

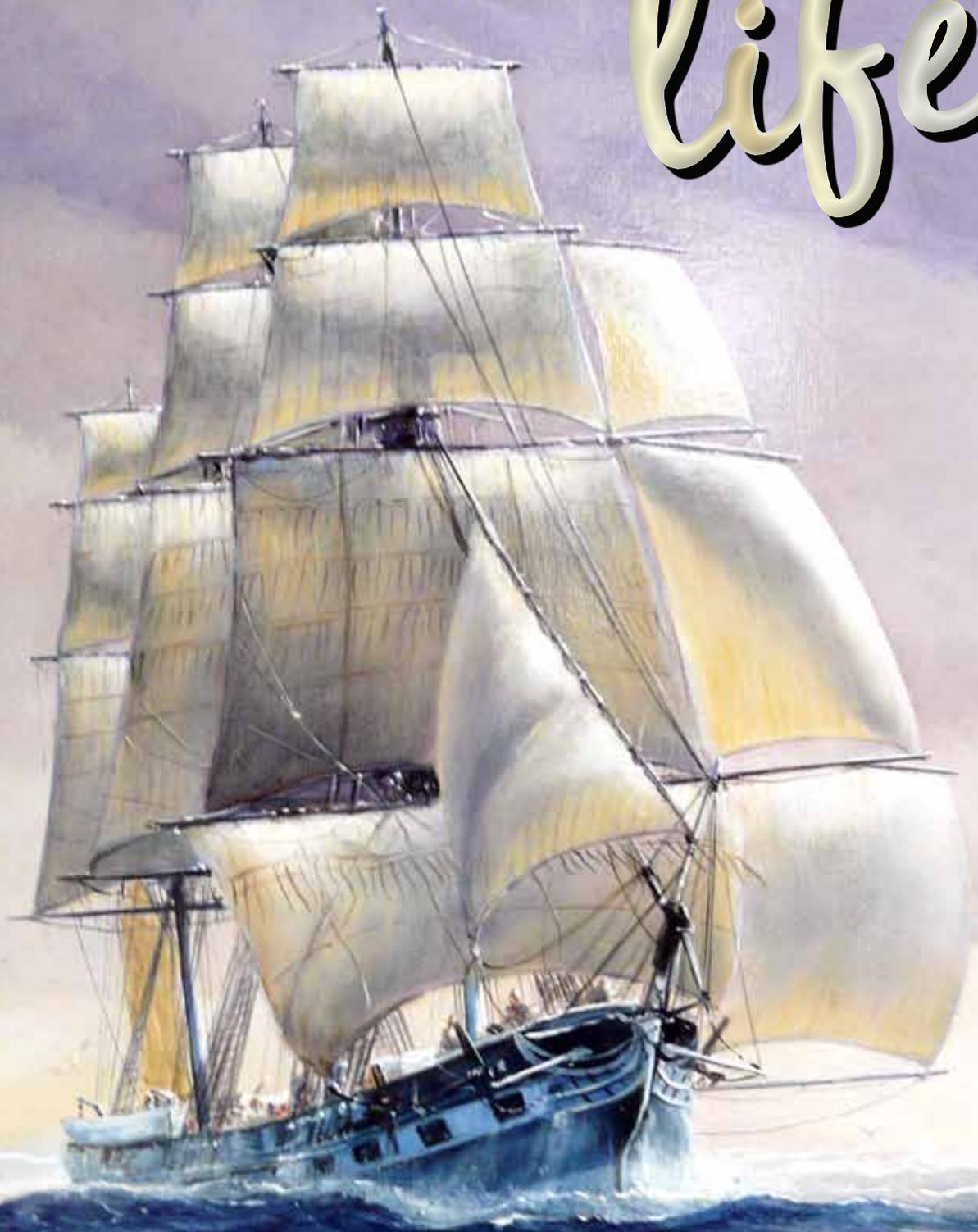
WINTER ISSUE 2015
COMPLIMENTARY

Painting by Paul Deacon
"Along the Coast, All Sail Set"



COROMANDEL

life



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Paul Deacon

THE HMS BUFFALO ~ ITS HISTORY AND HOMECOMING WEEK EVENTS
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Our Cover Artist

Paul Deacon

Marine Artist, ASMA, NZAFA

Our cover features the painting
Along the Coast, All Sail Set.



In collecting illustrations for the HMS *Buffalo* Homecoming Week article, we read that marine artist Paul Deacon would be exhibiting paintings of the HMS *Buffalo* and Captain Cook's ship, the HMS *Endeavour* at the Mercury Bay Museum. One look at his Facebook page and website, and we were enthralled with the drama of several paintings we viewed – the HMS *Buffalo* breaking up, in full sail and in the misty morning glow being met by Maori waka.



Paul shared he had over a dozen more works to display over the Homecoming Week (see page 8), and he's already installed many of them. We met with him to choose and photograph some of these new paintings and couldn't resist using one for the cover. It was difficult to select between the stunning lifelike paintings, but we are thrilled to showcase one of Paul's favourites,

Along the Coast, All Sail Set.

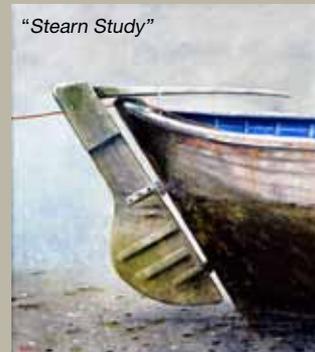
Being a seaman for many years, Paul is able to capture the essence and varying moods of both the ocean and sky. His paintings take you there, on the deck bracing yourself against the salt spray and stiff breezes, feeling the burn of the ropes against your hands.

We were therefore surprised to learn that painting is not Paul's actual occupation. He has engaged in full time youth work for the last 20 years, currently working for Barnardos NZ alongside young people requiring extra support in the community.

Paul loves to mentor with art as well. "I've tutored art retreats and gain such satisfaction from sharing my skills and knowledge of marine life with budding artists." He holds art workshops at his studio in Cockle Bay." (See details of his Whitianga painting workshop during Homecoming, 27–28 July, on page 8.

Paul's paintings have been featured in magazines and books and he's had several solo and joint shows in NZ. He is a member of both the Australian Society of Marine Artists & New Zealand Academy of Arts.

"Stearn Study"



Cheers to other Coromandel Life artists and photographers



ALAN DUFF

Aerial Photographer

Shown is Alan's recent photograph of the WWI Memorial on the hill at the north end of Thames. Above right, Alan catches artist Paul Deacon installing a painting at the Mercury Bay Museum.



Aerial photographer Alan Duff uses drones to capture dramatic images of houses and rental units for the real estate market. We gave him a variety of assignments: scenic, aerial, architecture, flat art, and people. Watch our next issue for even more of Alan's photos! See www.crep.co.nz



Photo by Alan Duff

Artist Paul Deacon hangs the original of our stunning cover art at the Mercury Bay Museum in Whitianga. All his paintings are available for purchase with a portion to benefit the museum.

Paintings of the *Buffalo* and the *Endeavour* are already on display to view and purchase at the Mercury Bay Museum.

PAUL SHARES HIS LOVE OF THE SEA

“From my formative years and throughout my life I’ve been influenced by the sea and art. My father was a fisherman in Devon and my mother quite artistic, so from birth I was surrounded by material items connected with these elements from crab pots to oil paints.

“I was born in the beautiful port of Dartmouth where tall ships, warships, yachts and fishermen were everyday sights in the harbour. My family moved to the West Coast of Ireland in the mid-1960s where, once again, the sea influenced my senses and my first love affair with ships took root watching coasters entering and leaving Sligo port.

“In 1972, I joined the Merchant Navy and worked my way up from deckhand to relief Master on small tramp vessels trading around the British Isles, Europe, the Baltic, Mediterranean and West Africa carrying a wide range of cargoes. This seagoing life imbued me with a great respect for the elements and a broad understanding of nautical matters.

“I came to New Zealand in 1995, and over the years I’ve moved from concentrating on traditional marine paintings to a diverse range of nautical subjects. This diversity is driven by examining what appears mundane, yet has its own interest and beauty, from rusty hulks to traditional Maori fishhooks.”

We hear retirement is in the offing, and Paul looks forward to focusing fully on painting – perhaps in some delightful spot on the Coromandel.

See more of Paul’s work online at www.pauldeaconart.com or visit www.facebook.com/pauldeaconart or ring him at 021 259 0646.



CHARLOTTE GIBLIN

Our popular *Road Trip* section will return in the Spring issue, with featured artist, Charlotte Giblin. But for this edition this talented lady contributed some photos of Thames – churches and The Treasury building. Keep current with this Whitianga artist and muralist through Facebook, *Bouncing Pig-Charlotte’s Art*. She is now assembling her paintings and musings for a book she hopes to release in time for Christmas!



ROSS DAVIES took the magnificent photo of the interior of St. James Union Church in Thames shown on our centre spread. We found it on his blog, *Motor Home Page – Exploring New Zealand*. Ross and wife Wyn decided to take a ‘big leap’ and live totally in their motor home, travelling. See more photos and read about their pilgrimage to Thames where Ross grew up: blog.davies.net.nz/2013/07/old-haunts-thames-revisited/

JANE CRISP This Auckland artist undertook a large project to depict the ‘Maori Creation Legend’ that we have featured on page 18. Jane’s specialty, though, is painting native birds paired with items like antique water pitchers. View more at www.janecrisp.co.nz and on Fb at *Studio 208 - Jane Crisp*.



Watch for our Fashion Parade coming soon!

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WINTER 2015

Paul Deacon: Our Cover Artist 4-5
 HMS Buffalo 'Homecoming Week' 8-12
 Stargazers: The Winter Skies 10-13
 The Mystique of the Kauri 16-20
 The Making of Thames 21-27
 Thames Historical Churches and Playground 28-31
 The Treasury Recognised 32-34
 Choosin' your Cruisin' 35
 A Toast to Coromandel Couples 36-38
 Wineword / Hospitality Scene 39-40
 Coromandel Calendar 44-45
 The Coromandel Showcased Worldwide 46-48
 Community Spotlight 49-51
 Cheers to our Advertisers 52
 Destination Coromandel 54-55

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 viewable online in a familiar "page turning" style.

Looking to the light of Winter

It's always sad to say goodbye to those long summer days, but in saying that, I am reminded of some really special things that we can look forward to as we approach the shortest day of the year.

Cosy fires and the lovely smell of manuka. A much slower pace. Crisp starry nights. Walks on deserted beaches. Uncrowded golf courses. Cafes with open fires or wood stoves where one can hunker down with a cuppa and a good book. Plenty of parking spots. Community events that might draw a small crowd, but a warm one. This is when we "get our peninsula back" some would say.

And the list of 'what's on' for winter just keeps growing with lots of fun things to do - Illume in Coromandel Town, the Whitianga Scallop Festival, and more.

Whitianga is valiantly staging the HMS Buffalo Homecoming Week with dozens of activities including a Polar Bear Plunge. (Think I'll watch that one from shore.)

We are fortunate here on the Coromandel as our Winters are quite mild. No snow and rarely a freeze. Some bright sunny days can almost feel like Summer... till the air cools as the sun starts to set.

I'm actually looking forward to slowing the pace - doing a bit of hibernating, reflecting, re-grouping and a lot of cuddling with our cat (oh, and Greg, too).

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING. There's always mixed views on the Coromandel getting too much exposure. Most everyone wants to increase their business while not losing why we love living here.

This became clear when we wrote about *The Ultimate Waterman* and the exposure the video would bring to NZ and the Coromandel (up to 4 million viewers). Quiet, secluded Otama Beach had a starring role... suddenly having awesome curl barrel waves, thanks to Cyclone Pam. The first such day since 1997.

And Luke Reilly's sudden fame when his Orca whale encounter went viral. 20 million views! Now the little village of Kuaotunu and his Luke's Kitchen is on everyone's must see list. Great? Well, wait a minute... we do like our privacy!

During the history research and fact checking for this issue, we met some great knowledgeable folks that ended up being godsend - Russell Skeets, Ben Grubb, Althea Barker, Geraldine Dunwoodie to name a few. We very much look forward to working with these 'history buffs' in the future.

We've already started on our next issue which will be jammed packed with more history, more things to see and do, more character profiles and more about LIFE on the Coromandel.

See you in the spring!

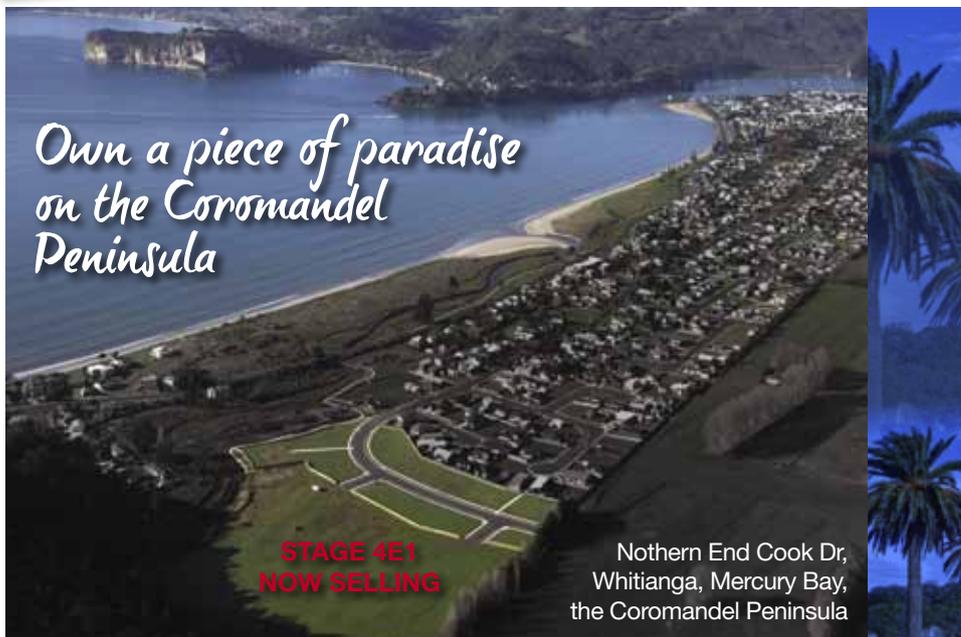
Greg and Tovi Daly



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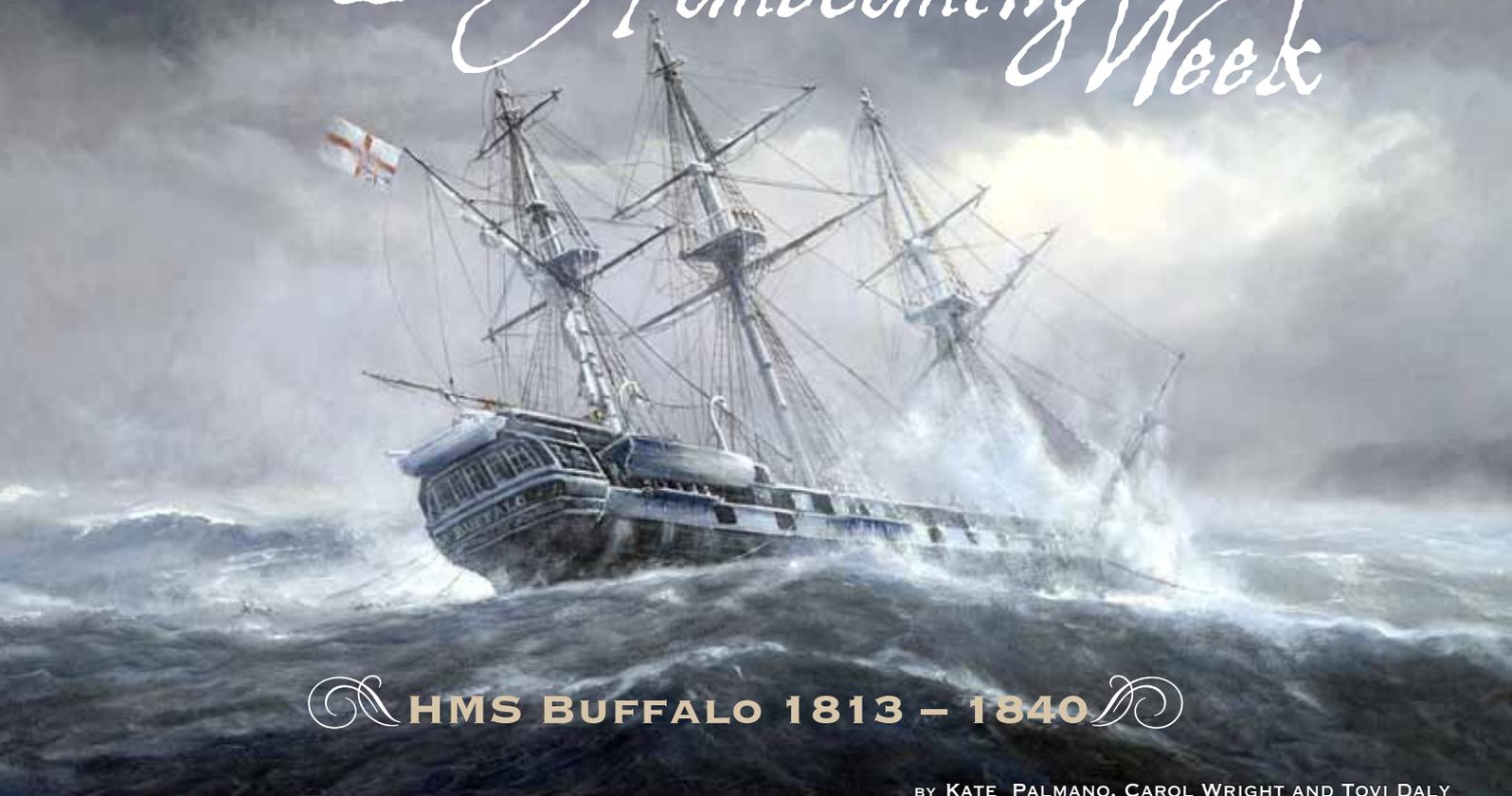
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Buffalo Homecoming Week

27 JULY – 2 AUGUST 2015



HMS BUFFALO 1813 – 1840

BY KATE PALMANO, CAROL WRIGHT AND TOVI DALY

Internationally acclaimed artist Paul Deacon showcased...



Morning Light: Approaching the Coast

Marine painter and former seaman, Paul Deacon of Auckland will display many of his paintings, such as the one shown above of the HMS *Buffalo* struggling in the fateful storm, at the Mercury Bay Museum. Paul has created over a dozen new works of the *Buffalo* especially for this celebratory period; also exhibited are paintings portraying Captain Cook's HMS *Endeavour*.



Paul's specialty are the masted ships, but he also finds great strength and beauty in the solid lines of simple working rowboats. He will share marine painting techniques and tips at a two-day workshop sponsored by the Whitianga Art Group.

PAUL DEACON Marine Painting WORKSHOP

Mon & Tues, 27-28 July
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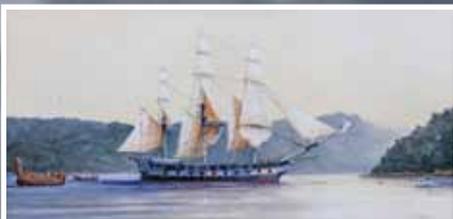
During the week of 27 July to 2 August this year Whitianga will be abuzz with celebrations, ceremonies, competitions and events for all ages marking the 175th anniversary of the loss of the HMS *Buffalo* on our shores.

Caught off Cooks Beach in a fierce easterly storm "in dark thick weather blowing a hurricane with an awful sea" (ship's log 6:30am, July 28th 1840), having lost all its anchors and with a disabled rudder, the *Buffalo* was deliberately driven ashore at what is now Buffalo Beach in the hope of saving as many of the 80 lives on board as possible. Sadly, in spite of this valiant attempt, two were drowned.

A commemorative plaque on Buffalo Beach lies more or less in eastern compass line with the submerged remains of the wreck, and marks the date of the tragedy. The '2015 Buffalo Homecoming Week' will not only be a commemoration of the HMS *Buffalo*, of the men who sailed in her and of lives lost, but also a celebration and important reminder of our rich colonial history.

I recently talked with members of the Historical Society about the celebrations, which are a joint initiative between the Historical Society and representatives of the Mercury Bay Museum, and other community businesses.

I was fascinated with the story of the *Buffalo* and how much she contributed to the early history of our Mercury Bay shores. – KP



Commander Wood's account of the wreck of his ship.



Shipwright Thomas Laslett had expert knowledge of timber, and rose quickly to the vital position of Timber Inspector for the Royal Navy. This keen observer kept detailed journals of his four voyages to NZ, and his perceptive accounts colourfully augment official ship's logs. Laslett's third journal (1839-41), which was used as reference for this *Buffalo* article, recounts the HMS *Buffalo*'s ill-fated 1840 voyage, on assignment to return to England with kauri from NZ.

A shore party from the ship was logging near Te Karo Bay. Laslett writes that when a storm threatens, the *Buffalo* leaves its anchorage at Slipper Island to seek shelter at Whitianga. The shore party (including Laslett) was left behind at the logging encampment, and a schooner later retrieves the stranded crew. Laslett then meets with Captain Wood, who describes the ship's fateful battle with the storm below.

In 1842, the HMS *Tortoise* – again with James Wood as Commander and Thomas Laslett as Timber Surveyor – returned to retrieve the spars left by the *Buffalo*.



Commander Wood's account of the wreck of his ship...

(as described by Laslett on pages 53-55 in his journal)

Shortly after we met Mr Wood the commander of the late "Buffalo" and learnt from him the particulars of the disaster, which was as follows.

The gale he said commenced from the eastward on the **26th July** with heavy rain, and the next day a heavy sea set into Mercury Bay where the ship was lying which set her rolling to that degree that it was found necessary to put the guns into the hold to ease her. Top gallant masts were sent down, topmasts housed, and the main yards settled down to the gunwales, but the ship owing to the increasing sea, continued to roll very heavily.

Tuesday 28th. The gale was approaching to a hurricane and the sea was breaking across the whole breadth of the bay, with this strain the cables parted, other anchors were let go, and their cables parted also. Leaving the ship to drift before the high sea . . . into shallow water the ship struck in about 4 fathoms carrying away the rudder and the false keel. The stern anchor was let go, but it proved of no use whatever, consequently the ship went drifting and bumping heavily and was now only partially manageable, an effort was made to get the head wind, with the view to get into the Mercury river, and the foresail was set for this purpose but it failed and instead of getting the ship into shallow water the ship was fixed for a time upon a rock under a high cliff; while here the ship was lightened a little...

...This fortunately enabled Mr Wood to force her towards the beach on the opposite shore and here by the force of the sea was driven far up breaking off the wood sheathing and starting the oakum out of the seams of the bottom plank.

The starboard quarter gallery and the stern lights were almost immediately washed away and a boat destroyed. The main yard and the mizzen mast were now cut away, and later the fore and main masts, the ship now being a complete wreck.

Two boats had been lowered just previously to the ship leaving the rock but both these got upset as they got into the surf and their occupants cast into the sea. Most of the men were saved, but two unfortunately were drowned. Owing to the loss of these boats, the "Buffalo's" crew could not land and they had no other means of communicating with the shore.

Therefore on this night they were glad to huddle themselves together under the forecastle.

July 29th. The gale seems to have blown itself pretty well out, but the surf along the beach was still very high ...

such was Mr Wood's account of the calamity that cost him the loss of his ship and ruined our prospects of successfully carrying out the object of the expedition.

(continues on page 56 of Laslett's journal)

NOTE: A special thanks to Ben Grubb of Sailors Grave, who loaned us his copy of Laslett's journal, helped with the article, answered our many questions and more...

THE BUFFALO'S HISTORY

The teak ship, originally called the *Hindostan*, was built in Calcutta, India in 1813 with the figurehead of a water buffalo. Bought in the same year by the British Admiralty and renamed the HMS *Buffalo*, it served various purposes – a storeship during the Napoleonic wars, a quarantine ship, a timber ship, a convict transport ship – and with each new assignment, it would be refitted to its purpose.

After the *Buffalo* transported either settlers or convicts from England/Canada to Australia, the ship would then return loaded with kauri spars logged from New Zealand.

In 1836, the *Buffalo* joined a fleet of other ships – the *Cygnat*, *Africaine*, *Tam O'Shanter* and *Rapid* – to transport genuine settlers (not convicts) from England to form the first colony

A medal from the 1936 Centenary of the founding of South Australia at Adelaide honours both the HMS *Buffalo*, which carried the first colonists, and surveyor general Col. Light who scouted out the location.

Sir John Hindmarsh, pictured, was the colony's first governor.



of South Australia at Adelaide. Appointed to be its first governor was John Hindmarsh who, for this part of the voyage, commanded the *Buffalo*. While in port the ships were used as temporary lodging, storage and space to conduct government business.

Governor Hindmarsh however, did not fair well with his new assignment. In constant conflict with the new settlers, he was replaced within 18 months.

When the *Buffalo* sailed for NZ in 1837, the ship's master, James Wood, became its captain, a position he retained until the ship's tragic end in 1840.

THE BUFFALO'S FINAL VOYAGE

Back in England in 1839, the ship was showing its age. Sleek schooners and even steamboats were replacing these old merchant sailing vessels. However, the *Buffalo* was needed, and, still under command of James Wood, it would convey 300 English troop reinforcements to Quebec where the British were facing a French uprising. A detailed journal of this voyage by timber purveyor Thomas Laslett serves as our reference (see above).

The next assignment was to transport captured insurrectionists and other criminals from Quebec to Sydney, leaving on 28 September for what would be her final voyage to Australia and then New Zealand.

It should be noted that by this time treatment of

transported convicts, who on this final voyage were mostly educated French insurrectionists, was more humane. Very few deaths were recorded on the *Buffalo* compared to other ships – there was a doctor on board, for instance, and the convicts were allowed on deck for air and exercise.

However, Laslett writes on 11th Oct, "There was something of a scare, one of the convicts informed Mr Black the Inspector that it was the intention of some of the prisoners to attempt to take the ship." Precautions were taken against this mutiny, including fewer convicts permitted on deck, and the wily insurrectionists were unsuccessful. The voyage was also rife with storms and stifling hot weather.

The *Buffalo* arrived in Sydney 19 Feb 1840, discharged its human cargo, and was refitted from convict transport to timber carrier to load kauri spars in NZ. She sailed from Sydney on 5 April arriving at the Bay of Islands on 16 April to dispatch passengers.

According to Laslett, upon receiving a message there were 600 kauri available in the Mercury Bay area, Captain Wood made the decision to sail to the bay, arriving on 11 May.

This lot of kauri proved not suitable and on 14 May Laslett and a small crew left the *Buffalo* by boat "to examine a forest situated near the coast but about 11 miles to the southward of the Bay". (Presumably near or at Te Karo Bay).

(continued next page...)

“... we felt satisfied that sufficient spars could be obtained from here to load our ship – without much difficulty.”

They soon returned on the *Buffalo* to what he calls ‘the coast of Wakahongiri’ with a timber crew and the provisions to establish a temporary logging encampment. They set to work felling and preparing the kauri, however, Laslett states that progress was slow due to stormy weather, insufficient labour and injuries. On 27 July he writes, “The weather was altogether unfit to send the men to work in the forest.” After being ashore for more than two months, the crew had secured only 22 kauri spars in all.

On 29 July, the shore party, hearing a gunshot offshore at dusk, rowed at “risk of life” in the building storm to the schooner, the *Flying Fish*. It carried a message from Captain Wood stating that the *Buffalo* had gone aground in Mercury Bay during the gale. They were to abandon the encampment and return on the schooner. (Heavy winds, however, made it necessary to retreat to Tairua Harbour overnight before they could make land at the Bay 2 August.)

WHAT BECAME OF THE BUFFALO AND ITS MEN?

The gale had been unrelenting, and on July 28, the *Buffalo* broke loose of one anchor after another, and Captain Wood ‘intentionally’ beached her to save lives of the crew (see Wood’s account on previous page).

The stranded crew of the *Buffalo* were offered discharge to work for the NZ government (then in need of mechanics and artisans), and 26



This painting by Gaior W. Jackson forms the backdrop to the Mercury Bay Museum’s exhibit. Note the sailors on the shore to get a sense of the size of the ship, which could transport 300.

took advantage of this offer.

Among these was Thomas Duder, boatswain on the *Buffalo*, who became coxswain of the refurbished pinnace. (Note, Helen Duder, a descendant, will play a kauri violin at the *Song of Kauri* video showing. See page 16.)

Although the ship’s remains lie just off Buffalo Beach and can be seen from the air when the water is clear, she has also found metaphorical anchor in other ports.

Valuables and planking were salvaged. All the missing anchors except one were recovered and used on other ships. Timbers were fashioned into a mayoral chair in Adelaide, Australia, and several salvaged artifacts – such as convict irons, handcuffs, ship’s compass –

can be seen at Mercury Bay Museum.

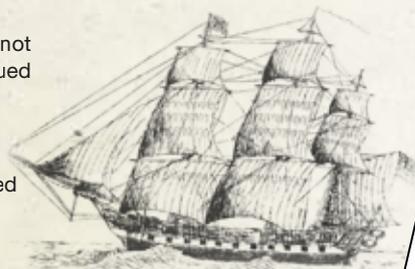
In 1960 a tsunami briefly exposed the wreck and more souvenirs were prized away from the remains. Bill Jeffery, great-great-grandson of woodsman Robert Fox who emigrated to Adelaide on the *Buffalo*, was one who excavated the ship in 1986 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Adelaide.

Virtually every year the museum receives visits from descendants of those associated with the *Buffalo*, from South Australia and as far away as England and Quebec.

With this intriguing back story it is no wonder that both the Historical Society and the Mercury Bay Museum are keen to resurrect and celebrate her memory.

In 1836, the HMS *Buffalo* left Chatham, England, carrying a load of settlers – not convicts – who founded the colony of South Australia. The vessel then continued across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand, where the crew was put ashore for months to cut kauri for spars they would deliver back to England.

T.F. Cheeseman, the 2nd Mate, kept a diary into which he pasted this printed broadside ballad, which he said was composed on board. The diary was donated by Cheeseman’s son to the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. This ballad shares quite well what life was like for the sailors-turned-Kiwi-bushmen.



“The Voyage of the Buffalo”

Come all you jolly seamen bold, and listen to my song,
I’d have you pay attention, and I’ll not detain you long,
Concerning of a voyage to New Zealand we did go,
For to cut some lofty spars, to load the Buffalo.

Chorus: Cheer up, my lively lads, to New Zealand we will go,
For to cut some lofty spars to load the Buffalo.

The Buffalo’s a happy ship, from Portsmouth she set sail,
With South Australian emigrants, we had a pleasant gale;
For six long months in Holdfast Bay, our hands did work on shore,
Building houses for those emigrants, which grieved our hearts full sore.

In Sydney we did sport and play with lasses there so fine,
To the Angel and the Crown we went, where we drank grog and wine;
We kept it up both day and night, until we went away,
We spent our money freely, and we always paid our way.

When at New Zealand we arrived, our hands were sent on shore,
Our tents were then all pitch’d well, and provided with good stores;
At six o’clock we all rouse out, then such a precious row,
Come quick and get your grog, my boys, unto the woods you go.

With saws and axes in our hands, then through the bush we steer,
And when we see a lofty tree, unto it we draw near,
With saws and axes we begin to lay the tree quite low,
With cheerful heart strikes every man to load the Buffalo.

Now eight o’clock is drawing nigh, ‘All off! All off!’ ‘s the sound,
All thro’ the trees it echoes loud, and makes the woods resound,
Then every man lays down his axe, and thro’ the bush we come,
To get their jolly breakfast, every man does nimbly run.

Our breakfast being over, then to work we do repair;
Our work it is all pointed out, for every man his share;
There’s rougters and refiners, and there’s jolly sawyers too,
To lop and trim those lofty spars, to load the Buffalo.

When twelve o’clock is drawing nigh, ‘All off!’ again’s the cry,
Then every man lays down his axe, and through the wood does hie;
Our cook has got a dinner that will make all faces shine,
With pork and murphies smoking hot on which we tars do dine.

‘Grog ho!’ is the next cheerful cry, we drink it up with glee;
We light our pipes when time is up and, smoking, go away
Unto the woods to finish well the spars that we began,
And when the afternoon’s expired, then home comes every man.

And when we have our supper got, our barter we prepare,
With shirts and blankets in our hands, to the natives’ huts we steer;
For toki, pigs and murphies we exchange our traps, you know,
For to suit us rakish blades of the saucy Buffalo.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, at four o’clock we strike,
Each man to wash and mend his clothes whilst he has got daylight;
e’ve extra grog on Saturdays, to cheer up every man;
There’s happy days on board the Buff ashore in New Zealand.

Our ship she is well loaded, and for England we are bound,
Where plenty of good rum, my lads, and pretty girls abound;
Farewell to Tonga ~ Maoris and wahines also,
They will oft-times wish to see again the happy Buffalo.

And now, my jovial shipmates, I will finish my new song,
I hope it is not tedious, nor any way too long;
Long life unto our Captain, and our officers all round,
May we all see many happy days, now we are homeward bound.

A Fateful Marriage



Ngahiraka Waitangi Wood



James Wood's daughter marries John Kennedy's son

Photos c. 1888



Joseph B. Kennedy

CAPTAIN JAMES WOOD. Jill Kemp writes in her manuscript 'South to the Left of Venus' that Commander James Wood established a strong relationship with Maori, negotiating with various chiefs to procure spars in exchange for bartered goods and at the same time securing protection.

As a sign of respect and gratitude, Commander Wood was offered a Maori wife, Matarena Waitangi of the Ngai Tamahau tribe of Opotiki. As eldest daughter of Chief Hotu of the Whakatohea, she was a very high ranking woman.

The liaison between Matarena and Commander Wood resulted in a daughter, Ngahiraka, born around 1838 (meanwhile Wood also had a wife and three children in England!). Ngahiraka would marry three times, and coincidentally, her second marriage would be to Joseph Bond Kennedy, son of John Kennedy (see below), and it was believed they had six children together.

JOHN BOND KENNEDY was a well educated Scot sent to NZ by the British admiralty as an agent to arrange for a constant source of kauri spars. He arrived on the *Buffalo* in 1837 (then under command of James Wood) and stayed behind.

Kennedy had also taken a Maori wife, Chieftainess Rangirauwaka/ Katerina (Katie) Taurangi and settled at Harataunga (Kennedy Bay); they would have several children leaving many of the region's families descended from this relationship, in particular those of Kennedy Bay which was given his name.

In 1843, as Kennedy sailed off on his schooner, *The Three Bees*, to do some banking, he was robbed of his sizable deposit and killed by three crewmembers. This left Kennedy's wife Katerina a widow and their four surviving children fatherless.

According to Jill, after his father was murdered, Joseph had run away to Gisborne at the tender age of 9 and, at the time he met Ngahiraka, was a sea captain on coastal traders to Auckland.

DESCENDANTS LIVE IN THE REGION

Many of the older families in the Coromandel claim ties to this unique relationship between both a Wood and a Kennedy.

One imagines the two children of these influential men knew of their parents' previous connection? Or was it simply fate that brought them together...

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Homecoming Week

THE SCHEDULE...SO FAR...

Watch for schedule updates and ticket info in local publications or see www.allaboutwhitianga.co.nz/whitianga-events/buffalo-homecoming-week

You may be wondering about the title 'homecoming week'. Well, one of the sponsors involved in the planning thought homecoming was an ideal term as it conveyed a sense of returning, of welcoming back, of reunion. In America, traditional school homecomings welcome back alumni and involve activities such as sports and culture events and a parade through the streets.

The events planned for the *Buffalo* celebration are very much in this mould, and it is indeed hoped that Whitianga will be able to welcome back its very own 'Buffalo alumni', those NZ descendants of the sailors who plied the oceans on the HMS *Buffalo*. –Kate Palmano

A host of activities are being planned for Buffalo Week. Our cover artist Paul Deacon comes from Auckland to present a **marine painting workshop on Monday and Tuesday, 27–28 July**. "The topic shall be more about painting the sea in general", explains Paul, "as one needs a bit of study to start painting vessels." Paul has painted nearly a dozen new works of the *Buffalo*. These, plus paintings of Captain Cook's HMS *Endeavour*, are being exhibited and available for purchase at the Mercury Bay Museum.

A large orange commemorative buoy will float above the wreck on **Tuesday 28th July** for the duration of the week. **Tuesday & Wednesday**, meet at the Museum at 10am for a 1.5 hour

walk led by Noel Hewlett seeing the historical sights in Whitianga.

Tuesday through Thursday at 1pm, enjoy a curator talk at the Museum.

Tuesday at 3:30pm at the Whitianga Town Hall, the kids can enjoy a Buffalo Kids Play Afternoon, featuring games of the 1840s.

Then **Tuesday at 5pm** at the Museum, join local expert David Langdon for a talk about scows and the kauri trade in and around Whitianga.

A Commemorative Function programme will be on **Friday 29th July at 2pm** at the Mercury Bay Town Hall.

Evening of 29 July at 5:30pm is the showing of the film *Song of the Kauri* at the Mercury Bay Twin Cinemas. Director Mathurin Molgat will speak, and violinist Helen Duder will demonstrate the resonant sound of a kauri wood violin. Helen is descended from the *Buffalo's* Thomas Duder. (See 'Song of the Kauri' on page 8 for more info. See the film's trailer, download the film or buy the DVD at www.songofthekauri.com/.)

Friday, 31 July at 1pm, join Royal New Zealand Naval Research historian Michael Wynd to learn some incredible details about the Royal Navy and life aboard the HMS *Buffalo*.

Friday evening, a Captain's Dinner will be held at Mercury Bay Club, with local entertainers providing music. Call 07 866 0284 for info.

August 1st at 10am, a wreath will be laid following a commemorative service led by Reverend Mary Petersen at the Buffalo Memorial on Buffalo Beach Road, followed by a Monster Buffalo Beach Dig, Polar Bear Swim, colouring-in competitions and other activities.

That evening's Shipwreck Ball is already a sellout, but on **Sunday at 10am**, enjoy a 2.5 hour guided walk around Shakespeare Cliff with focus on the 'shipwrecks of Mercury Bay.' Meet at the museum. Bookings required, call 07-866 0730.

Also, look forward to...

Mercury Bay Area School, which boasts a 'Buffalo House', is also planning activities around this event. Word finds and art activities will be available from the Mercury Bay Library. The local Quilting Society is even stitching a patchwork banner of the *Buffalo*!

As the event celebrates our maritime history, organisations such as the Sea Scouts, Search & Rescue and even Lieutenant Commander Muzz Kennett of the Royal NZ Navy have been invited along. If weather permits, there may be a large sailing ship in the harbour, and I have even heard *The Voyage of the Buffalo* ballad is being set to music by local composer Stewart Pedley. Imagine – Mercury Bay's very own sea shanty! A fitting tribute, indeed!

So, an exciting week ahead – one which will enliven our winter and showcase our colourful history! – KP

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STARGAZERS WINTER TREATS



Look to the skies with **Alastair Brickell**, astronomy buff and owner of **Stargazers B&B** and **Astronomy Tours in Kuaotunu**.

Spacecraft Dawn to Explore Asteroid Ceres



The Dawn spacecraft powered by a novel ion engine is now in orbit around Ceres, the largest asteroid, and sending back great photos. Some show

mysterious white spots in one of the craters, and NASA is inviting the public to outguess their scientists as to what they might be. You can have a close look and vote at: www.jpl.nasa.gov/dawn/world_ceres/

No doubt the mystery will be revealed in the next few months as Dawn spirals down ever closer to the surface of Ceres, which actually suffers from a bit of an identity crisis...when first discovered in 1801 it was called a 'planet'. This was then changed to an 'asteroid' when additional similar objects were discovered nearby, and about 10 years ago it was renamed again, this time as a 'dwarf planet' similar to Pluto.

Spacecraft Reaches Pluto....

A UNIQUE MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN RACE

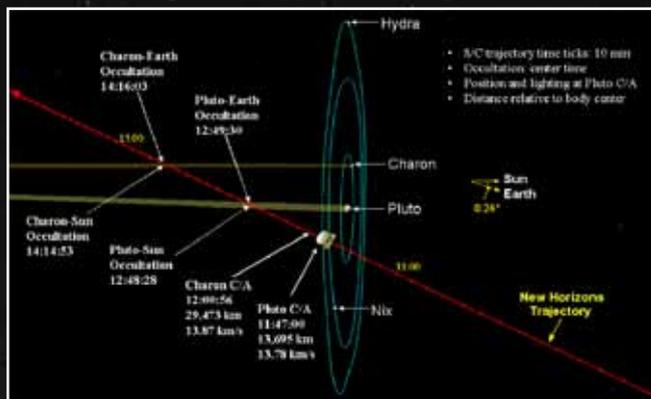
The 10 year voyage for the New Horizons spacecraft is about to enter its most exciting phase. After all this time, on July 14 it will zip past Pluto in 8 hours and achieve its long awaited goal of exploring our most distant and unknown dwarf planet.

Pluto was discovered in 1930 by American Clyde Tombaugh and in homage to him the American spacecraft is actually carrying some of his ashes past his planet! When discovered it was named after the recently discovered element plutonium and since the spacecraft is so far from the Sun that solar panels are useless it is powered by a small nuclear power supply on board which uses radioactive plutonium as its fuel!

It has already sent back great if still somewhat 'fuzzy' images of Pluto and its 5 known moons as they orbit around it in a cartwheel fashion on Pluto's 248 year long journey around the Sun as shown in the diagram above.

Its biggest moon, Charon, itself half the size of Pluto, does a wonderful dance around the planet as they both orbit around an invisible point in space between them (as can be seen in this video clip at: www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/pluto-the-last-picture-show-050420155/).

Nobody on Earth, not even the best scientists knows much about Pluto. We do know it has an atmosphere with mainly nitrogen just like Earth, but we don't even know how many moons it has. Does it have rings, does it have geysers, clouds, lightning, volcanoes, ice, lakes, aurora? No one knows.



However, come July 14 every one of us, be they 10 years old or 90, will know more than the best scientist or astronomer does today! Never again will mankind wonder about these questions. We are about to change a fundamental bit of human knowledge forever – textbooks will have to be re written. We live in interesting times!

Rosetta Probe Reveals Secrets of Comet 67P

The Rosetta spacecraft orbiting Comet 67P is sending back fascinating images of the increasing activity on the comet's surface as it approaches the Sun.

We are now able to see part of the comet's



internal structure which appears to be made up of soccer ball sized spheres or 'gooseberries'. These strange structures can be best viewed

inside 120m wide holes in the comet – sites where water and dust are actively jetting from the interior and starting to form its tail.

Large cracks are also seen in the neck area between the two lobes of the comet and there is some speculation whether 67P may actually break in two as it nears the sun during August. Clearly there is still much for us to learn about these mysterious bodies that predate the formation of the planets and Sun.

A Planetary Dance

Venus and Jupiter put on a lovely display in our western sky this winter, moving ever closer during June, and almost touching on July 1, with Venus being the brightest of the two. As they gradually move away, they will be joined by a thin crescent Moon on July 18 and 19 very low in the northwestern sky.

Saturn will be clearly visible as a bright slightly yellowish object high in the northeastern sky. Joined by our Moon on July 26, watch as it glides past the ringed planet from night to night.



We highly recommend a visit to **Stargazers B&B** and **Astronomy Tours** for a 'tour of the skies'. Alastair has an impressive observatory and various telescopes, including the largest one on the Coromandel, for those who want to learn more about the heavens.



Photo by Peter Drury

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WINTER LIGHTS in COROMANDEL TOWN

This school break, pack up the kids and come to Coromandel Town for the popular **ILLUME FESTIVAL**. The two major outdoor evening events are the Friday night market with music, and then the Saturday night Light Parade. For fun come to the UV light dance on Thursday evening. Let this be the highlight of your winter! But be prepared for all weather.

Thurs 2 July, 8pm - 9pm \$5: Dancing in the Dark at the Anglican Church. Awesome music, great dance floor, and no light except UV...so wear your best neon and whites.

Fri 3 July, 5.30pm - 9.30pm: Night Market. Local bands, food stalls, face painting, Robot Man, and more.

Sat 4 July, 5.30pm - 10.30pm: Illume Festival of Light Night Parade with fireworks, The Rocking Roller Coasters rock band, clowns, balloons, facepainting, and more.

Fri 3 July & Sat 4 July, 5pm. At the Kidzone. "Frozen Zone." Frozen inspired games and activities. Plus...meet Anna, Elsa and Olaf!

Tues 7 July & Thurs 9 July, 6pm-9pm: Over the Fence, a Studio where 'Slices of Life' can be viewed in miniature – a military base, lifestyle block, millinery shop, bakery, fairy tales scenes, etc.

See www.illumefest.co.nz for how to create a light costume, tin can candle lantern, illuminated umbrella and more! Also on Facebook.



12 minutes of Fireworks Saturday Night!

ILLUME FESTIVAL
2 July - 4 July

An enriching community arts affair

Colville threw an arts festival of its own April 3-12, dates which overlapped the popular Coromandel Artstour. However, the Colville area did not just host artists' open studios: This tight-knit community created a whole celebration. Over 30 area artists were featured in the gallery show, and school kids performed and participated in many arts events. Offered were workshops in drawing, beading, felting, henna tattoo, broken pottery mosaics, watercolour, songwriting, recycled art and more.

There were showings of films with local interest: Peter Rutherford's *Lifestylers*, James Muir's *River Dogs*, and Z Nail Gang. On offer were performances by local musicians, an improv' group and rock bands. There was even a book launch of *The Intriguing Story of Coromandel Granite* by Lindsay Garmson. All served up with lots of food – BBQs and a Closing Tea Party, "Bring Cake". Next year's festival is set for the end of March. Be sure to attend, and make a stay of it! See their FB page and visit www.colvilleartsfestival.co.nz

Left: A crowd absorbs the work of more than 30 Colville artists at the gallery opening. Many events were kid-friendly, like the bead class and mural painting.



Photos and video by Ella Osnat

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COME NORTH to COLVILLE & STAY AWHILE...

Colville & the Northern Coromandel Peninsula – don't miss out!

Visitors to Coromandel often miss out on one of our best kept secrets – the village of Colville, the Colville Valley, and the northern tip of the peninsula. These are places of great beauty, long energetic history, modern peace and tranquillity, and fantastic fishing, and a visit should not be missed.

As you leave Coromandel Town heading north, you drive through lush forest with views of the Hauraki Gulf, pastoral scenes of flat lands and steep hills where sheep, goats, alpacas and cattle graze, and beautiful bays with sandy beaches.

About half an hour out of Coromandel you come to the farmland and pine forests of the Colville Valley, passing by the Mahamudra Buddhist Centre, which welcomes visitors when retreats are not in progress, and the White Star Station, which offers experiences of farm life and horse trekking.

The village of Colville itself is small – a post office, a doctor's clinic, tennis courts, the school, and several small businesses, including Hari's Cafe, The Colville Motel on Wharf Road, the new Hereford n' a Pickle – a farm shop run by a family who have farmed the land in Colville for generations. And of course, 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 for a longer stay.

Immediately north of Colville is the foreshore of Colville Bay, a beautifully maintained picnic spot with ample parking, where you can enjoy the goodies you bought at the shops in Colville. High tide offers easy kayaking and other water sports, and at low tide you can explore the unique ecosystems of the mudflats and mangrove swamps.

Drive on and you have a choice between a shorter drive to Otautau Bay and its campground and beautiful white sand beach, or longer drives up each side of the northern tip of the Peninsula.

On the west you find spectacular views of the Hauraki Gulf along a twisting and climbing drive to Port Jackson and Fletcher Bay. On the eastern side are more, equally beautiful, bays and beaches, the village of Port Charles, and views out over the ocean.

Be sure to check out the DOC website for information on camping and accommodation in the northern Coromandel. And if you're interested in the colourful history of this region, buy yourself a copy of "In the Shadows of Moehau – A history of the Colville Region", a high quality publication by the Colville Historical Society, available in the Colville General Store.

So don't miss out, come for a day or come for a week, you won't regret it!

THE COLVILLE GENERAL STORE

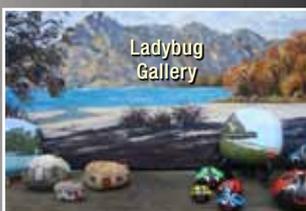
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We love the world we inhabit, so we offer organic produce and products whenever we can, at competitive prices. If you are heading north for a few day's stay, we are the last stop on the peninsula for stocking up on supplies and fuel, so don't pass us by! See FB. **07-866 6805**



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The quant little **LADYBUG GALLERY** is located opposite the Colville Hall...down a quiet garden at the end of the trees opening up to the fields beyond. There is the Ladybug. Come through the Gallery door to see expressionisms and local landscapes, animals and flowers – and much more – painted on canvas and local stone. You and your children can delight in what you see, buy what you like, and pass through to enjoy more sights and delights in the beautiful Colville Bay.

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

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Video Visionaries Capture



Luthier Laurie Williams discusses his craft with woodlot owner Karamea Davis in *Song of the Kauri* directed by Mathurin Molgat.

SONG OF THE KAURI

honours kauri wood's resonant qualities and the power of the tree's story

A professional documentary filmmaker, Mathurin Molgat, is one Kiwi who takes the kauri tree's 'story' seriously. And he found another quality to kauri wood: its use in making musical instruments. The very qualities that made the lumber valuable for spars – the fine straight grain, the 'hard yet resilient' fibres – also made the resonant wood perfect for crafting instruments such as guitars, mandolins, ukes, and violins.

In Mathurin's documentary, *Song of the Kauri* (2012), he surrounds himself with a stellar cast of uniquely talented people – all impassioned by this project and kauri. It was five years in the making and includes interviews with musicians and instrument makers such as luthier Laurie Williams (who wants his instruments to 'sing the story' of the kauri) as well as kauri plantation farmers. These plantations could offer sustainable harvests, slow harvests, careful harvests...because of the story ingrained in the wood.

At a highly recommended videotaped TEDx lecture at Queenstown in April of 2013, you feel Mathurin's deep reverence as he talks about the 'mana' of the kauri, referring to them as "gothic cathedrals".



He holds up a uke made in China, "which sounds okay, and costs perhaps \$50". Mathurin then plays a uke, which sounds so much better – it's of finer craftsmanship...and made of kauri. "It's valued at \$5,000." For a gorgeous kauri mandolin? Expect to pay \$35,000. These were all made by Williams. Why are people willing to pay? – for its mystique and 'story', its mana.

Mathurin – an avid skier, guitarist, songwriter, poet – also talks about an approach to promoting new kauri forests and plantations – another expression of the story. Can kauri become our currency in the new world of green economics? Mathurin believes so. He sees the wood as a sustainable industry. More and more plantations could be planted, the older plantations protected, and with proper cultivation, the plantation trees grown into useable wood more quickly, 12 times faster than in the wild.

There is nothing like being in the presence of a mighty kauri. "To stand in one of those groves and look up at those crowns into the sky is an amazing and humbling experience. You get there with whatever attitude you come with, and you leave there without it."

"Poetic, political and timely, 'Song of the Kauri' is a surprisingly frank and firmly grassroots documentary film that every New Zealander needs to see."

The documentary will be shown on 29 July as part of the HMS Buffalo Homecoming Week at the Mercury Bay Twin Cinemas. Director/producer Mathurin Molgat will attend and violinist Helen Duder will play a violin made of kauri. The film is available for download viewing or DVD purchase at www.songofthekauri.com.

the Mystique of the Kauri

I AM

POEM BY KYLIE BRYERS

I am Kauri.

King of the forest.

I am New Zealand

Ruler, since the birth of these islands.

For 2000 years I have stood

As the forests changed around me

I knew Kupe, the piopio, the moa

Yet I may not outlive you

I am Kauri.

I watched you arrive

And still more came

You wear tattoos made of my ash

I carried you in my waka

And later in my ships

You've walked on my floors

and eaten from my tables

Your families have slept safe

under my rooves

I am Kauri.

Beneath my shelter

a nation has formed

Rushing toward an unknown future

Is it a future without me?

I am Kauri.

With my gum I protect myself

from injury and decay

Yet I have no protection from you

I've been depleted by your axes

Milled into dust

My bones shipped around the world

My gifts, squandered

scattered to the four corners

I stood silent. I asked for nothing

I'm asking you now.

I am Kauri.

King of the forest

I am New Zealand

But I am more than a symbol.

I am your heritage.



Workshop leader and director James Muir films Elizabeth Thompson admiring a giant Coromandel kauri for their poetic documentary.

I am... Filmmaking workshop's documentary honours the kauri

A Whitianga filmmaking workshop – led by award-winning producer/director James Muir and sponsored by Creative Mercury Bay – met over three weekends in March to face the challenge of learning the entire scope of video filmmaking.

“Learning is the name of the game here!” stated Muir, and so they did – from setting up the pro-quality camera, plotting the story, working with ‘actors’ in a documentary framework, capturing good sound ... and then editing the final product.

Two teams – twelve in all, aged 13 to 50ish – worked on separate short films with Muir as their mentor. Their first challenge was to dream a theme for their project. One team chose the ‘kauri’. (During the post-production, these students also benefited from the help of professional editor, Koki Nishida, who demonstrated techniques to the team that brought even more light and life to the moving images of the kauri.)

While the team discussed the variety of forms a film like this could take, one team member, Kylie Bryers, was silent, busy writing. She eventually came forward and read the poem she had been working on about this mighty ‘king of the forest’: “I AM” (see left).

“Yes, this was it”, the participants agreed. The team went on to refine the poem, develop a script and shoot all the footage locally on the Coromandel. Inspired by the kauri, the film took an artistic, even spiritual slant, a tribute to these disappearing trees, rich with colours and natural textures. Young Elizabeth Thompson (in photo above) became the wonderer, the innocent, and we see the majestic kauri through her eyes.

The finished piece, shown to an enthusiastic full house at The Monkey House in Whitianga, left viewers filled with love, awe and respect for these magnificent trees. Muir expressed how impressed he was with the calibre of the films produced by the students. With such a wonderful subject and a talented pool of filmmakers, he plans to make a longer in-depth documentary starring the Coromandel Kauri.

The very touching video ‘I Am’ and more about the upcoming Muir doco can be viewed online at www.kauri.org.nz. Meanwhile, CMB is certainly keen to support further film-making initiatives in the Bay. See upcoming events at www.creativemercurybay.co.nz.

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Tane Mahuta's Triumph was painted for all people and to be viewed publicly where its Wairua (Spirit) can be appreciated.

To depict the legend correctly and to the highest standard, many hours of research, preliminary

drawings and conversation with Maori Tohunga and Kaumatua went into this piece before and during the painting process, which took many months to complete. It was then blessed before commencing its journey. – Jane Crisp, artist

The actual painting has a simple box frame crafted from swamp kauri, centuries old, found on the Brown's estate in Pukekawa. The wood was generously donated and milled by the family.

Kauri Tane brings light to the Earth

In the beginning there was no sky, no sea no earth and no Gods. There was only darkness, only Te Kore, the Nothingness. From this nothingness, the primal parents of the Maori came, Papatuanuku, the Earth mother, and Rangiui, the Sky father. Papatuanuku and Rangiui came together, embracing in the darkness, and had 70 male children.

These offspring became the Gods of the Maori. However, the children of Papatuanuku and Rangiui were locked in their parents' embrace, in eternal darkness, and yearned to see some light. They eventually decided that their parents should be separated, and had a meeting to decide what should be done.

Finally, Tumatauenga, the God of War, said "Let us kill our parents." However, Tane Mahuta (the God of man, forests, and all which inhabit the forests) thought that Rangi and Papa should be separated.

He thought that Rangiui should go up above, to the sky, and that Papatuanuku should go below, to dwell on earth. All the children, including Tu, the God of War, agreed with Tane.

Tawhiri Matea, the God of winds and storms was the only child who did not wish for his parents to be separated. One by one the children tried to separate their parents. Rongomatane, the God and father of cultivated foods, tried without success.

Haumia Tiketike, God of uncultivated food also tried. Then it was the turn of Tangaroa, God of the sea, and Tumatauenga, god of war, but neither could separate their parents.

Lastly Tane Mahuta rose. Strong as the kauri tree, he placed his shoulders against his mother Papatuanuku and his feet against his father Rangiui, and he pushed hard, for a very long time, straining and heaving all the while. Rangi and Papa cried in pain, asking their sons "why do you wish to destroy our love?"

After a long time Tane finally managed to separate Rangi and Papa, and for the first time the children saw the light of day (ao Marama) come streaming in.

In this painting a handful of Tane's children fly nearby supporting their God's success. Graceful Kotuku, representing 'all things rare and beautiful' as this sacred moment truly was, the orator and ever welcoming Tui startled in the excitement as light floods in where darkness once dwelled, and watchful Kaahu who acted as a messenger to the Gods in the heavens, and communicated back with Tohunga here on earth.

Tawhiri Matea, the God of winds and storms, and who had been against the separation of his parents, left for the sky to join his father. The turbulent winds and storms on earth are caused by Tawhiri Matea, in revenge for this brother's acts.



Jane Crisp's art is inspired by, and imbued with, her love of the natural world. She has lived in the rural surrounds of the Waikato since the 1990s, and the wildlife of the region has provided the ideal subjects for her skills, especially wild birds – she beautifully captures the life in their eyes and vitality in their poses. Her precise portraits might pair a wild bird poised with a treasured antique item, such as a kiwi lounging in an ornate serving bowl.

See her art at www.janecrisp.co.nz and on fb. Prints are available from the artist or Mosaic Gallery in Whitianga.





Kauri... In mythic awe

Few could fail to be affected by the awe-inspiring majesty of the giant kauri, one of our most revered national treasures. Sadly, having survived thousands of years with no challenge to its might, logging in colonial times wreaked a huge toll on the miles of kauri-cathedral forests that formerly clothed the north. The Waipoua Forest in Northland, one of the few remaining sites of major stands of this NZ native, is home to our largest and best known, Tane Mahuta, credited in the Maori legend to have brought light to the world (see left).

Trees are still seen by Maori as performing the role of maintaining light in the world, holding the sky and earth apart. The widespread felling was viewed as contrary to the Maori world view, fearing the sky and earth would reunite, bringing the world into darkness.

Filmmaker Mathurin Molgat (see previous page) tells us that in 1918 the NZ government invited Sir David Hutchins, a leading botanist, to come and educate NZ about their forests. Hutchins later reported "the felling of the kauris is one of the greatest crimes of the Anglosaxon peoples". Molgat also notes that over 96% of the kauri trees have now been lost, most within a century's time.

MAORI AND KAURI

Maori held kauri in mythic awe; it was 'king of the forest.' These tall trees, and the awesome experience of being in this cathedral like environment, were metaphors for their understanding of living life.

The word 'tika' means erect and correct – as a tree is upright. It forms the concepts of *tikanga* – correct behaviour or action – and *whakatika*, which means to arise. Correct behaviours arise from within a person, as a tree rises from the ground. The *powhiri* (welcome ritual to a *marae*), takes place upon the ground in front of the meeting house and is a re-enactment of the creation legend described at left.

MAORI WOOD CARVING. Even before the Europeans came, Maori used kauri and other trees to construct buildings and boats, hollowed and shaped with stone adzes. Rituals were required to fell trees such as totara and kauri. Once carved into *poupou* (carved posts), these sacred timbers were believed to take on the properties of the chiefs and other figures they represented. The paua-shell used in the eyes of the figures came from the sea, the source of carving knowledge.

These wide-girthed trees allowed tribes to build more diverse and stable waka (canoes) than those in their Polynesian homeland, where waka were narrow, often needing outriggers. A variety of vessels for coastal and inland waterways were created – from handy rafts for fishing to massive *waka taua* for war parties. Up to 40m long, these war canoes held 80 warriors who paddled fiercely to ram and overturn the enemy craft with its tall 'knife blade' bow.

KAURI FORESTS, FEW PRESERVED

Surely the tribal Maori who sold off their land's timber rights, and indeed helped cut kauri for trade, did not foresee how quickly the devastation would accelerate with the Industrial Age's machinery.

Estimates have been made that some of NZ's largest kauri are over 2000 years old, and many of these ancients reside on the Coromandel. Slow growing in the wild, kauri may take 30 years to reach only 10m in height. The distinctive smooth grey bark lasts 50 years through the juvenile phase. As the trees age the lower branches break off, leaving a clear trunk covered in distinctive corky rounded scars resembling a hammer mark.

continued on next page...

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Thanks to the efforts of early environmentalists, some ancient groves have been preserved. The Twin Kauri on SH25 (10 mins north of Tairua) mark the track leading to a grove of older trees; another grove on The 309 Road (8kms from the Coromandel end) are also protected. One tree, the Siamese Kauri, forks just above the ground. Standing witness to even one massive tree, such as the Square Kauri on Tapu-Coroglen Road, estimated to be 1200 years old, is enough to inspire awe.

Yes, it is worth the drive or a steep walk to experience these few survivors. They give us a taste of what it must have been like to experience the vast forests that once graced our hills. Luckily we now hold a greater appreciation and respect of kauri – valued as precious, beyond being measured in terms of financial return. – Carol Wright

For more about Maori relationship to the kauri, see www.teara.govt.nz/en/te-waonui-a-tane-forest-mythology/.

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE...

Plant Kauri

Conservation group Kauri 2000 is gearing up for another busy year of planting. The Trust has planted over 40,000 kauri seedlings on DoC and QEII land (public) since 1999. Key to the high survival rate is the care each site receives until the trees are capable of surviving on their own, without the risk of being smothered by weeds and regrowth.

The Trust is supported by public donation with planting carried out by volunteers. They need your help. Join in at Matarangi Reserve (Mynderman's Hill site, same as last year) on Saturday 6 June, 8.30am to about 1.30 – 2pm, weather permitting. Why not bring a friend! There's a sausage sizzle afterwards, with Kauri 2000 providing food and drinks.

RSVP to Barbara Ritchie at 07 866 0468, email info@kauri2000.co.nz with your details so they confirm the date... and make sure we have enough sausages!!"

Former Kauri 2000 Trustee
 Vienne McLean and
 Mercury Bay Area School
 students doing their part.



If you would prefer to plant mid-week, join Cherry Ladd who will be planting at Chelmsford (near Tairua) mid-June for 'Matariki'. Ring Barbara and she will get you details.

Barbara says, "As you can imagine, with dieback being detected on the Coromandel, we'll be taking even more care to make sure we've all got spotlessly clean boots and spades, but it will still be a fun day in the bush, and it's not nearly as steep as previous years!"

Plant a kauri, recreate a forest! See www.kauri2000.co.nz.

HELP PROTECT COROMANDEL KAURI

The Coromandel has the largest population of kauri outside of Northland and our remaining giants are at serious risk due to kauri dieback – a disease with no cure and spread through the movement of soil.

You cannot know if you have come into contact with Kauri dieback disease because the spores of this devastating phytophthora are tiny. Be sure you are not putting kauri at risk by removing all traces of soil from your gear and staying off kauri roots and the soil around kauri. That means no hugging trees!

Humans are the greatest risk, spreading the disease through mud and vegetation on shoes, tramping gear, bike tyres, machinery, in the paws of their dogs – in fact anything that comes in contact with soil.

Help protect our kauri. As a responsible host, talk to your guests about kauri dieback and make it easy for them to clean their gear thoroughly before and after entering any native bush.

REMEMBER THE 3 S'S:

SCRUB your gear – remove all soil
 SPRAY with disinfectant
 STAY on the track and off kauri roots

For more information visit
www.kauridieback.co.nz



The Twin Kauri on SH25

THE MAKING *of* THAMES

Captain Cook reconnoitred the inland areas along the Waihou River in November of 1769, and was impressed with the flat navigable river, and the expanse of Kaihikatea trees he thought suitable for masts and spars. He named the estuarine area the Firth of Thames because of its similarity to the River Thames estuary in his homeland England.

Nearly a century would pass before gold was discovered in this placid region, a discovery that would change the face of the land forever.

SHORTLAND AND ITS FOUNDERS

BY RUSSELL SKEET

News of the goldfields reached England, where an engraving of Shortland was featured in the Illustrated London News, Sept., 1869.



TAIPARI & MACKAY ~ THE MEN BEHIND THE TOWN

Once gold was discovered, and negotiations completed, the Thames area's population exploded. Now the largest town on the Coromandel, Thames was once the second largest in NZ, after Dunedin. In 1871, it was larger than Auckland by 4000.

Early colonial settlers included C.M.S. missionaries, who established their first mission station inland near Puriri in 1833. They soon moved their station nearer the Firth to an area called Parawai in the hills edged by the Kauaeranga River – not far from the Kauaeranga Pa and presided over by the savvy Ngati Maru rangatira Taipari.

This area – Kauaeranga to Maori (later called Shortland) – had seen some European influence with traders visiting the area. Maori had planted orchards and gardens, and traded produce with settlers in Auckland.

Chief Taipari, born Hauauru, adopted Christianity and was baptized Te Hotereni. When Taipari (senior) died in 1880, the son Hauauru Tikapa, baptized Wirope Hotereni (after Willoughby Shortland the first Colonial Secretary for New Zealand) took over his late father's role in the tribe's business affairs.

James Mackay had been commissioned by Government in 1864 to secure peaceful relations with the tribes in the area. He was successful in persuading the local hapu to open the land up for mining after several visits. We might infer that the Taiparis, father and son, were positively disposed to pakeha since they had both been baptised as christian – hence the ready friendship with Mackay in the difficult task of persuading local hapu to open the land up to mining.

Te Hotereni had arranged for Maori prospectors to seek gold on his land and actively encouraged prospecting. With the finding of gold in the Karaka stream, and after protracted negotiations, the goldfield was proclaimed open on 1 August 1867.

THE GOLDFIELD OPENS BUT NEEDS A TOWN

News of the gold strike quickly reached as far afield as Australia and England. Thousands of hopeful miners – one report counts 11,000 miner's rights issued – swarmed into the tight little goldfield.

Quickly a settlement of Maori *whare*, rough wooden shanties and tents sprang up. Miners and labourers lived rough. Stores were set up in tents. The Maori's peach tree orchards were soon felled for firewood, and the hills behind the fledgling settlements were also quickly

denuded of vegetation. Hundreds of eager prospectors pegged out their claims.

Because it was easy to land goods and people at the shallow mouth of the Te Waiwhakuranga River, Mackay (aided no doubt by the eager Taipari, soon to be colloquially known as the Squire of Thames) set up his Government office on Grey Street, and laid out the township.

The Shortland Wharf was quickly built. Captain Butt opened his Shortland Hotel, leading the way for a spate of shop and house building, all of which was supervised indefatigable Mackay.

SHORTLAND DEVELOPS

Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen (visiting in April 1868, only a few months after being sworn in) wrote a report to the Colonial Office in England: "There is one peculiar and very interesting and suggestive fact connected with the town of Shortland, viz., that it is arising on ground belonging to the influential Maori chief Taipari. He declines to sell his land, preferring, with a view to its rapid increase in value, to let it in lots on building leases.... He employs Europeans to survey and lay out roads and streets and to construct drains, culverts and the like." He estimates Taipari's income from leases and rents to be £4000 a year.

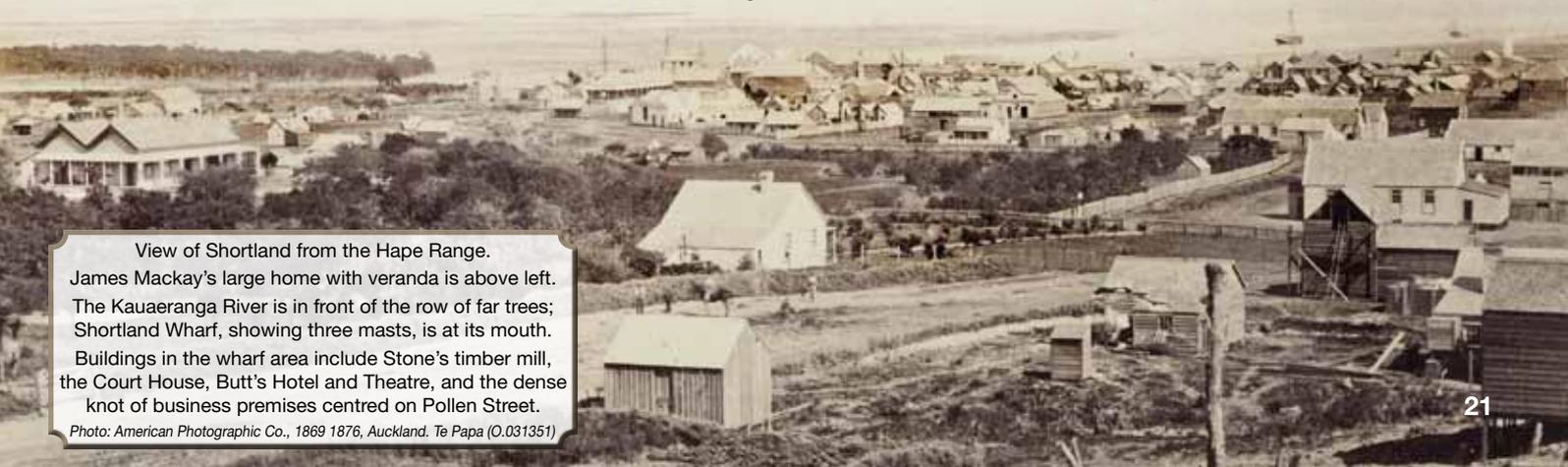
An upbeat description found in the "Thames Miners Guide" in 1868 states: "The township of Shortland is exceedingly well laid out, the streets are wide and very numerous, the houses are substantial, and in Pollen Street tolerably uniform. This is the principal street and it can boast of containing the Court House, Post office, a Custom house...four banks, a theatre, five hotels, five eating houses or restaurants,

(continued next page)



Punch or The Auckland Charivari, 1868

In this 1868 satirical cartoon, James Mackay, the 'Thames Autocrat,' addresses concerns of angry miners. It is assumed that the woman seated right is his wife, Puahaere, not only a Chieftainess of Ngati Paoa through her mother, but King Tawhiao's daughter as well.



View of Shortland from the Hape Range.

James Mackay's large home with veranda is above left. The Kauaeranga River is in front of the row of far trees; Shortland Wharf, showing three masts, is at its mouth.

Buildings in the wharf area include Stone's timber mill, the Court House, Butt's Hotel and Theatre, and the dense knot of business premises centred on Pollen Street.

Photo: American Photographic Co., 1869 1876, Auckland. Te Papa (O.031351)



Shortland's famous muddy streets, with kauri boardwalks in front of buildings. This photo from the 1870s was taken from corner of Grey and Pollen Streets. Butt's Shortland Hotel, shown right, still stands.

a local journal, and stores of all descriptions. There are four churches and chapels... several small schools. The only drawback to Shortland is the mud...you cannot walk along the streets without danger of being swamped."

The need for timber for building was both constant and imperative so that the kauri timber resource was soon being processed in Holdship's and Stone's sawmills. Stone had a ship-building yard as well. The muddy streets stayed busy with wheeled carts and drays delivering building materials and then machinery for the township and mines.

Shortland acted as the foothold for the early days of the gold rush. It offered the first real wharf at river's mouth, sawmills, government offices, and early hotels and businesses.

Grahamstown, to the north, and Shortland developed separately, but the larger producing gold mines were in Grahamstown. Over time Grahamstown grew, while the Shortland area languished; it evolved to serve more the shipping, fishing, and farming interests.

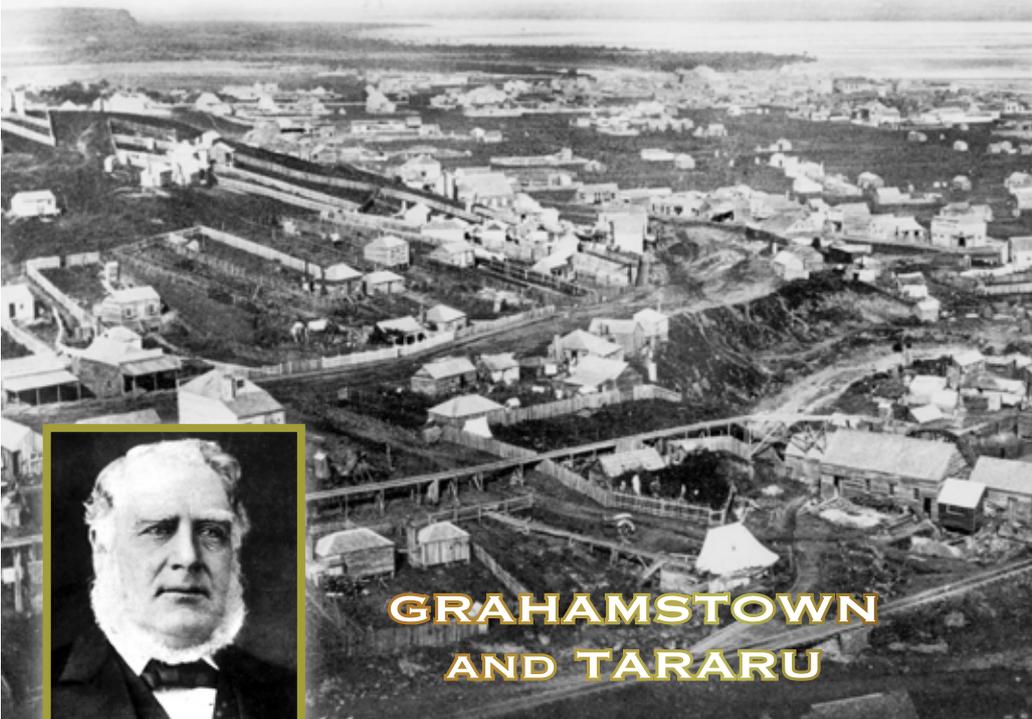
And Mackay, with a huge workload, trying to balance competing agendas and keep everybody – politicians, pakeha, prospector and Maori land-owner alike – happy (all without adequate staff and funds) was soon to be exhausted by it all.

Shown below are buildings from the Prince Alfred Battery, then The Big Pump, owned by the United Pumping Association.

Second smokestack cluster is Tookie's Flat.

The hillside track brings ore from the Caledonian mine in the Moanataiari Valley (on the other side of the spur), through which the tunnel with the tramway passes.

The smaller wharf is the Burke Street Wharf (aka Goods Wharf) whose pilings are still visible today.



GRAHAMSTOWN AND TARARU

ROBERT GRAHAM:

Although Scottish born Robert Graham may not have spent much of his life in Thames, he certainly left his mark – not just on Grahamstown, which bears his name, but on the small coastal village of Tararu, where he planned to build a residential settlement.

Soon after the goldfields opened in 1867, Graham secured the entire north section of the valley with the assistance of Robert Mackay, then Civil Commissioner for the Waihou and Hauraki District. The area, first called Graham's Town then later Grahamstown, was located between the Karaka and Waiotahi Streams.

Because of its proximity to the early producing bonanza mines this area became the 'CBD', with all manner of commercial and business premises including shops, fancy hotels, sawmills, churches, schools, mining buildings, the stock trading corner (Scrip Corner), banks, pubs (perhaps 100 of them!), as well as significant industry, such as A&G Price, established on site in 1871. It was also served by three wharves: Holdship's, Curtis' and the Burke Street 'Goods Wharf'.

Grahamstown and Shortland, linked by Pollen Street, were separate towns until they merged in 1874 as the Borough of Thames, a few years after the gold rush began in 1867.

TARARU, NORTH OF THAMES

Graham, having successfully laid out and leased Graham's Town, sought to develop the potential he saw in Tararu, to the north, that was also attracting mining interest.

To service this interest, he built a horsedrawn tramway from Curtis' Wharf to Victoria Street to connect with the Government tramway that ran up the Tararu Valley. A branch line ran to the west down Wilson Street (Tararu) to connect with the deep water wharf and adjacent hotel, both of which he had constructed.

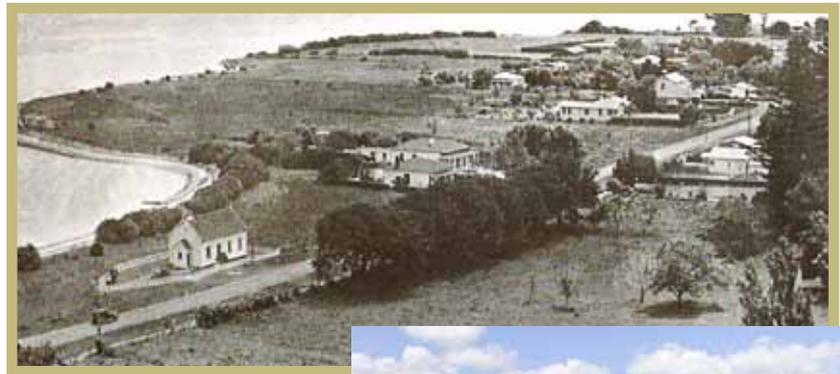
He also established a 'pleasure garden' in Tararu, next to the Brown and Campbell battery on Victoria Street. Newspaper reports of the time show that indeed Graham's gardens were a real attraction, with family gatherings and outings happening at the park, and a teahouse serving its famous strawberries and cream.



LEFT: Grahamstown mid-development. Zoom in on this photo and you would see a few streams and many gullies, muddy streets, a soggy plateau and boarded sidewalks. Lower, near centrefold, is a building with a waterwheel. Tram tracks lead down the slope.

Most simple tents and huts have been replaced with real structures, some sporting verandas. Paddocks for farm critters are fenced. Businesses are now clustered near the Firth or along the edge of the gold mine's hills.

Shortland, upper left, was built up first, under the planning of James Mackay and the Taiparis.



Above, Graham's Tararu location, with St. John's Anglican Church in foreground.

This recent aerial view shows the Tararu Retirement Village, which evolved from the early District Homes built in 1894 to care for the elderly who had no family (see top right corner of above photo). – Photo by Alan Duff



FOUNDING VISIONARY

BY CAROL WRIGHT

An informal oval race track, used even before Graham's purchase, was located on the yet undeveloped beach side of Tararu.



By 1871, a steam tramway, thought to be the first passenger carrying tramway with a steam-driven locomotive in New Zealand,

replaced the horsedrawn tramway.

Unfortunately, a destructive storm hit the area in the mid-1870s. "The fine new hotel was badly strained, the wharf was gone, only some of the piles left; the tramway was so wrecked as to be unusable. It was a sad blow to Graham, who had done so much to make Tararu attractive." (*Robert Graham 1820-1885: An Auckland Pioneer* by George Cruikshank, 1940.)

Graham abandoned the Tararu project and had his hotel shifted to Waiwera north of Auckland,

a hot spring resort he started developing shortly after his arrival from Scotland.

One only wonders what Tararu could have been had the gold mines been more successful, or if the storm had not damaged the wharf and tramway.

Dickson Holiday Park, with its lovely Butterfly and Orchid Garden, sits on the site of those original pleasure gardens. And there actually does now exist a residential community in Tararu, with a planned retirement complex filling its entire centre. (See aerial photo above.)

HISTORY LIVES IN THAMES OF TODAY

Thames today still has that robust Victorian Gold Town feel, with dozens of historic hotels, churches (see centre spread), and residences still standing for you to view. Also visit the Gold Mine Experience (a small working gold mine), the School of Mines, and the Bella Street pumping station at the Tech Museum.

Stop by the Thames Historical Museum and Thames iSite for maps, walking guides, and information. For real history research, visit The Treasury archives on Queen St. or see online www.thetreasury.org.nz/. (See article page 32.)

A DEVELOPER WITH FORESIGHT

When Graham arrived from Scotland in 1842 at the age of 22, he went into partnership as a merchant with brother David (who preceded him to NZ) in Russell and later in Auckland.

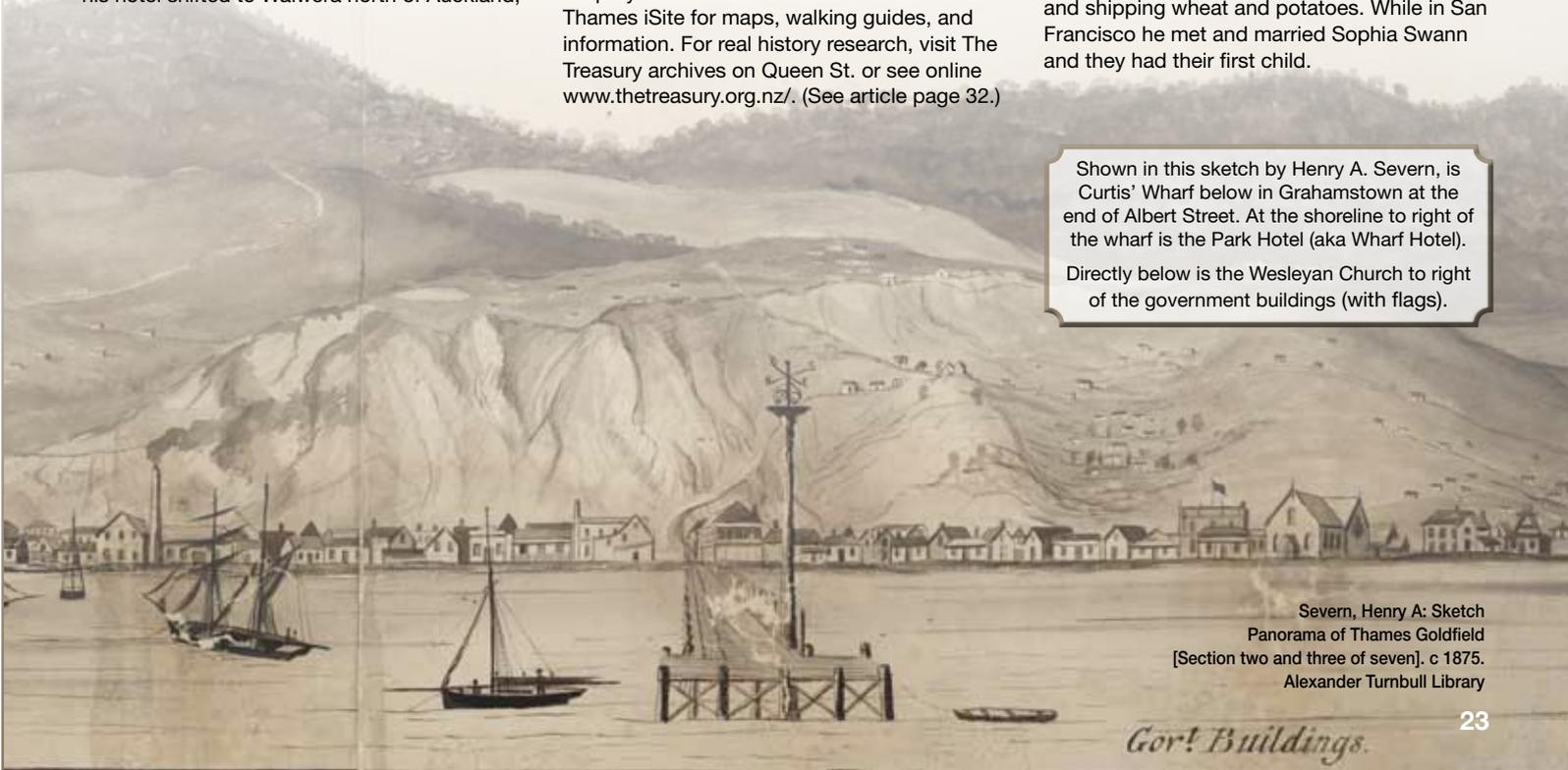
This ambitious young businessman already had foresight: three years later in 1845, he bought land in Waiwera, north of Auckland, that had tourist potential. This shoreline property had natural hot springs, well known to Maori.

In 1848, he bought another 500 acres, this time inland farmland south of Auckland, where he raised livestock with another brother, James. He named this Ellerslie, and had 'leisure destination' visions for it as well, centered around formal gardens and horse racing.

But full development of both properties would wait; he could not resist the 'Forty-niner' draw to California; and from 1849, he spent three years in the Golden State visiting gold fields and shipping wheat and potatoes. While in San Francisco he met and married Sophia Swann and they had their first child.

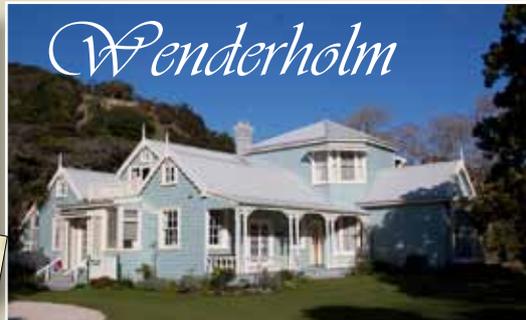
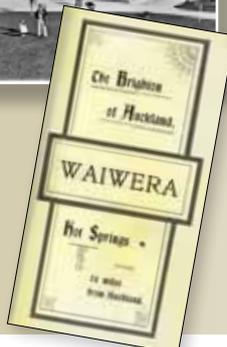
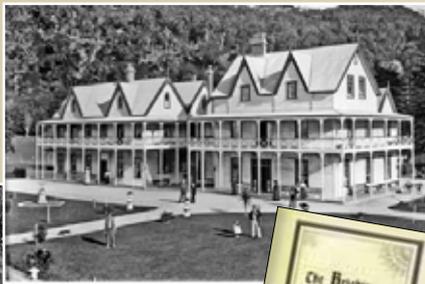
Shown in this sketch by Henry A. Severn, is Curtis' Wharf below in Grahamstown at the end of Albert Street. At the shoreline to right of the wharf is the Park Hotel (aka Wharf Hotel).

Directly below is the Wesleyan Church to right of the government buildings (with flags).



Severn, Henry A: Sketch
Panorama of Thames Goldfield
[Section two and three of seven]. c 1875.
Alexander Turnbull Library

Graham's Waiwera Hot Springs complex included a magnificent 3 storey hotel (right) and bath houses (below) near the cliff housing a large pool and many private mineral spring baths. The resort could be accessed by boat (with its long pier) or by road.



North of Waiwera, Graham built a holiday house with gardens called Wenderholm. The complex includes many unique specimen trees given to him by Sir George Grey. Showing some foresight, Graham protected the property's kauri from loggers. Visit the house (now called Couldrey House) and grounds at the Wenderholm Regional Park. See www.historiccouldreyhouse.co.nz

Graham, a pioneer in the NZ tourist industry, cross-promoted his tourist hotels and hot springs with printed brochures (see right) and a book. He used the resort appeal of his attractions to sell lots in the areas.

(Continued...)

GRAHAM AT ELLERSLIE

Upon return to New Zealand with his wife and child, Graham focused on developing the Ellerslie property, first as a farm with livestock, then as a race track destination, while also improving the Waiwera hot springs.

Sophia had two more children during this time, but sadly, she died in 1862, five years before Graham was involved in Thames. He would remarry Jane Stephenson Horne in June of 1870, and have three sons.

Graham lived at Ellerslie while developing it over time into a leisure destination, attractive enough to sell plots of land there: formal gardens, two racecourses (Ellerslie and Alexander Park), a small zoo, bandstand, dance park, fountains, and other features.

It took Aucklanders hours to travel to this popular park by carriage. Ellerslie was connected to Auckland by rail in 1872, but on racedays, the fans were so numerous they were transported in open cattle cars.

In 1881, Graham sold the racecourses to the Auckland Racing Club. Ellerslie had a long identity with horse training and stables, and it took years to develop into the community he envisioned. Ellerslie is now part of Auckland, and both racecourses are still operating.

GRAHAM WARMS TO HOT SPRINGS

Mineral waters, hot springs. In all things 'taking the waters' ... Graham was keen – using the waters, owning them, and sharing them with others. His vision was for not just visitor attractions, but an entirely new form of tourism, the health resort. Graham

was pioneering what one historian termed 'Edwardian spa elegance'.

Even before Ellerslie, Graham began developing Waiwera Hot Springs into a healing retreat destination with a small hotel, which first

opened in 1848, shortly before he left for California's goldfields.

Waiwera, (*wai* meaning 'water' and *wera*, 'hot') was the first thermal spa resort in the history of New Zealand, and also producing the first bottled water in the Southern Hemisphere. The resort was incrementally improved and expanded during the 1860s–70s to include a sanitarium resort with a 3-storey, 80-guest hotel, built around the storm-stressed one Graham had barged over from Tararu.



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

GOVERNOR BOWEN'S

In January of 1870, the *New Zealand Herald* ran a long story about a second visit of Governor George Bowen, Lady Bowen and their children to the much developed goldfields of Thames. His last visit had been in April 1868 amidst the chaos of the crowded goldfields and its well-known mud. The newly sworn in Bowen was extremely impressed with the way Chief Taipari was managing the leases for the goldfield. (See page 19 for his comments).



The Governor's 1870 visit was in the summer, and many of the mines were producing good gold. Upon his arrival he was greeted with music from the town band, an honour guard of military volunteers, banners and flags, and hundreds of residents lining the shoreline and streets.

The Governor's party was met with hearty cheering as it made its way along Curtis' Wharf to the Pacific Hotel, in the centre of a bustling Grahamstown, opposite the Park Hotel.

Bowen addressed the adoring crowd. "I am surprised as well as gratified by seeing the wonderful improvement that has taken place here through the indomitable energy and perseverance of the miners and the inhabitants generally, since I first visited the Thames seventeen months ago."



That afternoon they toured Shortland by carriage seeing Maori dressed in their finest clothing, men with tattooed faces who wore black chimney hats and suits, and women in fine dresses.

The Waiwera complex included bathing houses, a long pier for easy boat access, orchards and formal gardens. Paddocks for football, lawns for croquet, shooting ranges, boat rentals, fishing, music, billiards, and more offered the guests fun and enriching activities.

This showcase resort, at the time one of the nation's largest, burnt down in 1939. The current facilities at Graham's location are still top Kiwi hot springs and delightful water park attraction. See www.waiwera.co.nz.



GRAHAM'S HOT SPRINGS TO THE SOUTH

Graham headed south to speculate in the hot springs and volcanic terraces of the central island region. Graham secured 4200 acres from Maori in the area, which included Wairakei Geysers and the Huka Falls. He obtained control of the Ohinemutu Hotel (aka the Lake House) on Lake Rotorua, and also operated the Terrace Hotel at Te Wairoa near the legendary pink and white mineral terraces which were both buried by the volcanic eruption of Mt. Tarawera in 1886.

GRAHAM JUGGLES POLITICS AND PROPERTY

Ellerslie by itself...or Grahamstown or Tararu or Waiwera...would have been a huge accomplishment for any one businessman. Research Robert Graham, and you may think you are reading about several different men, so vast were his interests.



He owned farms, including a pedigree cattle and sheep ranch on Motutapu Island. He served 13 years as a member of parliament, and held other positions, promoting public works, railroads, and roads. *And*, he was shipwrecked three times!

Graham had great rapport with Maori and often worked his linguistic charm to his advantage as he mediated tribal conflicts and secured land deals.

Graham died in Auckland on the 26th of May, 1885, and was buried in St. Mark's Cemetery, Remuera, near Ellerslie. His widow Jane and their sons continued to operate his resorts for many years.

Left: Graham from drawing from the Auckland Observer in 1882.

1870 VISIT TO THAMES

The reporter wrote: "During the evening his Excellency had a pleasant opportunity of seeing Grahamstown and its surroundings by moonlight, the comparatively cool air being very provocative to a stroll. The hills look finely by moonlight; their great masses stand out somberly. The scars which the mining operations have caused in all directions are scarcely perceptible; but the lights from the windows of the cottages and huts dotted about on the slopes glimmer redly."

The next day featured a visit to one of the mines, with a men's reception in the evening; Lady Bowen held her own reception for the women. However their visit to the mines would suffer 'an inconvenience'.

The day before the visit was due there was a rehearsal with the newly constructed kauri carriage, especially built for the Governor's visit, with a run up the Tararu Valley tramway. The carriage was snagged by a branch and toppled over the bank, and being damaged, could not be used the next day. Consequently the Governor, his wife and party were required to walk a considerable distance from town to the mine for the visit, passing on the way the site of the carriage accident. No doubt the party enjoyed the seated activity of a show at the Theatre Royal later that evening.

The following day included a visit to a mine in Shortland, a dinner with Maori natives at Taipari's commodious house on the hill behind the township, and then a gala ball in the dancehall of the Governor Bowen Hotel. A grand time was had by all, one that the Governor said his family would never forget.

This sketch of Shortland shows the St. George's Anglican Church spire (see directly below) at the corner of Mackay & Mary Streets.

Severn, Henry A: Sketch of Panorama of Thames Goldfield [Section four of seven], c 1875. Alexander Turnbull Library



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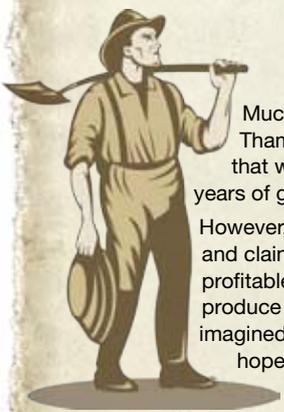
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VISIQUE

KEEPING THAMES on TOP of THINGS



Much of the literature on the Thames reports the prosperity that was achieved in its early years of goldmine productivity.

However, not all the goldmines and claims were immediately profitable. Streams did not produce the easy alluvial gold imagined by the thousands of hopeful prospectors who staked claims. The gold was located in hard

quartz reefs that required underground mining, pumps, tramways and stamper batteries. Many of the miners and battery hands, finding no fortune, left the field in search of other work.

Despite the steady and slow economic decline of the fields after the mid-1870s and the consequent reduction in population, those remaining kept the economy ticking over, preventing the Thames area from becoming a 'ghost town' – a common fate for settlements that formed around gold rushes.

With the gentlemen investors and entrepreneurs long departed, the business end of the economy rested on commerce and a slow evolution of industry to meet changing needs. Curiously, the town's resilience may have been created by the vibrant spark and fury of the town's start-up. Men of vision and ability, with a sense of adventure who were willing to take risks, laid the foundation that would endure – men like Graham, Mackay, and the Taipari.

It was this ongoing local effort – and the resourcefulness of many businessmen like the

following – that contributed to the town's survival.

ALFRED and GEORGE PRICE

These English brothers opened an engineering workshop in Auckland in 1868. In 1871 they built a foundry in Thames that designed and manufactured machinery and parts for the mines and forest industries, employing many skilled labourers.

A&G Price soon diversified into manufacturing a variety of products, including steam engines, locomotives and river steamers. They survived by manufacturing what was wanted and needed in the changing times, and doing it well. The present day industrial complex is an iconic Thames landmark employing 135 people and located on Beach Rd.

Two German brewers, LOUIS and BERNARD EHRENFRIED, started The Phoenix Brewery in 1868. This was an important local industry –



PHOENIX BREWERY, THAMES. (REPRODUCED FROM THE THAMES HERALD)

the beer could be consumed locally by thirsty miners, and also exported, creating extra income and jobs. The company eventually moved to Auckland and merged with other breweries to form NZ Breweries in 1923.

JOHN READ, founder of Read Bros. Hardware was among those original entrepreneurs who



remained in the Thames area, supporting the town through the economic ups and downs (see next page).

TWENTYMAN'S FUNERAL SERVICES, established by William Twentyman in 1867, was first located amongst a settlement of canvas tents and scrim shanties. The business continues in Thames under that name to this day – the oldest operating funeral home in NZ.

OTHER BUSINESSES COME ON BOARD

Committed residents established other new industries during the 1870s including a biscuit factory, a tomato sauce plant and a fruit preserving sector. The peach industry, for instance, opened up local produce to international markets.

In the same spirit, clothing shops began hiring locals to sew garments, saving the cost of paying for imports and providing employment as well. Several new businesses like these were established as individually led projects to improve the area's economic opportunities. (We plan to highlight others that played important roles in the future of Thames in upcoming issues.)



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by Russell Skeet

Generations carry on the 'Read Tradition' - Since 1867



Spanning five generations, one pioneering business is still thriving in Thames - READ BROS HARDWARE, the oldest recognised family-owned business in NZ.

With the discovery of gold in the Karaka and the opening of the gold field on 1 August 1867, dramatic changes unfolded for the area – indeed things would never be the same.

Within four years the population had grown to approximately 15,000, and the town, properly described as a metropolis, had all the features of a well-healed thriving Victorian era township. With a heavy industrial base, and huge demands for the construction of wooden buildings, the timber industry emerged as a big component of the economy.

At the centre of this frenetic expansion were astute business and commercial men, including John Read, timber merchant and iron monger. Handily placed at the centre of Grahamstown, John Read was assured of success, so long as he was flexible enough to respond to the changing needs of the town.

And John surely needed to be shrewd and flexible, as the town was at its zenith in 1871, but afterwards suffered ups and downs and generally declined, so that by the 1920s the gold mining industry was spent.

However the large industrial base that was established to service mining remained and was able to adapt its manufacturing profile to include railway locomotive building, ship and lighthouse building, and later, agriculture machinery – all of which needed iron ware and timber, so that the core of Read's business was sound. The legacy of these times for John Read was an enduring reputation for being able to supply whatever was needed.

As Grahamstown declined John shifted the location of his business to Shortland, in line with a general move of business to the centre of the town. With John's passing in 1922, his sons took charge, with Arthur charting the way through the difficult times between 1931 and 1947, when the town actually went bankrupt and was in the hands of Commissioners.

In 1935 the business again relocated, this time to a billiard room owned by Arthur, at 308 Pollen Street, still their current location. With two changes of location Read Bros Hardware

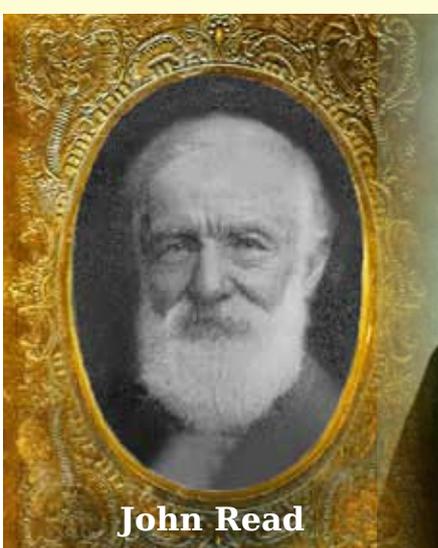
traded steadily, surviving the vicissitudes of the small town's economy.

THIRD GENERATION... FOURTH...& FIFTH

Alan Read, the third generation, having gone off to World War II, returned home to the business, and over time assumed control. Tough times after the war gave way to the prosperous times of the 1950s and '60s; and Thames, with its industrial base, continued to prosper.

By the 1970s – when Stuart, the fourth generation, took over – the times were changing again, with the 'good days' having passed. Stuart took the bold step of attaching the independent family-owned business to a group, the "Lucerne Wholesale Society", later the Hammer Hardware Group, to ensure the continued viability of the small business operating in an increasingly competitive business environment.

In 2013, with John Read, fifth generation, assuming operational control, Read Bros Hammer Hardware reverted to independent status, resting the future of the business on strong family values, good customer service and continuing market-place responsiveness. And, you can still buy a gold pan, just like 1867.



John Read



Arthur Read



Alan Read



Jocelyn Stuart John



ANCHORS OF THE TOWN:

Churches kept communities connected

In 1833 – long before mining began in the Thames region – missionaries had established a station for Maori near Puriri on the Waihou River (what Captain Cook named The Thames). The initial Puriri river location proved too swampy, so the Anglican's mission was moved to a higher location overlooking Thames in the Parawai hills. In 1886, the Maori designed and constructed the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, which has recently been restored.

After the area was opened for mining in 1867, the seeds of churches were soon planted and then sprouted. Most church folk found each other quickly, meeting and worshipping in private homes or hotels. Hymns were accompanied by simple harmonium, guitar or violin.

Churches were one of the mainstays of socialising in Thames – pubs being the other! – offering companionship, opportunities to meet with those of same country of origin (such as the Irish Catholics), and space for other social, educational and musical events. Many churches ran their own schools. Ministers offered assistance to miners who could not read nor write. Congregations provided comfort and aid to families when a digger was killed or injured in the mines.

The Methodists got off to a roaring start with Primitive Methodist Minister the Rev G.S. Harper preaching 'his first sermon from a beer barrel' on Christmas Day, 1867. Not to be outdone in the barrel department...empty blasting powder barrels provided pew seating for a Baptist congregation that began meeting in mid-1868 in the cottage of Henry and Sophia Driver.

VISIT THE SURVIVING HISTORIC CHURCHES

The small early church halls were outgrown and larger ones built: in 1872, St. George's Anglican Church; in 1898, St. James Union (Presbyterian) Church; and in 1886, the quaint Holy Trinity Anglican Church. These are the best preserved of the town's historical churches. The Baptist Church on Mary St. has blended its historic chapel with modern front additions.

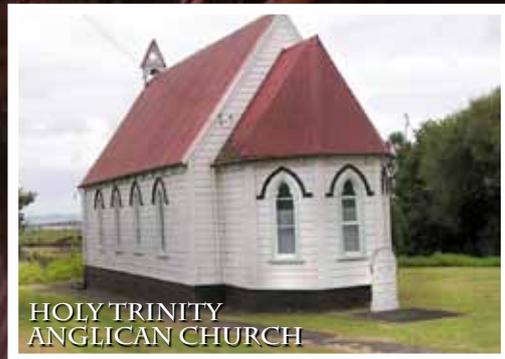
The two Roman Catholic churches each supported schools and a nuns' convent; they joined as St. Francis and built modern facilities and a school with nearly 100 students.

ST. JAMES UNION (PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCH



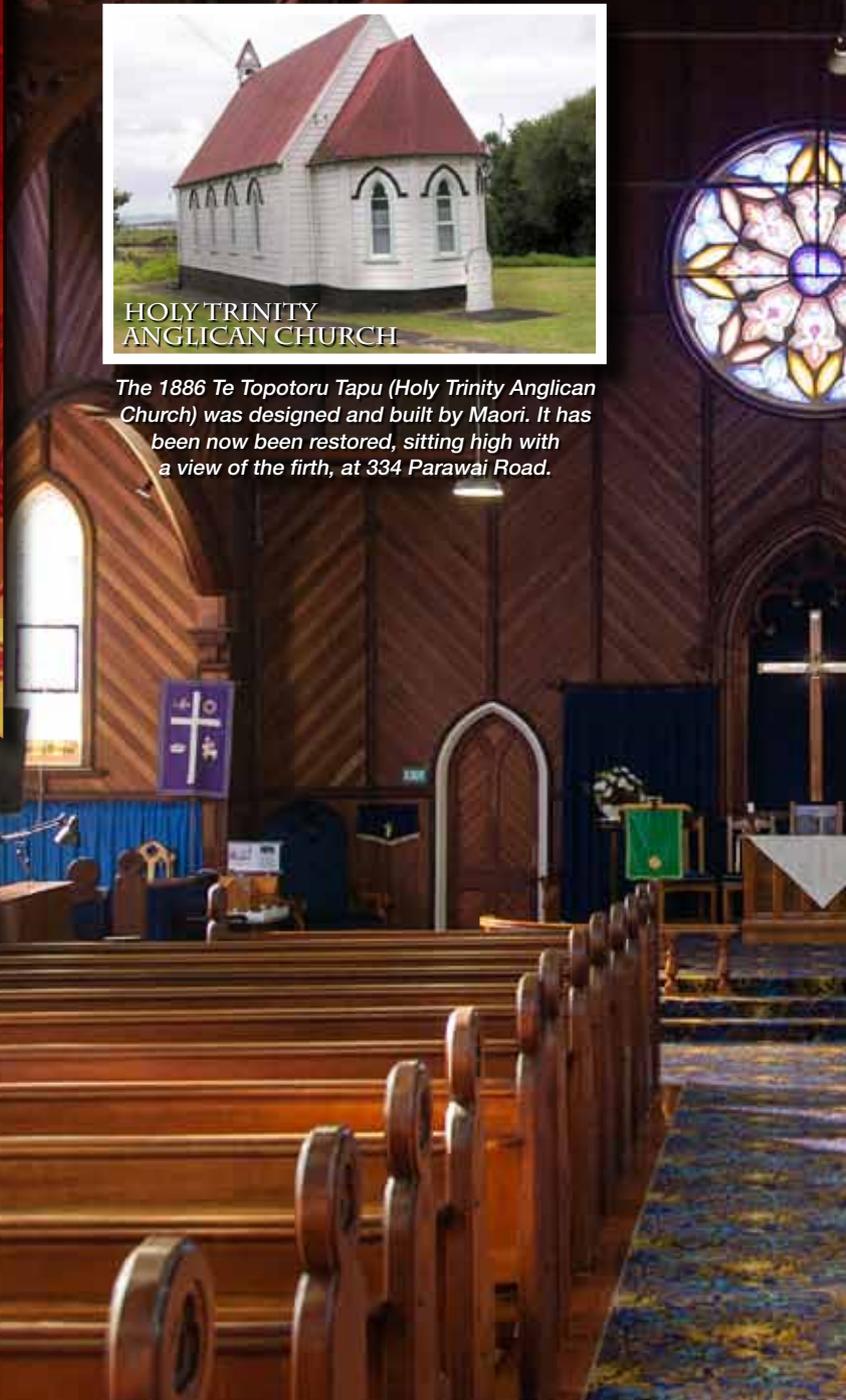
Photo: Charlotte Giblin

St. James Union Church, originally the Presbyterian Church, later joined with the Methodists. The background photo by Ross Davies, who attended as a child, shows the distinctive herringbone pattern its kauri walls.



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

The 1886 Te Topotoru Tapu (Holy Trinity Anglican Church) was designed and built by Maori. It has been now been restored, sitting high with a view of the firth, at 334 Parawai Road.



THAMES CHURCHES



ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

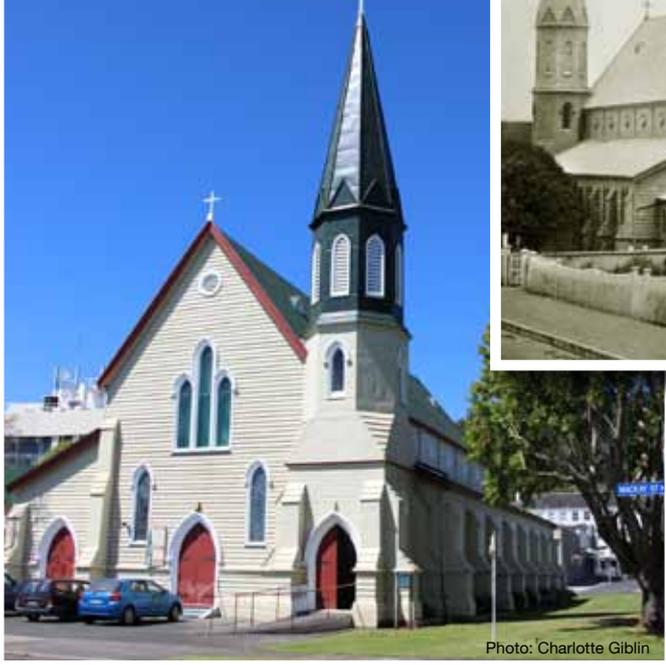
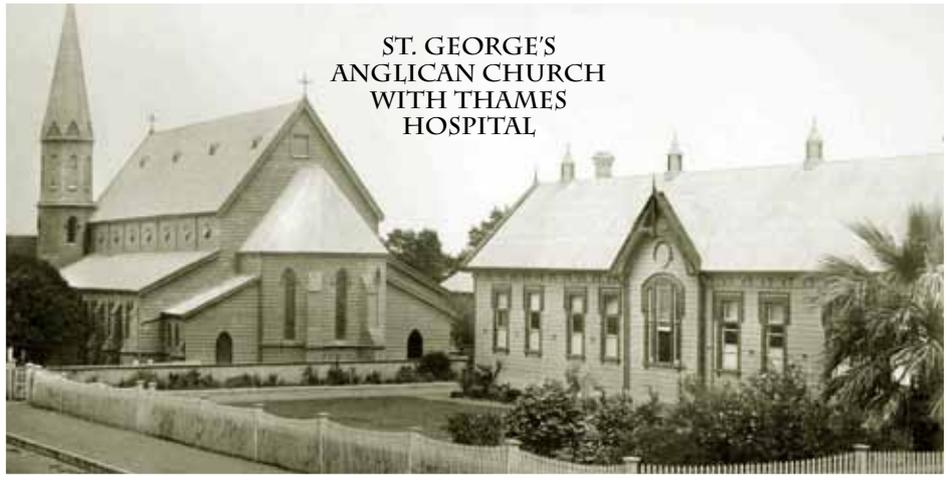


Photo: Charlotte Giblin

ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
WITH THAMES
HOSPITAL



It did not take long for the businessmen, miners, labourers, and their families to aim for real church buildings. Many churches retained minutes of those first meetings, noting the almost instant pledges of seed money to get building started. Often members of one church helped another denomination to get their buildings off the ground. Land for churches, hospitals, schools and parks were donated from grants from the area's Maori chief, Te Hotereni Taipari, and his son W. H. Taipari; both worked closely with government land warden James Mackay (see page 19 for article).

Newspapers and church minutes are full of accounts of visiting pastors, priests and even bishops who either moved to the area's goldfields, or travelled to Thames to conduct services, dedications and celebrations.

The first Anglican (Church of England) church, St. George's, was proposed in January of 1868, with starting funds donated. Land was secured and the building soon erected on a site on Rolleston Street, opening that May.

In 1880, St John's Anglican Church was built to serve Tararu residents, who had previously met in the Sunday school hall built by the Presbyterians.

At one time, the Methodists had three churches in the Thames area; all eventually folded into one another, then further melding with the Presbyterian's St. James to become the Thames Union Church.

In 1889 (until 1925), Congregationalists joined Baptists, both sharing a special interest in the Temperance movement. In the same spirit, the Salvation Army arrived in 1884; in 1886, they built their own barracks (and hall to seat 500) in Grahamstown on Pollen Street.

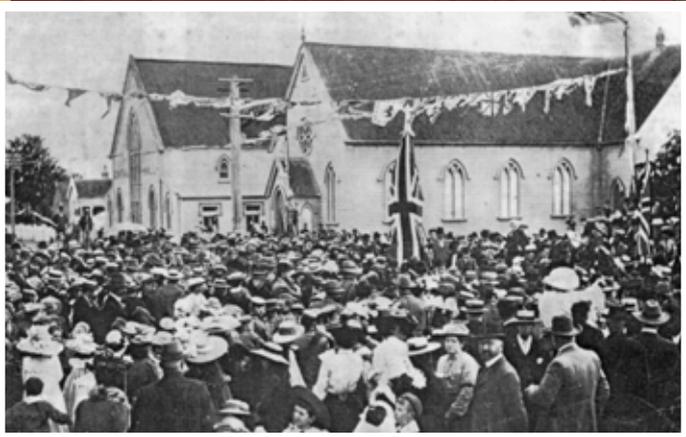
THE KAURI
INTERIOR OF
ST. JAMES UNION
(PRESBYTERIAN)
CHURCH

Photo by Ross Davies





Still neighbours after all these years, the St. James Union Church (previously Presbyterian) and The Junction Hotel to the left, at the corner of Pollen and Pahau. The Junction Hotel has operated as a hotel and eating establishment (GBD, or Grahamstown Bar & Diner) nonstop since it was built in 1869 to cater to the miners. It was remodelled in 1888, with further additions in 1901.



A great crowd gathered for the dedication of the cornerstone of the Boer War monument near the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1902. The completed monument was later moved from its corner location to Victoria Park. The Methodists later joined with the Presbyterians to form the Union Church (St. James).



Catholic churches served the area's Irish immigrants.

St. Francis Catholic Church and school buildings located in the Shortland district. Father Nivard Jourdan, O.S.F., arrived in 1867, staying at a hotel, where initial services were performed for the many Irish immigrants. Their first church was finished within a few months, a third of the donations coming from non-Catholics. The other Catholic church was St. Brigid's (founded 1871) on Queen Street in Grahamstown. They supported various schools and two convents, and all eventually melded with St. Francis. Their school and church are now in modern buildings.



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THE PLAYGROUND WITH A PAST



Adjoining Goldfields Shopping Centre, is the historic Porritt's Park Playground, named after Governor-General Sir Arthur Porritt. It features a climb-aboard steamship, a replica of the Auckland-to-Thames Wakatere Paddle Steamer.

The park opened in December of 1929 (same year as the popular Thames Swimming Baths closed, being beyond repair) as the Diamond Jubilee Children's Playground featuring numerous swings, slides and merry-go-rounds.

It wasn't long before the town's church leaders attempted to put a stop to exuberant merry-making in the Jubilee Playground on the 'day of worship'. They demanded the Thames Borough Council lock up the swings on Sundays to stop the children from escaping their services to swing it up at the playground.

After due consideration, council rejected the request stating: "There was nothing at the playground that would corrupt a child's morals. It was unanimously resolved that no action be taken."

The first major upgrade to the playground was undertaken in 1969 by the Lion's Club, whose members built the steamboat replica (complete with wading pool), and a tempting lighthouse with steps inside leading to a steep slide. Recently the playground has been improved again, with fencing, modern play equipment (all deemed 'safe'), and upgraded public toilets.

Read its history here
www.thetreasury.org.nz/playground/play.htm



Built in 1896, Paddle Steamer Wakatere was the most palatial and luxuriously furnished river steamer in the colony, with room for 1500. She served passengers from Thames to Auckland for over 30 years.

Aerial photo by Alan Duff

In January 1930, the Thames Borough Council was approached by a group of church ministers who... requested that the swings and other apparatus be locked up on Sundays. Children were opting to go to the playground rather than attend church.





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THE TREASURY

ESTABLISHED 2004

Dedication of Carnegie Library 1905

Photo by Charlotte Giblin

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for
EXCELLENCE



THAMES' TREASURY HONoured WITH ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARD

Last year, we ran a story about The Treasury's new \$1.1 million archive wing. We were not the only ones to think this archive wing was stunning. The impressive project, designed by Architectus, was just awarded the Heritage Award for the Waikato/Bay of Plenty district by the New Zealand Institute of Architects. The project will now be eligible to compete for national recognition in November.

The citation reads:

"A former Carnegie Free Library has been carefully restored to provide public access to formerly homeless archival records of the social history of the community, while a refined and shamelessly contemporary building has been built adjacent to store this information for posterity.

This clever and elegant pair of buildings contributes a remarkable urban presence to Thames. Not only do they offer a wonderful amenity for locals and visitors alike, but they also have the power to transform the town's view of the value of good architecture, in terms of both its historic and future heritage. The success of this project is a tribute to Morrie and Geraldine Dunwoodie, and the team of dedicated local people behind the Coromandel Heritage Trust."

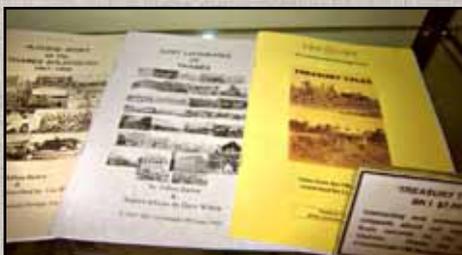


In each issue, we are always researching a locale's rich history: from Maori and European explorers, early settlers, their ships, the mills, the fisheries, bushmen, the gold mines, the hotels, the schools, the roads and railways, the mines, the pubs. We couldn't get enough!

We read old newspapers and old books online; we grabbed historical photographs and paintings. One local organization seemed to be on top of things, especially around Thames, and that was The Treasury.

Although it is not always convenient for us to physically visit their extensive physical archives, our web searches invariably take us to their online resource pages.

To build the public's interest in The Treasury, recordings of volunteers reading 'Treasury Tales' were played on Coromandel FM. The tales are available in booklet form.



As we researched Thames for this issue, we were impressed with the town's organisations and its devoted teams of volunteers. Machinery bokes at the Goldmine Experience, mini railway and the Tech Museum. History buffs at the History Museum, the School of Mines and Heritage Week. Nature lovers at the William Hall Reserve. Artists at the Thames Society of the Arts. And those who keep the churches in tip-top shape. Oh, we're forgetting some...many. The Coromandel has volunteers galore, many retirees who just keep giving and contributing

so much of their time.

The Treasury however, not only serves up history, it has its own. We offer the story of its evolution here, with special tribute to the perseverance of the volunteers who devoted years to collecting Thames' historical documents, saving them from being scattered to the winds. We asked Trust member Geraldine Dunwoodie to write a few words about the volunteers at The Treasury, and she sent us a 3000 word history! We've sadly had to shorten for space.



Miriam Heberley and Geraldine Dunwoodie learn from Vicki-Ann Heikell, an expert from Wellington, how to best curate and preserve historic photos. The workshop, presented by Te Papa Tongarewa, offered techniques for museums to manage their collections and their volunteers.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS: A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME...

Geraldine explains that archiving of historical materials began with a small group of ladies interested in genealogy, who realized the importance of keeping records. They started by 'indexing' (extracting dates/places/people data) from materials at the School of Mines.

"We continually were asked where in Thames people could go to find out about their early family", she says. "We also had boxes of material handed in by people who didn't know what to do with it when they cleaned out their parents' house. So we were getting quite a nice collection, but in our own homes."

They began to search for a space to store these boxes and make the records available, but no luck. A steering committee was formed, and they raised interest in the town's history by appearing in colonial costumes at the Farmer's Market, and by writing 'Treasury Tales' for Coromandel FM, all, according to Geraldine "to raise community awareness of what we were planning, and to encourage them to think about the importance of the history of this region."

In 2003, then-Mayor Chris Lux took an interest in the project and helped them set up The Coromandel Heritage Trust. So now there was an official volunteer board, a learning curve for some, but territory well known by others. Now they were more official in their quest to find a real building for their collection of materials. Yet crucial funding was still elusive. Funders were reluctant to get on board because, (in catch-22 style) "we had no building yet to show them."

So they upped their efforts a few notches.

They attended a museums workshop put on by Museum Of New Zealand: Te Papa Tongarewa. Here they found the crucial support for planning and ideas for future growth. And how to do it all the right way. Te Papa continues to support the Trust with liaison visits and guidance.

FINDING THE ARCHIVES A HOME

With the Trust in place, their museum training, and then a generous donation made by Muir and Ailsa Lamb, the impetus was provided to continue.

Consultant architect John Sinclair of Architectus of Auckland was approached to

The Treasury buildings with the Carnegie Library and the new metal clad annex. The white fence, with black wrought iron posts between was re-created to unify both buildings.



advise on a building as he had experience of archival storage. John had built the pristine archival climate-controlled facility for the Anglican Diocese of Auckland Archives, holding some of NZ's oldest colonial treasures. No more settling for dusty shelves. They were serious. And committed.

The breakthrough came in 2007, when Council made the decision to restore the old 1905 Carnegie Library. With just days to prepare, the Trust and Architectus put together a proposal to lease the building. They did it! They were granted a 30 year extendable lease, and the doors to the now handsome-and-renovated facility were opened in August 2009. Finally, a home for their vast collection of data. More grants were secured, and more documents donated. Volunteers were kept very busy.

Geraldine was intent on fundraising, now for that next building project: the long desired archive wing to sit alongside the Carnegie building. Rather than compete with the classic look of the historic library, Architectus submitted an ultra-modern design, with dark metal clad exterior, its vertical posts mirroring the columns of the library.

And everyone is especially pleased with the front fence. "There hadn't been a fence there for many years", Geraldine explains, "and we were keen to recreate the exact design that had been there in 1905. It was the finishing touch and has linked an elegant old building with a very modern one." The result is that the old Carnegie stands out, proud and handsome.

The new wing, opened in 2014, is climate controlled for safe storage of all the documents and photographs. There are now real work and meeting areas, and tables for pouring over documents. And no touching paper with oily

bare fingers! Dust, be gone!

DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE...REAL

The reading room and the archive are now established, so what's ahead? A strategic planning workshop was held to make plans for the next five years. High on their list: make more use of social media and the internet, obtain appropriate equipment to photograph photos and artwork, and hire both a full time curator and a receptionist. These would be The Treasury's first official employees.

Thus far, volunteers have carried the full load, some going back over 13 years. And of course, grantwriting and fundraising continue, to secure all things needed for ongoing operation.

"This project has been an interesting journey for us all, and not without stress at times," admits Geraldine. "I personally have learnt to write a business plan, make funding applications, learn all sorts of new tricks on the computer, speak to groups (I'm shy), write publicity articles, speak on the radio, write policies – the list is never-ending.

"We knew this was an ambitious project to undertake, but our advice is to get a good group of people together and dream. If you don't dream the dream, nothing will happen."

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE TREASURY

- Financial stability is the most important item at this time. Become a member, purchase a book, shop at their gift store, or make a donation.
- Recognise important historical photos or papers you may have in your home and inquire about donating them...

INTERNING AT THE TREASURY

I first started to volunteer for The Treasury when I was 18, and I returned several times over summer breaks while I studied for my BA in History. Last year, I left my job to pursue a career as an archivist, and returning to The Treasury and its new archive building was a natural step to take while I studied. Since the archive is new, it was a great opportunity to apply what I was learning as I learnt it. For me, it's also special to be able to preserve the history of my home town.

The work I do at The Treasury is quite varied, as the Trust is keen to give me a taste of all the activities that go on here. At the moment I'm working on accessioning our reading room collection using collection management software. This means that in future, people will be able to search our collection digitally and find all of our resources on the topic

they're looking for. It's also really interesting for me, as it's like taking a crash-course on everything in our collection. I also spend a lot of time in the archive, where I help to fumigate, sort, clean and store important documents relating to the history of the Coromandel and Hauraki region. I've also joined the Executive Committee, helped with publicity, recorded an oral history interview and helped out with indexing our collection.

Volunteering at The Treasury has opened opportunities to further my career. I was interested in using social media to promote The Treasury and share our stories with a wider audience, so I was asked to set up



Intern Nicole Thorburn retrieves an old family scrapbook, from the archive's new climate controlled storage shelves.

and maintain a Facebook page. The page is now really popular, attracting visitors from all over the world. I've also been able to meet other heritage professionals and learn more about the heritage sector.

– Nicole Thorburn



INDEXING GROUP

The support of the wonderful community volunteers to keep The Treasury functioning – some on duty once a month, others several days a week – is invaluable. What started as simply keeping an eye on the collection is now much more complex, with around 60 different tasks including trustees, executive committee, indexing, oral histories, website maintenance, displays, writing and research work.

Workshops are held regularly to upskill our volunteers. It has grown a life of its own, much more complicated than any of us ever foresaw.

Our Trustees and Executive Committee have been in place since 2003, with few changes. This very focussed group has a mix of people with very different skills. Chairman Morrie Dunwoodie came on board after his wife pointed out – ahem! – that she had supported his interests for many years – now it was her turn to use his support! Hubby Morrie has knowledge of Council procedures (from his career as a surveyor), which helped with planning applications. And this practical knowledge enabled him to save the Trust money by project managing the new archive addition.

Our Trustees include retired accountant Gary Meek who keeps a meticulous hand on the budget; Trustee Sue Wright, a retired teacher, contributes an immense knowledge of procedures and heritage to the melting pot; others include Marise Morrison, Robyn Revell, Rodney Poulgrain, and Tracey Spence.

As you come through the door, you are greeted by our reception volunteers: Trustees Marise, Robyn, and myself – plus David Wilton, Maggie Furlong, Carol Saunders, Pam Kruithof, Marilyn Dodds and Celia Newby. We are open Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11am-3pm.

Two volunteers are on duty each day in the research room. Manning the research room are June Robinson, Carol Fielding, Marianne Scott, Jan Tercel, Graeme Pearce, Roger Strong, Pauline Stammers, Jo Whitehead, Carol Cresswell, Barbara Prendergast, Anthony Hewitt – all now very adept at helping visitors access the information they seek.

Some community members have donated their entire history libraries to our book collection. We have received records from organisations,

SALUTE TO THE GEMS OF THE TREASURY THE VOLUNTEERS

by Geraldine Dunwoodie, Trustee

Dedicated people help make all things possible.

scrapbooks from families, business records, and photos galore. The important work of fumigating, cleaning and listing all the incoming records (including tons of newspapers, and records from Battsons Plumbers and A&G Price) has been undertaken by a group of women headed by Trustee and committee member Marise Morrison.



Morrie and Geraldine Dunwoodie of the Coromandel Heritage Trust

Secretary Marilyn Dodds, a planner who helped with the building applications, is a receptionist and also involved in oral histories and in the photography group.

Marise, after 13 years indexing at the School of Mines, also organises the roster and current indexing group as well as managing the archive. The Indexing Group scour records listing every name and places they come across in a particular record, enter the information onto a database, which is processed by Pauline Stammers and sent to Evan Lewis in America, who loads that information onto our online searchable data base.* (The data base is constantly updated so keep checking back. This project will never end!!)

Evan and his wife Kae also host our much admired website, which Kae designed and maintains. The website showcases our work, the entire collection, and also has many stories about the people and places of this region. The War Memorial page has been highly praised!

The photography group led by Miriam Heberley, catalogues and stores all the original photos handed in to us. Pam Kruithof and Merv Cunningham are also involved in this work. We are seeking funding to buy equipment to digitally record these.

Trustee Robyn Revell and Jan Tercel are keen researchers providing information for people who cannot visit in person. Ensuring our stories are not lost, Margaret Nankivell convenes our Oral History Recorders and also interviews people, helped by Carol Fielding, Graham Robinson, Marilyn Dodds, and others.

Intern Nicole Thorburn set up and runs our Facebook page, to the relief of all us 'oldies'. Nicole, having completed her BA in history has volunteered for a six-month stint to learn archiving techniques. (See story previous page).

Merv Tilsley does a lot our paperwork, makes sure a thank you letter goes to every donor, and has great powers of persuading the public to part with their money at sales tables. June Robinson looks after supplies and spends hours preparing records for the archives.

We do our own research and writing, as well as helping others with their research. We have lots of booklets in our sales cabinet, some of which have been written by Althea Barker, who also writes 'Thames NZ: Genealogy & History Resources', an online blog and Facebook page, enthusiastically posting new historic images, with lengthy descriptions.

Some help prepare standup displays and signs for our lectures and book readings. Our commemorative WWI book, *From Gold Mine to Firing Line*, was an ambitious project thought up by Althea, and undertaken with help from Meghan Hawkes, Kae Lewis, David Wilton, Roger Strong, and Tracey Spence – many of whom also write history pages for the website.

Our latest project is to compile a book – *True Tales of Thames* – following the idea started by the Coromandel Town History Research Group. This is a great way of gathering the little stories – the ones which won't make a history book. This project has gone on to cover the whole of the TCDC-HDC region, so please send those stories in. See our home page for info about how to submit your own tale.

Many of these people perform more than just these listed jobs, and my apologies to any I have missed mentioning. Some have been stalwartly involved since 2000, and many more joined us since we opened in 2009. They are the backbone of this interesting and valuable project and we would be lost without them.

We at The Treasury can't thank our volunteers enough.

*Access The Treasury's database: www.thetreasury.org.nz/research.htm



ORAL HISTORY GROUP



READING & COMPUTER ROOM

Choosing your cruise

"I've been on lots of cruises, and the NZ cruise around the North and South Islands was the best I've ever been on!"

Sandy Musselman, an avid 'cruiser' from Hawaii



A cruise ship departs from Auckland's Princes Wharf. Ports of call include Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Dramatic scenery is to be had cruising into Milford Sound, below.

by **Monett Johnston**
United Travel, Whitianga

Those of us living on the Coromandel are fortunate to live close to the most amazing scenery and are able to enjoy the magnificent sea. There is nothing like being 'out there', relaxed and happy, fishing line overboard in the 'Big Blue'. But there is more than fishing to do at sea!

Now, as one of our most popular ways to holiday, cruising has shrugged off its perception of being only for the 'nearly dead'. Don't listen to anyone who says "I'll be bored" or "I'll have to wear a suit for dinner". If you're going to consider a cruise as part of your holidays in 2015, then you need to make sure that your floating home is going to be everything you want it to be, with no rough waters ahead.

Choosing the right ship, season and destination is a vital bit of the holiday equation – far more important than choosing a hotel for a few nights. While ships may look similar on the outside – it is the inside that counts.

In general, your fare includes stateroom, all on-board meals and entertainment, and port taxes. But then your choices start to differ. On-board inclusions, destinations, up rivers or across oceans, budget or luxury, resort or explorer style travelling? Your choices will define the right cruise for you.

CRUISE YOUR OWN – KIWI PORTS OF CALL

During the summer months in New Zealand, there are many cruise ships circumnavigating our two large islands. If you thought they are filled with visitors from overseas, think again. Kiwis are taking the opportunity to visit their own country in style, sailing into such breathtaking locations like Milford Sound. Or enjoying a relaxed day out at some of our beautiful ports. Take the family for a Christmas holiday. Or maybe escape/avoid the family altogether – No one has to cook or clean!

In the winter, we have ships leaving Auckland for some Pacific Island sun. You can even sail away for the winter on a round-the-world cruise and enjoy a whole year of summer.

TAKING THE LITTLIES ALONG?

Some cruise lines limit the number of children on any one sailing, so that those who are worried about too many littlies can relax. If you are taking the children, there are ships with specialised kids clubs to fit certain ages. Babysitting services are available and cabins are now fitted out with a variety of bedding options and interconnecting cabins to fit differing family numbers.

Features for family cruising are DreamWorks character themes (seen right on a Caribbean Cruise), zip line, ice skating rinks, rock wall climbing and water slides – all making for a more resort style of holiday cruising.



ADVENTURE AND VARIETY... FORMAL TO CASUAL

For those who are adventurers at heart, expedition ships cater for budget to luxury travellers. Enriching experiences for exploration or research. Specialising in on-board lectures, photography, diving and visiting remote or exotic locations.

Every year new ports are added, itineraries are changing continuously

as cruise companies seek new destinations. Ships are evolving and ports previously inaccessible to deep water vessels are added, like Yangon in Mandalay. New flat bottom paddle steamer ships can now access the shallow rivers of these amazing destinations. River cruises are the most amazing way to visit old cities and small towns.

LOTS OR LITTLE TO DO... YOUR CHOICE

Special formal dinners still feature on some ships so passengers can take along their finery. And for those who want a more relaxed and casual holiday, there are ships where smart casual is the norm.

Themed cruises, can provide you with just the holiday you wanted, too. Golf cruising, where most days in port include a round of golf at some incredible golf courses. Food and Wine cruises. Elvis or Rock n Roll cruises. A Cooking School at Sea, even a "Chocolate" cruise.

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Salt Restaurant and Bar offers both premier dining and great ambiance. Situated on the water at the Whitianga Marina, diners enjoy the sights of the estuary from the deck or the comfort of a cosy open fire indoors – complimented by fabulous food and service.

I have often heard Salt described as “the best restaurant on the Coromandel”. Building that sort of reputation cannot be easy, and we wanted to find out more about the couple who have earned that – they certainly deserve a ‘toast!’ –Tovi Daly

DAVE AND KELLY SIMMONDS
currently own and manage
The Whitianga Hotel and
Salt Bar and Restaurant



by Kate Palmano

Photo by Alan Duff: www.crep.co.nz

Experience, confidence and hard work bring success for Whitianga’s Salt Restaurant

Many people I encounter who come to live, work or retire in the Coromandel have had a prior connection with the peninsula perhaps through family, childhood holidays or a visit from overseas that left them in love with the area. However, for Dave and Kelly Simmonds, the story is quite different.

With no first-hand knowledge of the region or ever visiting before, the couple moved to Whitianga in 2005 solely for the job opportunity

of managing **The Whitianga Hotel and Salt Bar and Restaurant**. A courageous move, but as they recall on first arriving, “we had an inkling we had stumbled into paradise”.

Dave and Kelly first met in Hamilton while he was working in hospitality and she was attending Waikato University. They were flatmates first, then best friends, then, well... as Dave says, “we stepped over the line and the rest is history”.

While in Hamilton, Dave had always worked in some area of the hospitality industry, and Kelly had played major roles in several of the businesses he was involved with. While working full-time, he also managed to complete a BMS at Waikato.

When presented with the option to buy into the Whitianga businesses in 2008, they leaped at the chance. “I had managed the place for 3 years when the opportunity came up to purchase 50%,” Dave shares. “Working in it allowed me to clearly understand what we were buying, so it was a bit of a no-brainer.”

Armed with their combined experience and confidence, they hit the ground running and, with a lot of hard work, have molded it into the success it is today.

Since taking the big step, Dave and Kelly have made several modifications to the complex, enlarging the size of the kitchen and doubling the bar and restaurant. “We wanted to take advantage of the prime waterside location overlooking the marina,” says Kelly. So they landscaped and installed decking down to the water which created an indoor-outdoor flow – the idyllic venue for functions and weddings.

The popular hotel pub next door, formerly the Blacksmith Bar, was tastefully refurbished and rebranded as ‘The Whitianga Hotel’, complete with maritime insignia. The 140-year-old hotel has quite a history – a central town meeting place known for ‘serving the freshest fish and the coldest beer since 1869!’. The Simmonds are keeping up with that tradition, as they often host gatherings and networking meetings.



Photo by Greg Daly

Continued on page 38



THE MORCOMS Partners into Planters

Such is the artistry that has gone into creating Outspace – its elegantly arranged ornamental urns and planter pots, topiary, sculpture and outdoor furniture – that at first glance it could easily be mistaken for a park, a beautiful little sanctuary on the edge of the Whitianga ‘CBD’. However, don’t be fooled! Outspace is very much a business enterprise, now entering its second year of operation, offering ‘unique and interesting products’ for outdoor spaces. Included among the impressive range of pots, landscape features and garden art, are cedar garden sheds, fabulous outdoor fires and chimineas – a veritable treasure trove of shape and textures on display and “everything is for sale!”

What motivated long-time residents Sharyn and Philip Morcom to start up Outspace? Looking for a new venture, the couple was inspired by Carol Bucknell and Sally Tagg’s book *Big Ideas for Small Gardens*. Having used some of the book’s design elements for their own garden, they felt there was a niche for beautiful yet affordable landscape and garden design products on the Coromandel.

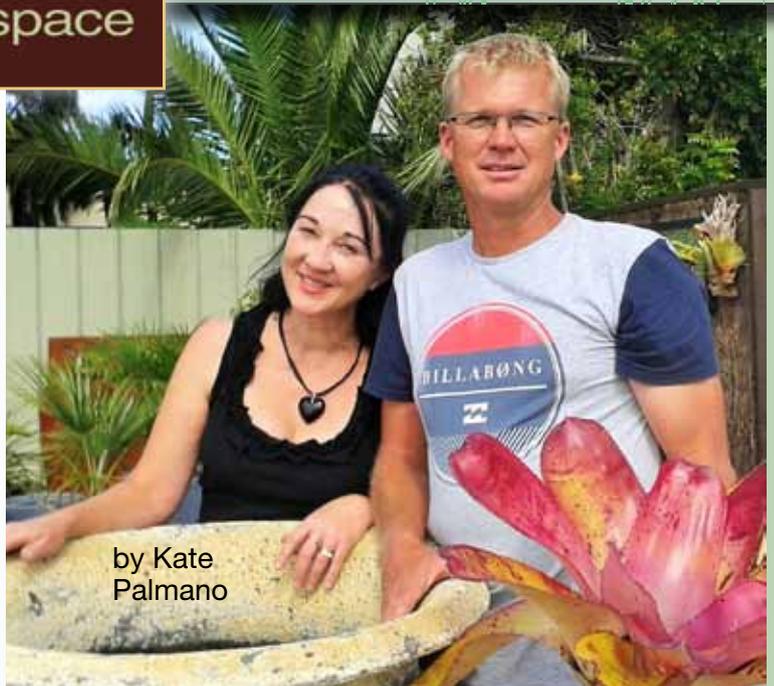
The Morcoms returned to Cooks Beach from Auckland 19 years ago so Philip could take over his father’s sheep and cattle farm. Philip, who is qualified in amenity horticulture, had worked in a senior role at Auckland’s Cornwall Park while Sharyn’s career was in sales and journalism. While farming at Cooks Beach



they also became involved in the avocado industry, planting 200 trees over a period of years.

Outspace is the new direction the couple sought after downsizing their farming operation. Sharyn says “it’s fun to search for new products and work out ways to display them to best advantage. There has been a lot for us to discuss and work through, including marketing ideas and working out our systems. We love the feedback from people – good or bad – so we can improve things. But we mostly get amazing feedback – especially from city folk who frequently say ‘why haven’t we got anything like this at home!??’ We wanted a ‘point of difference’, and we really feel like we’ve achieved that.”

Having had valuable mentoring from Ian Handricks, an Auckland based business guru, they are now mainly concentrating on building Outspace, with little thought for time off or vacations. Philip says, “We want to try and maintain continuity. We feel it’s important to stay open all seasons as much as we can.”



by Kate Palmano

The Morcoms recently celebrated their first anniversary with a customer and business association event ‘Business After 5’ at the Outspace site. It was a huge success and well attended. “We were able to explain that our focus is to provide unique and inspiring products for the outdoor environment that are affordable. People who had never visited us before were amazed at the range on offer, and how well priced our products are”.

Plans for the future? The couple just announced they have committed to sponsoring what is hoped to be an annual art event dubbed the ‘Outspace Art Project’. Local artists will be compiling still life drawings of Outspace products, culminating in an exhibition and prize giving in August. Something to look forward to indeed...

Want to see more? Get inspired by the unique range of products. Pop over for a look on Cook Drive or view their website at www.outspace.co.nz.

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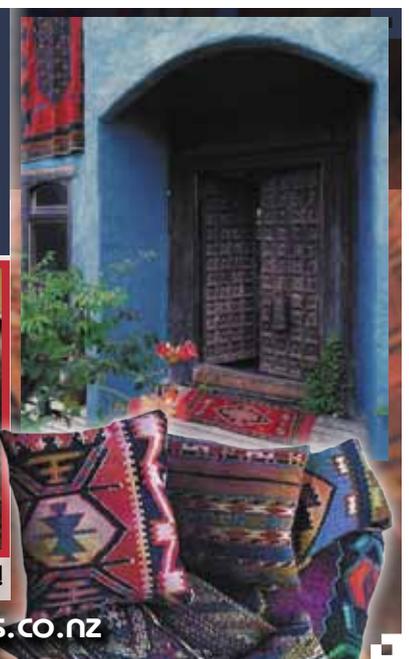
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Couples, continued.

On the odd occasion the couple may attend an industry seminar to keep up with movements and trends, but on the whole they find the business here very unique and a lot different from the city. Dave candidly admits he still 'hasn't

got his head around' the extreme seasonality of the hospitality industry here, but every summer he learns a little bit more and "hopes to have it all sussed one day".

WORK AND FAMILY: THE BIG JUGGLE

When asked what they like best about working together Dave replies that they enjoy sharing experiences, dealing with challenges and supporting each other in their various roles. Kelly comments that "patience and open communication is the key, as well as realising that nothing work related is ever personal".

One of their greatest challenges has been juggling family with the demands of work to make sure that 'business' does not take precedence over 'family'. This has been especially difficult over Summer months when they are at their busiest. Dave and Kelly both recognise that lack of family time can be hard on their two young children while acknowledging that the kids have been great and as understanding as could be expected.

"That is the main reason that, after 6 years of running Salt and balancing family with work, I am cutting back to 'run' the family and I am loving it!" However, Kelly is still in charge of the wine list (a very important role indeed!).

Taking time out from the demands of the business was another challenge. During the first 4 years, it was difficult to get away or take many days off. Dave states, "As anyone who begins a business will tell you, hours to yourself are gold in that initial period".

However, they now feel extremely fortunate to have an "awesome structure of managers in place, all of whom treat the business as their own and lead from the front". This allows Kelly, Dave and family to get away in Winter, "hopefully somewhere warm!"

STABLE STRUCTURE AND INNOVATION

The couple recognises that innovation is essential – and they must be prepared to adapt to changing demographics and customer expectations. For example, in 2013, Dave and Kelly brought more of a food focus to the pub offering much more than the usual pub fare and nightly specials – a hugely successful move (just check the reviews!). The pub's 18 gaming machines are also a hit.

Dave says "you have to keep trying, you need to match food and service with location and environment; you can never be satisfied".

On the food scene for Salt, Dave recently brought an exciting new chef on board. He describes Zeyn Buksh as "young, exuberant and full of ideas" and, having trained in top

restaurants in London, "he is sure to bring new talent to the kitchen".

Ten years on and the couple are "happy with their move", saying although there are many challenges in the hospitality industry, overall it is rewarding and can be lots of fun working in such a sociable environment that attracts so many different people from varied walks of life.

When asked if he had any funny stories to share, Dave laughed, "Every day there is something funny or crazy going on in the place. But you know what they say – what goes on in house, stays in house!"



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WINE WORD



by Gary Barker
Manager of Goldiggers in Tairua

Long, cold, dark nights can only mean three things – time to stoke the fire, put a tasty lamb roast in the oven and then sit back in your favourite chair savouring the best silky Pinot Noirs from around the country! Winter needn't be such a bad thing after all!

There has always been huge debate among Pinot lovers as to what region makes the best drop, and, as with most wine, climate and soil types are important, but possibly most importantly with Pinot, is vine age. There is a wee saying in wine circles that "the older the vines, the better the wines".

Martinborough has the oldest plantings of Pinot in New Zealand, but not surprisingly, its old foes Central Otago and Marlborough (plums v cherries) battle for the top 10 rated wines with five from each region being

awarded 5 star gold medals, with all wines selected from the stunning 2013 vintage.



Here at Goldiggers Tairua, we are showcasing 4 of these top rated wines, with Central's ultra consistent Rockburn Winery lining up for its second top ten rating in consecutive years, testament to the winery's philosophy of minimal handling of the fruit from harvest to the bottle.

Terra Sancta Estate has enjoyed Pinot success previously with both their Estate and Mysterious

Diggings labels winning gold. This year their Bannockburn Shingle Beach Pinot enhances their reputation as fine Pinot producers earning the stable yet another gold. (Their funky label is a great talking point too!)

In similar fashion to Rockburn Winery, Charcoal Gully Sallys Pinch Pinot has also earned the label its second gold in consecutive years, with this wine also picking up a "Best Buy" accolade, and at \$28.99 a bottle, it just goes to show that you don't have to pay the earth for a good quality Central Pinot!

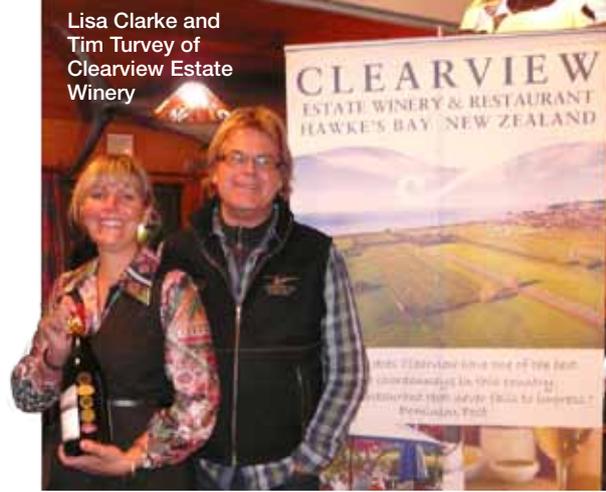
Rounding out our selection of the Top 10 Wines, is Jules Taylor's offering from Marlborough with the judges calling this Pinot "exuberant and approachable". This wine also attracted a "Best Buy" and it's easy to see why with its fruity perfume and oak seasoning.

Like most red wines, Pinots benefit from cellaring (up to 10 years), taking on a more savoury quality with age, with tannins softening considerably and giving rise to forest floor mushroomy/barnyard aromas, with a loss of its youthful colour vibrancy. Yum!!

Never decanted a red wine before pouring it into your glass? Taking time to do this will open up the wine so you can enjoy all this variety has to offer. Pouring the wine into an empty jug and then back into the bottle will do the trick nicely!

Cheers!

Lisa Clarke and Tim Turvey of Clearview Estate Winery



A 'Clear' favourite

Clearview Estate was the featured winery at Tairua's March Wine Club at Shells. I had been looking forward to revisiting their fine wines and hearing about news from their vineyard since their last visit in 2013.

I love a buttery chard, and I could tell with my first sip two years ago that so did Tim Turvey, co-owner of Clearview Estate. It's no wonder they are known as NZ's classic producer of a full-bodied chardonnay.

So you might imagine how devastated I was when I realised (the day after) I had noted the revised date incorrectly and had missed it. When I heard they would be in Thames, I immediately made a booking with Karl at GBD (in the historic Junction Hotel). It was well worth the drive!

Tim could not make it this trip, but Clearview Estate was well represented by the much prettier half of the team, Lisa Clarke. She kept us engaged with her extensive knowledge of wines and entertained with all her fun 'Tim stories'. (Better be there to defend yourself next time, Tim!)

Lisa was bubbling over with enthusiasm about the new winemaker on board, Matt Kirby. "What a great new asset he is to Clearview Estate", she said. Tim oversees the vineyard and will be working closely with Matt to create those legendary, much awarded wines. Trained as a chef with a love of Chardonnay, Syrah and Cabernet (as well as good beer), he's sure to have brought an expert palate as well.

Coming in at the top for me will always be the 5 star rated Reserve Chardonnay – 'clearly' my all-time favourite. They describe it well as "big, bold and luscious with loads of stone fruit characters and a delicious creamy caramel nose. Well integrated oak with a balanced yet complex palate." I look forward to celebrating each issue going to press by toasting with at least one glass!

This visit Lisa introduced me to their Beachhead Chardonnay, called its 'stable mate', and I must say I was impressed. It received a 4.5 star rating with Winestate. It exhibits many of the characteristics found in the Reserve at an attractive price point (which means I can enjoy it more often!).

Continued next page...



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Coming in at the top for me will always be the 5 star rated Reserve Chardonnay – 'clearly' my all-time favourite. -TD

THE CROWD PLEASERS

Table chatter at GBD was enthusiastic and positive and I asked Lisa to share the club favourites of both Tairua and Thames. "Our Gewurztraminer (a consistent surprise and crowd pick) was a big seller. (continued...) Blush is forever a popular Summer wine, but is now being enjoyed even into Winter. Beachhead and Reserve Chardonnays are consistent front runners. The 2014 Cape Kidnappers Syrah, our first vintage with 100% all Te Awanga fruit, just won 4 stars from *Winestate* early this year. Tasters agreed and it was a top seller.



THE FAMOUS SEA RED COCKTAIL

"And Sea Red – say no more!!!!" This classic Clearview meal finisher is a 'fortified' red wine style pioneered by Tim. I'm normally not a 'dessert' wine person, but this one has my vote. Not too sweet yet with a "weighty palate, oily with dense berry fruits and plum; followed by an opulent rich but dry finish". Gary tells me it was enjoyed by many on the night and a very good seller. Savour it by the glass with a yummy dessert at Shells Restaurant.

Find Clearview wines at Goldiggers, LK Whitianga & Whangamata, Pauanui Liquor, and Super Liquor Whangamata as well as restaurants including Shells and Manaia in Tairua, Salt in Whitianga, Eggsentric and Go Vino in Cooks Beach. Learn more at www.clearviewestate.co.nz.

Note: Lisa is scheduled back in the Coromandel with two tentative tasting events early September 2015. Email lisa@clearviewestate to be updated closer to the time.

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Lisa Clarke's foot attire

THIRD YEAR! WINNER Outstanding Winery Experience AWARD

Tim Turvey's grape stompers

"FOR EACH OTHER" at CLEARVIEW ESTATE

For the third year, this boutique winery and its rustic Red Shed Restaurant has won "Best Winery Experience Award" at the Hawke's Bay Hospitality Awards. Quality wines and top notch facilities are just part of the picture. We too were enchanted with the 'Clearview experience', which led us to their Facebook page and its fun collection of staff photographs.

Co-owner Tim Turvey and Account Manager Lisa Clarke are often 'paired' together for wine presentations and tastings. They have such enthusiasm and rapport people sometimes think they are married. They both are, very happily, but not to each other! That rapport seems evident throughout the entire team, as they admit below. We can't wait to visit! -TD

We work together, we pick grapes together, we play together, we queue at the photocopier together, we bottle and label wine together, we do the 5 minute quiz together, we eat lunch together, we bring morning tea for each other, we challenge each other and at times we drive each other up the wall!

At the end of the day we are like a family, love and hate but always for the cause. We are a close knit bunch, often changing hats or wearing a few at one time. One thing that is certain, we are all bound by a commonality that is a desire to produce a great product, be it wine, food or service.



Elton John doppelganger Tim Turvey hanging out near a press in his formal attire.

Lisa Clarke replaces Jimmy Choos with gumboots as she lends a hand in the vineyard

Even Triga lends a 'paw' on a promo photo shoot.

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A TASTE OF MATARANGI... Chefs compete in 20 minute thriller

April 11 was the perfect day for music, dancing, food, wine and fun at the beach!

The BuyingLocal.co.nz Cook-Off

One of the most popular events was the cook-off sponsored by "buyinglocal.co.nz". Each competing chef was given a mystery box of ingredients, access to a pantry of general ingredients, and a frantic 20 minutes ONLY to create their masterpiece.

Contestants included: Dyon Ross, Head Chef at Castle Rock Cafe; Scott Corbett, owner and Executive Chef at No.8 Bar and Brassiere, and defending champ Luke Reilly, owner and Chef at Luke's Kitchen in Kuaotunu.

Two judges were selected from the enthralled audience who watched the top chefs display their culinary skills under the clock. Winner? Once again Luke Reilly with his pan-fried chicken wrapped in bacon served with a cream and garlic sauce.

Want to try your luck with a mystery box meal? Here are the ingredients, all Kiwi SOURCED (Not just 'made in', which might point to products grown in other countries and just packaged here.)

Scott's: Akaroa salmon, polenta from the South Island, preserved lemons from Hawkes Bay, avocado oil and dill powder. **Dyon's:** Beef mince, black olives from Hawkes Bay, oregano powder and rosemary powder from FRESH AS and pinenuts grown in Marlborough. **Luke's:** Free range chicken, wakame (seaweed from Fuxfeau Staright), lemongrass powder, kaffir lime leaf powder and Fire Dragon Chillies.

Then the kids took to the stage, with three teams of junior chefs competing, again using only NZ-sourced ingredients. Andy Corles from Castle Rock Cafe was the judge, and he was impressed with their efforts, commenting that some of them have 'pro' potential. The winning dish was a steak, cooked to perfection and with impressive presentation.

EVENT A SUCCESS

The festival was a crowd pleaser with awesome music. Daughters of Ally were welcomed back, and Hipstamatics were "grooven & funken up the stage." Both groups kept the crowd on their feet and dancing.

The event raised \$10,000 for the Auckland Regional Helicopter Trust and \$1000 for Kuaotunu Search and Rescue. See photos on Facebook at A Taste of Matarangi.

Below: Defending champ Luke Reilly of Kuaotunu's Luke's Kitchen won the 'buying local' cook-off. Luke's Kitchen also recently made the Top Ten NZ Pizzeria list.

Below right: The three competing chefs included Dyon Ross of Castle Rock Cafe (left), Scott Corbett of No. 8 Bar (standing) and Luke Reilly. Andy Corles of Castle Rock Cafe (centre) judged the kids cooking competition shown at bottom. He was impressed with their efforts, commenting that some of them have 'pro' potential.



Photos by Maree Taylor are from the Facebook page: A Taste of Matarangi



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AN 11-YEAR LOVE-FEST OF ALL THINGS SCALLOP

Scallop Festival whets appetite for more

Whitianga's Scallop Festival on 19 September has a line-up of seriously delicious taste-tempters. Duelling it out on stage for "The Great Scallop Cook-Off" are chefs from Salt Restaurant and Motu Kitchen.

Returning Chefs are crowd pleasers Ray McVinnie, a Masterchef Judge, along with the 2014 Masterchef NZ winners, sisters Karena and Kasey Bird from Bay of Plenty who recently published a cook book titled *For the Love of...*

COSTUMES AND FOOD STALLS

In its 11th season, the Festival becomes more tantalizing every year. Coordinator Linda Simonsen notes, "The event is famous for its inventive stallholders, who each year come up with fresh recipes as they vie to outdo each other for the coveted title of Best Dish."

Look forward to tasting these lipsmackers, says Linda, "Pan-seared scallops with black pudding, cauliflower purée, lime chilli chutney and pancetta, scallop and bacon fritters... scallops sautéed in garlic butter and white wine... And Dive Zone will offer their popular Fog Dog beer-battered scallop kebabs."

"Grab your crew and find yourself some funky outfits to wear to the festival," she adds. "There are some great prizes up for grabs for the 'Best Dressed' competition."

Many Kiwi vineyards and brewers will provide refreshments to complement those dishes. Find info about food vendors and activities at www.scallopfestival.co.nz, and check their FB page. This festival is always a sellout, so get your tickets in advance.



CHEF'S CHOICE "WILD NIGHT"



The gang was 'game' to experience the full gamut on offer at Chef Nathaniel's degustation dinner at Tairua's Shells restaurant in April.

The term 'degustation' means "a careful, appreciative tasting of various foods which focus on the gustatory system, the senses, high culinary art and good company". And that is exactly what these evenings at Shells provide for us.

Shells is hosting these 'Chef's Choice' nights through the winter, and this one featured some dishes from the 'wild' side – foods non-hunters might not get to experience often – and he cleverly paired the fare with wines, specially selected, at special prices.

The evening started off with a delicious duck liver parfait with brioche. Next, paired with a delightful sauvignon blanc, was scallop

boudin with a yummy seared sugar-cured salmon – not only great looking, but great tasting as well!

A bay-crusted quail was served with charred corn set off with drizzles of plum sauce. This was followed by a rabbit pie – favoured by many diners. Next was another of my picks, a pastry-encased venison short loin with swiss chard.

And then dessert to die for – poached pear with chocolate and pistachios – was matched with the perfect ruby port.

After the rave reviews Nathaniel received, we were able to convince him to continue more dinners through the winter.

Save your Tuesdays: 16 June, 14 July, and 15 Sept. Bookings are essential, so give Shells a call to reserve your seat at the 'Chef's table'. 07 864 8811.



ART, ARTISTS AND TOUR ALL WINNERS AT THIS YEAR'S

Mercury Bay Art Escape



Jane Parson (centre), trustee of the Mercury Bay Art Escape Trust, presents two first places for the People's Choice Award: Martinus Sarangapany for his intriguing sculpture 'Kaleidoscopic Reliquary' and Christine Bannan for her charcoal drawing of a NZ Dotterel and her chick. They both won vouchers from the Gordon Harris art store.

This year's 46-studio Mercury Bay Art Escape was loaded with top prize winners. At the launch party, held in March at Hot Waves Cafe, the tour's artists cast their votes for their favourites.



Winner was Paula McNeill for her unique abstract 'Stepping through Time'. The crowd had a laugh as she was presented with her prize – a gift certificate from her own gallery! The Little Gallery of Fine Arts in Tairua – and given to her by her daughter (and current gallery owner) Sarah Holden.



The 55 works by the tour artists remained in the cafe's gallery, attracting views and collecting votes. Whose work would be the People's Choice? This was the first time voters produced a tie for top.

Winners, both from Hahei, were Christine Bannan with her charcoal drawing 'Charadrius obscurus Northern NZ Dotterel' and Martinus Sarangapany with his interactive work 'Kaleidoscopic Reliquary', a clay sculpture housing a kaleidoscope and a bound book of drawings, 'The Gateway To Infinity'.

Second place went to Anna Kitchingman of Cooks Beach for her painting 'Te Hoho', with third to Hahei's Becs Wood for 'Sandy's Swing', a drawing framed in a recycled window frame.

TOUR ITSELF SETS RECORDS

The overall winner, however, was the tour itself. This was the best year ever, with as many as 2800 studio visits in one day – up 30% from 2014, and an increase of visitors from outside the region, which benefited everyone. It is estimated that sales figures of existing artworks – and orders for future commissions – were up 50%.

Plans for the 2016 Open Studio Tour are already in place, with the launch at Hot Waves Café Friday 4 March; Tour weekends March 5-6 and 12-13. New member applications will be called for in July so watch the website for upcoming news –www.mercurybayartescape.com.

Check out what's happening at...



On July 4, don't miss the award winning production of "The Bookbinder" in Whitianga. This intriguing production – with shadows, puppets, and paper work – swept the awards at the NZ Fringe. The play is suitable for all ages.

Classical music fans, mark 18 September on your calendar for the the string/cello/piano ensemble, NZ Trio at right. November features the lively Miho's Jazz Orchestra.

Creative connections...

Check the Creative Mercury Bay website often, for its pages offer valuable listings to connect with arts organisations and professional performers, teachers/mentors in all areas of the fine and performing arts.

"Need a ukulele band? Or perhaps a poet?" asks Jan Wright, Chair and Coordinator. "This is where you'll find them! We maintain an arts events calendar, and All Mercury

Bay arts groups receive a free listing in the 'Arts and Culture Organisations' section of the website. These listings instantly create a web presence for even the smallest arts organisation, making it possible, with the click of a mouse, for potential members to connect with like-minded people."

Creative Mercury Bay – It's the place to go for everything arts related.

See www.creativemercurybay.co.nz



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COROMANDEL life calendar

JUNE 2015

SAT 6 JUNE

THEATRE - 'Meeting Karpovskiy' Whitianga Town Hall, 7pm. \$15. Helen Moulder & Sir Jon Trimmer, music by Tchaikovsky, Weber, Stravinsky, Adam & Bach. Book PaperPlus 07 866 5698

MUSIC - Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show. Full live band playing songs you know and love with full sound system and lighting. Kopu Station Hotel, 1 Kopu Road, Kopu, Thames 8pm

SAT 13 JUNE



MUSIC - Make Like a Tree Tour, Eggsentric Cafe & Restaurant, Purangi Rd, Cooks Beach, 8-10pm. Free admission, Indie-folk tunes & photography created by Sergey Onischenko from Ukraine who is hitch-hiking round the world. Info: 07 866 0307 www.makelikeatree.org

FRI 19 JUNE

FOLK - Charlotte Yates, Gil Eva Craig & Rob Thorne Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, 7:30pm. All ages. Door \$20, Pre-book \$18. kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com or Lotus Realm, 714 Pollen St, Thames. Info: www.robthorne.co.nz www.charlotteyates.com

SPORT - New Zealand Masters Snooker Tournament. 19-21 JUNEe, 9am-7pm, Whangamata Club, 404 Port Rd. For all Snooker players over the age of 40. Info: 07 865 8705 www.whangamataclub.co.nz and www.nzbsa.org.nz

SAT 20 JUNE

EVENT - Waihi Beach Op Shop Ball 2015 Waihi Beach Community Centre 7:30pm-12:30am. Tickets \$40, avail from 11 May at Home Hardware. Info: 07 863 5105 hopes6@xtra.co.nz

FISHING - Soft Bait - Slow Jig Fishing Competition Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, 12 Esplanade, Whitianga Info: 07 866 4121

SAT 27 JUNE

SPORT - NABBA Bodybuilding Show. Bods on show! Whangamata Memorial Hall. Info: Vanessa & Jason 027 506 9519 or 027 514 7487 nabba@inspire.net.nz www.nabba.co.nz

JULY 2015

THU 2 JULY

FISHING - The Bounty Hunter Fishing Tournament 2-4 July. Fish for Cash! Winter fun & awesome prizes. Info: Stan 07 866 8760 or 0274 345 226 www.thebountyhunter.co.nz

FRI 3 JULY

MUSIC - Youth Rock Whitianga 2.30-7.30pm at MB Multi-sports Park. Gates open at 2pm. 14-18yrs. Info: www.allaboutwhitianga.co.nz/whitianga-events/music-concerts/youth-rock-whitianga



FESTIVAL - ILLUME The Coromandel Winter Festival of Light, 3-4 July. Showcasing the heritage of Coromandel Town. Fri- 5:30-9:30pm, night market, bands & more. Sat- 5:30-10:30pm, Parade, fireworks & more. Info: www.illumefest.co.nz

SAT 4 JULY

ARTS/THEATRE - The Bookbinder. 5:30pm & 7pm. Magical One Man Show using puppetry, props, light, shadow & imagination. Monkey House Theatre, Whitianga. Tickets at Paper Plus & Mercury Bay Area School Office. Info: 07 866 5115 www.creativemercurybay.co.nz/event/the-bookbinder

MARKET/FUNDRaiser - Animal Rehoming Fund's Monster Garage Sale. 8am-1pm. ARF's major fundraiser for rehoming stray & abandoned animals in Mercury Bay. Info: 027 486 6111 animalrehomingfund@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/AnimalRehomingFundMercuryBay

SUN 5 JULY

SPORT - Trail Trilogy Fun run/walk for individuals or teams. Three events held on the Hauraki Rail Trail over 3 months. Enter one event or all 3. Event 1: Tirohia to Te Aroha, 5 July, 14km. Event 2: (see 16 Aug). Event 3: (see 27 Sep). Info: www.sportwaikato.org.nz

MON 27 JULY



FESTIVAL - The 2015 Buffalo Homecoming Week 27 JULY- 2 Aug. A great range of events will be held in Whitianga: A formal ceremony, kids activities, specialist talks, guided town tours, a special cinema evening and a Captains Dinner will be held during the week. Info: Ron Morgan 07 866 0730

AUGUST 2015

SAT 8 AUG

ARTS - Winter Art Wander. Discover the wealth of artistic ability within the Paeroa Community. Follow the art trail that leads to artists in their studios. Info: 07 862 6999 enquiries@paeroa.org.nz www.paeroa.org.nz

SUN 16 AUG

SPORT - Trail Trilogy. Second of three fun run/walks for individuals or teams on the Hauraki Rail Trail. Enter 1 or all 3. Event 1: (see 5 July). Event 2: Waihi to Paeroa, 16 Aug, 21.6km. Event 3: (see 27 Sep). Info: www.sportwaikato.org.nz

FRI 21 AUG

YOGA - The Walk to Self-Realization, 3 day retreat 21-23 Aug, Mana Retreat Centre, Manaia Rd, Coromandel Town. Yoga classes, guided meditation & inspirational discussion. Info: bicycleyogi2@gmail.com or visit www.bicycleyogaandyou.com

SAT 22 AUG



ARTS - Coromandel Peninsula Art and Craft Fair, 9am-4pm, Whitianga Town Hall, Monk St. A "must see" event during a quiet time of year. Info: Alison 07 866 0020

MOTORSPORT - NZ National Rally Championship 2015. Multi Sports Centre, Whitianga, 8am-5pm. Round 5, 60 rally cars, 1000 people including competitors, race teams, spectators & volunteers. Info: PJ Johnson 021 050 250, info@rallynz.org.nz www.nzrallychamps.co.nz/nzrc-events

FRI 28 AUG

SPORT - Coromandel Classic, 28-29 Aug. 2 day Multi-sports race for teams competing over 200kms of mountain & road biking, trail runs & kayaking. Info: events@mjevents.co.nz www.coromandelclassic.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2015

SAT 12 SEP



FAIR/CAR SHOW - Paeroa Vintage Fair & Classic Car Show, 12-13 Sep. Antique Fair-10am at Paeroa Memorial Hall; Car Show Parade-11am Town Centre; Car Rally-2pm (a

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mystery run around Paeroa District). Sunday Antique Fair- 10am Memorial Hall. Proceeds to Rotary supported charities. Info: 07 862 6999 enquiries@paeroa.org.nz www.paeroa.org.nz

SAT 12 SEP

SPORT- Whangamata Run/Walk Festival
Whangamata Area School, Port Road, 9am. Fun fitness & family. Half marathon 10km, 5km run/walk race. Spot prizes
Info: runwalkfestival@xtra.co.nz www.whangamatarunwalk.co.nz

SAT 19 SEP



FESTIVAL- Whitianga Scallop Festival.
Whitianga Marina Reserve, The Esplanade. 11th annual festival featuring 60 cuisine stalls offering mouth-watering dishes & iconic NZ entertainers, 10am-6pm. Info: www.scallopfestival.co.nz

TUE 22 SEP

HEALTH- Discover the Secrets to Exceptional Health, 6:30-8:30pm. Jason Bennett's 20 Golden Rules to transform your health, energy & vitality! Equippers Church, 507 Mackay Street, Thames. Advance \$20, Door \$30. Info: www.jasonshonbennett.com

SAT 27 SEP



SPORT- Trail Trilogy Last of three separate run/walk events for individuals or teams on the Hauraki Rail Trail. Event 3: Paeroa to Thames 29km. Event 1: (see 5 July). Event 2: (see 16 Aug). Info: www.sportwaikato.org.nz

OCTOBER 2015



FESTIVAL - Waihi Goldfest 2015. Full month of events in & around Waihi. Info: Brian Gentil 07 863 3030 - info@waihi.org.nz www.waihi.org.nz

THUR 8 OCT



FESTIVAL - Brits at the Beach, 8-11 Oct, Whangamata. A celebration of all things British. Info: Colin McCabe 07 865 9012 - info@britsatthebeach.co.nz www.britsatthebeach.co.nz

SAT 10 OCT

SPORT - Blackmores XTERRA Trail Challenge Waihi/ Karangahake Gorge. Trail Run/Walk series. Open to all ages & abilities. Info: www.trailrun.co.nz

SAT 31 OCT

SPORT- Cranleigh K2 Cycle Race. The 14th anniversary of K2 starts in Thames and travels in an anticlockwise direction through Tairua, Whitianga, Coromandel and back to Thames. Info: Keith Stephenson 07-866-8613 Andy Reid 0274-921-348 www.arcevents.co.nz



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COROGLEN FARMERS MARKET - Sundays, 9:30am-1pm, Labour Weekend till Queens Birthday. Local produce from Coromandel farms. Info: 07 866 3315 or teohu@xtra.co.nz

WHITIANGA CRAFT & FARM MARKET - 8:30am -1pm in Soldiers Park. 21&29 Oct, 6&20&27 Dec, and every Sat, Boxing Day to Mid March. Info: Doreen 07 866 5237



WAIHI BEACH MARKET - Sundays, Labour Weekend to Queens Birthday. Waihi Beach Community Centre. Info: Niria 07 863 4270

TAIRUA MARKET DAY - 1st Saturday every month, 9am-1pm. Crafts with goods & produce. Tairua Town Hall, Main Rd. Info: 07 864 7575

WAIHI MARKET - 3rd Saturday, 8.30am-1pm, Memorial Hall, Main Street, Waihi. Info: Michael Hayden 07 863 7292

PAEROA FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays, 8am-12pm, Old Regent Theatre Building, 84 Normanby Rd. Info: Norman Roderick - earthnorm@hotmail.com

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



KARANGAHAKE MARKET - 2nd & 4th Sunday, 10am-2pm. Hall burned, moved to Paeroa's Belmont Rd until rebuild. Info: 07 862 9233

KUAOTUNU MARKET - Saturday mornings weather permitting. Next to Luke's Kitchen & Gallery. Local produce, product & craft.

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COROMANDEL'S OTAMA BEACH CHOSEN IN 'THE ULTIMATE WATERMAN' SERIES

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Aussie Mark Visser
posted the Otama Beach shortboard event's only perfect 10 ride.

SURF FILM PROVES IT: NZ IS ULTIMATE SURF LOCATION!

A thrilling surf documentary aired the end of May starring several NZ surf beaches and specially chosen world class watermen. And to make it sweeter, victory in the competition went to Kiwi Daniel Kereopa from Raglan.

An uninvited guest star was Pam, Cyclone Pam, whose distant havoc elsewhere delivered major surf conditions perfectly timed for the competition at – of all places – Otama Beach. Meanwhile they kept eye on a cyclone developing to the south.

This new event, titled *The Ultimate Waterman*, is planned to be an annual competition. It

certainly honours these top athletes, but the stunning footage showcases NZ, its spectacular scenery (often viewed from the air), its surf locations, and world class 'watermen'.

Appropriately, the video was created by the energy drink producer Redbull Media, with 'no expense spared' filming and production by NZ's Making Movies. Every one of the film's 48 minutes sizzles with action as it follows the 8 competitors – reality show style – as they are whisked away to surf locations, then battle it out on the ocean in 5 different water events.

TUW Event Creator and Director Greg Townsend says, "The documentary will be on offer to a potential global audience of 4.2 million on Red Bull TV, an entertainment website with a huge international following".

The producers are aiming for distribution of the programme on TV, but the film is online now.

MIGHTY CURLS AT OTAMA BEACH!

The beach announced for the February 16 Shortboard competition was "very isolated" and had not seen waves of this power since 1997! Facebook photos showed giant surf and perfect barrels. Where WERE these great waves!!? It took some headknocking to get the UW's Facebook writers to let loose with the

location. The Coromandel's own Otama Beach!! (We found later the organisers were sensitive about exposing these "secret" surf spots.)

We headed over, via Facebook, to the Luke's Kitchen page. Avid Kuaotunu surfer Luke Reilly must be ecstatic at this surge of surfer action streaming through town for some of his famous pizza (see next page).

But Luke posted that Pam dealt his pizza place a bit of a 'wipeout' and they had to close. "Surf pumped and the Coromandel turned into the north shore of Hawaii for a day", he later updated. "Kitchen is back to normal now."

And what of 2016? Event creator Surf New Zealand plans for more! More locations, more action, additional events...and promising even greater thrills to come.

Raglan's Daniel Kereopa wins the longboard competition at his home beach...



Photo: Cory Scott



...and he went on to win it ALL!

Photo: Ian Trafford

THE ULTIMATE WATERMEN

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4. Danny Ching (USA), 4499
5. Manoa Drollet (TAH), 4249
6. Mark Visser (AUS), 4061
7. Georges Cronsteadt (TAH), 3981
8. Kala Alexander (HAW), 3576

THE DISCIPLINES AND LOCATIONS

Waka Ama Endurance, Takapuna Beach
Shortboard, Otama Beach
Standup Paddleboard, Purakanui Beach
Longboard, Raglan, Manu Bay
Standup Paddleboard, 15km, Mission Bay

WATCH THE SHOW HERE!

www.redbull.tv/videos/AP-1HQ2TJBXW1W11/the-ultimate-waterman

View other photos and videos on YouTube,
Facebook (The Ultimate Waterman)
and at www.theultimatewaterman.com.

KUAOTUNU ORCA ENCOUNTER DRAWS GLOBAL ATTENTION

Overflowing email accounts. Marriage proposals. An offer for a spot on *The Bachelor*. Rumours going as wild as the video. Unaccustomed to so much attention Luke Reilly just tried to lay low after his life suddenly 'went viral'.

The owner of Luke's Kitchen, a popular pizza restaurant in Kuaotunu, is an avid surfer and paddle boarder. He was out on a Monday morning paddling in calm waters about 100m off shore and noticed some Orcas. "A pod of about eight", Luke told us. "I was hoping to get a better look, but didn't expect one to want such a close look at me" as one of them swam upto and under his board! Admitting a little 'shaking of the knees', Luke got out his GoPro and filmed the killer whale, all the while keeping his balance on the board.

"The whale circled around and checked me out for about 5 minutes...and even had a nibble on my board's fin!" says Luke.

Already writing about Luke winning the cook-off at Taste of Matarangi (see p 41), we got word that Luke's Kitchen had joined the ranks of Locallist's NZ Top Ten Pizza spots. His fame was spreading! As we verified details on the Luke's FB page, we were thrilled – and shocked – to see he had just posted the video of his orca encounter, linked to TV 3.

Writer Carol Wright, worried about her niece in tornado country, checked weather.com.... Weather ok, but noticed a video link with familiar looking feet! It was Luke's! And who would be introducing it but Al Roker, American's top morning show weather man! Roker talked as the film played: "Luke said that 'the encounter was freaky, but amazing!' That's not how I would have described it! All I know is, I woulda needed some new shorts!!"

Where else has this popped up? *TIME* magazine, *The Huffington Post*, *New York Daily News*, *The Guardian* – CNN cable news site alone had over 3.7 million views! Luke's FB friends started posting seeing it on TV, from OZ... all over. Adding to the fun, Canadian mate Mark Bunyan created a short clip promoting 'Orca Tours' starring Mark's darling baby Arley.

And what a boost for the region. Hadley Dryden, manager at Destination Coromandel, told us their site, www.thecoromandel.com, had over 100,000 hits after they posted the video the next day. Video views as of 1 June – OVER 20 MILLION!!



Luke's Kitchen rates in Top Ten NZ Pizza Spots.

Right, Luke's mate Mark teased him with a video starring baby Arley.



Luke's orca pal took just a 5 minute looksee, but we've heard the video has had over 20,000,000 views! Top: The whale seems interested in a nibble at one point, and Luke thinks he may have toothed the fin before casually swimming off.

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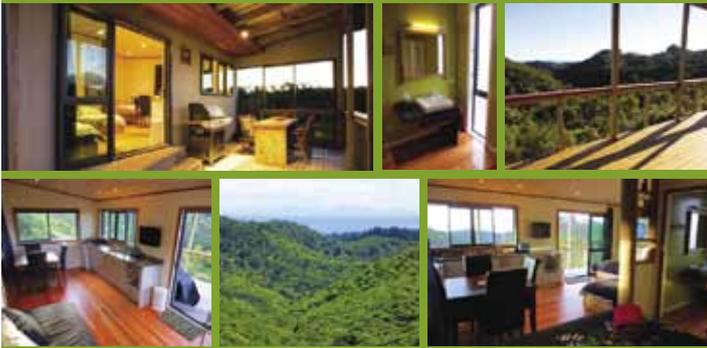
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Riley Elliott making waves with new book!

SHARK MAN

One Kiwi's Mission to Save our Most Feared and Misunderstood Predator

In March, shark scientist Riley Elliott ripped open the carton of his new book, *Shark Man*, published by Random House NZ, and offered to sell autographed copies for \$35 each, including postage within NZ. Message him via his Facebook account, *Riley Elliott – Shark Scientist*. The book is also available on Kindle.

The 250-page book tells Riley's adventures as a shark scientist and his mission to both change our perceptions of this toothy ocean creature, and to save them from slaughter.

He became fascinated with sharks while working at the Oceans Research Great White Shark Station in South Africa. He was concerned with the amount of cruel shark finning going on in the world – and in New Zealand waters – and has been active in supporting legislation to stop it. He notes that sharks definitely have a purpose in the balance of nature in the sea.

His studies, his book, and his NZ television documentary *Shark Man* keep thrusting Riley and his sharks into public awareness.

See our feature article about him at www.coromandelife.co.nz/summer_easter_2014 or visit his Facebook page for more info and other links.

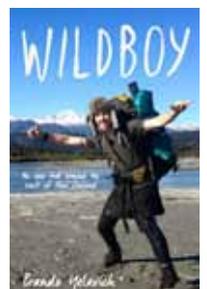


Brando Yelavich hits the road again

WILDBOY

...well, up the road...just a bit...

We were enchanted to find more gorgeous photos from the Coromandel's own *Wildboy* adventurer, mega trekker, and author Brando Yelavich. He posted on his Facebook page this gorgeous shot of a sunrise from "Tairua hill."



"This happens to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. Another day in Paradise on the Coromandel." But, of course!!

The shot was taken from a lookout north of the Twin Kauri on SH25, near Paul Road. He had also just posted dramatic photos of Rotorua's mineral pools, and we wondered – was he up for yet another go around NZ?

Brando – who chronicled his 600-day, 8,000km solo hike around the country (raising \$32,000 for the Ronald McDonald House in the process) – admitted he might hike the entire length of it one day. Oh! And where does this 'Wildboy' call home, "Hahei..." he says.

Keep up with this *local* boy's *wild* adventures (and NZ's best selfies) on Facebook, *Wildboy Adventures - Brando Yelavich*. And buy his book!

World Surfing Games...

ELLA WILLIAMS EARNS BRONZE

Whangamata surf sensation Ella Williams – hot off her win at the Rip Curl Pro competition in Raglan at the end of May – headed to Popoyo Beach, Nicaragua, for the International Surfing Association’s 2105 World Surfing Games. Below, Ella waves the flag at opening ceremonies as Kiwi sand is mingled with that of the 27 competing nations. Ella progressed strongly through all her heats and claimed third place on the podium (shown with gold medalist Tia Blanco of the USA) in the Women’s Open Division.

Many fans followed Ella’s progress on her FB page, enjoying the photos snapped by Mum. “Thanks, Mum!”



Pic: ISA / Nelly



Opoutere and Paeroa

Students learn about marine conservation ...then snorkel to see it



Students learn snorkeling techniques in a pool before diving at the Gemstone Bay. Inset, snorkeling at Poor Knights marine reserve.

Opoutere and Paeroa Central Schools have just completed the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) programme, a national programme of experiential learning about marine conservation. “We did a theory lesson in class”, explained EMR Auckland Regional Coordinator Lorna Hefford, “then taught the students how to snorkel in a pool. And then we took them to Hahei where we snorkelled at the south eastern end outside the marine reserve and then inside the reserve at Gemstone Bay. The students have also been working on action projects to help their community.”

The Action Project and Bobby Stafford Bush Art prizes were awarded to students, “Summer de Thierry from Paeroa Central and John Canlass from Opoutere School who will be flown to Whangarei with a parent to go snorkelling at the world famous Poor Knights marine reserve with Dive! Tutukaka,” she said. (Boatload of winning students seen above.)

The Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust, a Charitable Trust, provided the funding to deliver the EMR programme to the schools. To make a donation to support their work, see www.emr.org.nz or contact the secretary Barbara Ritchie at barbritchie@xtra.co.nz.

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Milly's & Kayla take fashion to the aisles...



Bodine, Dot and Rose from Thames mix fashion with the gib-boards.



Who says you can't have fun with fashion? And be able to pick up some building supplies as well? Milly's in Tairua and Kayla in Thames threw a Ladies' 'Fashion 'n' Kitchens' Night at PlaceMakers in April. It was so well received they're planning a Fashion Parade in Tairua this Spring!

Visit them at www.millysonmainstreet.co.nz or 'Like' Milly's on Facebook to keep up to date on details. Stop by to try on their winter collection! Call 07-864 7464.

New signs...Familiar faces

You may have noticed the new Harcourts signs popping up all over Tairua. The well established Tairua Real Estate has recently rebranded to become a franchise of Harcourts.

Jen and Graham Beare, who had been with TRE as sales consultants for over a decade, are now part-owners and will manage the new Harcourts Tairua office.



Bringing over 45 years of combined experience to the new Harcourts office, this local team includes (l to r) Clive Mosen, Jen and Graham Beare and Kate Purdon. Pop in to 238 Main Rd and re-acquaint yourself. Ring them at 07 864 7822 or view some awesome properties at www.harcourts.co.nz.



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Whitianga

'Massed Choir' concert set for July 18 in Whitianga



The Mercury Bay Community Choir is thrilled to welcome back choir director Dr. James Niblock, who will conduct "A Winter Sing" series of workshops starting July 12, ending in a concert on Saturday 18 July.

This popular director from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, conducted similar workshops when the Community Choir hosted him in 2008, with a massed choir of 55 – adults, youth and vocal teachers from many areas.

The singers learned the choral repertoire independently over three months with James's guidance and materials. Then he flew in from the US to work with the choir and polish the pieces for public performance for an appreciative audience of 300.

James also came in 2010, and choir members are thrilled to continue the learning and sharing this July.

In addition to his outstanding musical knowledge, James has the ability to relate well with people of all ages, bringing out the very best of their personal sound, and then blending the combined voices.

Cost for the week long workshop is \$80. Email Jan Wright on janandjohnwright@xtra.co.nz to see if spots are still available.

For more about this and other Creative Mercury Bay programmes and workshops see www.creativemercurybay.co.nz.



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The Pauanui Information Centre's dedicated team



At last! The first of June, Pauanui's volunteers gave library books a final dusting. The Info Centre's brochures were straightened. It was clean enough to remove the protective cardboard from the floor.

It's OPEN, after more than 10 years of planning, and almost a year of construction, Pauanui's amenity building is done. It is located across the road from the church near Pauanui Shopping Centre. See *What's on at Pauanui* on Facebook for more photos and updates. Stop in for a visit...and why not join the other Information Centre volunteers, shown above during the building stage.



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At the beginning of the year *The Coromandel* was voted New Zealand's number one holiday destination*. This hardly comes as a surprise to those of us who live here or visit regularly.

The danger for a sparsely populated region like ours is the pressures that come from elsewhere. Our scenic coastline and bush-clad ranges attract people from all around the world. The natural attractions found around every corner are seeing a growing number of travellers particularly over the summer months.

Destination Coromandel is the Regional Tourism Organisation tasked with marketing *The Coromandel* to the world, or more specifically to key markets in our neighbouring regions – think Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. While the marketing team acknowledges that they play a significant role in attracting visitors to our backyard (check out www.thecoromandel.com to see the calibre of their work), they believe that being referred to as New Zealand's number one holiday destination on a consistent basis requires a strategic approach from the whole industry.

Destination Coromandel believe they've come up with a simple formula to work towards this vision as illustrated in *Beyond 2025*. This document challenges the local visitor industry to target three key areas in the next ten years – Product Development, Seasonality and Quality. Working together, towards common goals is an outcome that Destination Coromandel Manager Hadley Dryden is keen to see. "Basically we want to see the visitor industry looking ahead and visualising how they'd like to see the local visitor experience in ten years time and working together to get there."

"This may reflect how they see their towns too. There are plenty of opportunities to improve the visitor experience region-wide. It's important that *The Coromandel* preserves the very attributes that attract people here today."

The Hauraki Rail Trail has been celebrated as a successful partnership. It has already attracted more visitors than anticipated and surprisingly the busiest month was April.

Should *The Coromandel* wish to stay in touch with national aspirations we'll be generating an additional \$80 million over and above what we're currently trending towards, by 2025. Addressing seasonality and quality while developing more visitor attractions may help progress towards this... but can it be done in a way that cements our reputation and doesn't cost the earth?

HOW DO YOU SEE THE COROMANDEL IN 10 YEARS TIME?

Visit www.thecoromandel.com/beyond2025
to read *Beyond 2025* and contribute your thoughts

The New Zealand Tourism Industry has set an aspirational goal of achieving \$41 billion in total tourism revenue in 2025.

This requires that domestic and international spend grow by 4% and 6% year on year respectively.

Assuming *The Coromandel* achieves the same level of growth by 2025, we will deliver \$506 million in total visitor revenue. This is an 19% increase on the current projections for *The Coromandel* in 2025.

MISSION:

“To continue developing our visitor industry as an economic driver for social prosperity and to lead the preservation of The Coromandel’s unique cultural, historical and natural heritage.”

Established by Destination Coromandel

The Coromandel represents the Hauraki Plains, Coromandel Peninsula & Seabird Coast.

*Destination Coromandel is funded by Thames Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council and businesses in the visitor industry to promote **The Coromandel** - good for your soul*

To achieve this *The Coromandel* needs to target three areas:

- 1 **Product Development**
- 2 **Seasonality**
- 3 **Quality**

Our mission will inform all strategic actions and accord them intergenerational priority, to ensure the enhancement of the very attributes that attract people to *The Coromandel*.

Live the Dream

ON THE COROMANDEL



45 years combined experience in real estate on the Coromandel

"Nothing beats local knowledge"



IT'S LOCATION THAT COUNTS

This single level home has a large kitchen and open plan dining/lounge. Three bedrooms – master with ensuite. A separate rumpus room and tandem garage. Great outdoor living areas. Home has real street appeal. Walking distance to Golf Course, beach and town amenities.
TRU2539 **\$550,000**



SPACIOUS HOME WITH VIEWS

A three bedroom, 2 level home with estuary views. Open plan living with covered decks from both sides of the living area. Large rumpus room. Two separate garages, plus a studio for the artist or an office to work from home. Walking distance to the town and estuary.
TRU2273 **\$560,000**



LOCATION, SPACE GALORE & PRIVACY

A spacious three bedroom home on a huge level section of 1303m2. Open plan living area with a deck and a large separate lounge which has wood burner with wetback. A double garage with workshop, plus double carport. Plenty of room for the boat, etc. Recently repainted & new carpet.
TRU2277 **\$535,000**

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