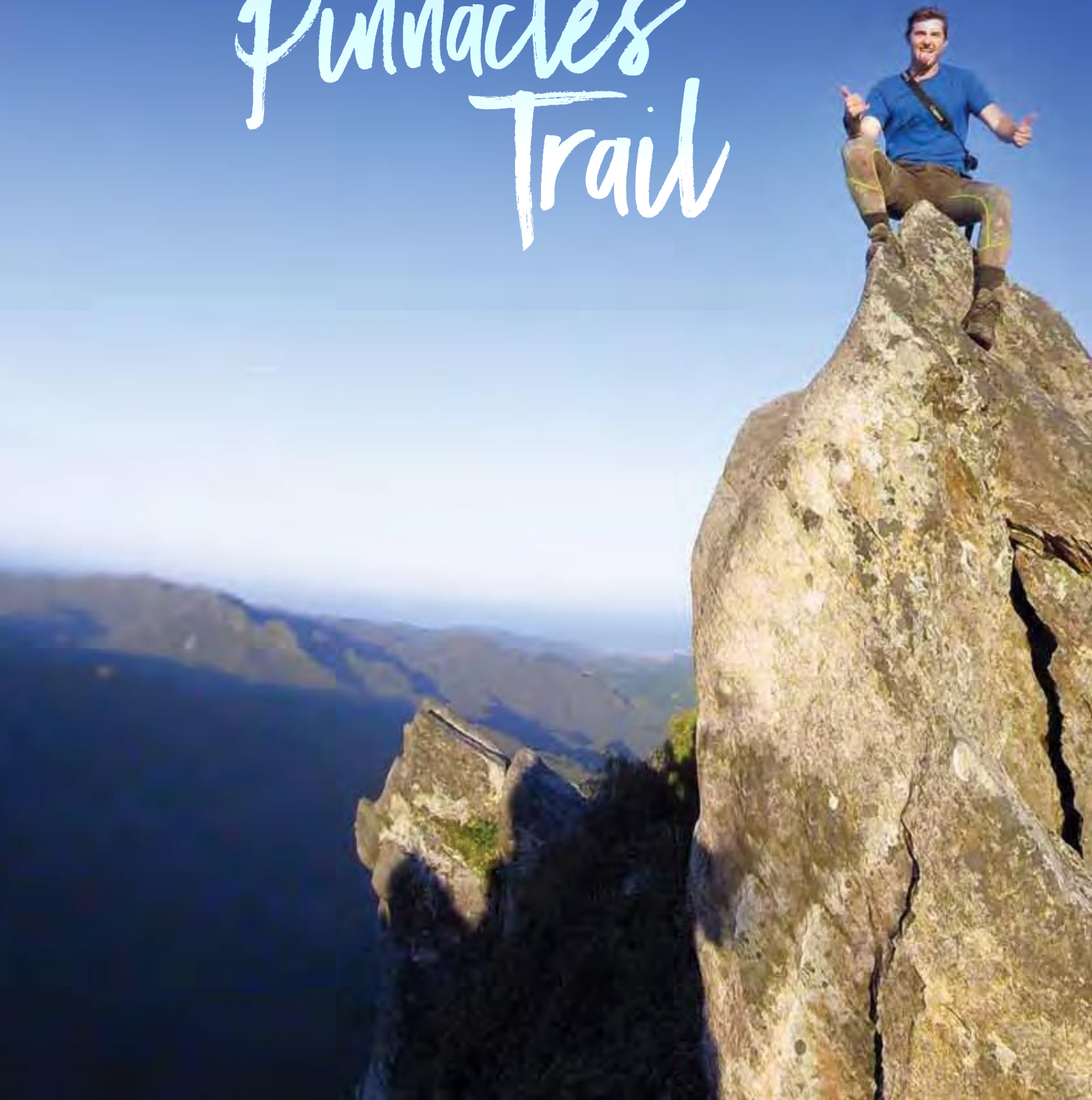
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Hiking the Pinnacles Trail



High and wild – even for the Coromandel's own... 'Wildboy'

The Pinnacles track is in Kauaeranga Valley in the Coromandel Forest Park. The track can be done in one 8-hour day or in two days with a night in one of the huts or camp grounds.

This is my story of the beautiful walk that it is!

Brando Yelavich
Wildboy Adventures

I parked up at the end of the Kauaeranga Valley Road at the start of the track to the Pinnacles Hut. I began to bundle, cram and shove all of my gear, which had been floating around in the back of my truck, into my bag.

I was staying in a hut but I carried a tent just in case (you never know when you're 'The Wildboy'). I also decided I needed a watermelon, a bottle of red wine, some fresh meat and vegetables. I also carried the ordinary camp foods. All up I had about 15kg of food (I eat a lot) and 14kg of gear.

It was still drizzling as I took the first step on what was going to be an easy 3-hour walk to the hut. Five minutes in and I came across the first river crossing. I walked through the water instead of using the bridge. Wet feet – now I'm truly ready for the hike!

The track was wet and slippery from the rain – that made it all the more exciting. Half an hour in, and I came across the most beautiful stairs that had been carved out of the rock.

The feeling of beauty quickly turned to the feeling of sorrow for the poor buggers who had to make those stairs ... and then turned into sorrow for myself having to walk up them. If there one thing I don't love it's stairs! And they climbed higher and higher, like they were never going to end.

I pushed on for I knew that eventually they would flatten out.

Something that stood out to me already was the lack of rubbish on the track.

Normally when you walk a busy track it is literally hard to spot the *clean* bit, but I noticed the Pinnacles Track was clear. Another thing that I realised: there were lots of birds... they were singing in the middle of the day... and it was wonderful!

I can imagine even though I wasn't enjoying the stairs, if they weren't there it would be a very slow and strenuous trek up from the valley floor to the Pinnacles.

The sweat was running off my face and down my neck – the rain was saturating my clothes. My Scarpa boots (the ones that took me around the coast of New Zealand) were still just holding together, and still keeping my feet dry.



The ground started to flatten out. I realised I was at the top of the stairs. The track from here was beautiful. Cobblestone paths laid by the kauri loggers, surrounded by manuka trees and young kauri that were just old enough to create a tunnel.

It was magic.

I made my way up to the Pinnacles Hut where I met Pete the Ranger. What a cool guy! He runs the hut and makes sure nothing is going wrong.

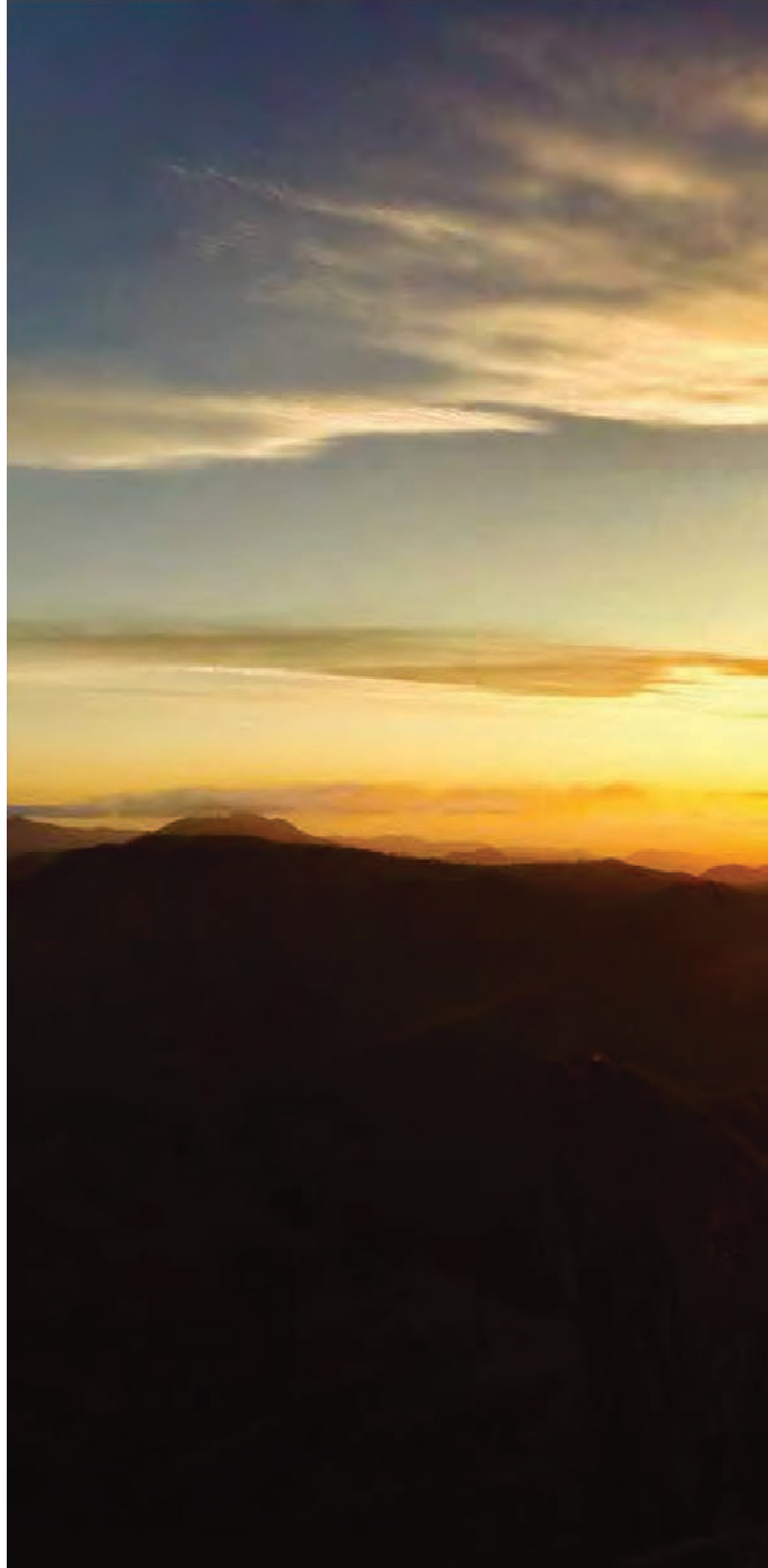
It was still drizzling at this stage. I wasn't sure if I should hike the last 45 minutes up to the Pinnacles or just wait till the morning. I looked up at the top, and the jagged rocks were submerged in thick fog. They were calling me. So I grabbed my camera and started running up the hill. It was muddy.


I hit the stairs and slowed down; there are only about 160 of them before you get to an iron ladder that's been bolted to a vertical rock wall.

Up I went and then onto another one almost immediately. The next bit of track has steel pins drilled into the rock.

For the less adventurous this track is amazing. It gives you the opportunity to push your boundaries. And for the adventurous, it's even cooler! There are places you can climb or jump that even the most crazy people, like me, would think twice before doing.

I was up high in the fog, on the edge of nothingness looking down into the white infinity. Here some would be frozen with fear stuck on the rocks, but I was perfectly at peace with my surroundings.





Hiking The Pinnacles Trail

The sun is shining.

I spent that day exploring the surrounding area. Climbing different peaks to get different perspectives of the nature that was around me I came across beautiful waterfalls, ancient kauri dams tree stumps that were bigger than the biggest tree remaining in New Zealand!

The bush is thick and sharp and very damp. Because it's quite flat up on top, it's very swampy so as soon as you are off trail you're up to your knees in mud.

Every where I looked there was something else that amazed me. Just as I was walking back to the hut at the

end of the day, a large dragonfly flew past my head with a tui in hot pursuit. They went left, right, up and down, and then the tui dropped from above like a bomber and grabbed it. Epic!

Every night I was at the hut, there were new exciting people to talk to. They all had great stories to share – that's what I love about huts. It's never just you. There is just about always someone to share your night with. I climbed up the Pinnacles again today to watch the sunset. It was once again – so beautiful!



Most beautiful valley ever!

On the way out I walked the Billy Goat Track. It is steep and slippery, but the views you get are so amazing.

I walked with 3 tourists; they were good company. That day was epic. Massive

waterfalls huge canyons and relics of the past. We followed a river down until it dropped into the most beautiful valley I have ever seen...cascading waterfalls everywhere. We all stripped off and went for a swim. It was fantastic. The rest of the walk out was

amazing, too, following the logging lines cut into the mountain. They used to haul logs on tracks.

When I got to the bottom of the track, I put my gear back in my car and headed off on the next adventure.



I was so amazed by my Pinnacles experience that I decided to write this. I say this because I am no writer. Sure I have my own book (*Wildboy*) but I wouldn't call myself a writer. I am an adventurer who's sharing my adventures with you. I want to inspire and spark new ideas and tell you to live your dreams!

So all up, the Pinnacles have really blown me away with their beautiful diversity and their accessibility. Two-and-a-half hours from Auckland, and you can be getting deep into the Coromandel Forest Park, making your way up the Kauaeranga Valley to the start of the Pinnacles hike.

You will be treated to some of the most beautiful views in the North Island. You will feel like you can do anything after climbing up to the jagged raw summit of the Pinnacles in the Coromandel, New Zealand.

*What are you waiting for?
Get up there!*

The original photographs were taken and text written by Brando, which he graciously let us share in this article. See more on his website, FB page and other social media.

www.wildboyadventures.com

“So I found my Everest and became the first person to circumnavigate NZ’s wild beautiful coastline by foot – over 8000km. It took two years and I proudly now go by ‘Wildboy’.”

Brando Yelavich, Author and Adventurer

Also enjoy Brando's book

2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children & Young Adults Finalist.

Brando Yelavich became the first person to walk the entire coastline of New Zealand. He chronicled this solo hike around the country, while raising \$32,000 for the Ronald McDonald House in the process.

Read about Brando’s adventurous ‘around NZ trek’ in his book *Wildboy*, signed copies available through his website and many local bookstores including Beach Habitat in Hahei and Carson’s in Thames.

ABOUT THE BOOK: Fast going off the rails and hanging out with the wrong crowd, Brando Yelavich,

a plucky 20-year-old from Auckland’s North Shore, decided he needed a mission. He was going to walk around New Zealand. Brando reached Cape Reinga after a gruelling journey of almost 8000 kilometres, traversed completely on foot over more than 600 days. It was an outlandish odyssey of physical and mental fortitude. He slept under the stars and lived off the land. He almost drowned on several occasions and experienced near-hypothermia.

But the transformation ran much deeper. *Wildboy* is a ripping adventure story with an inspiring life change at its heart.



About Brando

Many familiar with the outgoing charm of our Kiwi ‘Wildboy’ may not be aware of other obstacles Brando has faced besides his formidable expeditions.

Diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, Brando found conventional learning quite difficult. As a result, unable to achieve well at school or get a decent job, Brando wanted “to wipe the slate clean and do something great which helped others. I decided to fundraise for the Ronald McDonald House Charity (I have always loved kids) while circumnavigating the NZ coastline – living off the land, the sea and the kindness of others.”

And the adventurer succeeded – and was the first to do so! Brando then wrote about it, securing a publishing deal with Penguin NZ

for ‘*Wildboy*’. He has continued writing on his social media pages, and has a second book in the works.

As though circumnavigation of both islands of NZ wasn’t enough of a challenge, Brando decided to continue his daring adventures; Expedition Stewart Island was a go!

This planned 60-day trek was cut short after a month, however, because of the rough conditions (and “missing his Ngaio”). The island’s wild weather, the dangers of the terrain and the weeks of isolation proved too much. He was “reaching my breaking point almost every day” and then had an epiphany atop a mountain peak.

“When I got to the Gogs I made the decision there that, ‘right, from now on, I’m only going

to do things that make me happy’. And the scrub wasn’t making me happy!”

He filmed much of this adventure using a GoPro camera, receiving sponsorship as an official content provider for #GoProANZ.

Brando recently found a perfect career path and is enrolled in the one-year NMIT Adventure Tourism Certification programme, which happens to include everything he loves and is already good at.

When not conquering the challenges NZ offers, Brando calls Hahei home where he lives with his girlfriend Ngaio Gregory. He also lectures about ADHD and dyslexia. He was a key presenter at a ADHD Conference in the spring, as well as a TEDxYouth speaker. (View it here: www.youtube.be/d6f0XjQ61kY)

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THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY & Visitor Centre

The stunning Kauaeranga Valley, located near Thames, is one of NZ's true hidden treasures.

Turn on to Banks St from SH25, then right on Parawai, which runs beside the river and becomes Kauaeranga Valley Road. Continue uphill, past paddocks and streams to the Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre. This is the hub for many bike and hiking trails.

Although there are many walks in the foothills of this valley, the Pinnacles walk rates as one of the country's most popular overnights. However, it can be walked in one day if you're fit enough – allow 8 hours to do the loop.

The Pinnacles Track climbs through ruggedly beautiful mountains following the original steps constructed in the early 1900s for packhorses transporting natural resources through lush forest. The area remains rich

with history from the days of kauri loggers, gum diggers and gold miners who plundered the area for many years.

Enquire at the Thames iSite for the availability of transport options from Thames. Or consider hiring an electric bike for a fun way to enjoy this picturesque adventure – and you'll really appreciate that power assist on some of those grades – getting as much or as little exercise as you wish. Jolly Bikes in Thames offers several E-bike styles to choose from starting at only \$65 per day. Feeling energetic? Paki Paki Bike Shop in Thames has a great selection of sports bikes for hire to pedal to the centre.

KAUAERANGA VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

The Centre offers informative movies on history and conservation and a shop selling conservation related gifts and books. Friendly staff will help you plan your stay and trek,

provide recreational information, and book your overnight stays at camping sites (power available) or the two DOC huts.

To celebrate the new year, the Centre offers an informative '6 Weeks of Summer' programme – talks, treks, and many fun activities for all ages. See the following pages for more details.

The Kauaeranga Valley Café at the Centre is open every day in summer from 10 till 4. The Centre is open daily from 8:30am except in severe weather conditions (check online) and on Christmas Day. Phone **07 867 9080**.

Download their informative visitor guide and see online for more info: www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/waikato/kauaeranga-booklet-web.pdf



THE KAUAERANGA
VISITOR CENTRE
IN THAMES *Presents*

'6 WEEKS OF SUMMER'

The centre runs an event programme over the holiday season, *6 Weeks of Summer*, which includes conservation talks and experiences, as well as recreational activities. See www.goo.gl/z1P6D1

CAFÉ OPEN 7 DAYS

EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

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

GECKO ENCOUNTER.

Doug Ashby knows all the quirky fascinating secrets of our native geckos and lizards.



MOA MONSTERS.

A thousand years ago giant flightless birds called Moa roamed the islands. The largest stood 2-3 metres high. See a real Moa skeleton.

BUSH CRAFT. Learn about survival in the bush. How to judge the river & make a safe crossing.

BUSH RUN. Join rangers to see some of the awesome tracks the Valley has to offer. All abilities and ages welcome! A different route each week, each about 30-40 min. Bring water, running shoes, snacks and drinks.

KIDS TREASURE HUNT. Fun for the little kids. Find hidden treasures with our DOC ranger. Make a badge with your favourite native bird.

TRAP LINE. Walk a working trap line with a DOC ranger. Learn about animal pest control methods. Min. age 10.

NATIVE PLANT & HERB PREPARATIONS. Identify and gather native plants for medicinal use, with a discussion on their uses. Learn how to prepare an ointment from nature's source. Bring a mortar and pestle (if you have one), a chopping board, and a small knife. Cost \$15.

GOLD PROSPECTING.

Experienced people from Thames School of Mines will teach you gold panning with your very own gold to take away. All welcome. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Min. 4 people.



STREAM STUDY. Join DOC Ranger Ken to find out what's living below the surface of Kauaeranga River. Bring water bottle, sunscreen, swimwear, and lunch.

TWILIGHT WALK. Join us at Jasper Creek to see glow worms and other natives that come out at night. A torch and sturdy footwear are essential. Meet 8pm at Hotoritori Campground.

TCA BOOTCAMP. Work off those Christmas mince pies! Join the "Boot Camp" session on the lawn of the Visitor Centre. Enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings while you work up a sweat! Hosted by TCA, local fitness professionals.

ABSEILING EDWARDS LOOKOUT.

With CanyoNZ. Learners to experienced. Two hours duration. \$45.

PICNIC IN THE FOREST PARK. An afternoon of live music performed on the lawns of the Visitor Centre. Music kicks off 12pm. Bring your picnic or enjoy delicious food from the café. Kids face painting and treasure hunt. Bring your tent and stay overnight in one of the 9 campgrounds.

UPPER STREAM ADVENTURE.

This 5 hour trek begins on the Pinnacles Track and follows the river up the gorge.

Lunch at the mouth of the gorge before heading back to the carpark. Bring sturdy footwear, swimming gear, water bottle and lunch. Meet at Trestle View Campsite at the top of Kauaeranga Valley, the last campsite at the end of the road.



LET'S TALK KIWI. There is more to kiwi than meets the eye. Hear our Kiwi Ranger reveal their many weird and wonderful features that have developed over millions of years. All ages.

SINGLE TRACK SKILL. Explore the Hotoritori mountain bike trails and learn how to ride on single track (off-road) trails. Must be able to ride 10km round trip to Hotoritori. Lunch stop for a swim! Bring bike, helmet, lunch, water bottle.

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BATS, DACTYLANTHUS, etc.

This talk will highlight two of NZ's unique species rarely seen – the short-tailed bat and dactylanthus, our only native fully parasitic flowering plant.



WAINORA WALK.

Ranger Keith has a world of knowledge of the Valley and this is one of the best walks. Moderate fitness required. Bring sturdy footwear, water bottle & lunch.

PICNIC IN THE FOREST PARK

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KAUAERANGA
VISITOR CENTRE
MIDDAY START



EVENT GUIDE JANUARY 2017

BIKES, BOARDS AND BUMPS. Have fun on a skills challenge course of boards, cones, seesaw, and log hop to build confidence in riding. Set up on the lawn next to the Visitor Centre. Bring bike, helmet, lunch and water.



GEOCACHING is like a high-tech treasure hunt. You'll need a GPS or smartphone with a GPS App. 10am. FREE.

GRANDMASTER TREASURE HUNT. Devised by "Grand-master Eric", this hunt is for adults and children alike. Pick up info pack at the centre and be on your way. Get the answers right & claim the reward! FREE.

KIWI AVOIDANCE TRAINING. Any dog, regardless of size, breed or obedience can kill kiwi. Avoidance training teaches dogs that kiwi are something they should stay away from. Bring your dog and meet at Hotoritori Campground.

VOLUNTEER DAY, TRACK CUTTING. Join the DOC Rec Rangers for some track maintenance in our beautiful valley. Vegetation control and trimming are on the agenda. This will be a physical day, interesting and fun. Max of 8. FREE.

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE. This 2016 NZ adventure comedy-drama film is based on the book "Wild Pork and Watercress" by Barry Crump. Sam Neill and Julian Dennison play a father figure and son who become the targets of a manhunt after fleeing into the bush. Many scenes were filmed in the Kauaeranga Valley.

For complete event info: www.goo.gl/z1P6D1

Space is limited for most events,
so booking is essential.

07 867 9080 • kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

DATE	ACTIVITY
2	11am Gecko Encounter, 1pm Moa Monsters
3	9am & 12pm Abseiling Edwards Lookout
4	10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting
5	11am Kids Treasure Hunt, 1pm Let's Talk Kiwi
6	9am Kiwi Aversion Training (KAT), 10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting
7	11am Gecko Encounter, 1pm Moa Monsters, 8pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople
9	11am Gecko Encounter, 1pm Moa Monsters, 5.30pm Bush Run
10	9am & 12pm Abseiling Edwards Lookout, 10am Stream Study
11	9am Upper Stream Adventure, 10am Gold Prospecting 10.30am TCA Boot Camp, 1pm Gold Prospecting, 8:45 pm Twilight Walk
12	10am Trapline, 11am Kids Treasure Hunt, 1pm Let's Talk Kiwi
13	10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting, 11am Nature Walk
14	12 - 6pm Picnic in the Forest Park with live music
15	11am Gecko Encounter, 1pm Moa Monsters
16	10am Wainora Walk, 5.30pm Bush Run
17	9am & 12pm Abseiling Edwards Lookout, 11am Bats, Dactylanthus and other fascinating things.
18	10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting, 11am Trapline
19	10am Bush Craft, 8:45pm Twilight Walk
20	11am Nature Walk, 10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting
21	11am Gecko Encounter, 1pm Moa Monsters
22	10am Bikes, Boards and Bumps, 11:30am Single Track Skill
24	9am & 12pm Abseiling Edwards Lookout 11am Bats, Dactylanthus and other fascinating things.
25	8am Volunteer Day Track Cutting, 10am Geocaching, 10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting
26	11am Bats, Dactylanthus and other fascinating things.
27	11am Nature Walk, 10am & 1pm Gold Prospecting
28	9am Kiwi Aversion Training (KAT), 11am Gecko Encounter 1pm Moa Monsters, 8pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople
29	1pm Native Plant and Herb Preparations
31	9am & 12pm Abseiling Edwards Lookout

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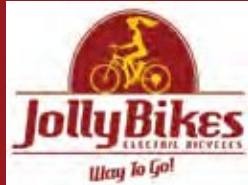
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Booms Flat Campsite

Located 6km north of the
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campsites. Dogs on leash ok.

Catley's Campsite

This camp is on the river banks,
6km north of the Visitor Centre.
30 non-powered tent sites.
No dogs.

Hotoritori Campsite

Camp river side in the
Kauaeranga 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 scenic, riverside campsite
is an ideal base for exploring
the Valley. A replica kauri dam
is a 20 minute walk away. 30
non-powered tent sites.
No dogs.

Totara Flat Campsite

7.5km beyond the Visitor Centre.
Camp alongside the river or higher
up. Walk on a boardwalk through
forest. 30 non-powered tent sites.
No dogs.

Trestleview Campsite

This attractive campsite in the
Kauaeranga Valley, is at the end of
the valley and closest to the Webb
Creek Track up to the Pinnacles
and Billygoat Basin Track. 30
non-powered tent sites.
No dogs.

Wainora Campsite

Another scenic campsite, 7km
north of the Visitor Centre, is at
the start of the Cookson Kauri
Walk/Wainora Kauri Track. 30 non-
powered tent sites.
No dogs.

Whangaiterenga Campsite

Camp near where the
Whangaiterenga Stream and
Kauaeranga River meet. From
campsite, 5km north of the Visitor
Centre, there is a 1hr return walk
to a lookout. 50
non-powered tent sites.
No dogs.

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THE REMOTE CAMPING HUTS

The amenities of both huts include a warden, bathrooms, cooking area, sheltered mattress cots, heat, covered decks, etc.



Above left: The Pinnacles Hut, is one of the most popular and largest (80 bunks) in NZ. From the Pinnacles trail, the hut can be seen in the far distance. Carry in your own water.

Above right: Crosbies Hut is a 4-6 hour trek and can be accessed from one of many trails often steep and muddy. Sleeps 10. Both huts must be booked in advance.

Relax at the VISITOR CENTRE AND CAFÉ



The Centre offers:

Café • Picnic tables • Toilets • Visitor information
Hut and campground bookings • Exhibits and movies
Gifts • Model Dam



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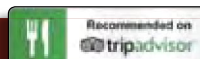
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THAMES *Celebrates* — ITS — HERITAGE

Saturday 11 to Sunday 19 March

THE THAMES TEAMS OF HISTORIANS

Grit, guts and gumption – the Spirit of the Thames Pioneers lives on.

Buried deep in the heart of Thames, there are dedicated teams of heritage enthusiasts. For them, keeping the spirit of Thames' early history alive, vibrant and thriving fuels their desire to create a legacy for the generations to come.

Some gather at the Thames Historical Museum, The Bella Street Tech Museum, The Goldmine Experience and the Thames School of Mines while those young-at-heart tinker with miniature trains at the Thames Small Gauge Railway. Keen history researchers are hunkered down at The Treasury or on their computers digging, sifting and sorting the latest findings.

Committees and groups, businesses and churches, some still operating from the gold rush days, are actively restoring old buildings, revitalising rusty mining equipment, and fighting for preservation of their piece of our history.

Diverse and dedicated individuals from all walks of life and ages, meet, talk, discuss, fundraise, problem solve, fix, tinker, clean, research, and

gather all the pieces that they can find, in order to share, restore, rejuvenate, and bring insight into how life really was in our area.

These groups form the backbone of what you see during Thames Heritage Week – this year running from March 11 to 19. See the Festival's schedule on the next page for some of the many events offered this year. The Treasury's research centre will also be open daily.

HERITAGE WEEK'S HISTORY:

The Treasury's own dedicated Geraldine Dunwoodie, who actually helped organise the very first Heritage Day held in 2006 shared, "It has been very satisfying to watch this festival grow in both size and quality of the interesting events now held. This has led to a greater awareness of the importance of preserving – and showcasing – our heritage."

Rex Simpson was head organiser from 2009-2015. When he took over, the festival was expanded to a week. In 2012, the Thames Heritage Events Trust was formed to help organise and arrange funding. Community organisations are now encouraged to join in by

planning their own events which explains the vast selection and variety of the activities.

THAMES HERITAGE WEEK: 11-19 MARCH 2017

Now in its 11th year, the 2017 Heritage Week is the showcase for all the work that goes on for the other 51 weeks of the year and will again provide the entertainment, fun, learning and education of the different strands of life as it was, and upholds the tradition that is now a distinct event on the Thames calendar.

Heritage Week current organiser Margaret Cropp tells us, "Old things are part of our heritage, and it's amazing to see the extraordinary things that were done: the workmanship of many of the surviving churches and buildings, built to last, all made by hand. This workmanship and craftsmanship needs to be shared and appreciated."

She shared that about one in every three New Zealanders can trace their heritage back to Thames, because so many people originally came for the gold – when Thames was actually bigger than Auckland. The gold rush was a catalyst for so much of the invention and innovation that went on.

PILLARS OF HISTORY

This historic Red Pillar Box is one of three iron postal towers still remaining in Thames. The high mail slot was meant to accommodate those on horseback; the rider would not have to dismount to deposit a letter.

This one is located near the Salvation Army Hall, at the Grahamstown end of Pollen Street. These boxes were often moved, and their appearance helps researchers 'date' old street photographs.

Thanks to Thames historian Althea Barker, you can read the red pillars' history online. See www.goo.gl/0RyTRt



STORYTELLER ROSALIE STEWART WILL DELIGHT WITH OLD TALES AT THE MUSEUM FETE.



"The truth is – the more you research, the more you find. Life here was hard, dirty and noisy with the stamper batteries going 24/7; we just simply can't begin to imagine what it was like to be part of that now. By keeping Heritage Week alive we are simply doing our best to share the real story of our town – with visitors certainly, but mostly with our own locals who may not appreciate how rich and significant Thames' history truly is".

Margaret and the entire Thames Heritage committee invite everyone to get involved and join in the fun – or just come and observe it. There are events that are sure to 'tickle everyone's fancy'.

STEP BACK IN TIME!

Period costumes are central to many of the week's activities, especially the week's major events – **The Victorian Fete** at the Thames Historical Museum set for Saturday 11 March and **Fashion in Victoria Park** on Saturday 18 March where a full day of shows and competitions (fashion, classic cars, bikes, and even beards and moustaches!) awaits you.

What else is on for this year's festival? The calendar is still filling in (see next page) but already there are many ways to participate. There is something for everyone. Watch the parade – or be in it. Decorate your bike, listen to speakers, visit museums, take a workshop.

Grab a seat for the Gilbert and Sullivan performances, the old movies night, the Fashion Extravaganza and various lectures at The Treasury and Thames School of Mines.

In a wandering mood? Peruse the Thames History Museum, The Treasury, the School of Mines, the Bella Street Tech Museum and the Thames Goldmine Experience.

Want to research your family's history? Attend the "Find your Family" genealogy workshop at The Treasury on Wednesday.

Stretch your legs with guided walks around Shortland and the Kauaeranga Valley led by historians from The Treasury. Hop aboard the Thames Small Gauge Railway.

The schedule on the next page lists just the early entries, so be sure to check the website for updates. You may even want to submit your group's event! See www.thamesheritage.co.nz



MORRIE DUNWOODIE (LEFT) PLACED 3RD WITH MARK BRIDGEMAN CLAIMING 1ST IN THE MEN'S FASHION COMPETITION. (WE WERE SADDENED BY MORRIE'S PASSING LAST YEAR, A HIGHLY VALUED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.)



LEFT. ENJOY A TRAIN RIDE ON TRACKS EDGING THE ESTUARY ABOARD THE THAMES SMALL GAUGE RAILWAY.

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THAMES HERITAGE A FANTASTIC CELEBRATION

Saturday 11 to Sunday 12 March

The festival offers a deep rich seam of knowledge, stories, working displays and events that is waiting for locals and visitors alike. Many events are fun competitions to challenge one's creativity.

Tap back to the days when Thames was booming with a population larger than Auckland.

HISTORIC SHORTLAND WALKS

Sunday 12 March 2pm

Tuesday 14 March 5:30pm

Sunday 19 March, 9:30am

Enjoy an informative guided walk around historic Shortland, the first area of Thames to develop during the search for gold. Meet at Thames Wharf. \$5 (Collected at start of walk) Contact Graham Robinson Ph 07 868 8025.

THE KAUAERANGA WALK

Sunday 12 March 9 am - 1pm

A guided walk with Dave Wilton. Meet at the Kauaeranga DOC Visitor Centre for a short video before venturing out to see the historic sites. Adults \$5, Children under 12yrs Free. Ph 07 868 8827.



AN EVENING WITH GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Friday 10 March 7.30pm

Saturday 11 March 7.30pm

Sunday 12 March 2pm

A variety show of songs from Gilbert & Sullivan's popular range of musicals.

Tararu Cultural Centre

Tickets www.thamesmad.co.nz

FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

TOTALLY THAMES

FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA

Monday 13 March 6:30pm

Totally Thames presents the "Golden Years" Fashion Extravaganza. Doors open at 6.30pm. The Civic Centre, Thames. Price TBA.

HERITAGE FILM DAY

Wednesday 15 March

A selection of heritage and classic films and snippets will be screening at the Thames Cinema, Pollen St, Grahamstown. Programme, times and price TBA.

THE TREASURY TALKS

Saturday 11 - Sunday 19 March

"The Way We Were" lunchtime presentations each day at 1pm. The Treasury is open every day during the Heritage Festival from 11am - 3pm The Treasury, Queen Street, Thames Adult \$5, Child under 12 Free Contact The Treasury Ph 07 868 8827

VICTORIAN FETE

Saturday 11 March 10am - 1pm

Enjoy "Tea on The Lawn" to celebrate the heritage of Thames in the 19th century. Thames Historical Museum. Free entry. Email: thamesmuseum@xtra.co.nz



FIND YOUR FAMILY AT THE TREASURY

Wednesday 15 March 1pm

Experienced genealogists and researchers Marise Morrison and Robyn Revell will help you get started researching your family history using resources at The Treasury. This is specially designed for beginners, with handout sheets covering basic points. The Treasury, Queen Street, Thames \$10, Children under 12 Free.

WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

Saturday 11 - Sunday 19 March

Walk around town and see the displays!

STAGE FESTIVAL

OF THAMES' RICH HISTORY

Sunday 19 March



SMALL GAUGE RAILWAY

Sat & Sun 18-19 March 10am-3pm

Enjoy a ride on our little railway and relive the past steam engine era. Throughout the year the trains run every Sunday (weather permitting). Grahamstown Railway Station, Brown Street. \$2pp.

CLASS OF '55

Sat & Sun 18-19 March All day

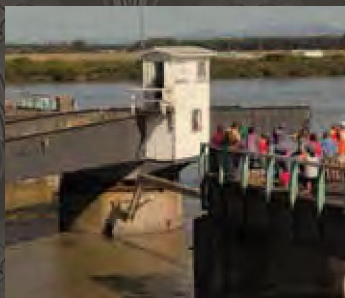
The Thames High School Class of '55 will meet for dinner on Friday night. Saturday will include a picnic, visit to Butterfly House

with a talk on the history of the area, and dinner at the GBD. Contact: Miriam Heberley Email: bj_mim@xtra.co.nz

KOPU BRIDGE OPENING

Sunday 19 March 9am to noon

Walking tours of the bridge. The swingspan will also be opening every half hour during the morning, and viewed from a tour, the bank or the new bridge. Entry Fee: Koha to the Historic Kopu Bridge Society. (limited numbers, so book reservation) Email: savekopubridge@gmail.com Ph Kim: 07 8685581



A DAY'S FUN at VICTORIA PARK Saturday 18th March

FASHION IN VICTORIA PARK

A contest, so dress to impress. Categories include: Victorian, Steampunk, Cultural, and Children. Judges will be looking for creativity, innovation, and character. Judging at 1pm. Contact Colleen Hughes hughesc@slingshot.co.nz.



CARS IN THE PARK

Starts 11am. A fabulous gala day in Victoria Park, with veteran, vintage and classic cars on display. Cars muster at Rhodes Park at 10am for a 10.30 drive

through town. Also music, Kapa Haka performance, Food Stalls, Games, Bouncy Castle, Pony Rides, PLUS Thames Music Extravaganza. Bring blanket or chair and enjoy the music and fun in our beautiful Victoria Park. Free Entry. Rex Geary, 07 868 8074, thegeargang@xtra.co.nz

DECORATED BICYCLE COMPETITION

Dress up your bicycle and bring it to the day of fun in Victoria Park. Competition sections include Child's Bike and Adult's Bike. \$2. Contact Margaret croppys@yahoo.co.nz.

BIZARRE BEARD & MOUSTACHE COMPETITION

Stop shaving NOW, and fashion your face into the greatest beard and moustache in Thames Town. You have until March 2017 to work your magic!!! At Victoria Park. Contact Margaret croppys@yahoo.co.nz.

OPEN OR EVENTS HAPPENING MOST DAYS

HISTORIC MUSEUMS: The Treasury, Bella Street Pumphouse, Thames Historical Museum, Shortland Butts Hotel

SMALL GAUGE TRAIN RIDES, Sundays

THAMES SCHOOL OF MINES: Daily Heritage Art & Paint Making Workshops, Tours of School of Mines,

THAMES MARKET, Saturday mornings

See updated events listing at www.thamesheritage.co.nz



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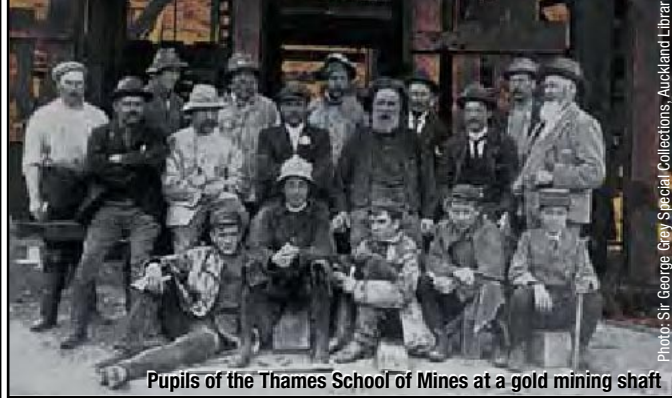


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Pupils of the Thames School of Mines at a gold mining shaft

Photo: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-1901.1212-9-3

SAILORS GRAVE 175TH COMMEMORATION

• SET FOR MAY •

In March 1842 the English naval ship HMS Tortoise arrived to pick up spars from Te Karo Bay (location of Sailors Grave) that had been left by the HMS Buffalo, which was shipwrecked in Mercury Bay during the storm of 1840. Former captain of the HMS Buffalo, James Wood, was the Master Commander; William Jeffrey was the Master and the Manager ashore; and Thomas Laslett was the Purveyor of Timber.

Some of the ship's crew were left on land to fell more kauri – which took about a year – so the Tortoise could return to England fully loaded with the tall straight spars which were highly valued for ships' masts.

In May, a jolly boat – sent ashore from the Tortoise with provisions for the men – overturned. The sailors were thrown into the surf, and all were rescued except Able Bodied Seaman William Sampson, who was presumed drowned. Two days later, Sampson's body was found, washed up on the rocks.

Sampson was buried at Te Karo Bay overlooking the spot where he drowned with Jeffrey officiating at the burial service. After the Tortoise sailed back to England in 1843, local families tended Sampson's grave, which was eventually protected by a white picket fence. The Navy has now taken responsibility for the upkeep of the grave site.



NOTE: There is much discussion about the spelling of the unfortunate sailor's name. We spelt it as it is written in Laslett's journal; it appeared on the old tombstone at the gravesite as 'Simpson'; the Heritage Group used 'Samson' in their brochure. We may never know for sure.

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175 YEAR COMMEMORATION EVENTS

On the weekend 5-7 May 2017, the Tairua Heritage Group in association with the Tairua Information Centre will hold events in Tairua and Te Karo Bay to commemorate 175 years since the young sailor's death.

On both Friday and Saturday at 7pm, be entertained with 'An Historical Extravaganza Variety Show' at Tairua Hall depicting the events of that time. The Navy Jazz Trio will perform during the interval. Admission of \$20 includes nibbles (cash bar).

On Saturday also enjoy speakers at three neighbouring venues (Tairua Library, the Tairua Hall Annex and St Francis House). Learn about journal writer Thomas Laslett, life aboard sailing ships, the archaeological dig at the forest camp where the kauri were felled, and more.

Presenters include Russell Skeet, Richard Gates, Naval historian Michael Wynd, David Colquhoun, David Wilton, Ann Stewart Ball, and local genealogy groups. Gold coin donation appreciated.

On Sunday 7 May at 9.30am, the NZ Navy Brass Quintet will play at Te Karo. Following will be a formal remembrance with guest speakers. The ceremony will then move to the top of the steps for the unveiling of new information boards, and a formal naval ceremony to be held at the fenced grave site. Refreshments will follow. The day ends at noon with a guided walk from Te Karo Bay to Otara Bay, complemented with dramatic re-enactments.

For more information, pick up a pamphlet or call the Tairua Heritage Group, 07 864 7793 or the Tairua Information Centre, 07 864 7575.

Shipwright Thomas Laslett had expert knowledge of timber, and rose quickly to the vital position of Timber Inspector for the Royal Navy. Laslett made four voyages to New Zealand to obtain kauri spars – three aboard the HMS Buffalo which included its final ill-fated voyage in 1840. During a relentless storm, she was intentionally beached by Captain Wood to avoid loss of lives on what is now Buffalo Beach in Whitianga. (Read more about this eventful day, and the 175th anniversary celebrated, in the 2015 Winter issue of *Coromandel Life*.)

Laslett's fourth voyage to NZ was in 1842, on the HMS Tortoise as Timber Purveyor – again with James Wood as Commander – when they returned to retrieve spars left by the Buffalo at Te Karo Bay. It was on this voyage that the young seaman Sampson drowned.

As a keen observer, Laslett not only kept detailed journals that colourfully augmented the official ship's logs, he also included diagrams of the camps and watercolour sketches.



"H.M.S. Tortoise Loading Spar Timber off Tairua, New Zealand" - Reproduced with the permission of the artist Roger Morris and the owner Don Armitage.



New Zealand Journal of Thomas Laslett No. 4, 1841-1843

May 6th 1842. The weather was very fine, and the surf upon the beach appeared less rough than it had been for some days past. It was now thought that the provisions and

stores that had been left near the rocky landing place, might be transhipped and brought to our encampment station by using the Jolly boat for

the purpose, and thus save the manual labour of a long walk with them.

Two trips of the boat were done successfully, but in the third attempt she was upset in the surf, the crew thrown into the water, and the stores scattered far and wide into the sea.

One poor fellow named Sampson was drowned; but Mr Bowen and the rest of the crew were providentially saved by the aid of the men on the shore who were watching for their arrival.

Sunday May 8th. The wind was N. Westerly and the weather was a little unsettled, the surf had now gone down considerably, and boats could land upon the beach without difficulty. Search being made along the coast the body of Sampson the seaman who was drowned by the upsetting of the boat was found among the rocks, brought into the encampment, and soon after buried nearby, in presence of the working party on shore.

Mr Jeffrey reading the Burial Service.



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THE PALIO DI SIENA

Siena, located in central Italy's Tuscany region, is famous for its cuisine, art, museums, medieval cityscape and the celebrated Palio horse race that happens twice each year – 2 July and 16 August. Ten horses and riders – representing ten of the seventeen contrade (city wards) – wear appropriate historical costumes. The entire 'Piazza del Campo', a huge fan-shaped public space established before the thirteenth century, is bedecked with their colours and awash in pageantry. See Siena and the Palio in the James Bond movie, Quantum of Solace.

Though Siena's horse races date back to the 12th century, the first Palio held in the Campo itself was in 1656. (Above right is a painting from the 1500s of the Campo being used for a bullfight.)

When planning our second visit to Italy to explore the region of Umbria, we found that the famous Palio di Siena horse race coincided with our dates. This was the perfect excuse to return to romantic Siena and we were excited to include this renowned cultural experience in our trip.

We had been to Siena on a previous visit to Italy, leaving frustrated that we hadn't allowed enough time to enjoy this lovely medieval city. The historic centre of Siena has been declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site and one of the nation's most visited tourist attractions.

The historical sloping Piazza del Campo is the site of the Palazzo Pubblico, the Gothic town hall, and Torre del Mangia, a slender 14th-century tower with sweeping views from its distinctive white crown. It also includes the dramatic fountain, Fonte Gaia (shown far right) – its beautifully sculptured panels are now replicas

of the original fountain by Jacopo della Quercia which is kept in the Campo's Loggia of the Palazzo Pubblico for preservation.

THE CHARM OF THE DRIVE TO SIENA

Driving from Assisi to Siena we passed fields of brown, ploughed in rows for planting sunflowers, and then lush green fields of trees. We saw hamlets of brick and an ancient castle amongst a stand of old chestnut trees.

We settled into our hotel which was located near to the elevator leading down to the Campo. Our chosen hotel – filled with comfy leather couches – was comparatively plain but sturdy. Yet old masters paintings on the walls added colour, and French doors opened to a cool garden, all creating a sense of being relaxed at home.

Hotels are slightly more expensive when you visit during a festival such as this. Just make sure it is near to where you need to be, as you will be tired after an active day out.

THE COLOURFUL FESTIVAL DAY

Siena itself buzzed with excitement, its huge medieval buildings festooned with banners – bright red bunting on cream, some striped, others with squares. Burgundy covers hung on balconies. Groups of locals wore scarves as bandanas or patterned ties proclaiming their loyalty to their district's colour.

The restaurants were busy and a lot of the shops were already closed for the festival. We managed to buy some gelato, but my tip is to 'be organised with your own food and drink'.

The parade began – a brilliant spectacle with much beating of drums followed by teams supporting each Contrade's rider, all in rich festive colours – deep ruby red, golden yellow, intense greens and oranges. Clothes made of wonderful textiles, wools and velvets with huge plumes, cloche hats, helmets, suits of armour and chainmail costumes. (How could they wear them in that heat?)

Every team was led by a drummer boy and a half-dozen grim-faced bodyguards. A space cleared and each of the flag bearers performed a set ritual, twirling team colours around their heads and bodies, then hurling them into the air to catch them again – all in honour of their rider. More followed with passionate singing.

Eating a gelato, we followed the increasingly huge crowd to the Campo amongst these twirling banners, beating drums and the continuous tolling of the church bell. We were then thrilled to see the elegant 'circuit' of the Campo by a team of horsemen with lances pointed, and then their next 'go around' taken at a furious gallop.



Siena sits over three hills – in its heart is the huge 'Piazza del Campo', where the Roman forum once stood. Rebuilt during the rule of the Council of Nine, the nine sections of the fan-like brick pavement represent the council and symbolises the Madonna's cloak which shelters Siena.

The Palio has been dedicated to the 'Madonna of Provenzano' since the very first race run in 1656. It celebrates the miraculous apparition of the Virgin Mary seen near the old houses belonging to Provenzano Salvani, a Siennese military captain.



It was great fun even though we had to often jostle for a view. The locals and the fortunate were seated in the balconies of the medieval buildings lining the square.

And finally the race itself! What a drama! Nothing we read had prepared us for the passion, the colours, the cheering, and the spectacle of it all. The three-lap circuit (about a mile), took about one minute, but every second was exciting. Jockeys rode bareback and could easily slide off – and a horse could actually win the race without its rider! What an incredible insight into the history and rituals of centuries-old traditions. It was a fantastic adventure, and we returned to the hotel exhilarated, tired and dirty – knowing Siena in a whole new way.

If the race day itself sounds too over-whelming, there are activities and qualifying races on previous days that are not as crowded. And be sure to visit the many art museums in the area.

ADD CULTURE TO YOUR DESTINATION

When planning your next holiday, don't just look for hotels and sightseeing tours, find a cultural experience and take a step out of your comfort zone.

For example, 'Running with the Bulls' in Pamplona is probably way out of my comfort zone, and being in such a huge screaming crowd could cause me a few bad moments, but what an experience it might be.

And how about the Hawaii islands? There are cultural festivals throughout the year. Plan your visit to enjoy popular events like the Aloha Festival, the Kona Coffee Festival or world famous hula competitions like the Merrie Monarch. Check out the islands' festival scene at www.gohawaii.com



FIND OUT MORE!

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WAIHI ARTS CENTRE & MUSEUM

The Waihi Arts Centre & Museum Association (WACMA) operates as a place for the collection, display and preservation of items of historical interest to the Waihi District, particularly those relating to the underground mining history of the area. It is housed in the old technical school (right), which was built in 1913.

Gold was first discovered in Waihi in 1878, and by 1905 the most productive goldmine in NZ was located here.

The WACMA has devoted several rooms to underground mining history and displays relating to the social history of the town. It also houses an art gallery that doubles as a theatre and lecture hall. An old metal 'prefab' schoolroom on the back lot will be restored to once again serve as a school room.

GALLERY & MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS (till 31May)

Thurs & Friday 10am-3pm Sat, Sun & Mon 12pm-3pm

Free entry to gallery, gold coin appreciated

Museum admission Adults: \$5, Children 5-15 \$3,

Under 5 Free, Family group (2 adults & 3+ children): \$15



Mineral specimens from the Martha Mine and geological examples from other areas like those shown below, can be seen on display at the Waihi Museum.

Museum Mineral Exhibit

by Doreen McLeod



New Zealand is located in a geologically strategic position on the epithermal gold and silver rich Pacific "rim of fire". The volcanic belt of the Hauraki Goldfield is recognised as a world-class mineral belt.

The majority of the minerals displayed at the Waihi Museum are the remnants of the Waihi School of Mines extensive mineral collection from Waihi, the region and further afield.

WAIHI SCHOOL OF MINES (seen below)

opened in 1897, and was the first provision for higher education in the district. Classes were conducted during the day and in the evening to accommodate students on shift work.

Students were provided with classes in mining, surveying, assaying, mineralogy and geology. Mathematics, drawing, theoretical, and practical chemistry. Also ventilation, pumping, winding, mechanics and hydraulics, electricity and magnetism.

The school offered this technical information at a time when demand for such knowledge was expanding rapidly. It provided the quickest and probably the best way for new knowledge to be absorbed in the industry because those



learning could apply the lessons in their everyday work.

Most of the older miners had a thorough practical understanding of gold mining, but they lacked the necessary theoretical basics, such as mathematics, required for successful mine management and production.

It was a difficult task teaching these involved technical subjects to students at different stages of progress and often to those with only a sketchy preliminary education.

Many of the students deserved great credit in view of the disadvantages with which they had to contend, such as the lack of general education, the hardships of their daily work, and the weekly changing of shifts which interfered with their classes.

The school trained mining and electrical engineers, and metallurgists, as well as providing ore and bullion assaying and analysis of a wide range of minerals. Pupils taught here worked throughout the world sharing their knowledge and skills where mining activities were taking place to extract mineral wealth from the ground.

An official report of the time remarks: "Hitherto,

mining is the only industry in New Zealand in connection with which any serious attempt has been made to introduce technical education. That the results have already more than justified the expenditure is clearly shown in the more systematic development of our mines and the yearly increasing value of our mineral production. Therefore there is no need to go to Germany or America, to discover that money spent on technical education is money well invested on behalf of the community."

In 1948, as the mining industry languished, the school's usefulness ended; the equipment was dispersed and the building demolished; the site is marked with a plaque erected in 1961, located at the Waihi Central School, School Lane entrance.

(Note: Other restored historic School of Mines buildings also exist in both Thames and Coromandel Town.)

Doreen McLeod is a Patron and long-serving member of the Museum, and is aptly described as a "mine of information".

Article resource: Gold Mining at Waihi-1878-1952 J.B. McAra. Martha Press 1988 for use in Waihi Borough Council Diamond Jubilee 1902-1962.



Very special gemstones can still be discovered on the Coromandel's beaches and in its rivers. A member of the quartz family, Coromandel Red Jasper is a silicon dioxide mineral with a hardness of 7. Its vivid shades range from brick red to pure scarlet, and sometimes the inner hues are marked with swirls of golden brown or dots of bluish chalcedony or opal.

At its best, Coromandel Red Jasper can match any jasper in the world for attractive colours, rich patterns and consistent hardness. I have found that it is an excellent material for cutting spheres, hearts, beads, wands and jewellery stones.

The energetic properties of Coromandel Red Jasper are vitality, courage, life force, passion and sudden spiritual awakening. When holding these stones, I sometimes feel strong currents flowing into the base of my spine, all the way up to the top of my head. When energy is flagging, this stone makes an ideal ally, infusing one's vibrational field with new life.



For those who wish to experiment with crystal healing, especially when dealing with 'energy issues' such as chronic fatigue, depression, weakness or convalescence after an illness, I suggest wearing or carrying Coromandel Red Jasper, which my studies tell me is capable of supporting an infusion of vital energy.

Whether just beach combing, or seeking a stone for spiritual pursuits, Coromandel Red Jasper is an exciting and attractive addition to any stone collection. It is not too difficult to find in our mineral-rich area, and shops such as mine often carry raw and polished pieces of these beautiful and powerful stones like the ones shown above.

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



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Adela

of ATHENREE

Adela Stewart's diary provides a unique insight into pioneer life, from a woman's perspective



One of the many joys of producing *Coromandel Life* is uncovering the fascinating histories of people and places on and around the peninsula. Insights into both were gained through our research into Athenree. In our last issue we wrote about the restoration of this historic house, and honoured the many volunteers (some descendants of the pioneers) who made it happen. The Athenree homestead was an important piece of history to preserve. While all the other pioneer buildings fell to floods, fires or decay – Athenree is now the only home still standing from the original settlement.

Here we offer the engaging tale of Hugh and Adela Stewart who emigrated from Ireland to the NZ wilderness around the Bay of Plenty. However the man who established these Ulster-Scot pioneer settlements was George Vesey Stewart, from the northern province of Ireland.

GEORGE VESEY STEWART: Founder of the Katikati settlements

George Vesey Stewart purchased the 'Katikati block', some 10,000 acres near Tauranga. Then, he returned to Ireland to recruit his Protestant countrymen to settle in New Zealand.

In 1875, Stewart's first shipload with 27 families (including wife Margaret, and their 9 children) left Belfast for a 3-month journey to their new home. Vesey's second party of 378 settlers landed in 1878. Family members this voyage included his parents (Captain Mervyn Stewart and Frances), and his brother Hugh Stewart, his wife Adela, and their son Mervyn.

Stewart continued to arrange this mass immigration, and over 45 years, it is estimated he brought over more than 4,000 new settlers.



George Vesey Stewart – flax mill owner, immigration entrepreneur, and pioneer settler – was founder and organizer of Ulster-Scots settlements in the 'Katikati block'.

The pioneer life of HUGH & ADELA STEWART

Much of this article was taken from Beryl Hughes' excellent biography of Adela Stewart for the TeAra.gov Encyclopedia of NZ website. Read full biography here: www.goo.gl/CcFQ5g

Hugh and Adela B. Stewart with their son Mervyn – arriving on the *Lady Jocelyn* on George Vesey Stewart's second boatload of settlers in 1878 – purchased 300 acres of the Katikati block which they named 'Athenree' after their village in Ireland.

Initially they stayed at 'Tinpot Castle', a nearby trading post and boarding house, while they cleared their own land of manuka and fern, building their homestead in stages. And throughout it all, Adela kept a colourful diary.

A sizable stable was built first where they lived temporarily. This structure was later moved on rollers to enlarge the more recent building to form their permanent home. Over the years, their homestead continued to grow with the addition of a kitchen, storeroom, stairs to an upstairs loft and sash windows – "One being a large bay commanding a fine ocean view", writes Adela in her diary. (See photo next page.)

Farm outbuildings eventually included a large stable, pig pen, slaughter house, poultry house, smithy, cowshed, well and a wash house.

Itinerant workers and tramps were employed for the labour force. The sons of friends or other young men emigrating from Ireland as cadets initially worked for room and board, the experience, and a horse of their own.

THE STEWARTS: well educated and well off

Although coming from a 'comfortable' background (Adela was partly educated in Paris), the Stewarts adapted better than most to the rough pioneer life. Having lived in other overseas countries such as Bermuda and the West Indies helped them adjust to the early muddy, primitive conditions.

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www.athenreehomestead.org.nz/



Dating from 1878, this charming destination is a 'must stop' – enjoy the restored buildings, extensive gardens, orchard trees, a railroad station cafe, and stunning ocean views.

However plan ahead! The Homestead and the Athenree Railway Station Refreshment Rooms, offering an afternoon tea, are open to the public only on Sundays, January through March; off season just the first Sunday of each month.

Historic Athenree Homestead is located midway between Waihi and Katikati off SH2 (Katikati N Rd) on Athenree Rd near Athenree Gorge.



Hugh took on the farming and livestock and as he was an engineer in the army, handled the Heritage's many building projects.

Adela capably handled everything from domestic duties to schooling her son. She also performed many of the farm chores: keeping poultry, milking, curing pork, making butter, canning and vegetable gardening.

"It becomes evident that gardening must be the women's department," Adela wrote. "The men being too busy for anything so purely ornamental as flowers and unnecessary as vegetables."

Adela earned money by selling butter, fruit, jams, tomato sauces, honey and flowers from a much-admired garden – her coveted prize-winning chrysanthemums were shipped to buyers all over the country.

The Stewarts knew how to encourage an active social life in the region. They held picnics, dinners, teas, balls, christenings, socials, fund raisers, and even a enjoyed tennis dates with the Johnstons who had their

own court next door. Visitors included family, locals, dignitaries, and travellers from out of the area, all noted in Adela's diaries. Once a circus came through and the Stewarts hosted the entire group, with Adela doing the cooking.

Among the visitors to Katikati whom she entertained were William Rolleston, Lord Ranfurly (the governor), Bishop W. G. Cowie, and Richard Seddon.

On 24 January 1884, Te Kooti (leader of one of the last Maori wars) and over a hundred of his followers stopped by the Athenree Homestead. Adela made them tea and invited his followers to pick flowers. They plucked them all, decorating themselves and their horses 'quite artistically'.

"If it were not that she appears to have been a truthful woman, her feats of entertaining might be queried", writes Hughes. In 1887, for example, she organised a picnic, described in her diary:

"One day, in addition to the ordinary work, I made bread, rolls, oat-cake, plum-cakes,

buns, sausage-rolls, rissoles, Russian salads, fruit salads, etc. Several young friends and relations came to stay, followed next day by many more – sixty-seven in all – for Mervyn's annual Patrick's Day birthday picnic'.

Ten years later, Adela organized and hosted (with the assistance of a lady helper) a gala for some 100 guests:

"The house was brilliantly lit up", Adela writes, "and before 8 o'clock, arrived our guests in the usual independent colonial style. Ladies riding carried their ball-dresses in a kit in front of them, some of the frocks needing a hot iron to smooth out the creases. The dancing lasted until Sam.; the visitors left after breakfasting at 10".

One of Adela's fundraising events to buy an organ for the school. We found a news article about it. Adela garnered a glowing review (in a stunning display of a run on sentence!) in the Bay of Plenty Times from Dec of 1902.

"Commencing with the weather I may describe the day as simply perfect; the tastefully laid out and well-kept grounds looked at their best, smiling flowers and sweet scented shrubs perfuming the atmosphere, while the view of the South Pacific Ocean, the precipitous Katikati Heads clad to their summit with vegetation, and contiguous to the House, the broad expanse of the northern extremity of our noble Tauranga Harbour, presented a most pleasing contrast of Nature unadorned, with the refinements of civilisation, cultivation and good taste as displayed at the hospitable mansion and property known as Athenree, the residence of Capt. and Mrs Hugh Stewart, where 25 years ago was a roadless wilderness of fern and tea tree."

The reporter enthused that Adela raised £41 for the school organ, with enough donated goods amassed to hold another bazaar.



*In their prime:
Captain Hugh
and his wife
Adela Blanche Stewart*

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VISIQUE



Hugh and Adela with their son Mervyn at Athenree in 1899.

THE ELDERLY COUPLE SELL ATHENREE AND SAIL TO ENGLAND

As Hughes writes, "As the Stewarts grew older, the difficulties of finding help for farm and household work, and for continuing their social life, increased. They sold Athenree in 1906 and returned to England. *My Simple Life in New Zealand* was published in London in 1908. It gives a lively and informative account of the process of establishing a new settlement.

"Its overall tone is one of cheerful stoicism in the face of adversity, and a strong desire to maintain the social lifestyle Adela Stewart had been used to before coming to New Zealand. It shows her to be an enterprising woman, whose devotion to her husband and son was fully repaid. Following the death of Hugh in April 1909 Adela returned to New Zealand on a visit. She died on the night of her arrival at Katikati on 12 February 1910."

Son Mervyn remained in England, married in 1910, and became a vicar. He died in Windsor, Berkshire, England, in 1961.



Adela's favourite resting spot: the bay window with views of the ocean and gardens at Athenree Homestead.

Emily Surtees Photographic Collection. Photographer: Emily Surtees (nee Stewart) (eldest child of George Vesey and Margaret Stewart).

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HOMESTEAD BARELY SURVIVES, THEN RESCUED

The Athenree Homestead passed through several owners, and the property was sub-divided over time. The home itself is unique to the area as it was one of only a handful of its era that continued to be occupied and maintained up until the early 1950s.

After decades of fundraising, archeological studies and restoration work, the Homestead itself was opened to the public in 2002. The railway refreshment building was moved to the property for a cafe, driveways built, and the gardens improved. Athenree Homestead will always be a work in progress, supported by dozens of volunteers.

Adela's diary, republished recently and available for sale at Athenree, lives on as a delightful read and crucial resource for historical details. Its pages not only reveal the Stewarts' everyday lives at the Homestead, the book provides hundreds of clues needed for the accurate restoration of the buildings and the reclamation of the gardens and orchards.

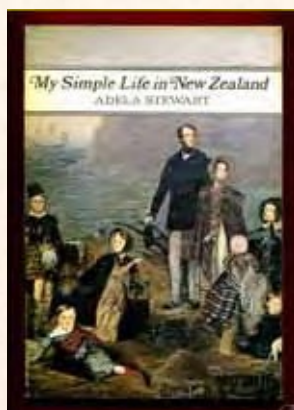
The Homestead's original 500 acres included pasture land and orchard trees, and tomato fields delivered up enough produce to have a sizable canning operation. Gardens provided vegetables, berries and animal feed. Tree starts and plant and flower cuttings were propagated there or donated to Adela from friends throughout New Zealand.

Little of the original gardens and orchards remain, but some surviving trees are over 100 years old. The intent is to replant only heritage species, as are now planted in the heritage rose garden.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the story of the Athenree Heritage restoration in our last issue of Coromandel Life. See www.goo.gl/uv5Gnk

Beryl Hughes' biography of Adela Stewart: www.goo.gl/CcFQ5



Adela Stewart's book, 'My Simple Life in New Zealand', was a valuable resource for the homestead's restoration team. The book is not only a comprehensive diary of their time at Athenree, Adela's diary also recounts hundreds of plant varieties with notes that give an indication of the produce from their farm: 700 tomato plants grown from seed, and 3500 cabbage heads were a few of the items sold from their labours. A scan of the original version can be read on Google Books; it can be searched by key words.

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THE QUIET ROAD TO SUCCESS PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Fuelled by a passion for people and service, Lester Gray has taken the quiet road to success.

At a very young age, service station owner Lester Gray learnt about the power of people and how influence and inspiration come from the unexpected. From a very simple family ritual of the weekly trip to town and the visit to the petrol station, Lester has built his career and business.

“As a youngster, the whole family (Mum and Dad and my four brothers and sisters) used to pile into Dad’s old yellow Holden Kingswood, drive into town to the two-pump petrol station to ‘fill up’. There was a balding middle aged guy with short curly hair there, wearing dark overalls with his favourite oily rag faithfully attached. He would come out to the car and greet us all by name.

“While filling the tank, he would make silly faces through the back window that had us all in fits of giggles. And just occasionally, one of those dark brown oil-stained hands would reach in through a window with individually wrapped lollies for us all. You can imagine our delight at this little treat back then.”

A LIFE FILLED WITH ADVENTURE

Lester’s life story is steeped with adventures – travels, a background in agriculture, work on ski fields and in hotels, fruit picking, blade shearing, pruning and planting pine trees – just to name a few.

There were also personal health hurdles of surviving a brain tumour that went undiagnosed for four years, and sporting achievements: completing 4 Ironman events, and representing NZ in Switzerland at the Standard Distance Triathlon World Champs in 2006.

THE PASSION FOR PETROL ... AND A PLAN

The story of Lester’s career in service stations began at the age of 18, the day he decided to follow his childhood passion and went door-knocking for a job. The owner of the sixth station hired him, largely due to Lester’s ‘make it happen’ attitude.

Not long after he started, young Lester was on the forecourt and started chatting with a customer – as he does. The customer asked him about his goals, and Lester simply announced, “I want to own my own service station”.

The customer turned out to be an insurance and investment broker who offered to help

Lester achieve his dream. He convinced him to start a savings scheme – for roughly the same cost of a box of beer each week. With his purpose clear, and a plan to help him achieve it, Lester committed himself to working one shift on, one shift off around the clock for long periods of time. Within 3 years he moved companies and became an assistant manager, then a manager. However, six months later, after a company restructure, he was made redundant.

THE DRIVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD

After a brief OE, Lester returned to the family home in Waihi Beach and from there he took on a number of different roles to find his feet again. Never once did he give up the dream, nor did he give up saving, increasing it at times up to 50% of his earnings, and after testing himself in other industries, the pull of service stations was too much to ignore.

Once back at the helm (as manager of a Caltex site in Hamilton) Lester’s plan and purpose soon started to take a new shape as ‘family values’ became his natural management and leadership style and the work load increased.

Over the next 8 years, Lester took on more sites, created new strategic plans, invested time and effort into growing people and capacity within the businesses, organised new store openings and, at one time operated 46 sites. All the while, it was that same passion for people and service that gave Lester the drive to keep moving forward.

While these opportunities moved Lester around the country, home for him continued to be the Coromandel, where he and his now wife Sanna would spend their weekends. It didn’t take long for them to agree that the Coromandel was where they wanted to start their family.

During one of their short trips back, Lester approached the Caltex owner at Katikati for a friendly chat and happily learned that the owner was ready and willing to sell. And so unfolded the next chapter, as the achievement of the teenage dream became reality.



COLLAPSE AND REBIRTH

Lester and Sanna eventually bought a home along with another 3 businesses, and 4 more service stations; each with their unique issues, including corporate down-sizing of sites and closure of a couple of the businesses.

"When our very first service station, in Katikati, went up in flames due to an electrical fault, I chose to see it as an opportunity to start with a clean slate and do something better for the town by improving the service we were providing. We created the town's first-and-only 24-hour café as part of the rebuild."

Within two years the turnover had doubled, and they were able to sell the business for more than Lester ever imagined possible simply by thinking 'outside the box' and looking at what the town really needed.

POWER IN THE PEOPLE

"No matter where I have been, what I have done or the trials I have faced, it always comes down to good ole Kiwi family values," he said. "If you take care of your people, they take care of the customers, who then become part of the wider family. If people are laughing and having fun, they go home happy and that flows into their family lives and the wider community."

Lester again emphasises the importance of people, of family values, as the corner stone of success. "If you share responsibilities, as well as innovation, challenges and the rewards, you get more from people than simply 'work'. Systems and processes, delegation and responsibility are all part of the mix, but ultimately – everything is about people; about making a difference in people's lives."

Recalling the attendant at the petrol station all those years ago, Lester says, "You know, I often think back to the guy who simply knew us all by name, made us laugh and gave us an occasional treat. Such simple things create real and lasting impressions."

Lester shares how difficult it was to walk away from the family they had created at Katikati when they sold in September 2016. "Fortunately, Sanna, the kids and I all got to go back and celebrate with them at the Christmas party. We also still have a team in Opotiki, which lets me stay involved in the service industry. A couple of mates have

teased me about the fact that I've retired at the age of forty-eight, after selling the Katikati site. Instead, I'm looking forward to helping others achieve their goals, thinking outside the box. Maybe sharing a little bit of my experience will help them with theirs."

And, he tells us, "It just keeps getting better."



The Gray family on their first holiday to Hawaii last year – Sanna, Evan, Lester and Lexi.



Lester and Sanna on their wedding day at Waihi Beach.



Lester and the Caltex team after the local iwi blessed the station and the sale of his business.

If you'd like to ask Lester more about his story or invite him to a speaking engagement, contact him at 021 757 599 or cx01841@xtra.co.nz. Or find him on facebook – lester.gray.79.



IGNITE YOUR 2017 VISION

Filled with anticipation, fresh hope and fired up about the year ahead? Great! Capture that enthusiasm and create a new vision for yourself, your team or business and make this year – the best yet!

A 'vision' is a mental picture of the future – what it could hold but has not happened yet. It moves you to do different things providing clarity, direction and purpose.

When you really connect with what you want to create, everything aligns and moves you naturally in that direction. Your thoughts, decisions, action and energy levels all improve, and you develop a new perspective and appreciation of what you are doing because you are aligned with a stronger sense of purpose.

A good vision will inspire you to stay committed to where you are headed, reduce stress and costly mistakes. It will keep you focussed on the 'big picture' when life throws you curve balls and reduce the attraction of distraction!

Where to start?

- Be honest with yourself – start with a blue sky session capturing all the things you 'think' you want. The next step is to sift out the pieces you 'feel' are what you really want to achieve. Design a power statement that clearly captures your ideas into one short, easy-to-remember statement, set of bullet points or affirmation.
- Create visual imagery – make it bright, bold and vibrant, include graphs or charts anything visual that clearly shows you the end goal.
- Tap into your passion. Describe how you will feel when you have achieved it and 'tag' those onto your imagery to remind yourself of WHY you are doing this. It's amazing how those emotions add fuel to your fire!
- Develop 3 or 4 'mini' statements that highlight key goals to hit along the way... and away you go!

It's never too soon to spark your imagination and start creating a new definition of success! Stand firm, believe in yourself and create a new sense of drive and determination for 2017!

LA

Leanne Adams
spiritual intelligence consultant

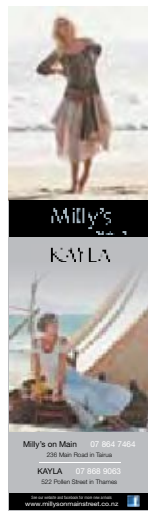
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Matarangi Beach Photo Shoot for Paula Ryan Collection features local celebs



If you have admired the snappy fresh fashions we often feature on the ads for Kayla Fashions (Thames) and Milly's On Main (Tairua), then you are familiar with the fabulous Paula Ryan line of clothing and accessories.

Many of our readers recognised the gorgeous beach shots on the Millys/Kayla Holiday ad in *Coromandel Life*. These were taken at Matarangi Beach as part of a huge photo shoot for Paula's summer 2016 catalogue. It also starred two local celebrities – supermodel Kylie Bax and Kuaotunu restaurateur and 'surfer boy' Lukas Reilly. His popular kitchen scored a handsome two page feature.

Paula's line is distinctive in at least two ways: the choice of fibres with a flattering stretchy quality (such as merino wool

and a stretch synthetic) and her black/white colour palette.

Check out this popular clothing line at either Kayla or Milly's. Owner Karilyn Arnold tells us, "Paula's line is one of our customers' favourite. She always refreshes her line for each season. And more..." Karilyn's shops have quite a fine reputation and customers are happy to travel for miles for the unique selection of impeccable clothing.

See www.millysonmainstreet.co.nz for a taste of the new fashions arriving daily. Other lines include David Pond, Mela Purdie and Loobie's Story.

View the Luke Reilly feature in Paula's *Style* magazine's at: www.paularyan.carbonmediahosting.com/2016/summer/#54

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IMPRESSIVE MUSIC LINEUP

A TASTE OF MATARANGI set for 8th April

The 8th April is set to be a day to remember with sunshine, music, world class wines, and loads of entertainment for Taste of Matarangi's fifth birthday.

Crowd favourites Five O'clock Shadow and Daughters of Ally will be taking to the stage again as the headline acts. Other performances include a newly formed band Cosha who describe their music as classic rock with a funk infusion; and Wilde & Rich, an acoustic duo performing rock, blues, country and folk. So come along and enjoy some awesome tunes from this incredible line-up.

The ever-popular cooking competition returns this year, with a new host: last year's winner, award winning chef Scott Corbett. Three chefs will be competing to come up with the best culinary delicacy, so make sure to be there for this steaming cook-off battle!

There will also be plenty of local product on offer for craft beer, award winning wines, delicious cuisines; and fun for everyone with family activities, charity auctions and live music all day.

The charity remains the same this year – Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Kuaotunu Land Search and Rescue. Each service provides many hours of life saving, rescue operations in our region.

Price for advance tickets are \$15 adult, \$30 family (2 adults, 2 children), and \$5 child (5-17yrs), under 5 free. Buy tickets online at www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz.

Tickets can also be purchased at Richardsons Real Estate in Matarangi, the i-site in Whitianga and Coromandel Adventures Visitor Centre in Coromandel.

Price for tickets on the day: \$20 adult, \$40 family.



Last year's winner, The Dune's chef Scott Corbett will be the judge of this year's cooking competition.



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Come North to COLVILLE &

STAY A WHILE. THIS LITTLE TOWN
HAS A LOT TO OFFER...

Photo: Willie Lochore, www.coromandeladventures.co.nz

Some visitors to Coromandel miss out on one of our best kept secrets – the village of Colville, just north of Coromandel Town. Many say it's a reminder of what the Coromandel once was. The region offers something unique and special – that perfect destination where you can put your feet up, find a little peace and rejuvenation, and yet still have lots to do.

The village of Colville itself is small – a post office, a doctor's clinic, tennis courts, the school, a café and several small businesses, including the famous co-operatively owned and run Colville General Store. It's worth remembering that these Colville shops are your last opportunity to stock up on provisions and fuel if you are heading north.

Enjoy beautiful bays with sandy beaches, lush forest, pastoral scenes of flat lands and steep hills where cattle, alpacas, sheep and goats graze.

And it looks like some of those goats even make it into town...



Even though Colville is relatively isolated and one of the Coromandel's smallest communities, it puts on one of the most ambitious arts festivals on the peninsula – the **Colville Easter Festival** (aka Colville Arts Festival).

What an impressive group of businesses and individuals – these locals really pull together and work cooperatively – whether it's to support each other or to produce other events like this throughout the year.

The four-day festival runs 14-17 April and offers a variety of workshops for all ages as well as entertainment during the day and concerts at night.. Attended mostly by locals, with the kids out of school, the friendly community spirit runs genuine and deep.

At press time the festival schedule was still being formulated, but the organisers did note a few changes: the art show would be sculptures placed outdoors, and the hall would be a concert space.



The first concert on Friday night – Colville Sings Leonard Cohen – will be a sing-along. Saturday night is Music Night with a variety of bands, so 'bring your dancing shoes'. And then Sunday evening, sit back and enjoy "Cabaret Night".

Check the website for updated schedule
www.colvilleartsfestival.co.nz/



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**



Silkscreen artist Peter Sephton offered Silk Printing Workshop, where participants cut their own designs on the stencil material, which was then adhered to the framed silk fabric. The design could then be inked to paper, fabric, wood, or that Colville favourite: a t-shirt.



If you are looking for quiet, peaceful surroundings, **COLVILLE BAY MOTEL & MOTORCAMP** is the place for you. The self-contained motel units are fully equipped. There are several safe beaches, great fishing and many walks within easy reach and Colville Bay itself provides safe swimming.

For bookings contact Wendy & Mark
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**
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COROMANDEL life calendar

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HAPPY 2017

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JANUARY 2017



COMMUNITY - 6 Weeks Of Summer Programme

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre offers dozens of enticing nature related lectures, workshops, abseiling, guided walks, treasure hunts, crafts, movies. Access to numerous campgrounds and two camping huts, one near base of the Pinnacles peaks. Most activities are free. Some are available or can be scheduled at other times of year, Café open everyday. See event schedule p21-24 for more details. Contact the Centre: 07 867 9080, kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz.

SAT 21 JAN - THU 23 FEB

EXHIBITION - 'Blurred Lines' by Jennie de Groot Bread & Butter Gallery, Whitianga. Exhibition opens midday Sat 21 Jan. www.breadandbutter.co.nz

FRI 27 JAN



CONCERT - Andrew White Live Eggsentric Cafe & Restaurant, Cooks Beach, 8-11pm. Show only: \$20 Dinner & show: \$45. Tickets 07 866 0307 www.andrewwhitesongs.com

SAT 28 JAN

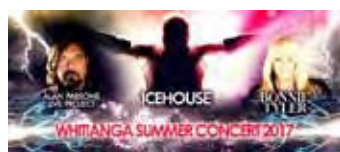
WALKING - Guided Walk through Hall's Arboretum in Thames William Hall Memorial Reserve, 9am. Free, led by historian David Wilton. Begin at Currie St entrance (off Mt Sea Rd). Approx 90 mins to complete the lower Arboretum, which has a good walking track. Later, ramble over the upper part of the Arboretum.

CONCERT - Shapeshifter: The Upbeats, P-Money & Sunshine Sound System Williamson Park, Whangamata, 4pm. R18, Earlybird: \$65. www.shapeshifter.live

CONCERT - Radiobaby Punters Bar and Grill, Tairua, 8pm-1am. R18, free admission. Local Band Radiobaby bring their rock out tunes to Tairua for a good night of dancing!

FISHING - Troy Wheeler Contracting Ladies Fishing Tournament M Game Fishing Club, Whitianga. Get your teams & rods together ladies! Entry forms from Mercury Bay Game & Fishing or website: www.mbgfc.co.nz

SUN 29 JAN



CONCERT - Whitianga Summer Concert will feature Icehouse, Alan Parsons Live Project & Bonnie Tyler. Whitianga Waterways, Whitianga, 11am-6:30pm. \$99 Tickets 0800 TICKETEK.

CONCERT - The LMM Club Manaia Cafe and Bar, Tairua, 2-6pm every Sunday. Free. All year music sessions are here to stay. Local performers contact shirley@localmusicians.co.nz or 027 529 5916 to book your month to be our featured artist.

FEBRUARY 2017

SAT 4 - SUN 5 FEB



FESTIVAL - Leadfoot Festival Leadfoot Ranch, Hahei. The Leadfoot Festival is a unique weekend bringing together a mix of classic cars and motorsport legends. www.leadfootfestival.com

SAT 4 - MON 6 FEB

WRITING - Creative Writing Workshops Led by Renee Liang Embassy of Friendship, Whitianga. Sat 2-5pm Workshop; Sun 1-4pm Workshop, 8-10pm Book making; Mon 12-2pm Book launch & readings. Adult \$45, Youth 15-18yrs \$25, Tickets: 0277413230.

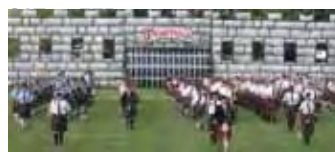
SAT 4 FEB - SAT 11 MAR

SPORT - Junior Weekend Tennis Mercury Bay Tennis Club, Whitianga. Join our Junior tennis players for weekend sessions. Sat mornings in term one 2017: 6-9 year olds 8:30-9:30am; 10-15 year olds 9:30-10:30am. \$20 Junior Membership fee, players need their own racket.

SUN 5 FEB



FESTIVAL - Coromandel Mussel Kitchen, Coromandel, 2pm-12am. \$45, child \$15, under 5's free, free onsite camping. Mussel favorites served all day: fritters, steamed with sauces, grilled half shell, battered, chowder. Live music. 0800 BUY TIX (289 849) www.musselkitchen.co.nz



ENTERTAINMENT - Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo Paeroa Domain, Paeroa, 9am-9pm. The 24th Annual Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo. Starting as a small Pipe Bands competition, the Tattoo has grown, and today is a fully-fledged Highland Games. One of only seven such Scottish gatherings in NZ, and the only evening Tattoo held in NZ. See website for schedule www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

SAT 11 - SUN 12 FEB



FAIR - Mind Body Spirit Fair Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, Thames, 10am. Free entry and workshops. Browse the lovely products and services have a reading, get a healing. www.facebook.com/magicearthnz

SAT 11 FEB - SUN 12 MAR

EXHIBITION - 'Great Barrier Paintings' by Ginney Deavoll Bread & Butter Gallery, Whitianga. Exhibition opens midday Sat 11 Feb. www.breadandbutter.co.nz. See p12,

SAT 18 FEB



FAIR - Life is a Cabaret Whangamata Memorial Hall, Whangamata, 7-10pm. GA \$20 R18. The award-winning burlesque and cabaret show, The Rock 'n' Roll Circus, comes to Whangamata for the first time. 0800 BUY TIX (289 849)

SPORT - ARC Adventure Race includes 2 races. A longer teams race that takes 12-18hrs and a shorter one of 6-10hrs. Finish before 6pm Saturday with prize giving. www.arcevents.co.nz/arc-adventure

SAT 18 - MON 20 FEB

FISHING - Billfish Classic Fishing Competition Mercury Bay Fishing Club, 12 The Esplanade, Whitianga. Get your team together and join up for some fishing fun and competition in the Billfish Classic in Whitianga, Mercury Bay. To register, see www.mbgfc.co.nz/

SAT 18 - SAT 25 FEB

FISHING - Nationals Fishing Tournament Mercury Bay Fishing Club, 12 The Esplanade, Whitianga. Enjoy a week of fishing competition in Whitianga and Mercury Bay. Info MBFC www.gamebase.co.nz

FISHING - Tristram Marine Open Fishing Tournament Whitianga 2017 If fishing is your thing then grab your rod and enter the sponsored Tristram Marine Mercury Bay Open Fishing Tournament in Whitianga. To register, see www.mbgfc.co.nz/

SUN 19 FEB



RACING - Paeroa Battle of the Streets Paeroa. Riders once again converge on this quiet town to compete around the famous 'Hacksaw' street circuit, closing SH2 for the day. See p51 for more. www.battleofthestreets.co.nz

FRI 24 - SUN 26 FEB

RETREAT - Mindful Photography Mahamudra Centre for Universal Unity, Colville, Fri 6-8:30pm, Sat 8am-8:30pm, Sun 8am-3:30pm. Pre-register by 20 Feb. Course and meals fee \$160; plus accommodation. Call 07 866 6851.

RALLY - Indian Owners Motorcycle Rally Starts at Thames Fri 24 Feb. Leaves from Tapu Holiday Camp Sat 25 Feb to Driving Creek Railway, then Coromandel township, onto Whitianga, to iconic Coroglen for a pitstop. Final destination and Prizegiving at Top 10 Holiday Park, Hot Water Beach on Sat eve. See article on page 54, www.indianmotorcycleclub.co.nz

SAT 25 FEB

SPORT - Hauraki Summer Series 2017: Race 2. 10km-15km. Whitianga Info Milan Lukic, milan@mediafair.net. www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/1291



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FESTIVAL - Kuaotunu Bubble Festival
Kuaotunu Reserve, Kuaotunu, 5pm onwards.
A great festival with lots of fun blowing bubbles! Bring a picnic and some bubble mixture along to the free family event.

MARCH 2017

FRI 3 MAR - SUN 5 MAR



ART OPENING GALA - Mercury Bay Art Escape Gala Opening Hot Waves Café, Hot Water Beach, 7:30pm. Gala Opening of Showcase Exhibition and the 10th Artists Open Studios. See article p8. Tickets at www.mercurybayartescape.co.nz

ART TOURS - Mercury Bay Art Escape Artists Open Studio, Sat & Sun 10am-4pm. These Open Studio weekends are held annually on the first 2 weekends in March drawing art lovers to the beautiful coastal area of the Eastern Coromandel. See article p8. See www.mercurybayartescape.co.nz

THU 9 - SAT 11 MAR

FISHING - Stabicraft Trailer Boat Tournament Whitianga Mercury Bay Fishing Club, 12 The Esplanade, Whitianga. The Stabicraft Trailer Boat Tournament briefing, nightly prizegiving and entertainment is held at club rooms, 12 The Esplanade. Rules and entry fees: www.gamebase.co.nz

FRI 10 - SUN 12 MAR



FESTIVAL - Sundaise Festival Dickey Flat Campsite, Waihi. A celebration of music, art, and sustainability, with some of NZ's most celebrated performers and artists. See www.sundaise.co.nz

SAT 11 MAR



MARATHON - Surf 2 Firth Bush Marathon Enjoy Bush running and trekking: 42km across the ranges, or 22km and new 12km run/walk options. Based out of Thames with competitors bused to the start of the full- and half marathon. www.surf2firth.co.nz

COMMUNITY - Music Picnic at the Point Pleasant Point Reserve, Pauanui, 2:30pm. An old fashioned community gathering. Gold coin donation. BYO picnic and beverages – set up your spot in area at the Reserve.

SAT 11 - SUN 12 MAR



ART - Mercury Bay Art Escape Artists Open Studio Weekends 10am-4pm. Visit over 42 artists at their studios in the beautiful coastal area of the Eastern Coromandel Peninsula. See article p8. www.mercurybayartescape.co.nz

SAT 11 - SUN 19 MAR

FESTIVAL - Thames Heritage Festival Thames Heritage Festival is a fantastic celebration of our heritage. Dozens of lectures, teas, competitions, costumes, & vintage cars. See page 26 for article and get schedule at www.thamesheritage.co.nz

SAT 18 MAR



SPORT - Whangamata Multisport Challenge Beach Road Reserve, Whangamata, 9am-3pm. An 8km paddle around Whangamata Islands, 9km coastal trail run, and 23km ride in the Whangamata Ridges MTB park. See www.whangamataevents.co.nz

SPORT - Junior Tennis Tournament and Prizegiving Mercury Bay Tennis Club, Whitianga. This competition helps develop junior players. A BBQ & prize giving will be held after the tournament. Contact Lisl to register. 021 148 6982

SPORT - Hauraki Summer Series 2017 Race 3. Outrigger race, 10km-15km. Waihi Beach Info Larn Wilkinson, larn.w@hotmail.com. www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/1290

SAT 18 - SUN 19 MAR

FISHING - Ladies Blue Fishing Competition 2017 Mercury Bay Fishing Club, 12 The Esplanade, Whitianga. Get your teams together ladies! Info www.mbgfc.co.nz/

WED 22 - SUN 26 MAR



FESTIVAL - Repco Beach Hop New Zealand's BIGGEST celebration of the 50s & 60s. The 5-day Rock N Roll festival celebrates the music, culture, fashion, music, hot rods, motorbikes, and dancing, of this golden era. www.beachhop.co.nz

SAT 25 MAR



COMPETITION - Brolley Boarding Competition in Kuaotunu. Back by popular demand! Grab your brolley (umbrella) and your paddle board – put the two together and the competition is on! See on FB, KTown Paddle Boards.

SUN 26 MAR

FAIR - Repco Beach Hop Nostalgia Fair Williamson Park, Whangamata, 9am-2pm. Held on the last day of the 'Beach Hop' festival. Free admission. Stall info email info@beachhop.co.nz

FESTIVAL - Kuaotunu Pumpkin and Harvest Festival Cemetery Road, Kuaotunu, 2pm. Hosted by the Kuaotunu Rudolf Steiner Kindergartens with music, games, prizes, food and of course a giant pumpkin weigh-in!

APRIL 2017

SAT 1 - SUN 23 APR



SPORTS - 14th annual ECHO Walking Festival ECHO 2017 (Connecting Hills and Oceans). Happening from the 1st to 23rd of April. Over 40 walks, rides and other things to do, and if it's not free the cost is just to cover expenses. From easy to a challenge, there's something to suit most people. See for details www.echowalkfest.org.nz

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SAT 8 APR



FESTIVAL - A Taste of Matarangi The Village Green, Matarangi, 10am-4pm. Celebrating their 5th festival, this family-friendly event will have a fun kids zone as well as live music acts that will bring the stage to life. Food booths and cooking competitions. www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

FRI 14 - MON 17 APR

FESTIVAL - Colville Easter Festival Colville Hall, Colville, Fri-Sun 10am-10pm; Mon 10am-2pm. Enjoy sculptures outdoors, days of entertainment, art workshops, food. See page 45. www.colvilleartsfestival.co.nz

SAT 15 APR

SPORT - Hauraki Summer Series 2017 Race 4, Outrigger Races. 10km-15km. Whangamata info: Simone Huges, heartnoz@hotmail.com. www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/1289

SAT 22 - SUN 23 APR



FISHING - Junior Fishing Tournament Get the kids enjoying some great fishing fun in Whitianga with the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club. See www.mbgfc.co.nz/

MAY 2017

FRI 5 MAY



THEATRE - A Doris Day Special Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, Thames, 7:30pm. It's 1971 and Doris is filming her Television Special. Be a part of A DORIS DAY SPECIAL television studio audience and celebrate quintessential girl next door. Adult \$39 / Senior \$35 Group + 8 \$32 / Child/Students \$20 / Earlybird Special \$30.



FRI 5 - SUN 7 MAY

COMMEMORATION - A Ship, a Bay, a Drowning Tairua Community Hall. 175th Commemoration of the death of sailor buried at Sailor's Grave. A full set of events at several locations in Tairua and Te Karo Bay. Hear a variety of historical lectures, performances by brass bands from the Navy, a dramatic re-enactment, a guided walk, and memorial service at the gravesite. Get pamphlet from Tairua Heritage Group, 07 864 7793 or Tairua Info Centre, 07 864 7575. See feature article page 30 for more.

SAT 6 MAY



FESTIVAL - Coromandel Seafood Festival Coromandel town, 10am-4pm. Taste the local delicacies, find out about great ways to cook them, and watch the local chefs create their own unique dishes. With Mussel Shucking, Oyster Shucking and a Fishing Competition, this will be a day out to remember. www.coromandeltown.co.nz/seafood-fest.html

SAT 13 MAY



SPORT - The Nugget MultiSport Festival Seddon Street, Waihi. Choose from the Full Nugget Multisport Race, Half Nugget Duathlon, 21km Run, 10km or 5km Run/ walk options. www.thenugget.co.nz



SPORT - The Great Cranleigh Kauri Run A series of off-road trail runs or walks. The Kauri Classic, 32km, Waikawau Bay to Coromandel Township. The Kauri Half-Marathon, 23km, White Star Station, Colville to Coromandel Township. The Kauri Loop, 13km, Coromandel Township. For info see www.arcevents.co.nz/kaurirun



BOAT RACING - NZ Offshore Powerboat Series Whitianga Offshore 100. Races start 1pm. Great free family entertainment! Many competing teams made up of family members. www.nzoffshore.co.nz



JUNE 2017

FRI 2 - SUN 4 JUN



FESTIVAL - Mercury Bay Music Festival An all ages weekend music festival celebrating the best of local, national and international music talent. The Festival will also offer a series of workshops throughout the weekend. Full schedule TBA closer to time. See www.mercurybaymusicfestival.co.nz



MARKETS... AROUND THE COROMANDEL

SUMMER/EASTER 2017



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

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

COROGLEN FARMERS MARKET Every Sunday 9am-1pm, until 23 April. Gumtown Hall, SH25. Quality local organic seasonal produce. Info Jessie 022 081 4415



WHITIANGA CRAFT & FARM MARKET Sat 21 & 28 Jan; Sat 4, 11, 18, 25 Feb; Sat 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar. 8.30am-1pm. Soldiers Memorial Park, Albert Street. Info Anne 07 8665550 (or 027 2460072); Doreen 07 8665237 (or 021 0616489)

KUAOTUNU COMMUNITY SWAP Fortnightly Sundays 10am at Lukes Kitchen. Exchange your home-produced food with food from other community members. Facebook page. Info Kathy 07 866 2770

TAIRUA MARKET DAY 1st Sat every month, 9am-1pm, Town Hall, Main Rd. Crafts, goods & produce. Info 022 412 8184

KARANGAHAKE HALL MARKET 2nd & 4th Sunday every month 10am-2pm. Main St, Paeroa. Info Moira 07 862 9233

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

WAIHI BEACH FRESH PRODUCE MARKET Sundays Labour weekend 'til Easter 9am-12pm. Opposite Waihi Beach Hotel, Wilson Rd. Produce, breads, meats, cheeses, flowers. Info Barb 021 103 6270

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

KATIKATI LIONS MOGGIE MARKET 2nd Sat every month, 8am-12pm, Katikati War Memorial Hall. Info Margaret 021 507 456.



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Trevor Lowe

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Ian Morgan

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Battle of the Streets roars through Paeroa for its 26th year

Bike riders from around the country will converge on Paeroa this year on Sunday 19 February to compete on the famous 1.52km 'Hacksaw' street circuit, as shown above in the neon blue. owing to its shape. It has provided a testing circuit on which riders reach speeds of 280kph and sidecars close to 220kph along the main straight.

This mega event, which closes SH2 for the day, offers an adrenalin-filled 'seat of your pants' experience, even for a spectator. Riders will reach speeds up to 260km per hour. Besides viewing action packed with racing entertainment, the event offers plenty of food and merchandise. Motorcycle clubs, groups and organised rallies welcome. Attendance continues to grow each year and has even attracted national media coverage. The race has been televised since 2004.

Petrolfumes posted a riproaring video programme of the racing from 2016, which includes also two-person sidecar races. Aside from the flashby speeds and the riproaring sounds, it is interesting to note the ways spectators are protected from the speeding bikes including low sandbag initial barriers, interlocking concrete walls, padded pillars and various heights and thicknesses of hay bales. These don't get there by themselves: This event has dozens of sponsors and over 360 commuiny volunteers that make it all happen.

Enjoy video here: youtu.be/brUyDZh-A7s

See: www.battleofthestreets.co.nz/

Spectator tickets: www.goo.gl/JTetO4



Paeroa gets a new look with modern, stylish library and street renovation



The ground breaking ceremonies for the new library on Willoughby St in Paeroa were in May, and it looks promising that the new facility, twice the size of the old library, will open in March.

Look for wifi and computers, a baby changing table and plenty of shelf room. The old library will be used at as Council office space. See

report and more photos: www.goo.gl/Rg0tur

The Mackay Road side of the library is getting a parklike facelift, with numerous tree plantings, raised brick planters, tile sidewalks, bike racks, and benches. Below, the library construction is just beyond the laundromat, with the fields of the Paeroa Domain is seen in the distance.



12 hours entertainment
Sat. 11 Feb at the Domain

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Now in its 24th year, the Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo offers a 9 am to 9pm day of pipe bands, Celtic dancing, singing and a variety of heavyweight field and axe competitions. The special lit nighttime tattoo begins at 6:30pm.

KAIUAU TO KOPU SECTION PROGRESS

Piako Bridge side clipon a welcome addition to Hauraki Rail Trail project

Work continues on the extention of the Kauraki Rail Tail from Kaiaua to Kopu (K2K), a gentle stretch that offers stunning views of the firth and passes near the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre.

The NZ Transport Agency announced funding a 250m lightweight steel and timber 'clip-on' cycle lane attached to the downstream side of the Piako Bridge, which spans the Piako River on SH25. This provides a safe way for bikers and walkers to cross over.

Hauraki District Council, TCDC and the Transport Agency have each contributed \$1 million to the \$4.2 million cost of completing the final leg of the trail. The K2K section experienced a construction setback due to foul weather over the winter, but it's expected much of the new section of the trail will be ride-ready in April.

The K2K trail section passes near the historic Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre.



MIRANDA SHOREBIRD CENTRE EXPANDS

Good news for the Miranda Shorebird Centre and its famous flocks of wading, international-travelling godwits. The shorebirds have become benefactors of a \$400,000 real estate deal.

The Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust and Fonterra's Living Water programme have teamed up to buy a 60-hectare farm near Miranda, 25 hectares of which will be restored into wetland, increasing the size of the intertidal mudflats at the Firth of Thames.

Community group still set on saving historic Kopu Bridge

See Paul Smith's evocative drone footage of the Kopu bridge here:
www.vimeo.com/133430193



Design for a pop up shelter on the span



The bridge winging opening was once a regular driving annoyance. Now it is a rare treat to witness.

The 85-year-old, one-lane Kopu Bridge is set to be demolished. The iconic traffic clogger was closed in December of 2011 when the two lane bridge was constructed. A community group has rallied to save the old bridge as a tourist attraction offering a scenic bike and hiking span. A popup shelter is one of the improvements envisioned by the group.

The NZ Transport Agency wishes to demolish it, citing high cost of renovating and maintaining it: \$2.3 million to upgrade the bridge and \$250,000 a year to maintain. The

Historic Kopu Bridge Society objected offering cost estimates a small fraction of that.

Talks between the sides area ongoing, and according to Kim Buchanan, a Trustee of the Kopu Bridge and Community Trust, they are "still awaiting an answer" to December's proposal. Read full report, "A Bridge to the Future", here: docs.tcdc.govt.nz/store/default/4285937.pdf. For updates and how you can help, see www.facebook.com/SaveKopuBridge/

Historic Kopu Bridge Opening as part of Thames Heritage Festival. Sunday 19th March from 9am –12. Walking tours of the bridge (limited numbers, so book reservation at savekopubridge@gmail.com or with Kim, ph 07 8685581). The swingspan will also be opening every half hour during the morning, and viewed from a tour, the bank or the new bridge.

Entry Fee: Koha to the Historic Kopu Bridge Society. See the magazine's centre spread for the Thames Heritage Festival schedule.



Annual Waihi Cemetery Walk

Cemeteries contains a wealth of historic information as well as being a place for remembrance. 'Mine Accidents' is the intriguing theme of a guided walk through Waihi Cemetery set for Sat 18 March at 4pm. This annual event is organised by the Waihi Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists, and includes fascinating stories they have 'unearthed' about 10-12 people connected with the theme.

Previous walks have included 'Murders and Mishaps' and 'Tragedies, Personalities and Mysteries'. The walks usually take 60-90 minutes and with fascinating subject matter like this, you won't want to miss it!

A gold coin donation is appreciated, and sturdy footwear and a jacket are suggested. Turn up just before 4pm or ring Harriet at 07 863 6063.



Situated amongst farmland and orchards, Waihi Cemetery was established prior to 1898 for Waihi and the surrounding rural areas, including Waihi Beach.

THAMES
TASTE
TEMPTERS

Dinner at the GBD

We all know what a great night out we have when we join Karl and the team at the GBD. But what you may not yet have caught up with is a couple of new Summer menu options that have brought a contemporary taste sensation to the mix. They will focus on the fresh local products available now.

Somehow, the team have managed to combine the concept of coconut, green curry together with local Coromandel Mussels and have come up with a sensory delight (for those that are able to eat mussels anyway!). The aromatics of the green curry blended with the creamy top notes of the coconut, create a silken savoury sweet broth that wraps around the freshly steamed mussels that keep you wanting to simply pop back into the bowl for the next morsel.

The Slow Roasted Pork Belly for the meat eaters in the tribe was a welcome earthy experience with garlic mash and zesty sweet carrot and apple chutney – well-rounded and good hearty tucker for the boys.

Harissa Lamb was the third dish to be shared – tender basted lamb with pops of feta and roasted baby beetroot on a bed of baby spinach and light minty yoghurt dressing, all presented in a refreshingly simple way that turned the three dishes into a casual degustation rather than a traditional sit down meal and generous proportions ensure we were all well fed.

My palette in wine has moved into the Rosé for Summer and The Ned never fails to please. The TW Estate Chardonnay from Gisborne was a winner with one of the other girls, and the ever reliable Guinness on tap was the completion point for the blokes. – Leanne Adams





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CROWDS FLOCK TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS EXPO

A crowd of around 5,000 people at Kennedy Park in Pauanui enjoyed the wide variety of products and services on display, with many heading home with some great Expo deals.

Now in its third year, the event has gathered momentum, and this year the 100 exhibitor sites were sold out.

There was plenty to tempt visitors - boats, caravans, outdoor furniture, sporting goods, e-bikes, awnings and outdoor art.

"Stalls selling outdoor furniture and big boys toys were particularly busy", said event coordinator Sarah Steinemann. Specialist food stalls catered for hungry visitors and there were plenty of fun activities to keep the kids entertained.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS EXPO

A major fundraiser for Hikua School, the event generated close to \$24,000 which the school plans to use to upgrade their outdoor courtyard area and maintain their new minibus (which operated as a shuttle bus from Pauanui Wharf on Expo day).

And next year? Sarah already has ideas about how to make the event bigger and better. Details will be available on www.thegreatoutdoorsexpo.co.nz later this year, or businesses can register now by emailing expo@hikua.school.nz.

A WIN WIN

Local businesses promote themselves to big audience while benefiting Hikua school.

We were delighted to see several of our advertisers showing off their products and services at the Great Outdoor Expo in Pauanui.



What's on the barbie!.. Which one??

Mark Milmine represented his three family-owned stores, Trove in Pauanui, 100% Thames, and his more recent acquisition, 100% Whitianga.

"The Expo is a great way to remind folks they don't have to leave the peninsula - we are dedicated to providing customers with the right appliance, at the right price," said Mark.

"The difference from last year to this in interest in e-bikes was amazing", Matthias from Jolly Bikes in Thames commented.

"People actually tried them rather than looking from the distance!" Matthias recently announced that Jolly Bikes has bought the nearby Pakipaki Bike Shop, effective April.



Guthrie Bowron Whitianga and Outdoors Covered Ltd erected this unique patio covering display. It's impressive to see how these sturdy structures add extra living space to your home. This Bowranda even has a clear dome ceiling. Weather out - sun in!

"We had a successful day picking up serious leads for both businesses, some of which have already scheduled jobs of flooring, curtains and outdoor coverings. There was a good relaxed holiday vibe, and we had lots of fun. We will be back," said owner Rachael Lee.



An electric bike. Why not give it a go? People have begun to recognise the health and fitness benefits of this fun way to travel. Here, Matthias from Jolly Bikes in Thame gives expert advice.



Harcourts Pauanui had one of the most popular stalls there - of course that attractive Next Generation team didn't hurt. View Pauanui real estate in style in their fun Mini Cooper convertible.

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Outdoor Expo - it was a great way to get out and meet new people, catch up with those we know and all while having fun. We wanted an interactive and engaging stall and the kids (and adults) had a ball on the day, so we were extremely pleased with the result!" - Alyce Rowe, owner Harcourts Pauanui.

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INDIAN OWNERS ROLL THROUGH COROMANDEL FOR FEBRUARY RALLY

Perhaps no classic motorcycle pulls at the heartstrings like an Indian does. And this February you will be able to view a variety of the iconic cycles when the Indian Owners Register of NZ rolls through the Coromandel.

NZ's connection with the brand came at the end of WWII when about 5,000 of the 741b models were sold off cheap as surplus. Most Kiwi Indian riders have owned at least one of these reliable old workhorses, and they are still seen riding around the countryside.

"We formed as a group of enthusiasts some 30 years ago and hold an annual rally alternating between the North and South Island", shares rally organiser, Miles Landon.

"Finally the Coromandel is our next destination". The group numbers about 160 across the country, and they expect over 40 for the rally, riding Indians ranging from 1918 through to the late '40s Chiefs "with a sprinkling of Scouts and Army Indians in between."

On 24 Feb, riders will converge upon the Tapu Motor Camp from different parts of the country

and settle in. "Dinner, and no doubt a few drinks at the pub, will be in order."

Saturday morning they head to Coromandel Town to experience the Barry Brickell legacy at Driving Creek Railway and Potteries, with lunch at the Star and Garter, before biking over the hill to the Whitianga Wharf.

This would be a wonderful spot to view the lineup, Miles suggests. "It would be great if people help vote for people's choice award. A special prize will be awarded at prize giving Saturday night over at Hot Water Beach, our final destination!"

They are all "looking forward to the winding roads and show-casing the Coromandel!"

"We are big fans of *Coromandel Life* magazine," says Gail Wilson, another Auckland organiser. "It was the perfect way to share all that the Coromandel has to offer. We sent it to our 200 members from all over NZ. We also plan to include the Summer issue in the rally bags in February."

For more information see the IORNZ Facebook group or visit www.indianmotorcycle.co.nz/



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