

"FLIGHT OF FANCY"
by Paul Herbert

LATE AUTUMN / WINTER 2017
COMPLIMENTARY



COROMANDEL

life



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Publishers

Tovi and Greg Daly

Executive Editor/Managing Editor

Tovi Daly Carol Wright

Office Manager

Sarah Steinemann

Design & Layout

Matt Hishon, Anomaly

other design support...

Carol Wright Shannon Okey

Melissa McGregor, mododesign

Contributing Writers/Editors/Proofing

Carol Wright Tovi Daly Sandra Scott

Scott Simpson Monett Johnston Georgina Bond

Kate Palmano Shannon Okey Robert Simmons

Calendar Coordinator

Shannon Okey Sandra Scott

Advertiser Liaisons

Tovi Daly Sarah Steinemann

Contributing Artists/Photographers

Paul Herbert (Cover Art) Amber Jones & Riley Elliott

Ian Patrick Alan Duff Pete May Greg Daly Pete Stretch

Printing & Pre-press

Crucial Colour, Penrose Auckland

Distribution, Volunteer & Misc Support

Gavin Hedwig Russell Skeet Karl Edmonds Leanne Adams

Tracey Salkeld Karen Vowles Tony Keyworth

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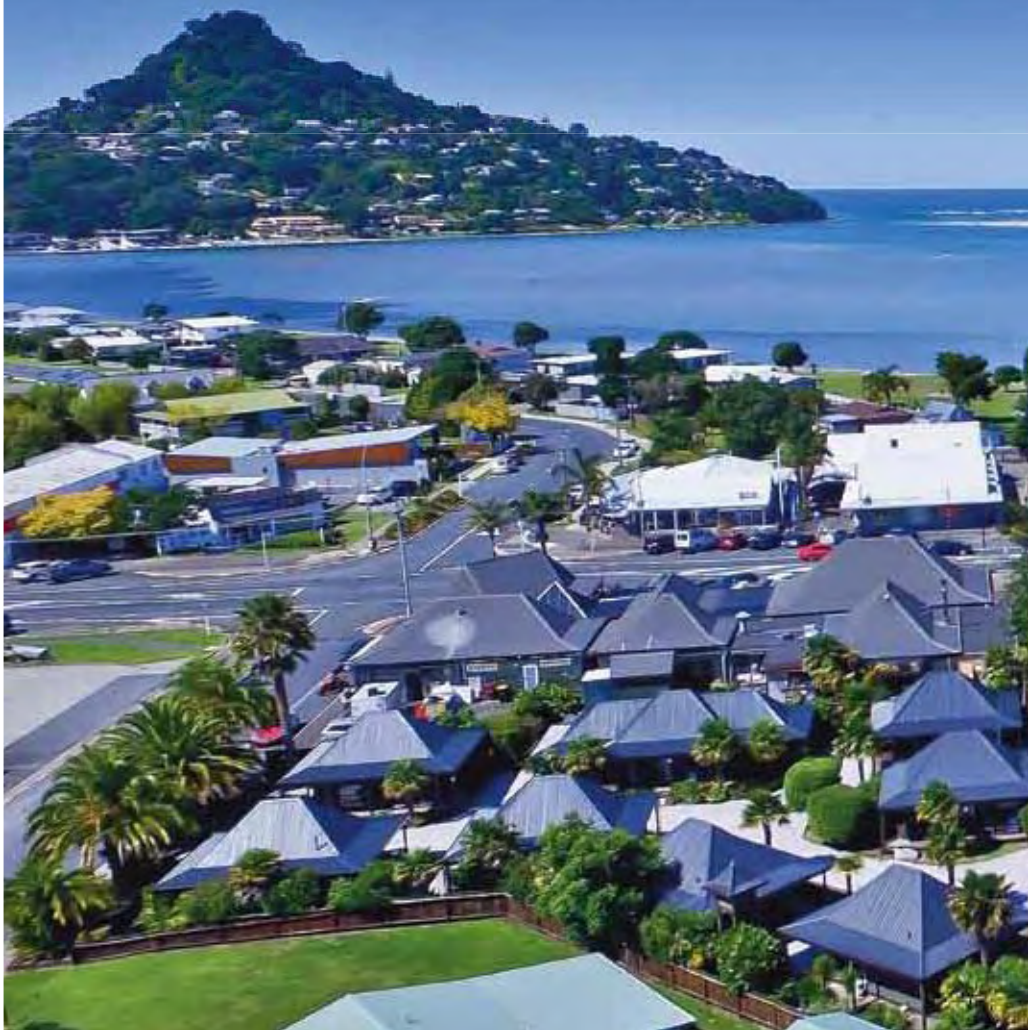
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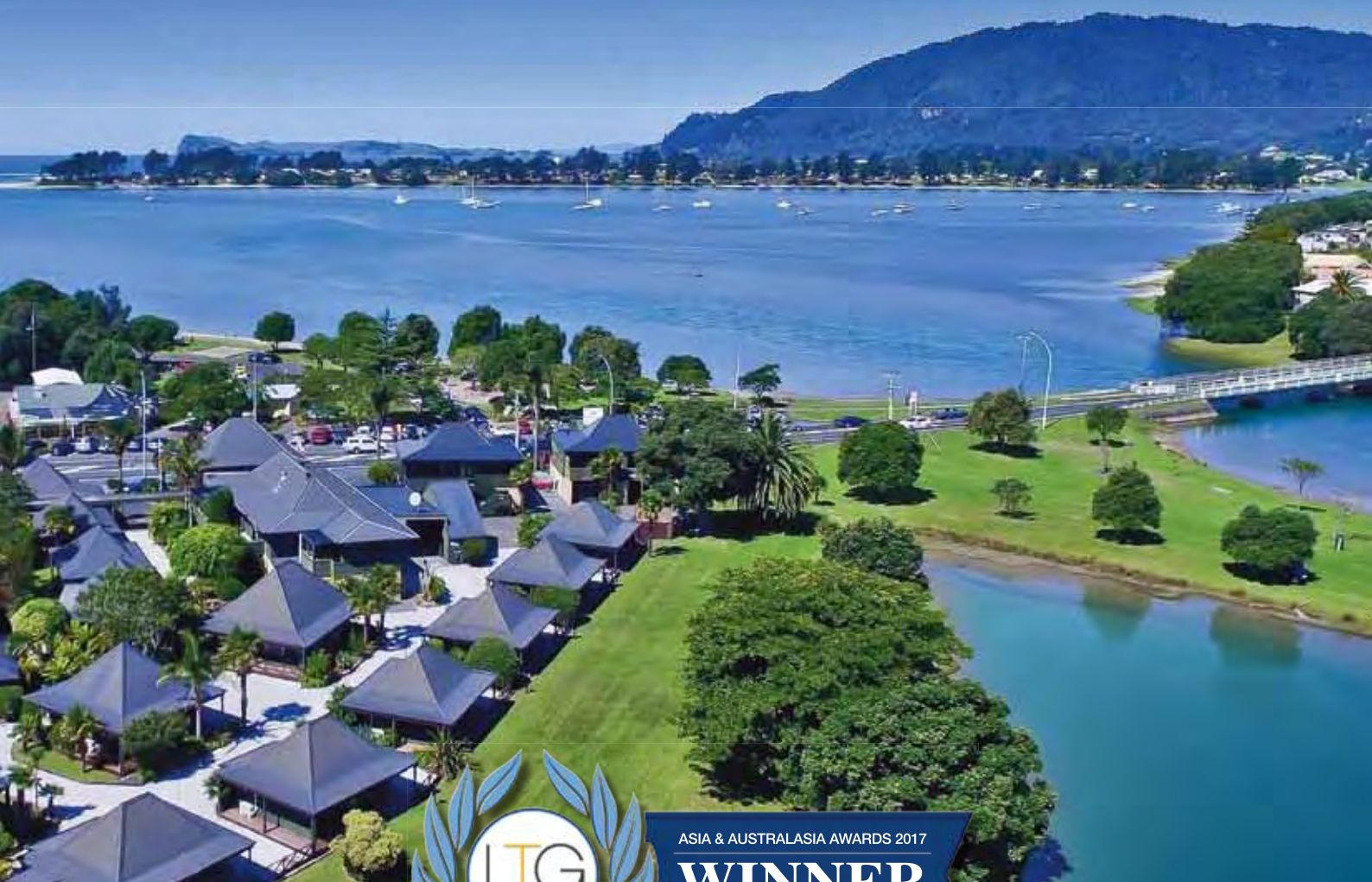


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Verena Tagmann Painter

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"Adventure in Blue"



"Dialog"

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"Morning Walk, Whangamata"

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**Painter
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"Evening Shadows Pauanui"



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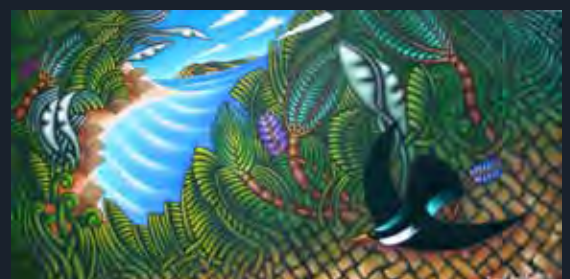
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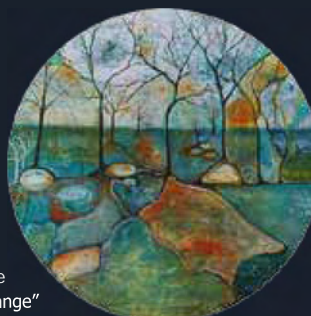
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EASTER SHOW “HATCHED” A SUCCESS.

Customers adored the unique ‘Easter Orbs’ member artists painted on concrete spheres created by Gary Brooks. There are still a few available including these by Kirsty Black, Sally Samins, Susan Dunster and Paula McNeill.

QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND OFFERS BONUS PRINT SPECIAL!

On Sat & Sun, 4-5 June, customers received bonus prints with their purchases.

Keep informed about special offerings like this by subscribing to our newsletter online. You will receive regular emails about what’s happening at The Little Gallery as well as introduce you to featured artists and some of the new art work available.



HAPPENNING IN JULY

The gallery is a cooperative effort with regular brainstorming sessions like the one above with Liz Hart, Tina Carey, Dhyana Muir, Joanne Mahoney, Sarah Holden, Paula McNeill, and Ruth Pettit. This meeting included working through a fun and interactive ‘Collaboration Painting’ idea for the July school holidays.

People will be invited to ‘make their mark’ on a canvas for a raffle fee which puts them in the draw to win the completed painting at the end. Artists who help run the gallery will help guide participants so that the end result is an exciting piece of work. Stay tuned for more.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE for information about our upcoming events as well as interviews with some of our artists and reviews of some of the fantastic exhibition openings we have had, www.thelittlegallery.co.nz.

GALLERY IN AUCKLAND TO CLOSE

Our gallery lease has come to an end in Auckland and we have decided not to renew it. It was a great experience and we had some fun evenings. Watch this space for other exciting initiatives that we’ve got planned.

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We are also in search of an enthusiastic and inspired salesperson to market *Coromandel Life* to new accounts and media companies. Know anyone?

Kia Ora...



The oldest wharf in NZ still stands at Ferry Landing and has been restored. The walls and old stone steps that lead up from the Wharf to the landing have been rebuilt. Some of the original stones were used after being recovered from the sea floor below.

Although I'm quite exhausted by the time *Coromandel Life* goes to press, in reflecting back I always feel so fortunate to be doing something I love, something that gives me joy – grief at times too – but joy eventually wins.

It's so rewarding – the puzzle pieces falling into place in the final moments, the synchronicity that keeps happening, learning the rich history, awesome places and amazing people as we research and write articles, and the appreciation for all the people who helped get it to completion.

And though I haven't explored the Coromandel as much as many of the adventurous people sharing in the magazine, I get the next best thing – to meet them and experience those magical places through their images and words. And then having the pleasure of sharing them with you, our readers.

There are times when things do go pear-shaped, and I wonder if there ever will be a magazine to send to press. And then a huge rainbow will open up across the harbour, letting me know all is going to plan and OK – just trust, relax and breathe. Rainbows for me have always signaled positive things to come.

It was in one of those moments that Greg and I took a peaceful walk on the Kauri Track down the road. As we emerged from the bush, one

of my favourite pals – the pretentious fantail – greeted me, landing on the road less than a metre from where I stood. I had to chuckle when he then took a leap in the air and did a little flip.

Knowing he now had my complete attention, he stayed close, opening and closing his little tail as I chatted with him on the walk home. His appearance on this particular day filled my sad heart with joy, and I knew he was saying, "It's all good, Tovi. Things will be OK".

I've had an affinity for fantails since I started my love affair with NZ many years ago when first visiting. Since then they have become even more endearing.

So I wasn't surprised when there were many fantail flitting around outside my office over the next few days. "We've come to cheer you up Tovi. How can you not smile when you see us delightful little creatures?" So right.

And I vow to not only stop to 'smell the roses' from now on, but to also take time out to stop and 'laugh with the fantails'.

And in this issue we've given tui a turn ... to turn every day into a comedy (see page 10).

See you in the Spring,

Tovi and Greg Daly

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? Most know "gone pear-shaped" is a British expression to indicate that something has gone horribly wrong. The origin is unclear, but one theory says that it is RAF slang relating to the difficulty of performing aerobatic loops, which if executed imperfectly, were described as "pear-shaped".

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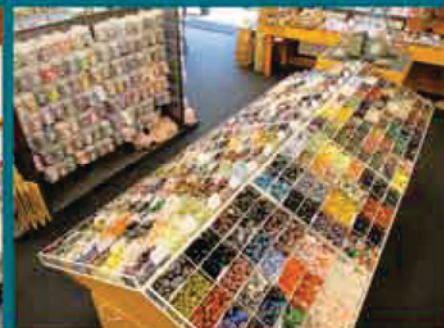


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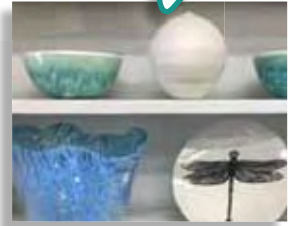
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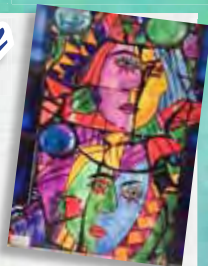
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Cover Artist Paul Herbert

We have long admired Waihi artist Paul Herbert's style and the fun feeling his works evoke, so upon receiving a preview in January of his new painting, "Flight of Fancy", we knew we'd found our next cover.

Paul loves to distort some of his chosen subjects, making them fit his style, and enjoys making them appear a bit 'wonky'. We were thrilled when he confirmed the birds in this new work were indeed tui. What synchronicity! – as a special tui feature had already been planned for this issue (see following pages).

"The driving force behind this painting is my passion for the sea, surfing, the bush, native wildlife, and the tui which have been a big part of my life and my environment," Paul shares.

"We lived in Cambridge close to the Maungakawa Reserve where dozens of tui gathered in a large Japanese walnut tree to eat, play and court," he remembers. "Their wild and mad aerobatics – along with their loud squawks and beautiful sounding bellows – dominated the air around the trees!"

Paul used an acrylic paint 'dry brush' method found in all of his paintings. "I endeavour to put visual energy into the shapes so they connect to each other without actually joining."

He formulates a style heavily influenced by both his graphic design skills and a fascination with nature's 'jumbled randomness' of shapes and colours. Paul reinterprets these into a more ordered form in his paintings' structure. Repetition of the Nikau palm, for instance, allowed for segmentation of the painting, a tie back to his graphic arts style of 'ordered randomness'.

After almost 30 years of running a graphic design business (Graphic Eyes Limited), Paul decided to get back to some of his grass root passions of painting, carving and surfing.

Paul mentioned that returning to art after a lapse of all those years was like "a '70's retro time warp!". After studying at the School of Design, Wellington (1971-72), he was inspired and influenced by artists such as renowned Coromandel artist Michael Smither, Robin White, Don Binney, Rita Angus, and Dean Buchanan.

THE MOVE TO WAIHI BEACH

Several years following recovery from a triple bypass, Paul craved a more laid back lifestyle, one preferably close to the ocean and surf. He sold his home in Cambridge and moved to Waihi Beach in 2014, where he opened a home studio, Gallery27, at 27 Fyfe Road.

The gallery is open daily in summer, weekends in winter (look for the open flag), and all year by appointment. He would be delighted to show his current works, discuss painting a commission, or even plan a graphic arts project.

Also view his art at The Little Gallery (Tairua), Inspirit Gallery (Hamilton), Matapihi Gallery (Raglan), and Helena Bay Gallery (Northland).

Reach Paul at 021 235 8988, 07 863 4114 or paul@paulherbert.co.nz and see more art online at www.gallery27.co.nz or Facebook at Gallery27.

'Flight of Fancy', 710mm x 570mm, is acrylic on canvas. Interested in purchasing the original or limited edition prints? Contact Paul.



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The Tui

The iridescent tui with its double voice box reflects the nation's rambunctious character.

There are so many things to love about our tui! How they just 'appear' either by flying right in front of you, or that distinctive sound of their wings as they power upward through the trees, or how all of a sudden the air is just filled with their songs and warbles as they talk to us in all their different ways.

And what an inspiration for artists. Our cover art this issue features Waihi artist Paul Herbert's delightful depiction of the swooping tui, and our Spring 2016 cover featured a watercolour of this beloved bird by Thames artist Jeanne-Marie Cantereau, who captures the essence of its cheekiness.

We admit to being smitten by this unique endemic bird and it was lovely to hear that so many of our readers from around the globe are passionate about our tui as well.



Photo by Ian Patrick

Recent studies indicate that our native songmaster is actually one of the most intelligent birds on the planet. And, as a delightful part of our daily lives, could the tui even be beating out our national icon – the kiwi – to be our most beloved bird?

Easily recognisable, it appears fundamentally black, yet the feathers move through a spectrum of iridescent colours – indigo, purple, blue, turquoise, green and blue with two white tufts of feathers at their throat and a distinctive cape of white feathers over the top of its wings giving it the cloak-like effect – all a challenge for artists to capture as the qualities and light of the feathers are constantly changing.

These reminded early European settlers of the English clergyman, dressed in black cape with a white neck scarf, leading to its name, the ‘parson bird’. The English parson was often said to have a beady, watchful eye, which the tui also appears to show when he’s monitoring you from his vantage point in a tree!

SINGING UP A STORM, AND TALKING TOO!

The musical range of tui is unlike any other in our forests and suburbs. It fills the landscape with a depth of different tones and sounds, often beyond the range of the human ear, all made possible by their ‘double’ voice box. An Auckland study into the native call of the tui has revealed its song ranks as one the bird-world’s most complex.

Their intelligence and ability learn new sounds allows them to continually adapt to the changing sounds of their environment. Master imitators, they are able to copy the human voice, cell phones and other birds’ songs. Studies show their calls vary from area to area, like a dialect, as well as between seasons and sexes. Tui sing in our days’ dawn and are often heard trilling well into dusk. Unlike other birds, they are known to call and sing at night too – particularly around a full moon.

TWO TALKING TRIBAL TUI

A small waterfall on the Whangamarino Stream near the Waikato railway is named “Te Ako-o-te-tui-a-Tamaoho”, meaning ‘the teaching of Tamaoho’s tui’. It is the place where Pouwhatu, chief of Ngati Tamaoho of the Waikato area, took his pet tui to teach it how to talk. The name recognises both the effort of the man, and the cleverness of the bird.

Maori believed that tui learn best when surrounded by the sound of a waterfall. The steady noise of the water created a sound barrier, ensuring the bird wasn’t distracted and would hear only his master’s voice.

Over many long days Pouwhatu taught his bird to speak. The bird became a prized pet of the tribe, and could recite karakia (prayers), songs and several long speeches.

Early Maori trained the Koko or Poe (as they called tui), to imitate the call women made to bring visitors onto the Marae. And some were even taught to recite speeches (see below).

The bird was highly regarded by Maori, often kept as pets in cages. They were featured in many old stories, and several gained such notoriety they were fought over. It was said that on one occasion a talented tui was taught a speech to welcome Sir George Grey, governor of NZ, onto a marae.

Alas, both settlers and Maori ate tui too, which contributed to their decline. In 1773 on his second voyage here, Captain Cook described the tui as “not more remarkable for the beauty of its plumage than the sweetness of its note. The flesh is also most delicious and was the greatest luxury the wood afforded us”. And, horrors! The bird’s skin was also used to line ladies hats! Thank goodness for a law change in the 1880s banning the hunting of tui, or we might not enjoy them now.

While not endangered, tui numbers have sunk to dangerous lows at times in our history. The tui’s eggs (typically a clutch of 2-4 eggs to a nest) and baby birds, however, are in danger from many predators including opossum, stoat, ferrets, rats and both feral and domestic cats. However, unlike the wingless kiwi, the tui can put up a delightfully strong defence.

Fortunately, effective predator control in various regions around the country has resulted in an increase in tui numbers as with kiwi.

THE VARIABLE TUI

Inquisitive, territorial, friendly, solitary, sociable, aggressive: tui (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) are described as all these things and more. They are most grumpily protective when chicks are in the nest, and also jealously guard their territory and food sources, chasing off other birds in speedy swoops.

TANE-MITIRANGI

Another tribe, Ngai-Tauira, also owned a very remarkable tui which was said to possess more than human intelligence.

Tane-mitirangi not only learned to repeat the most powerful karakia, but was believed to possess special spiritual abilities, bewitching others on command. This greatly prized bird was coveted and eventually stolen by another tribe. Discovering their loss the Ngai-Tauira pursued the offenders and many were slain in the battle. The few survivors fled to Hawkes Bay.

A children’s book, *Tane Miti Rangi, te manu korero*, tells the fate of this sacred bird, who, with his wisdom and prayer helped provide for the people of the Ngai-Tauira tribe.

Single birds will defend a defined feeding territory but they are also known to band together, chattering and flapping to chase off magpies or hawks. When nearby nectar sources quit blooming, a tui may travel 10-20km to feed or for summer breeding.

Although the sexes are alike, the male is larger and adults have a notch on the 8th primary feather of their wing which is what causes the distinctive flutter we hear as they fly by. Another distinguishing flight pattern associated with mating rituals is when they fly up in a sweeping arch with a sudden swooping dive bomb descent, with the wings held tightly into the body. These take place between September and October when they are also singing high up in the trees in early morning and late afternoon.

Of all our native wonders, the tui is surely one of the most delightful, both a visual treat and as music to the ear.



TUI RUA by Reina Cottier.

She says about this amazing bird:

“The tui, majestic and proud,... a curious, highly intelligent bird, is fascinating to watch, almost letting you into their world – swooping, diving, sitting oh so close,... but then, protective, fierce, swift,... and away. Like two birds in one, as is their song, deep guttural clicks and clucks, and then the beautiful melodic song from another world.”

LOCAL ARTISTS LOVE FOR THE TUI



TUI BOUQUET by Jane Galloway

Made by doing many detailed botanical paintings in watercolour which are then photographed and the plant/ bird layers assembled using Photoshop.

From Jane: After the cold, rain and gales of winter, it's like a ray of sunshine hearing the tui's bell-like notes as it feeds in the neighbour's bottlebrush. Local gardens keep tui near and as spring becomes summer, their song is the accompaniment to my daily work in the studio.

A few summers ago I spotted a dead tui on the road as I left for my morning walk. After that, and for the next two summers, its mate constantly called from the tallest kanuka, the same pattern of sounds over and over.

We are privileged to have these remarkable wild birds living so close, sharing their colour and character.



TUI CHIEF

by Monique Rush

"I painted this from a photo I took of a plump Tui sitting on my fax at home. He was very content with me photographing him so close.

He looked so confident, grand and important. He reminded me of a great Maori chief, looking over his land and people. With his feathers fluffed up as if it were his sacred cloak. I have kept only a handful of the paintings I create and this is one of my favourites."



FOUR IMPROMPTUS

by Jeanne-Marie Cantereau

"Years ago we purchased a home in Thames with a large kowhai tree I could see from my studio. When in bloom first to arrive was kereru (wood pigeon) then tui, and the war began.

I saw the tui puff itself up – obviously to make itself bigger and more threatening to the kereru. Then the tui thrust its long curved beak at the much bigger bird, driving it out of the tree.

For days the tui defended the kowhai – with amazing aerobatics and speed, loud flapping of wings, and tireless singing – all to remind the kereru and other tui that he was claiming this tree as his territory. All this stopped my painting as I watched the daily drama.

As an artist, loving NZ birds for their iridescent, bright and beautiful colours, I was inspired and enchanted to capture this wonderful gift of nature. And the medium of watercolour allows me to express the constant movement of these birds."

ENJOY TUI IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

Photo by Ian Patrick



There's no doubting that NZ native tui are one of the most visually pleasing birds of all to find in our gardens, and few others' song can rival the variety of trills, screeches, clicks, and 'rusty gate' noises they delight us with.

So it's no wonder we want to find ways to encourage tui to our gardens. How? The tui's long curved beak and thin tongue are specially adapted to reach into tubular flowers, so those types of plants will always attract them. They also inadvertently help with pollination as they transfer pollen from one flower to the next. You may even see pollen on their face or head.

You may already have plants that draw them to the area like flax, (Phormium) kowhai, (Sophora) and the humble Pittosporum flowers. Other native NZ plants that naturally occur on the Coromandel and will entice them include karo and other Pittosporum, five finger (Pseudopanax), rewarewa (Knightia excelsa),

pohutukawa (Metrosideros), Corokia, and the climber Tecomanthe speciosa.

They are particularly attracted to the non-natives Taiwanese cherry, or *Prunus campanulata*. Others include Felix Jury, Okama and Superba, Rowan trees (Sorbus), firethorn (Pyracantha), flame tree (Brachychiton acerifolius), red hot pokers (Kniphofia), flowering gums (Eucalyptus) and the succulent aloes.

Although their most preferred food is nectar, they'll also munch into insects (like cicadas and even stick insects). Create a perch or platform for whole berries and seeds, provide fresh water, and they are sure to return year on year, especially in winter when their natural sources of sustenance are less available. To get a close up view, dissolve a tablespoon of sugar in a cup of water, and place (preferably in a red container) nearby yet out of reach of cats. Replace with a fresh batch each couple of days to avoid contamination.

One word of caution, Rhododendron are poisonous to tui. If you have them planted near similarly coloured flowering plants tui are attracted to, they may inadvertently feed on this toxic plant that could mean certain death.

Want some help? For plant advice and/or garden planning, ring Sandra Scott of Sandscapes Landscape Design, a specialist in native NZ plants and coastal garden design. 07 866 2656 or 021 030 6614.



POE-BIRD

Christened by Captain Cook the poe-bird, this beloved native bird is widely known as 'tui', its Maori name.

Early colonists often referred to it as the 'parson bird' because of its white neck feathers and 'sermonising' habits.

Cook describes it in 1773:

"The feathers of a fine mazarine blue.... Under its throat hang two little tufts of curled, snow-white feathers, called its poies, which being the Otaheitean word for ear-rings, occasioned our giving the name to the bird, which is not more remarkable for the beauty of its plumage than for the sweetness of its note. The flesh is also most delicious, and was the greatest luxury the woods afforded us."

The engraving above is one of the earliest European depictions of a tui and was drawn during Captain Cook's second voyage (1772 - 1775) by Polish-born scientist Johann Reinhold Forster's son Georg.

OUR TUI MAKES HISTORY



Charles Hursthouse, in his *"New Zealand: or; Zealandia, the Britain of the South"* (1857), observed in his ornithology chapter:

There are about fifty varieties of land birds; and, as some are free and fine songsters – and as others indulge in great cry and clamour, they impart considerable liveliness and animation to the outskirts of the woods.

The most common and certainly the most facetious individual of the ornithology, is the Tui (Parson-Bird). Larger than the blackbird and more elegant in shape, his plumage is lustrous black irradiated with green hues and pencilled with silver grey, and he displays a white throat-tuft for his clerical bands. Parson bird though he be, the Tui is no sullen anchorite mortifying the flesh. He is a bird of the convivial rector order, fond of honey; and taking tythe of all the fruits his rich living affords.

Joyous Punchinello of the bush, he is perpetually in motion. He can sing, but seldom will; and preserves his voice for mocking others. Darting from some low shrub to the topmost twig of the tallest tree, he commences roaring forth such a variety of strange noises with such changes of voice and volume of tone, as to claim the instant attention of the forest. Should another Tui chance to be near, he at once flits down for a sham fight; throws a somerset or two, and then darts into his bush, only to come forth the next minute with exhibition number two.

Caught and caged, he is still the merry ventriloquist, mocks cocks and cats, attempts the baby, and has been known to frighten a nervous little dog off the premises. To add to his merits, he becomes such fine eating in the season of poroporo berries, that an alderman might quit turtle and dare the seas to eat a tui stew.



Keulemans, John Gerrard
1842-1912 -Tui or Parson
bird, adult and young. (Plate
X. 1888). Public domain.

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DESTINATION Coromandel

NEW SEARCH & EXPLORE
VIDEO SERIES LAUNCHED

36° 48' 02.7" S 175° 18' 56.3" E
MOTUPOHUKUO ISLAND

@iamtheflyingkiwi

If you have read or heard the slogan “*The Coromandel. Good for the Soul*”, then you have been touched by the efforts of Destination Coromandel (DC), the Regional Tourism Organisation for our area, which includes the Coromandel Peninsula and the Hauraki Plains.

This ‘visitors bureau’ division is in charge of attracting visitors to our spectacular peninsula and this dedicated team take their mandate very seriously.

And what better way to showcase and promote our stunning locations and assets than through a series of short, high quality video clips. This newest initiative, ‘Search and Explore’, presents featured locations in a new, topographical way, from soaring birds eye views to high action close-ups!

Hadley Dryden is responsible for leading the marketing organisation. We talked with him about the current level of tourism in The Coromandel and in particular, the impact of the Search and Explore video series.

TELL US ABOUT ‘SEARCH AND EXPLORE’

Basically it’s providing a visual map intended to both inspire people to visit as well as help them plan their activities.

After a bumper summer season we kicked off our ‘Search and Explore’ video series to help grow travel into March and April. We rate these months as the best time to visit and refer to it as The Coromandel’s ‘endless summer’.

The series kicked off in Coromandel Town and featured the remaining towns along the west coast of The Coromandel. It now includes Thames, Paeroa, the Hauraki Plains and Seabird Coast, and Waihi. Towns along the Pacific Coast will be released soon, starting with Whangamata.

The real talent behind the footage is the experiences that can be discovered in the coastline and landscape of our beautiful region. Even long time residents will be inspired to explore their own backyard.

The video campaign is obvious if you search www.thecoromandel.com. The series is introduced on the homepage, with a link to the ‘Search and Explore’ campaign in the text.

HOW WERE THE VIDEOS CREATED?

We developed the concept in house, and then contracted talented local cinematographers, James Muir and Pete May, to shoot and edit the series, encouraging creative licence to improve the scenes and transitions.

James is already well known for his stellar work locally and is currently working on a Kauri doco, inspired by a short film that came out of one of his student mentoring workshops.

Pete May is one of New Zealand’s best drone pilots. His footage is unreal and shows The Coromandel from a perspective that does our outstanding landscapes justice. Hopefully this will lead to more local work for both of them – we’ll definitely work with them again. Check out the footage on thecoromandel.com and you’ll understand why.

HOW DID WEATHER AFFECT TOURISM?

Total arrivals (Qrious), commercial guest nights (CAM) and spend data (MBIE) have all been monthly records for 2017, with the exception of March.

The unexpected wet weather in March and early April caused floods, slips and road closures. Yet despite the inclement weather, and the fact that Easter fell in April this year (compared to March in 2016), March 2017 still recorded the second highest spend for that month on record.

The weather was a challenge, especially when promoting an ‘endless summer’. Although predicted just before Easter weekend, when Cyclone Cook passed without making landfall

Continued on 16



We were mesmerised by these stunning videos clips, beautifully choreographed to incorporate both drone footage and conventional photography. They manage to capture the unique spirit and flavour of each location as well as showcase the sheer variety of The Coromandel landscape. With such amazing locations, why would anyone not want to visit 'The Coromandel'?!

These short films were generated to be shared and used as promotional items by any individual or business keen to encourage more people to experience all The Coromandel has to offer – and to have their breath taken away by our magnificent landscapes, lifestyle, and events.

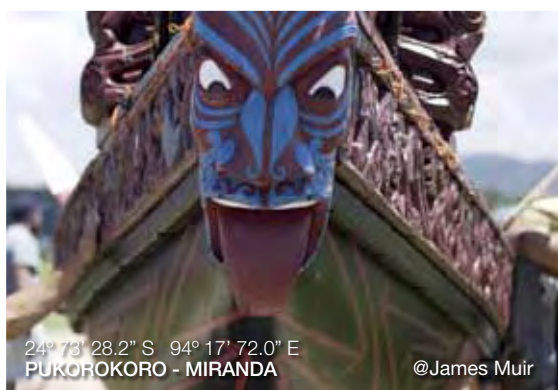
Destination Coromandel works its attractive magic mostly through social media and website work, where one finds the typical visitor features – showcasing the spectacular natural wonders, schedule of events, links to accommodations and restaurants, and popular activities like kayaking, treks, or biking on The Rail Trail.

Visitors and residents alike are encouraged to plan their trip on the official tourism site, www.thecoromandel.com, and discover why this destination is 'good for your soul'.



36° 45' 34.5" S 175° 29' 55.7" E
COROMANDEL TOWN

@James Muir



24° 73' 28.2" S 94° 17' 72.0" E
PUKOROKORO - MIRANDA

@James Muir



37° 02' 28.6" S 175° 42' 52.7" E
THE PINNACLES

@iamtheflyingkiwi



24° 73' 28.2" S 94° 17' 72.0" E
PUKOROKORO - MIRANDA

@James Muir

Continued from 14

until further south, we were quick to inform media and action-targeted Facebook ads announcing that The Coromandel was 'open for business'. The peninsula was soon swarming with holidaymakers thrilled to enjoy a sunny and warm long weekend.

The current state of the travel industry, The Coromandel's increasing arrivals and the longer visitor season was reflected in the \$428 million in visitor spend generated for the year end April 2017 – an 8% increase on the previous year, compared to 5% growth nationally.

HOW HAS THE CAMPAIGN PERFORMED?

The engagement has been awesome, locals have got on board as pseudo ambassadors helping to share it around the world. So far it's had over 500,000 views. By the time the series has finished we will have reached at least two million people.

The footage was produced in a style that would give a long shelf life, so these videos will be used for a long time to come. Local businesses have started using them as well. Coromandel

Top 10 Holiday Park are using The Coromandel Town video as the backdrop for their website homepage (www.coromandeltop10.co.nz)

Anyone is welcome to link to the videos from youtube, hopefully it'll be an additional selling tool for their business.

DID YOU UNEARTH ANY SECRET SPOTS?

We've never featured towns and surrounds to this level before so naturally we've uncovered some lesser known spots. As well as enticing first time visitors, another objective is to encourage regular visitors and locals to take a different turn and check out new places they may not have seen. It's best if people get out and search for themselves.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We'll promote the series again either side of the peak season, however going forward we'll be getting a little more tactical. We're doing a bit of activity for the Lions tour and after that we'll be looking to raise the profile and patronage of the Coastal Walkway North of Coromandel Town.



36° 34' 59.9" S 175° 54' 59.9" E
MERCURY ISLANDS @iamtheflyingkiwi

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TOYOTA AND THE DEPT. OF CONSERVATION TEAM UP

GETTING KIDS INTO NATURE

Although we often support outdoor programmes and resources from the Dept. of Conservation, the Toyota Kiwi Guardians programme really impressed us. This ambitious initiative encourages kids to be active outdoors by getting involved in specific challenges, discovery and conservation action projects to earn awards and medals.

Family friendly activities are located at over 70 sites across NZ, usually anchored by a park or visitors centre, or can be done from home, with online videos available for instruction and guidance. And yes, there is a medal reward and certificate that will arrive in the mail. See list at right for other 'at home' activities.

NEW! KIWI GUARDIAN SITES ON THE COROMANDEL

KAUAEARANGA VISITOR CENTRE AND PORT JACKSON CAMPSITE

The Kauaeranga Visitor Centre (KVC) has camping, walking and tramping, swimming and The Pinnacles!

Port Jackson, one of the Coromandel's most magnificent beaches, plays host to some awesome adventures and exploration.

Each location has its own treasure adventure map list, such as the one shown. Any family can plan their outing by looking at the map. Many points are located near the centre itself or close to a campsite, while other challenges, like the Pinnacles peak, will require hiking, bravery... and counting the night stars!

Start online or seek help from the KVC staff at 07 867 9080. Then submit the form to collect your medal! See www.goo.gl/j8HHd2

Autumn's flooding caused closure of the road and trails past the Centre, but should reopen by Labour weekend.

NOTE: Mark your calendars for KVC's awesome '6 Weeks of Summer' Programme that begins 1st January. The full program will be out later this year, as well as in *Coromandel Life's* Spring and Summer editions. For a taste of what is to come, see last year's list of events here: www.coromandellife.co.nz/flipview/Summer_2017_v1/index.html#22.

Some challenges are general in nature, making it easy for anyone to participate from anywhere in NZ: "Go camping: draw a map of your campsite and explore your surroundings." Reward? The Curious Camper medal! Or "Get your friends into nature by telling them about somewhere you think is pretty cool!"

Each location features its own treasure/challenge map drafted in a clever cartoon style (see below). The maps can be downloaded to your tablet or read online.

Toyota Kiwi Guardians: "Working together to get kids into nature."



From counting rings in a tree trunk to taking a torch to view glow worms... There's an adventure awaiting everyone!

It's easy to get started straightaway – Find this map and list online at www.goo.gl/t6GkOR and check out what you can do.

If you decide to visit the location, go and explore and look out for the Guardian Post (see photo below) where you'll find a special code word to write down.

Then, later use the code word to enter online to earn your medal ...which will arrive with a certificate in the letterbox.

Each Kiwi Guardians place has a different medal - see how many you can collect. Over 9598 medals have been issued in the year since the programme was started.

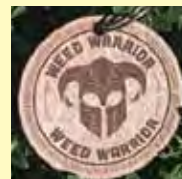


Paul Rochester and Alice Nash get inspiration from an educational sign at one of the Adventure locations. - Photo Paul Rochester.

COROMANDEL KIWIS...

Participate now by doing these conservation actions from home to earn Toyota Kiwi Guardian medals.

Be a warrior in the War on Weeds – help stop the spread of invasive plants in NZ and earn a medal!



Build a 'Weta Motel'. Earn a medal by creating a protective home in your backyard

for weta to crawl into, where they'll be safe from being eaten by predators like rats, stoats, cats and hedgehogs.

Attract lizards by creating a protective lizard lounge in your garden. Earn a medal for becoming a habitat creator!



Become a Pest Detective. Earn a medal by using your sleuthing skills to track pests like stoats, rats and mice. Also learn how to make a pest tracking tunnel.

WHITIANGA ROCK

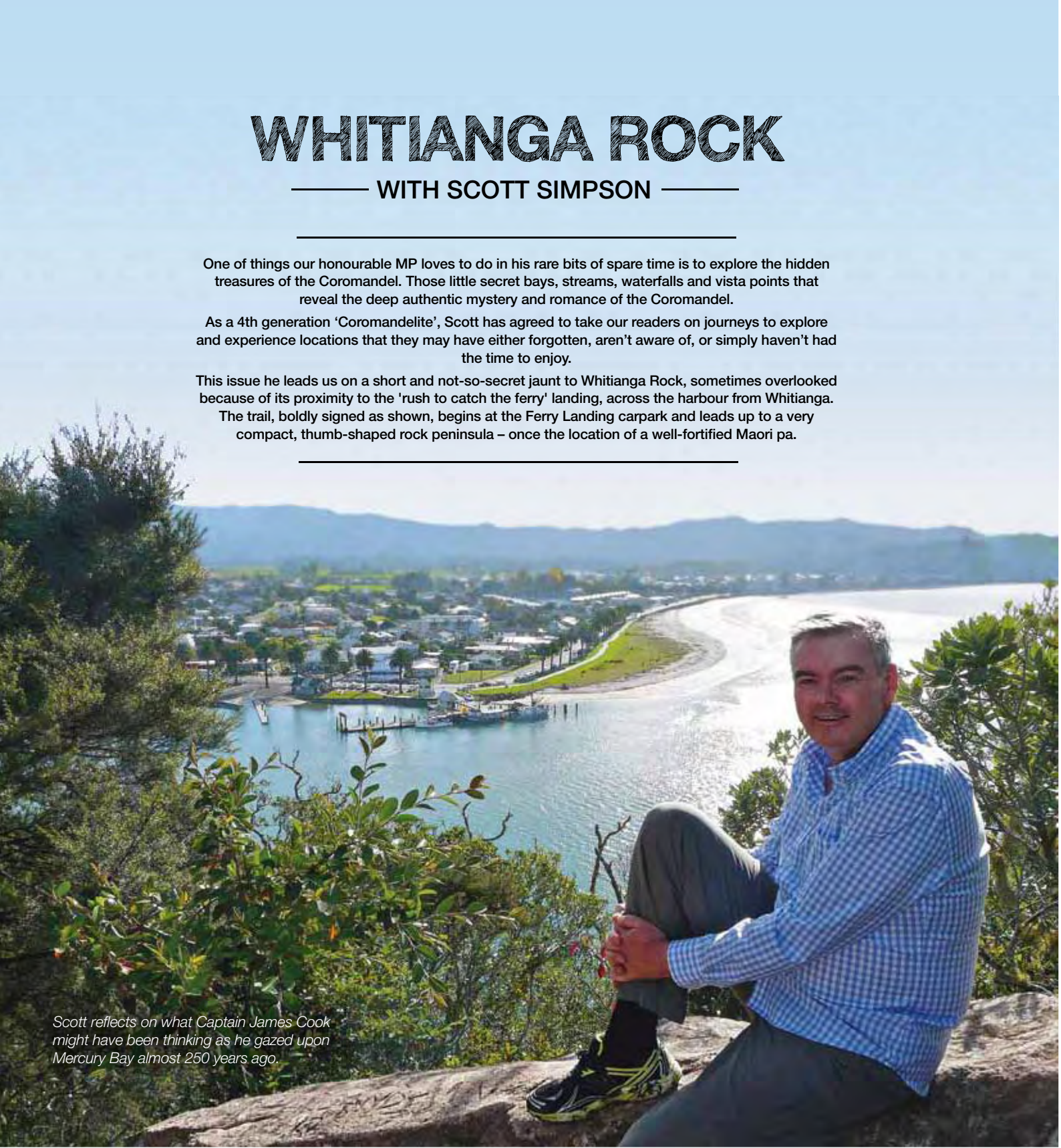
— WITH SCOTT SIMPSON —

One of things our honourable MP loves to do in his rare bits of spare time is to explore the hidden treasures of the Coromandel. Those little secret bays, streams, waterfalls and vista points that reveal the deep authentic mystery and romance of the Coromandel.

As a 4th generation 'Coromandelite', Scott has agreed to take our readers on journeys to explore and experience locations that they may have either forgotten, aren't aware of, or simply haven't had the time to enjoy.

This issue he leads us on a short and not-so-secret jaunt to Whitianga Rock, sometimes overlooked because of its proximity to the 'rush to catch the ferry' landing, across the harbour from Whitianga.

The trail, boldly signed as shown, begins at the Ferry Landing carpark and leads up to a very compact, thumb-shaped rock peninsula – once the location of a well-fortified Maori pa.



Scott reflects on what Captain James Cook might have been thinking as he gazed upon Mercury Bay almost 250 years ago.



The Trail Head ...sign visible from the Ferry Landing carpark.



View toward Back Bay.

BY SCOTT SIMPSON

Some of the Coromandel's secret places aren't that secret at all.

Recently I had a chance to revisit one of my childhood haunts, and in doing so rediscovered a wonderful local track right at Whitianga's front door.

The ferry ride between Whitianga and Ferry Landing is an iconic part of the whole Mercury Bay experience. For the vast majority of us making the short trip across the 'river', we are usually hurrying on our way to one place or another. How many of us have actually taken the time to stop and explore the area, like the little pathway on the Ferry Landing side that leads up to the historic 'Whitianga Rock'. On a recent visit I did exactly that.

As children, my brother, sister and assorted cousins would often head up to the top of the rock on great adventures. We would make the trip over on the ferry from the town side and then head along the foreshore pathway, under low hanging pohutakawa and up the well-formed track towards the rock itself.

Not much has changed over the years. The pathway is as enticing and enchanting as it ever was. On this glorious autumn afternoon, the memories came flooding back. This trip I was with locals from Tairua, making the short 20 minute walk for the first time. I delighted in sharing my stories from days gone by.

Today the reserve is maintained to a high standard by the Department of Conservation. The walk itself is not difficult. Only the most basic level of fitness is required for the gentle

stroll to the summit. Up from the foreshore, walkers pass a stretch of grassy open space that provides a tantalising taste of the view yet to come from higher beyond. Another couple of minutes up some steps actually carved out of the rock itself, and you are at the top.

There's something very satisfying about climbing – even something as gentle as the Whitianga Rock. The vista is expansive and magnificent. There simply isn't a better place to get a view over the river and Whitianga with Buffalo Beach stretching out in front. And by turning around, you're provided with a stunning look down onto Back Bay, a sheltered area where the European sailors would anchor to repair their ships.

In today's age of social media and phone cameras, there can hardly be a better 'selfie' location anywhere in Mercury Bay. On the way

back down we took the short diversion along the board walk to Back Bay. Time was against us, but if there had been more, we could easily have continued on toward Front Beach.

On this lovely autumn afternoon, our exploring adventure took less than an hour, but we felt like we'd spent the whole day there. People say the Coromandel is "good for your soul" and it's visiting gems like Whitianga Rock that make it true. Being so accessible, so little visited and yet right on our doorstep makes it even more special.

I've made a promise to myself not to wait so long before I visit again. I hope you will too.

This fun little walk to Whitianga Rock is definitely worth missing a ferry for!

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

Scott has deep family ties to the Whitianga area spanning back four generations. His great-grandparents arrived in Kuaotunu in the mid-1800s, and members of his extended family still farm in the area. Although now living in Thames, Scott has owned a home in Kuaotunu for over 20 years.

Prior to election, Scott was CEO of children's charity Make-a-Wish NZ, and also served as

branch chairman for Red Cross, as well as chair for the Distribution Committee of the Lottery Grants Board.

Scott has a strong business and commercial background having previously worked as NZ General Manager for Protector Safety, HPM and Caroma Industries.

A graduate of Auckland University, Scott is a Justice of the Peace and member of the Institute of Directors. He has two adult children, and outside interests include trying to keep fit, reading, family time and, of course ... hiking and exploring the Coromandel!



Birds on the rock

In this pristine protected area of bush, you may catch a glimpse of some of the same native birds Cook and Banks would have encountered on their early expeditions, such as the tui, kereru (wood pigeon), piwakawaka (fantail). The tiny bellbird with its khaki colouring is also a regular visitor to this area, and there are few tunes more delightful or distinctive.

Just before reaching the pa, the trail passes through the yard of a home and B&B once owned by Rob and Pam Wigmore (descendants of one of Hahei's founding families). According to Pam, this area is a birdlover's paradise. Thrush and starlings would build their nests every year in the bougainvillea and jasmine vines adorning their pergola.



Perhaps you'll hear the haunting calls of the extremely shy Summer immigrant, the shining cuckoo, which breed only in NZ. They also 'foster out' their eggs, depositing them in a thrush nest, pushing the nest owner's eggs out.

You may also see both forest and shore birds such as the gulls, pied shag, oyster catcher (pictured), kingfisher, blue heron, wild duck, gannet, blackbird, silvereye, sparrow, grey

warbler, black-backed gull, dotterrel, pukeko, parakeets, and even the occasional pheasant.

At night you may hear the mournful call of the ruru (morepork) or even the screech of our most prized icon – the kiwi. Nocturnal in habit and rarely seen in the wild, they have been reported coming out of bushy areas into clearings to feed and call to their mates.

The grassy knoll visible is just below the summit of Whitianga Rock.

Photo by Alan Duff www.crep.co.nz

Captain James Cook describes landings in the area

In his Ship's Log on board HMS Endeavour on 11th November, 1769, Captain Cook writes about visiting the pa with Joseph Banks:

"A little with[in] the entrance of the river on the East side is a high point or peninsula jutting out into the River on which are the remains of one of their Fortified towns, the Situation is such that the best Engineer in Europe could not have choose'd a better for a small number of men to defend themselves against a greater, it is strong by nature and made more so by Art"

On the Whitianga Rock trail, the formidable nature of the rock peninsula becomes obvious as one sees the sheer face of it, with its ominous cave openings.

Visible remnants of this well-fortified Ngati Hei Pa stronghold date back perhaps 600 years. Three sides offered steep protective cliffs, while the fourth side facing Back Bay was fortified with ditches and earthen banks. Despite the heavy defences, in the mid-eighteenth century it was ransacked by a war

party of Ngai te Rangi.

You'll notice several areas of exposed layers of pipi shell middens, evidence of early Maori occupation.

Other rock features may have served as fire pits or water holes. Flat, grassy terraces were used for housing, but the wind-eroded caves were used as burial sites, thus are 'tapu' – sacred and off limits to rock climbers.

The walk terminates at Ferry Landing Wharf, the oldest stone wharf in Australasia and listed with Historic Places. Built in 1837 by local Maori from stones quarried from the cliffs, the stone landing has been restored in recent years.

November 9 1769, Captain James Cook and astronomer Charles Green landed on the shore of what is now Cooks Beach to observe a Transit of Mercury.

Cook writes in his diary: *"Thursday, 9th. Variable light breezes and clear weather. As*

soon as it was daylight the natives began to bring off Mackrell, and more than we well know what to do with; notwithstanding I order'd all they brought to be purchased in order to encourage them in this kind of Traffick.

At 8, Mr. Green and I went on shore with our Instruments to observe the Transit of Mercury."

Days later, on 15 November, Cook would raise the British Colours, claiming the area in the name of King George III, and naming it Mercury Bay.

In 1919, an area around Shakespeare Cliff was set aside with a memorial. But the actual site was found to be the eastern end of Cooks Beach, near the Purangi estuary. A smaller memorial plinth was established there also.

2019 will mark the 250th Anniversary of Cook's landing in NZ. Look forward to extensive celebrations throughout the country.

The next transit of Mercury fully visible from New Zealand will occur in 2052.

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While in the area... _____

Near Ferry Landing are the settlements of Hahei, Cooks Beach and Hot Water Beach where many dining, shopping and exploring options await you.

We recommend Hahei Explorer for a thrilling ride along the coastline to view Cathedral Cove as well as many interesting rock formations and awesome caves, including the popular 'Blow Hole'.

The quaint shopping area of Hahei is within walking distance from the beach where you'll find the popular dining choices of Hahei Beach Café and the Pour House restaurant and brewery. Enjoy a woodfired pizza with the well-liked Coromandel Brewing Co. craft beers, brewed on site by owner Neil Vowles. Also find something for everyone at Beach Habitat offering a unique range of beach themed gifts, cards, art prints and huge variety of homeware and furnishings.

Driving north of Hahei, be sure to call in to Mercury Bay Estate Winery at Cooks Beach – a boutique, family owned vineyard and winery using sustainable means. Relax in the surrounding beauty, while tasting some of their wines with delicious platters of local specialities. They were recently named as one of the 'Top 10 things to do in the Coromandel'.

Just a minute's walk from the famous Hot Water Beach find out why Hot Waves is a favourite of both locals and visitors. Set in beautifully landscaped gardens, you'll enjoy awesome food served by a warm friendly staff at this licensed café and gallery.

If you're headed back to SH25 stop by the charming and iconic Colenso Café, frequented by locals for over 30 years. Dine inside in the gallery and gift shop, or outside in their fruitful orchards and gardens. The menu includes yummy sweets and dishes with herbs and produce picked fresh from the gardens. Kids will love it too!

Or, while at the landing, you might want to take a ferry to Whitianga. Within walking distance you'll find great cafés like Jandel's, two fabulous galleries such as Mosaic and Bread & Butter, excellent shopping, a museum, and major supermarkets. Browse through a mile of beautiful furniture and décor at Fagans – one of the best showrooms in NZ. Or visit the unique Lost Spring where you can relax and soak away your cares.

Enjoy fine dining on the waterfront next to the marina at Salt Restaurant which has earned a reputation as one of the finest on the Coromandel.



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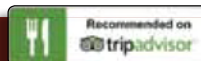
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WHANGAMATA

Photo by Pete Stretch
www.facebook.com/petestretchphotography/

MORE than just one of the BEST surf beaches in the world

Fabulous golden and white sand beaches with magnificent coastal scenery. A rugged forest-cloaked interior waiting to be explored. And, some of the best surfing breaks (yet safest swimming in the country). These are just some of the attractions that have people returning to Whangamata year after year.

This famous and popular surf beach has been rated one of the best in the world. The bar's left hand break attracts top surfers from everywhere. Just ask world surf champ and Whangamata native **Ella Williams** who grew up here – you'll often find at her parent's Whangamata Surf Shop helping customers.

This pristine, 6km long sandy beach has calm estuaries at both ends and even more hidden beaches offering family-safe patrolled swimming areas. Fun-seeking beach lovers are attracted here, including those with all levels of stand-up paddle board skill and kayakers. Boat ramps offer access for the fishermen and boaties.



The 2018 BEACH HOP is scheduled 21-25 March. Five days everything '50s and '60s.

However, there's more than just the beach for your outdoor holiday adventures. In the inland areas surrounding Whangamata are rainforest and park lands with lots of hiking trails and bike paths. An easy pedal to the south connects bikers to Waihi, the final eastern hub of the Hauraki Rail Trail system through the historic gold mining regions.

The shopping areas of Whangamata offer plenty of cafes and restaurants as well as a major supermarket. Spa and beauty salons promise some well-deserved pampering.



A fun finish for this racer in the Whangamata Run Walk Festival in April of 2016.

There is a large medical centre and several chemists. Into building or renovating that seaside bach? You'll find whatever you need, from architects and decorators, to hardware and lumber stores for the DIYers.

Whangamata is also home of the 'Beach Hop', a five day celebration of '50s and '60s culture, and 'Brits at the Beach', a celebration of "All Things British" coming in October (see right).

The 2017 Whangamata Run Walk Festival will be held on Saturday 9th September this year.

Whangamata's Talking Loo



This novelty has been described by visitors as "the world's jazziest public toilet", located at the north end of Whangamata Beach. You'll be blown away by this space age loo. Upon entering, a voice says, "Please press the button to lock the door. Maximum use time is ten minutes". Once you lock the door, music starts to play "What the World Needs Now". Next time you're in Whangamata – Give it a go!

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Above left: Just south of Whangamata is Wentworth Valley. A number of walks start at the campground and include mines, waterfalls, swimming holes and extensive views of the Coromandel ranges. It's hard to imagine this area was once a large gold mining settlement employing up to 300 people and bristling with houses, shops and schools!

Above right: Paddle to the spectacular volcano-formed 'Donut Island' safely with tour guides who take you on a 2-hour paddle board or kayak adventure from the southern end of Whangamata beach. An adequate level of fitness and confidence in the water is recommended.

6-8 October 2017 • Whangamata

LAST 'BRITS AT THE BEACH'



Not quite, but the last **Brits at the Beach** to be held in the spring time. After struggling with some rather inclement weather three times over the past five years, the organizers decided to move the event to a more settled and warmer season.

THE NEXT 'BRITS' WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY.

This celebration of "All Things British", is based around multiple British Car & Motorbike Shows. This great day out began eight years ago and was formerly held in Tairua. Featured on display are the very best that British motoring has to offer, as well as British Bake Offs, Scruffs Dog Shows, Best Costumes, Knotted Hanky Tying and loads of other uniquely British silliness. Car and motorbike owners bring their vehicles from all over the country to participate.

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

activity into our district, and over the years it has contributed millions of dollars to our local economy."

FESTIVAL MOVES TO FEBRUARY IN 2018

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

So circle the date, October 6,7,& 8 for the last spring time Brits at the Beach and again for February 16,17,18 for the first summer time Brits! As Colin says "There'll be a run on sunblock in February".

Local businesses and community groups are invited to get involved and have a stall at the Great British Village Fete, where profits from the day are donated to junior sport. Details at www.britsatthebeach.co.nz.



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

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CRYSTAL HUNTING

ON THE COROMANDEL



BY ROBERT SIMMONS
Heaven & Earth Gallery in Tairua

"In all honesty I can say that it was actually crystals that ultimately brought me to my new home on the Coromandel from Vermont, USA." And it was this exciting trip that really 'sealed the deal'. Below, Robert (right) and fossicking mentor Kevin Nicholson (left) prepare to enter an abandoned gold mine to seek Coromandel quartz crystals.

On our first holiday to NZ, my wife Kathy and I stumbled upon the Mineralogical Museum in Thames. While taking the west coast scenic drive, Kathy saw a small sign and exclaimed, "There's a mineral museum!" My foot went to the brake pedal in a hurry. Having a lifelong passion for gemstones and minerals, as well as a mail order crystal business in Vermont, we were drawn to that museum like bees to honey!

Our visit to the museum gave me my first look at Coromandel quartz crystals, and I left having purchased all of the half dozen small specimens they had. I also bought a photocopy of an old, handmade fossickers' map of the peninsula, with detailed notes about just where the minerals and gems of the Coromandel had once been found. The curator told me there was plenty of treasure still to be found out in the bush, but I might need someone to show me.

By the time we left the museum, we were hooked. We hadn't realised that the Coromandel is not simply a beautiful place, but with its rich geological history is a veritable

The rare pinnacle crystals shown above are from an area near Paeroa.

treasure chest of crystals and gemstones – if you know how and where to look.

THE LURE OF GEMSTONES

Much of the few days we had on that first trip was spent scouring the beaches from Tairua to Whitianga – all listed as fossicking sites. Even on this first attempt we were thrilled to find sea-tumbled quartz, red jaspers, chalcedony and obsidian. The plus of being outdoors in an amazing natural environment made it a peak experience for us. And somewhere in the middle of all the fun, we realised we had to change our life and move here.

On our next NZ visit a year later, we bought a house, and made friends with some veteran rockhounds willing to take us fossicking. Kevin and Olga were partial to quartz crystals, and told us the best places to find them were often in and around old abandoned gold mines.

STRIKING CRYSTAL 'GOLD'

Kathy and I, with our two sons and their partners, joined our Kiwi benefactors on what was billed as 'a twenty minute hike' to a very good digging spot in an abandoned mine shaft. We had backpacks full of hammers, picks, chisels, screwdrivers, gloves and torches, plus hard hats for everyone.

Two hours later, we were still hiking. Someone had underestimated the length of this hike! After edging along a narrow ledge above a steep ravine, we finally reached the mine shaft. Choosing some tools, we then plunged into the wet, dark hole.

Our first surprise was the congregation of huge cave wetas just inside the door, but since none attacked us, we went onwards. At first I felt awkward, not knowing where to dig with my screwdriver, or what parts of those dark and clammy walls might hold crystal treasures. Our friends started finding crystals straightaway, and the fever took hold of us. Soon Kathy and I were covered with muck as we scrambled over boulders searching with our torches.

Then high on the wall near the back of the shaft, covered with a clay film, I saw something displaying unmistakable crystal points. My heart pumped like mad, and within ten or so minutes (including one small avalanche), we pulled it loose. The thing was huge, filling a whole backpack! Lucky I had friends with me, because I was nowhere near fit enough to carry it out by myself. This most memorable find became known as 'My Cluster' (see photo).

On our way back, a ledge gave way under

Kathy's foot and she rolled 20m down the hill, until she was stopped by her head whacking a tree. She got a slight concussion, but luckily it wasn't serious. She still carried her backpack full of crystals for the whole two hours back to the car. Now that's a dedicated rockhound!

That was the first of many trips, and one I'll never forget. And 'My Cluster' sits as a stunning reminder beside my desk. Even now I look at it as I write this article. It's still one of the most beautiful crystal clusters I've ever seen. And, as one who treasures crystals and stones for their energies, in my view, Coromandel crystals have some of the sweetest, finest energies of any on the planet!

ROCKING ON THE COROMANDEL

So, now, what about all you readers out there? Would you like to know where to go to find your own crystals and gems? Okay, just because I am so enthusiastic about the stones to be found on the Coromandel, and because I think they are so beautiful and so beneficial, I'll spill the beans and share some of what I know.

COROMANDEL QUARTZ: Try looking anywhere there is an old gold mine, especially in the tailings dumped outside the shafts. Literally thousands, or millions, of small quartz clusters were discarded as miners searched for gold.

Often tailings and crystals have been covered by grass and dirt, so be prepared to dig a little (or a lot). It's also worthwhile to search the beds and banks of streams and rivers below the old mining sites. In certain areas, you can find jasper or carnelian in the rivers.

Some of the places known for quartz crystals include the Kauaeranga River east of Thames, Broken Hills area near Tairua, Puru stream south of Tapu, the Tokatea area (also known for amethyst) outside Coromandel Town, and Kuaotunu and Black Jack. Sometimes crystals, and especially white quartz rocks with pockets of microscopic crystals, can be found at the mouths of rivers and on beaches on both east and west coasts of the peninsula.

RESPECT PRIVATE LAND: Do not enter or cross private land without permission. And if on public land, make sure you follow the rules.

USE CAUTION: Be extremely careful if you enter old mine shafts. Don't go alone, don't stay inside more than thirty minutes, and wear protective gear. Dangers include tunnel collapse, hidden shafts that go straight down, falling into a hole, passing out from lack of oxygen if you stay too long in shafts, or taking a disastrous tumble down a hillside like Kathy. Be very careful at all times in both the mines and surrounding bush. It is much, much better not to even attempt this kind of fossicking unless

Fine druzy crystals from
Broken Hills area.



Robert holds the memorable crystal he named "My Cluster" from his first fossicking adventure, while wife Kathy holds another rare large Coromandel crystal cluster.

Centre shows a stunning naturally heart-shaped cluster of Coromandel quartz from Thames.

guided by an experienced rockhound who knows his or her way around these areas.

My friends and my old map tell me the Coromandel offers literally tons of rocky treasures – carnelian, chalcedony, opal, apache tears, obsidian, rhyolite, agate, rhodonite, petrified wood, amethyst, chert, kauri gum, fossils and jaspers in a rainbow of colours. Some of these I have found myself – others I'm still looking for. These finds are just the tip of the iceberg! Tune in for even more discoveries!

Robert and Kathy are owners of 'Heaven and Earth', a gallery of crystals, gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewellery and visionary art at 227 Main Rd, Tairua. Stop in to view their collection of Coromandel quartz. They also offer rock tumblers and tumbling supplies. Interested in forming a Coromandel rock club? Leave your contact details at the shop or ring 07 864 8875. (See next page for more.)

Golden quartz
from
Kuaotunu



View "Saurilite Azeztulite with Robert Simmons" – www.youtube.be/Tda1VibUH6A

Visit Robert and Kathy's
Heaven and Earth booth at the
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Ghost quartz' phantom crystals from
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DOWN & WET & DIRTY:

Kiwi rock clubs hunt on the Coromandel

Club members from Auckland's North Shore Rockhounds Club attack a hillside near Colville with shovels and picks above while Tauranga Club members search a stream near Waihi (above right). These guided trips are the safest way to fossick, and the guides know their rocks.

"If you want to pursue the fossickers path of happy madness, it may be worthwhile to join a rock club", advises Tairua gemstore owner Robert Simmons (see article previous page). "There are good clubs in NZ, and many clubs schedule field trips to the mineral-rich Coromandel Peninsula, where they would obtain special access permission from private land owners."



A happy Alex at right shares his find!

LET'S ROCK! Want to start a Coromandel Rock Club? Contact Robert Simmons at Heaven and Earth Crystal store at 227 Main Rd, Tairua. Call 07 864 8875.

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Riley + Amber

Words: Georgina Bond
Photos: Amber Jones & Riley Elliott

'Shark Man' Riley Elliott works deep in the ocean at exotic locations across the world, but he's chosen to make his home here on top of Paku Mountain with partner Amber Jones and their beloved pup, Kona. They plan to build on this unique section that enjoys spectacular views of Tairua Beach to the north (behind them) as well as Pauanui and the Harbour to the south.

We were thrilled that this dynamic duo had chosen Tairua as their new home and can see why they feel they've really found their slice of heaven here ...on both land and sea.

Although we featured Riley in the 2014 Summer issue of CL, we had not yet met in person so it was a treat to catch up with them over a glass of wine recently. Their enthusiasm for the Coromandel and passion for their intertwined career paths is positively infectious – although I'm not sure I'll be going nose-to-nose with a shark any time soon, Riley and Amber make me want to!

These new arrivals have already been ambitiously exploring the natural beauty of their new surroundings, and have agreed to share a glimpse of those Coromandel adventures with us in this and upcoming issues.

Welcome to Tairua Amber, Riley and Kona! – Tovi Daly

New Zealand's own 'shark man', Riley Elliott, and photographer Amber Jones can't get enough of their new home in Tairua. While juggling their busy careers since arriving in January, they have also found time to quench their lust for the Coromandel.

Dissatisfied with the lifestyle and costs of city life in Auckland, they had already decided it was the ocean that was most important in their lives, and this led them to think about

relocating. We asked why the couple chose to put those roots down in Tairua.

"Tairua simply has it all," Riley says. "There's a friendly community, a terrific surf beach, a harbour and river. It's great for stand-up paddle boarding, diving, fishing and surfing. Then there's magical Paku Mountain.

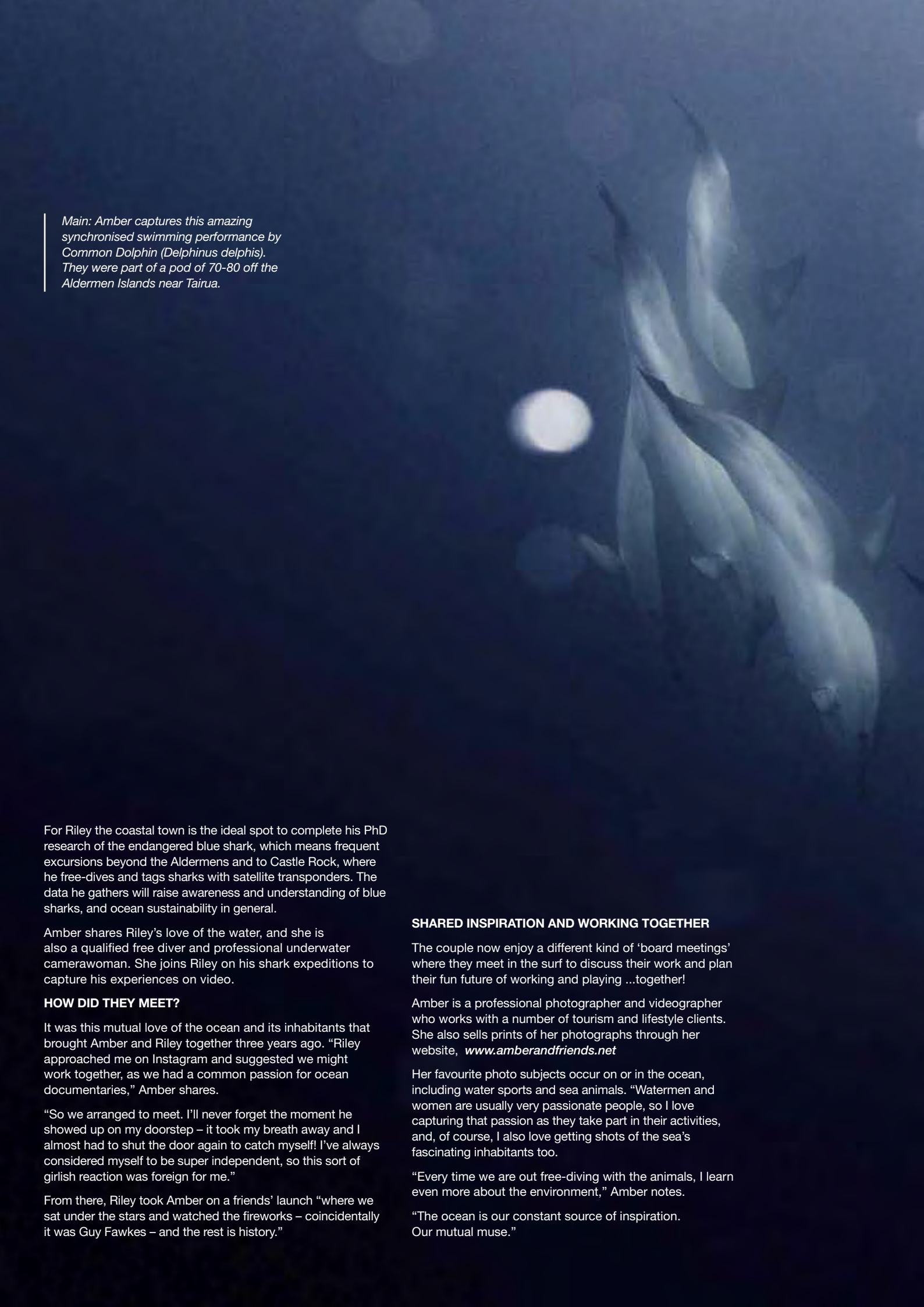
"It really is perfect – centrally located with easy access to other Coromandel towns, and

still under two hours to the airport. A better question is: Why wouldn't we choose Tairua?"

While Riley has spent a lot of time in the waters around the Coromandel, it's all new to Amber as she hails from Hawkes Bay. However, Riley had no trouble persuading her to move.

"My first visit to Tairua felt like home immediately," Amber says. "Riley brought me here when we were looking at properties, and I had this instant, inexplicable connection. Perhaps it was the salty air, perhaps the familiarity of a small coastal town, like my home town, but from day one, I have felt absolutely settled."

What has surprised Amber about Tairua, along with the excellent coffee available, is the warmth of the tight-knit beach community. "We feel like we've won the neighbourhood lottery with the people in our street," Amber says. "They made us feel at home straight away." (Note: Coincidentally, those neighbours include two of our favourite people as well – CL designer Matt Hishon and Rowena Brown – who have both helped heaps with the magazine over the years.)



Main: Amber captures this amazing synchronised swimming performance by Common Dolphin (Delphinus delphis). They were part of a pod of 70-80 off the Aldermen Islands near Tairua.

For Riley the coastal town is the ideal spot to complete his PhD research of the endangered blue shark, which means frequent excursions beyond the Aldermens and to Castle Rock, where he free-dives and tags sharks with satellite transponders. The data he gathers will raise awareness and understanding of blue sharks, and ocean sustainability in general.

Amber shares Riley's love of the water, and she is also a qualified free diver and professional underwater camerawoman. She joins Riley on his shark expeditions to capture his experiences on video.

HOW DID THEY MEET?

It was this mutual love of the ocean and its inhabitants that brought Amber and Riley together three years ago. "Riley approached me on Instagram and suggested we might work together, as we had a common passion for ocean documentaries," Amber shares.

"So we arranged to meet. I'll never forget the moment he showed up on my doorstep – it took my breath away and I almost had to shut the door again to catch myself! I've always considered myself to be super independent, so this sort of girlish reaction was foreign for me."

From there, Riley took Amber on a friends' launch "where we sat under the stars and watched the fireworks – coincidentally it was Guy Fawkes – and the rest is history."

SHARED INSPIRATION AND WORKING TOGETHER

The couple now enjoy a different kind of 'board meetings' where they meet in the surf to discuss their work and plan their fun future of working and playing ...together!

Amber is a professional photographer and videographer who works with a number of tourism and lifestyle clients. She also sells prints of her photographs through her website, www.amberandfriends.net

Her favourite photo subjects occur on or in the ocean, including water sports and sea animals. "Watermen and women are usually very passionate people, so I love capturing that passion as they take part in their activities, and, of course, I also love getting shots of the sea's fascinating inhabitants too."

"Every time we are out free-diving with the animals, I learn even more about the environment," Amber notes.

"The ocean is our constant source of inspiration. Our mutual muse."



*“THE OCEAN
IS OUR CONSTANT
SOURCE OF
INSPIRATION.
OUR MUTUAL
MUSE.”*

Amber lights up when asked about Kona, their German Shepherd-Samoyed pup, named in honour of their affection for the Big Island of Hawaii. "Neither of us have ever felt so connected to an animal. Kona is definitely a human inside a little white fluffy body!"

EXPLORING OUR BACKYARD

For now, the focus is to enjoy being tourists in their own town and to explore a coastline that Amber describes as "one 'wild adventure' playground". They love the fact that "our days are completely dictated by Mother Nature. We rise, work, play and sleep with the sun. Our Sunday grocery shop is dictated by what goods the ocean can provide that afternoon (if any)."

This summer, the couple have enjoyed jumping into their truck and discovering remote beaches across the Coromandel. "When you're on the Coromandel, true adventure awaits right out your back door! You can run up a cliff, walk in the bush, dive in the ocean or boat out to an island. It's wake up, grab the dog – and off we go!"



Camping trip to Stony Bay, Northern Coromandel Peninsula.



Riley enjoying an early morning surf at Ocean Beach, Tairua.

MEET THE SHARK MAN

Marine biologist Riley Elliott, age 32, was born in Vancouver, Canada and moved to Hamilton in New Zealand when he was five years old. Advice from his father early in life is still an important principle he lives by: "Never follow success; follow your passion and success will come."

Riley completed his BSc Honours in Zoology and Masters in Marine Science with Distinction while studying an endangered population of dolphins in Fiordland's Doubtful Sound. There, an encounter with a shark left him fascinated and inspired him to study great white sharks in South Africa, where he was invited to stay on and help run the 'Oceans Research Great White Shark Programme'.

"Sharking" has taken Riley around the world many times and seen him involved in numerous documentaries and media appearances, including those with Hawaii's 'shark whisperer' Ocean Ramsey. To make a mark and help end the Western Australia shark cull in 2014, Riley and Ocean jumped into the water to resuscitate a 3m tiger shark, left for dead from a hook set by the fisheries drum line culling programme.

In this country, Riley was at the fore of the anti-shark finning campaign, a practice now banned in New Zealand waters. His book 'Shark Man: One Kiwi Man's Mission to Save our Most Feared and Misunderstood Predator' later spawned the Shark Man television series.

Although Riley has specialised in sharks, his overarching passion is for the ocean as an ecosystem. "Sharks are a great catalyst to grab people's attention for the broader conservation messages," he says.

Riley is also using his science background to design a 'stealth' wetsuit for divers that prevents sharks from detecting tiny electrical signals from divers' muscles.

Free diving with Riley, Amber gets a dramatic 'close up and personal' photo of Riley with this Blue Shark at Castle Rock, near the Coromandel's Aldermen Islands.



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THAMES GOLDFIELDS 150th

*12 months of commemorations from
1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018*

Thames commemorates 150 years since the proclamation of the Thames Goldfields with a bonanza of events recapturing the momentous lure of gold in these hills.

12th August, 1867 marks the first major gold strike on the Coromandel by George Clarkson, who then - with partners Hunt, White, and Cobley - claimed a huge vertical vein of gold on a waterfall face named the Shotover Mine. Within three weeks two-thirds of Auckland left the city which was in the grips of the depression. Gold rush fever spread throughout the country and news reached overseas. People poured into the Coromandel to try their luck, which led to the formation of Grahamstown to the north, and Shortland in the south, eventually merged as Thames.

The Thames Goldfield ignited large scale industry with firms like A&G Price installing huge stampers for crushing ore, and Charles Judd Ltd Engineers catering to the inventiveness and adaptability of early settlers. Read Bros are celebrating 150 years as a fifth generation family owned hardware store (see p37).



THE SHOTOVER MINE IN 1868

After successful negotiations over the land with local Maori, Civil Commissioner James Mackay declared the Thames Goldfield open in 1867. Maori chief Hauauru Taipari had provided the required proof of viable gold ore and claimed a sizeable reward for his effort. Once the declaration was made prospectors flooded in by the thousands.

George Clarkson was a 'hopeful' that actually 'struck it rich' with the discovery of the **Shotover Mine**. He told the story to his son, David Henry Clarkson and the personal historic narrative can be read in its entirety on The Treasury website.* The following is a synopsis with excerpts from THE TREASURY JOURNAL, Volume 1 (2008).

"George Clarkson, starting out from Papakura, walked to Auckland where he boarded a small boat 'The Enterprise'. The run to Thames took 17 hours. He went ashore in a pulling boat, and looked around for somewhere to stay. At that time there were no houses, only whares.

"A large whare partitioned into two was occupied, one half by James Mackay, the mining registrar, and the other half by Hunt and White. George Clarkson was invited to share their half of the whare.

"He set out prospecting but with no results, and finally took his things to the boat with the intention of returning to Auckland. On the shore he met someone who advised him to try again, as there would later be some more Maori land

opened for prospecting, he took the advice.

"Next morning he walked along the beach until he came to the Kuranui Creek. Taking a pan of dirt from the creek, he washed it and found good prospects of gold. Returning to the whare, he asked Hunt how he was getting on. He replied that 'so far he had had no luck'."

Clarkson then invited both Hunt and White to the creek, where they prospected up the valley. "Early next morning they went up the creek through thick undergrowth until they came to a little waterfall about 20ft high. Hunt and White went up the right hand side of the fall, and Clarkson the left hand

...continued on page 34.

AUGUST'S OPENING CEREMONIES, PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS

TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST

Proclamation of Thames Goldfields

The ceremonial day begins at dawn with karakia prayers by Ngati Maru. Venue TBA. Info: Nikki Fisher at 021 905 192, nikky@ngatimaru.iwi.nz

Costumed parade

From 12.30, be part of a 'diggers dress' costumed parade along Pollen St. Children/adults walking will congregate at the Thames Civic Centre for the official opening of the 150th Anniversary of Thames Goldfield.

John Fields photo exhibit opens at Bella Street Pumphouse

The photo exhibition of John Fields work in Thames 1973-1976 will be on display at the Bella Street Pump House. Fields, trained as a scientific photographer, was responsible for many innovations in forensic photography. His stark but vivid portraits and still lifes of architectural details exude a surreal quality. He was also known for making few prints of each image, so these rare prints command a premium price. Opens 10 am-3pm Tuesday 1st August and from then on Saturday and Sunday 10am-3pm: \$5 entry fee. Contact Merv Grafton, 07 868 1027.

"Growing with Gold" at The Treasury



Opens 11 am. This photographic display of Thames features images from the earliest gold mining days including the Causley Goldmine above. Open for public viewing for several months. The Treasury is open: Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Monday, 11am-3pm. 07 867 6069, BJ_MIM@xtra.co.nz.

SATURDAY, 5 AUGUST

John William Hall Arboretum

Walk beneath the canopy of trees at the William Hall Arboretum in Thames with storyteller Rosalie Steward and guest guide, NZ plantsman Graeme Platt, as they give you an insight into the Victorian-era amateur naturalist who planted this oasis in 1872, alarmed at the denuded hillsides of the gold mining era. Meet at the entrance on Currie Street at 9am.

Book Launch: *The Comer Family: A Family with a Heart of Gold*

11am. The story of two Devon brothers – Robert (Uncle) and George – born almost 25 years apart – came to the Thames Goldfield, where they were successful mine managers. Family historians Jennifer and Sharleen Comer wrote the book for the Thames 150th. Meet the authors at the Thames School of Mines, 10am-3pm. Books on sale.

Thames Museum Opening New display, video and performance

After an opening address at 1:30pm, enjoy a performance of "Hearts of Gold" composed for the 60th Jubilee in 1927. Tour of the Display, a video of the story "Opening the Field: The Native Terms of Agreement" will be screened in the new auditorium after the tour, and the event will conclude with afternoon tea. Contact: Rosalie Steward at rsteward57@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, 6 AUGUST



Goldmine~Experience

Celebration of the Old and Creative

Afternoon until 4pm, enjoy the work of the Hauraki Prospectors Association volunteers. Tours of the site include demonstrations and stories behind a new working stamper battery and other 19th Century gold processing machinery. Adding to the celebration are Steampunk the Thames and local story tellers such as Rosalie Steward. Goldmine-Experience located at the northern end of Thames. Info: Paul Bensemann, 021 214 2665.

Piano Concert with Anthony Peebles

At 2pm at St. George's Church on Mackay St, take in a concert with British classical pianist Anthony Peebles. www.thamesmusicgroup.com.

WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST

Business and Volunteer Expo

Celebrating 150 years of employment in Thames. Come to this CAN DO THAMES event at the Thames War Memorial Hall at the Civic Centre between 10am-4pm. Visit display stalls, hear guest speakers, and connect with business SME's, corporate organisations, and volunteer groups. Free. Visit www.candothames.org.nz, or contact Marlene Perry 027 703 0263

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST

Shotover/Cobley Reunion

Book launch and reading: *Ashmore: The True Story*

A boy born aboard the immigrant ship *Ashmore* was given that name; he later married Shotover claimholder William Cobley's daughter Gertrude, who was born in Thames. Author Angela Curtis (Cobley's great-great-granddaughter), will hold a 'soft' book launch and reading on this day, the 150th anniversary of this first major gold strike in the Thames. Time/place TBA. Contact: Angela Curtis, angelasnovelidea@gmail.com



FRI & SAT, 18 & 19 AUGUST



Miners Candlelit Dinner at the Bella Street Pumphouse

6pm-11pm both nights. Dress in miners clothing and come to the Bella Street Pumphouse on Cochrane St for a candle lit miner's 3-course dinner with entertainment, at the building established in 1898 to pump water out of the deep mines. The building is worthy of exploration on any other weekend from 10am-3pm at a very reasonable cost. These nights promise to be something special. \$50pp. Contact: Colleen Hughes 027 553 2394

SUNDAY, 20 AUGUST

Book Launch at The Treasury *True Tales of the Thames*

From 11am-2pm, The Treasury will celebrate the book launch of *True Tales of the Thames*, a compilation of local stories by people with a local connection. 07 868 8827, info.thetreasury@gmail.com

FOR ONGOING NEWS AND INFORMATION

MEGHAN HAWKES' WEEKLY BLOG

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

Online from Monday 31 July - Subscribe now!

Who better to write the nitty gritty of Thames' history than Meghan Hawkes, the author of the *Dead Cert* books, colourful historic biographies discovered via news of deaths in gold fields.

What happened in that first year after Thames was proclaimed a goldfield? Step back in time and follow the nuggets of news and gritty gems of daily life as it unfolded 150 years ago.

Available to read for a full year beginning 31 July at www.firstyearthamesgoldfield.co.nz, or sign up for weekly email deliveries.



LOOK UP DATABASE OF 52,000 MINERS!

Do you have a Thames goldminer in your family's past? Kae Lewis did, so she wrote a book about the goldfields.

This author of *Goldrush to the Thames New Zealand, 1867-1869*, has spent over ten years entering data about individual miners and their claims at both the Thames and Otago fields.

She includes background information on mining techniques, other tales about the miners and much, much more. Her book is available at The Treasury, School of Mines, Thames Museum, Driving Creek Book Shop and Carson's. A valuable resource for goldmining and family tree research. See online for these searchable databases at www.kaelewis.com.



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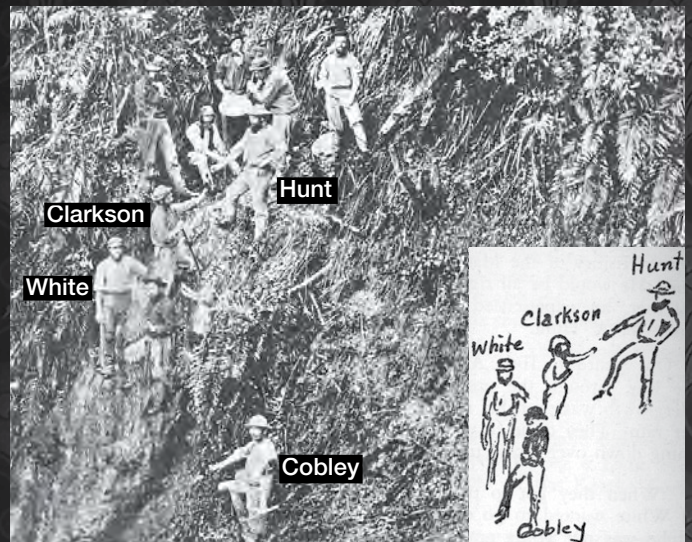
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...continued from page 32.

side." After reaching the top Clarkson had no desire to go further and retraced his steps back down while the others went down their way.

"Reaching their starting point, Clarkson walked to the face of the rock, and looking intently saw a speck of gold. He called out 'hand me up the pick' (it was his own), then knocking the moss off the stone, picked some of the rock out, and found it was a very rich stone.

"The three men went back together with the stone to the camp and showed it to Mr Mackay. He warned them not to say a word to anyone because it was on Maori land. He straight away set to work negotiating with the Maoris, who were very reluctant to throw open the land for prospecting. However, after four days' hard persuading, they finally agree." After Mackay secured an agreement, he issued the four partners (William Cobley being added) adjoining claims.

Short but solid at the Shotover Mine. The rich vein was not long nor deep but very potent, delivering a high percentage of gold and silver metal. "The 'Shotover' was so named at the suggestion of the minister - the water shooting over the top. The four men got at least £40,000 each out of it, and it is interesting to note that the Government of the day did not honour its pledge to pay the reward offered for the discovery of the first payable goldfield."

Clarkson's son continues, "The Thames people had the pick with which the lucky strike was made, engraved 'Mr. George Clarkson, the Gold Discoverer'. The pick is in my possession."

* See www.thetreasury.org.nz/Shotover/Shotover.htm

STEP BACK IN TIME



THAMES SCHOOL OF MINES AND MINERALOGICAL MUSEUM

The technical skills and inventions from goldmines in Thames provided NZ with a reputation worldwide for innovation and achievement. Step back into this world at the most intact school of mines in the southern hemisphere. A rock shop is also located in the complex. (Robert Simmons mentions how much this museum and rock shop impressed him in his fossicking article on p24-25.)

During NZ's gold rush days, some thirty schools were built to teach miners and mine supervisors the geology, science and mechanics of gold mining. Although the schools in Waihi and Kuaotunu no longer exist, you can also visit the historic buildings in Coromandel Town.

Open daily January-March 11am to 3pm, and rest of year Wed-Sun 11am to 3pm. 07 868 6227, www.heritage.org.nz/places/places-to-visit/coromandel/thames-school-of-mines. One-hour guided tours are available, approx. \$10. Corner of Brown & Cochrane Streets, Thames.



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PREVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

2nd-9th September, **Read Bros Hardware**, the oldest family-owned business in NZ, celebrates their 150th anniversary serving the Thames area with events, promotions and memorabilia. www.readbros.co.nz. 308 Pollen St. See more on following pages.

Sunday 10th September at 2pm, the **Thames Music Group** is presenting a concert featuring **Duo Jackson**, guitar and violin, at St. George's Church. Info: thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz, www.thamesmusicgroup.com

Saturday 16th September 2.30-4.30pm the **Lions Club's Health Expo** at the War Memorial Hall in the Civic Centre. Enjoy educational stalls and short talks. Free. To participate as an exhibitor, contact Christine Kemp 826 7829, mckg@slingshot.co.nz

Friday & Saturday, 22 - 23 September - **Short Film Fest**, at the Thames South School. TBA. Contact Jeannie Apthorp, 07 868 6594, office@thamessouth.school.nz

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EVENTS

October promises more major events such as the **Thames School of Mines Gemboree Gem Rock & Mineral Show** and **Brits at the Beach**.



Brits at the Beach days are centred in Whangamata, but on Friday 6th October, early registration (9am-2pm) of classic Triumphs, Jags, Morris Minors, Rovers and other British cars, happens at Grahamstown in Pollen St, Thames...before they all putter on to Whangamata. Contact Karl Edmonds, 07 868 6008 or gbd@thejunction.net.nz

On Saturday 14th October register your car (along with other motorbikes, and classic autos) at the Kopu Station Hotel at 10:30am for the start of the 75-mile **Bella Street Pumphouse Poker Run**, with a 4:30pm prizegiving at the Pumphouse. Info: Toni Wiseman 0211 429 100, wisemans@xtra.co.nz

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th of November, the **Catholic Parish of St Francis** will celebrate 150 years of the Catholic faith community in Thames. See www.thamescatholic.org.nz/thames/



Thurs 9th-Sunday 12th November, Steampunk it up with the fantastical fusion of Victoriana and science fiction that is **Steampunk the Thames**. After gold was discovered, people flocked to Thames from Victorian England and the far reaches of the Empire to seek their fame and fortune. Now, 150 years on, join the artistic dress-up drama at the Steampunk Ball, a Night

of Burlesque, the Steampunk Banquet, parades, contests and more. This year indulge in an additional special Gold Ball to celebrate the 150th. See Facebook and visit www.steampunkthethames.org/

Looking ahead – 9th December, even the **Thames Santa Parade** will have a “gold theme.” 11am start. Info: Karl at GBD: 07 868 6008 or www.totallythames.co.nz.



THAMES MUSEUM in Cochrane St Thames traces the town's early history with recreations of Victorian rooms, a miner's hut, and treasures used in the creation of the town. A shop selling local art works and merchandise is open daily 10am-4pm. 07 868 8509, www.thameshistoricalmuseum.weebly.com



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READ BROS

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John Read

1860s



Arthur Read

1930s



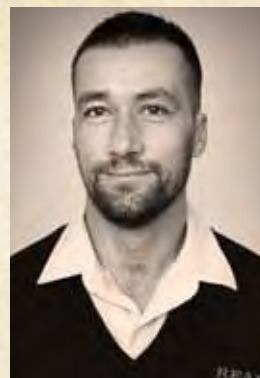
Alan Read

1950s



Stuart Read

1970s



John Read

Present Day

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY READ BROS! As the oldest recognised family-owned business in New Zealand, this renown pioneering Thames icon will soon celebrate serving the Coromandel community for 150 years. Watch for promotions and events beginning in September this year.

With the discovery of gold in the Karaka and the opening of the Thames gold field on 1 August 1867, dramatic changes unfolded for the area. Within four years the population would grow to over 15,000.

With 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 on Brown Street 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 he did. The store has changed locations, but has remained a Thames institution.

Today, five successive generations and 150 years later, Stuart and Jocelyn Read, along with son, John Read, are the proud owners of Read Bros Hardware – still a traditional hardware store which bases its business on good old fashioned, first name service, delivered with character and integrity.

THE EARLY YEARS

Back in September of 1867, John Read opened his timber yard, iron foundry and store that supplied whatever was needed. Businesses and individual miners depended

on John for mining and building supplies. And soon the area would be flooded with hotel operators, speculators, support stores, mariners, and traders of all kinds.

As the mining around Grahamstown declined, John shifted the location of his business south to Shortland, in line with a general move of businesses to the new centre of the town.

With John's passing in 1922, his sons, Arthur and Charles took over, with Arthur Read stepping up and charting through the difficult years between 1931 and 1947. The store relocated in 1935 to a billiard room owned by Arthur at 308 Pollen Street, their current location (see photo below).

His son, Alan Read, the third generation, returned from duty in World War II, back into the family's business. The tough times after the war gave way to the prosperous years of the 1950s and '60s.

READ GENERATIONS 4 & 5!

In the 70s fourth generation Stuart aligned the business with the 'Lucerne Wholesale Society', later known as the Hammer Hardware Group.

In 2013, fifth generation John Read assumed operational control. It was then that Read Bros Hammer Hardware reverted to independent status, dropping the Hammer branding. John

is now driving the store into the digital age while managing the ever-expanding product range.

Read Bros, truly a 'family owned and operated business' again, has family values at its core, and through five generations continues to provide great customer service while responding to the demands of the market.

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

It's not much of a secret; just ask their customers – some of who visit daily and others that drive hours to find exactly what they need.

One such customer was Margaret Chick's father. Although Marg has lived in Tairua over 30 years, she grew up in Kerepehi and has fond memories of shopping trips to Read Bros in Thames with her dad in the 60's. "I much preferred that to Farmer's with my mum."

"My dad was a tinkerer and we spent a lot of time in his shed where he taught me to use tools and we would make things together," Marg recalls. "He also liked to chat, so while he talked to the Read Bros staff, I would sit on the floor by the nails, nuts and bolts and play with them all."

Marg has recently purchased a home in Thames and says, "One thing I look forward to most is being close to Read Bros once again for my one-stop hardware – and advice!"

As one would expect, many changes have occurred over the 150 years – people, places products – but one thing hasn't changed... you can still buy a gold pan, just like in 1867.



JOIN THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 2-9 2017 will mark more than one extraordinary milestone for Read Bros: Five generations, one store, 150 years.

This Thames icon will celebrate their legacy with a range of events and promotions. Special merchandise and memorabilia will be available for purchase the entire month or while stocks last.

In store events will focus on community, customer and supplier engagement, while more formal events will be held to acknowledge the loyalty of staff, customers and suppliers over the many decades and generations.

Listen for "Back in Time" segments on the local radio stations, More FM and The Breeze, to hear some of the stories of Read Bros and its trading history.

Perhaps you have stories and memories that you'd like to share? Their dynamic new website offers an easy access form to write and submit your own tale. See bottom of www.readbros.co.nz for information.



ABOVE: The hardware store's location below on Pollen St was originally Arthur Read's billiard room. Jocelyn Read tells us, "In 1996, Stuart and I purchased the site of the Exchange Hotel next door, demolishing what little was left of it to extend our shop to what it is today."

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Frank Zappa



New owner, Greg Hampton, bought Carson's Bookshop in March.

THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT...

New Owner Takes Over Thames Icon

Carson's Bookshop has 'turned a new page' in its long history with proprietor Greg Hampton now at the helm – taking over from Pat and the late Vince Mravichich.

"I've always wanted to run a bookshop, and the opportunity to be a part of the Carson's legacy is a dream come true." Greg is only the fourth owner since Carson's first started serving the Coromandel over 100 years ago.

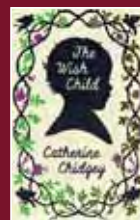
Greg promises not to meddle too much with the beloved institution. "Carson's has a well-deserved reputation for having a terrific range of books and providing great service – that won't change. But people will notice

improvements over the coming months as we give the shop a facelift."

Open 7 days, Carson's will continue to stock leading fiction and non-fiction, local titles, travel and study guides, a comprehensive Maori section and of course, an engaging range of fabulous children's and young adult's books.

"Staff are always happy to order a title if it's not in store," says Greg. "And it will soon be possible to order online via our website, with a quick turnaround." He also hints that there may be a few more surprises to come. "Watch this space," he adds with a smile.

MUST READS



The Wish Child: A deserving winner of New Zealand's top award for fiction, this fascinating story follows two children living in Nazi Germany. Catherine Chidgey's long awaited 4th novel is a profound yet lyrical story told through the voice

of a mysterious narrator.
By Catherine Chidgey, \$30.00.

The Essex Serpent: Has the winged serpent of local legend returned to the Essex village of widower Cora Seagrave? Sarah Perry's second novel is a gothic Victorian romp that has gathered the top garlands at the British Book Awards. By Sarah Perry, \$24.99.



CY: This intriguing science fiction novel was published posthumously as a tribute to its author, Thames-born Matt Coley. Matt died after a single punch to his head during a night out in Invercargill last year. His parents found the hand-written novel in his flat and compiled the book in his memory, launching it officially at Carson's in April. The story is set in the Coromandel as well as Egypt, Sri Lanka, Pompei & Silicon Valley. By Matt Coley, \$29.99.

Moo and Moo and the Little Calf Too: A delightful depiction of the story of the Kaikoura cows that became famous when they were left stranded as the hills collapsed around them. Lively text, colourful illustrations and a happy ending makes this an engaging tale of triumph over adversity. Written by the owner of the farm where the cows still live. Story by Jane Milton, illustrated by Deborah Hinde, \$19.99.



The Coromandel's Destination Bookshop

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Visit Carson's on Facebook for latest titles & events.

by **Monett Johnston**

CLIA Cruise Ambassador
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Choosing Your Wedding Venue

The Coromandel Peninsula is known as an amazing destination to 'tie the knot'. This is not really surprising when you think about the stunning venues, along with the opportunity to have your photos taken against those beautiful scenic backdrops we call home. It is so easy to create a relaxing environment in which one's family and friends can gather to celebrate the special day.

Last year our own family enjoyed an incredible extended holiday to celebrate a family wedding at Hot Water Beach. This special venue overlooked a private area of the beach with an open-air garden wedding beside the sea. Waves surfed in beside us whilst the vows were read.

The photos are divine with spectacular backgrounds of rocks and glistening water, the sand, the landscape of hills against blue skies, and the sun shone on the Peninsula. The opportunity to enjoy it all – the wedding bells-and-whistles that create that special day, the comfort and relaxation for our guests, and importantly, somewhere the children were welcomed and entertained so easily.

There are many stunning venues on the Coromandel Peninsula to have a wedding, and our agency is happy to assist with coordinating accommodation, flights (both international and

within NZ) and any other travel arrangements needed for family and friends.

SET SAIL TO ROMANCE!

After your Coromandel wedding, a fabulous honeymoon option might be to take your guests with you on a family cruise. Another great choice to create a unique gathering for all your guests is to have a Wedding at Sea.

The ceremony can be held on shore, near the spectacular ship you're about to cruise away on. Once the ship has sailed, the best sail-away party you ever imagined can be held on board. Your guests for the harbour-side ceremony can include all your cruise guests plus other non-sailing friends and family. Alternatively, after your Coromandel wedding, you could enjoy a symbolic wedding on shore at one of the exotic destinations on your cruise itinerary.

Depending on where you choose, the wedding can be either 'legal or symbolic'. The Venue? Literally anywhere – a ship, a beach, a castle, a garden...or even a glacier!

On board, ceremonies are held in the ship's chapel or in a private lounge, with the captain officiating whilst at sea. Your unique celebration could be in international waters or at a private venue of one of your favourite ports of call. The wedding, the reception and the honeymoon

all together, creating one magical never-to-be-forgotten memory.

And what better way to share your special occasion than to invite all your family and friends to your wedding, and then to share a glorious cruise vacation at the same time.

Your wedding could be anything from an intimate ceremony for two or a much larger gathering. Specialist wedding planners are available to assist us in ensuring that your day is just how you dreamed it would be, from dining to décor.

And no need to worry about tuxedos and other formal wear. These can be hired and delivered to the ship, and there's specialist dry cleaning and pressing services available for wedding gowns. Pre-reserved spa appointments for the bride, the groom and guests are available.

YOU CHOOSE

Your marriage can be celebrated with a simple champagne toast and canapes or an exclusive wedding reception. And the cruise line can also organise transport, photographers, floral arrangements as well as marriage celebrants.

Typical of all weddings, the best cruises are booked early so start planning now to send your invites to 'save the date' at sea.



Find out more! Ring Monett Johnston and the other travel experts at YOU Travel in Whitianga (previously United Travel), 07 866 4397. And be sure to say you read about them in *Coromandel Life*.

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BREAD, BUTTER & BEER COOKING WITH

Adela of ATHENREE

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

Adela learns to cook upon arrival in NZ

Having had servants during her early life, most of the many chores of pioneer life were new to Adela. Lucky for her family, she was a quick learner.

1879: Lou [Adela's servant] being away, Hugh and I had to find out how to cook! Our young Irish neighbour was most kind and able, milking our cows, at which I took my first lesson, and making porridge, at which no Colonial breakfast is complete. I alone prepared breakfast and the whole dinner for the first time: soup, roast beef, and I was not proud of it.

We ate on November 7th, our first early potatoes, planted July 21st. Lou came back after a fortnight's absence, quite appreciative of the black polish Hugh and I had put on the stove, and of our bread.

THE COLONIAL OVEN IS REPAIRED

1888: Our colonial oven showed signs of old age after nearly ten years of daily bread baking and cooking, so it was sent to Tauranga for repairs, and what was I to do? Providence sent Tinker Simmonds, who did 5s. worth of mending, and showed me how to use a "camp-oven" – a 15-inch round iron pot on legs, and with a handle, so that it could either stand or hang.

Bread or meat are excellent cooked in this vessel, with fire under it and over it, *ie*, hot embers on the lid. While thus experimenting I had a surprise-party for dinner, and with an hour's hard work achieved a surprise-triumph! Sheep's head broth, cutlets with tomato sauce, boiled mutton with caper sauce, vegetables, jelly, stewed peaches and cream, followed by coffee and music! Still, I was glad after nine days' bereavement to welcome back my trusty colonial oven.



The research and writing of previous articles about Athenree Homestead was made even more enjoyable when we delved into the book by the respected 'Matron of the Manor', Adela Stewart. It is based upon her diary entries from 1878 to 1906. Her fascinating book transports you to another time and place allowing you to really experience the highs and lows of those early days in NZ. Here we take you to Adela's kitchen where she shares a few recipes and examples of her daily life.

In spite of her writings about life in the kitchen, we found nothing to tell us what this important room looked like. We imagine a large cozy room with a constant fire, where there was always something on the stove including the massive amounts of jams Adela made with the produce from their orchards and gardens – and where she cooked for the huge dinners, parties and dances held in their home.

Adela's detailed and colourful account of her time at Athenree greatly assisted the Homestead committee with restoration efforts of the buildings, gardens, orchards and farmland. Located just south of Waihi, Athenree is the only home still standing from the original settlements of the Ulster Scots from Northern Ireland, brought to the Katikati area in 1875-78 by George Vesey Stewart, Hugh's brother. (See the last two issues of *Coromandel Life* for complete stories.)

Adela's recipes for yeast and bread



1879: Two young men who were fencing our land often gave us eels caught in our river, which some of our party enjoyed very much. They also taught me to make bread, their mother being a famous baker, as was proved by the loaves they brought up in the evenings to our kitchen and asked us to bake for them. The bread was excellent, mixed with home-made yeast, and was my unchanged recipe all my life in New Zealand, so I give it here:

YEAST—1lb. each sugar, flour and potatoes; 2 ozs. each hops and salt; 1 gallon water. Boil for an hour the hops and water, strain, and set by to cool.

Boil the potatoes in 1 pint water; mash them very smooth, and mix them with the water they were boiled in. Put in a large basin the sugar, flour, and salt; mix with them very gradually the mashed potatoes and hop-water. Bottle, cork tightly, tying on the corks with string. It will be ready in 24 hours.

BREAD—In the evening put in a basin: flour, 10 lbs.; sugar, 3 tablespoonfuls; salt, 1 tablespoonful; yeast, 1 cupful (large). Add very gradually 1 gallon luke-warm water; mix thoroughly (which will take about ten minutes), cover with a rug, and place by the fireside all night. Next morning, work this up for 15 min, with as much more flour (2 or 3 lbs.) as will bind all into a lump; the more it is worked the better.

Divide the dough into eight loaves, put them in tins by the fireside, and when risen (in an hour or two) bake for one hour and a quarter.



Previous editions of Adela's book above.

The 2011 reprint at right.



In 1906, Hugh and Adela sailed to England, having grown too old to work the farm. There Adela started compiling her book based upon on her original journals. The book, *My Simple Life in New Zealand*, was first published in 1908. After Hugh passed away in 1909, Adela returned to NZ with books to sell. Unfortunately she died upon her arrival in Katikati.

There were other reprints over ensuing years, until 2011, when the Athenree Homestead Trust reprinted the book, with improved and some new photographs as well as an index (see above).

The book can be purchased from the Homestead for only \$20. Order online at www.athenreehomestead.org.nz

Butter becomes a money maker

1884 began very gaily for Hugh and me, for we drove to the eight miles distant lovely home of friends, whose little daughter was to be christened in the drawing-room. There was a large gathering of mutual acquaintances for the ceremony and then a sumptuous repast of so many courses that we were filled with admiration and astonishment.

One day's holiday meant double work on the following day, and it being a very hot one, I did not enjoy churning, the butter being so soft that could do nothing with it. However, I got up next morning at 5 o'clock, found my 3 lbs. butter quite firm, and a few hours later sold it for 10d per lb. to holiday-makers camped on the Waihi Beach; so I began making money!

Home brew for the work crew

With so many young men constantly coming and going, we began to see that it was desirable to provide them with something a little stronger than tea, so early on, I started hop beer, and kept it up without intermission for the next twenty-two years.

To ten gallons of coldwater add 1/2 lb. dried hops, 8 lbs. moist sugar, and 2 lbs. maize (Indian corn). Let stand for twenty-four hours; boil quickly for two hours; strain into a wooden tub in a warm place. When fermentation starts (in a week or two, according to temperature), which will demonstrate itself by small surface bubbles, strain through a canvas bag. Bottle, let stand till foam rises, then cork, tie down tightly.

It will be fit to drink in 2-4 weeks, and prove a most wholesome, refreshing light beer. All the cadets who desired were taught this, as well as bread and butter making which might prove useful when they left Athenree.

We were getting such quantities of honey, for which now that everyone kept bees there was no sale, that we gave it away to all who would take it, and still it came; so instead of 8 lbs. sugar for 10 gallons hop beer, I used honey, which made it much clearer, and more sparkling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

To book Athenree for an event, wedding or special tour contact Val valnew@kinect.co.nz

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

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

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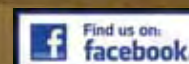
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THE QUIET ROAD TO SUCCESS PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



The *FUTURE STARS* Programme

We introduced Lester Gray, and his 'achieve your dream' story in the last issue of Coromandel Life. Recently semi-retired at age 48 from a solid 30 year career managing petrol stations, he attributes his success to 'putting people first'.

This commitment is demonstrated in his 'Future Stars' programme, an impressive incremental training system he developed in 1998 that created a clear career path for many of his young employees. Lester estimates he mentored hundreds of Caltex employees during the first

year it was in place. After purchasing his own service station – the Katikati Caltex in 2001 – he adjusted the programme for a single site operation and continued to support staff into managerial positions before selling this station in 2016. He remains involved with his Opotiki station, and continues to help staff advance their careers.

We glanced over Lester's organisational Excel sheets and understood the simple yet solid progression and training topics. Very solid. Duly impressed, we asked him to share.

"I have worked in a minimum wage environment my entire life", explains Lester Gray. "Just because I didn't start out earning much, it didn't mean I couldn't get ahead. I found that with a goal, a plan, hard work and persistence, I had what I needed to realise my dreams."

Lester was promoted from pumping petrol to Manager, before losing his job due to company restructure. Eighteen months later, he was able to re-enter the industry in another managerial position and was quickly promoted to a Multi-Site Manager and later became the Operations Manager for 46 sites.

However, with the promotion to the top level of the organisation, Lester also inherited a work place 'culture' that wasn't positive for staff, but demanded a lot from them. The result was an incredibly high staff turnover rate. Imagine working for a company where *more than half* of its 800 staff members across the 46 service station sites quit every 6 months.

"The cost of constantly recruiting and training can be crippling for any business. But, just as

important are the devastating consequences this drifting in and out of jobs can have on the lives of the people involved."

Because Lester had made his own solid career in this predominately transient industry, he took a deep look into his own personal experiences when considering why so many people were leaving ... while he had chosen to stay.

"Ultimately, I felt that many of my colleagues were leaving because they struggled to find clear pathways towards achieving their goals", Lester explained. "I decided that *this* was the challenge I needed to target – increasing staff retention while improving the lives of our team members. That's when I created the Future Stars Programme."

"The goal was to change the work place from an unskilled, transient abyss to a place of motivation, challenge and aspiration...as well as rewards."

Lester's passion and determination led him to develop the plan to mentor the 'future stars' he could see in the organisation.

Over the next 15 years, the voluntary programme would provide training and advancement through the ranks for over 400 people, paving the way to create clear, career pathways for unskilled teenagers, young and older adults. Participants were able to successfully take on more senior roles within the company or transition to better positions in other companies. It provided an expected time frame to acquire new skills and move between the different jobs available. Lester notes. "It was simple, measurable and perhaps most importantly, achievable."

Lester was pleased to find that people's lives were being changed. "I let my staff know that I trusted their abilities and that every one of them could achieve what I had – with the right level of training. That's where Future Stars fit: Leadership is about giving others the tools they need, teaching them how to use them and then trusting them to get the job done."

Lester found it rewarding to observe how the business environment changed soon after the programme was implemented.

FUTURE STARS IN ACTION

The programme demonstrated its worth in April when power for the entire town of Opotiki went down but his staff 'gave it their all' to keep his petrol station open. Lester praised their great attitude, particularly camera-shy Shannon at right, who "had only been in the job for 3 weeks!"

Lester Gray on Facebook April 14 - 'Thanks Shannon Lee Hennessy for everything you

have done in the last 24 hours. To stand up and own such a serious situation in the way you did shows maturity, skill and amazing will to keep everyone safe!

Shannon, Leah and your team have had a 24 hours you will never forget. A Huge thanks to the entire team that have worked tirelessly to keep Caltex Opotiki open while everybody else in the area had no power. You are all amazing! Thanks!



Unlocking the power of your Inner Vision!



A story from the Middle Ages...

Three stone masons in the Middle Ages were at work when a visitor came along and asked them what they were doing. The first stone mason was hard at work, sweat beading his brow. "I am cutting this stone," he grumbled. The second stone mason, though less distraught, responded with a deep sigh, "I'm building a parapet." The third stone mason replied with a radiant face, "I am building a beautiful cathedral that will glorify God for centuries to come."

—Author unknown

In a recent discussion with one client, it was invigorating to witness the change in focus, energy and attention with what she was doing. The sheer inspiration and joy she experienced when she let go of the previous concept of how her business had to be in order to fit into the world, and allowed herself to create a new vision.

She began to 'see' that what she really wanted to do was to give voice to the one thing that she had always thought made her different from others, and that she had a truly amazing gift to share.

Her work remains the same but the drive, direction, how she perceives her business, her role in it, her clients and the world has shifted.

She now has a vibrant, resounding sense of clarity and purpose, is making choices daily that support and lead her closer to that 'inner truth' of how she really wants her life and her business to be.

Her radiance is growing along with her confidence and ability to find new creative solutions. She is powering ahead in ways that she always knew she could but couldn't connect with. She is now giving herself the opportunity to achieve the one thing she has 'always known that she wanted to be'.

Whatever business or lifestyle we live, we have the ability to tap into that inner vision and unlock our passion and purpose. Step beyond the power of your mind, and unlock the real authentic you – from your heart.

LA

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"Team members realised that with a bit of planning, they could move themselves off minimum wage quickly. They became incredibly motivated and staff retention dramatically improved."

The team members became like family with Lester the proud father watching them become 'Stars'. "Some have gone on to hold senior roles, many have moved on to other businesses and some even ended up owning their own businesses."

"We don't own our staff but as an employer we should own their development. I have always been happy for staff to leave my business if they are advancing themselves."

Future Stars programme kept staff 'fire survivor' on the path to success



Chrystal Sykes was a part time assistant at the local coffee shop when she approached me for a job. She told me my coffee making skills sucked, and I needed to employ someone with better skills.

I have always employed people based on their attitude – not their skills – as I believe in my ability to train and develop staff.

I hired Chrystal and had helped her develop her skills through the Future Stars Programme. What was not on the lesson plan was this: She was the grave yarder who was on shift when fire destroyed the entire building. This affected her for months, but we were able to transfer her to another site and nurture her through the recovery. A big part was having a plan for her to refocus on and some tangible outcomes for her that she could aim for.

Once we reopened, Chrystal assumed the role of Café Manager. And just 12 months later, she became Site Manager

– Lester Gray

What has the Future Stars training had on your life?

Chrystal: Huge! Lester taught me a lot. My confidence is higher than I have ever had, and I developed skills I didn't have. I had never had opportunities in life to advance myself and never had a boss prepared to show me how I could get ahead. Believing in yourself is massive for anyone.

Lester is the best boss I've ever had because he believed in me, taught me to believe in myself and was always there for support.

Training? A lot of our training is on the job which is great because our industry

Lester has realised the innate value of his 'people first, team first' philosophy. "Having a motivated, empowered team actually allowed me to achieve my own goals and dreams!

"And it doesn't matter how big or small a business is", says Lester. "Developing your team members' skills will motivate and empower them to take hold of their own destinies. There is no feeling quite like that of facilitating, not only your own dreams, but igniting the dreams of others as well.

"Life is short and we should live every day of it. Helping others live a better life is rewarding, satisfying and fulfilling."



Lester Gray with Future Star graduate Chrystal Sykes.

attracts practical people. Onsite training has included people management, health and safety, day-to-day tasks, monthly reconciliations, stock control, and staff management.

We have also done training off site in subjects like food safety, armed hold up, first aid, fire training, and site management.

How has this affected you personally?

I'm a lot happier person today than when I started, because I have learned a lot which has enabled me to look ahead in life and feel more secure.

Having opportunities – offered to me through people like Lester and his Future Stars Programme – have completely changed me as a person. I now have a focus and a direction to both better myself and improve my family's life. I am able to employ my own teenage daughter which gives her an opportunity, through my development.

Lester gave me the motivation to aim higher than I ever thought I could. And to not stop just because I have already achieved something. Always aim for the next level ... and have focus and a dream.

If you'd like to invite Lester to help you implement a Future Stars Programme in your business or speak to your group or organisation, contact him at 021 757 599, cx01841@xtra.co.nz, or find him on facebook – [lester.gray.79](https://www.facebook.com/lester.gray.79).





COROMANDEL BUILDING TRADES: A DECADE OF SOLID IMPROVEMENT

Whether building or renovating, there's a wealth of reputable and well-qualified local tradespeople on the Coromandel – many recognised nationally and awarded for the excellence of their work.

The calibre and reliability of those in the Coromandel building industry has greatly improved, especially over the past decade. Gone are the days when some believed they had to rely on contractors outside the peninsula, whether due to a shortage of skilled locals or the belief – perhaps mistaken – that they would save a few dollars.

We now have many highly experienced operators in a variety of fields, giving more choices to homeowners with just about everything you'll need available here, and at competitive pricing.

We asked some of our long-time advertisers in the building trade and associated businesses for their take on the positive changes they've seen in recent years.

Rachael and Julian Lee, owners of **Guthrie Bowron Whitianga**, have for years invited local tradespeople to leave a business card on the store's 'Find a Tradie' wall to help them drum up local business.

The response of late is telling.

"Some 'tradies' have taken their cards off the wall stating they have more than enough work to get on with," Rachael shares. This won't be a surprise to anyone on the peninsula waiting

for a local to help with their building projects.

And business is just as busy at this home decorating store. "Winter was traditionally the quiet season, but not lately", Rachael says. "Looking ahead, we're relocating to larger premises, have expanded our team, and invested in new systems for efficiency. Businesses need to 'resource up' to deal with the demand of this current market!"

The lift in both demand, and in quality of service, across the building industry is coming as more people choose to move here.

They are finding the traditional DIY-er perhaps doesn't have the time, or is choosing to prioritise other things, and seems to have the funds to get someone else to 'do it'. This nationwide trend among home owners toward 'DIFM' (do-it-for-me) is also driving demand for tradespeople and the support industries.

There is also less need to search out of the area for speciality products and services. Guthrie



Guthrie Bowron helping clients with those little important details.

Bowron recently became a distributor for a patio roof product, Bowranda, and opened **Outdoors Covered** as a separate business to augment their stock of exterior blinds, awnings, shutters and umbrellas. In the past, one would have to travel to Hamilton, Tauranga or Auckland to even see a Bowranda showroom, then use outside contractors for the specialized installation. Not now. It's all in Whitianga (see left).



An Outdoors Covered Bowron Bowranda installation in Tairua.

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ON THE UP

COROMANDEL ECONOMY
grew by **3.3%** in 2016, with indications for spending and investment to continue

RESIDENTIAL CONSENTS
in Coromandel **increased 41%** in 2016, more than four-times the national average 10%

TCDC RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

July 2015 to Feb 2016: **264**
July 2014 to Feb 2015: **214**

SUBDIVISION CERTIFICATES GRANTED

July 2015 to Feb 2016: **88**
July 2014 to Feb 2015: **55**

WORD OF MOUTH IS KEY

Carol Harker and Tony Wilson, co-owners and partners of the successful Mastercraft Kitchens Whitianga, is a licensee of the nationwide Mastercraft Kitchens. They have worked through the highs and lows of the building trade over the last seven years, experiencing the change and growth first hand.



Mastercraft owners Carol Harker and Tony Wilson.

"When you're local and working in a small town, word of mouth is key – it can make or break you. When the 'word' is good, it is very beneficial. When times were tough in the Coromandel building trade, *this* is what set the standard. Businesses with good reputations and local feedback survived the down times and continued to get the work."

Improved building standards saw everyone lift their game, raising the quality of work across the industry. "It's not just builders who benefit. When things are looking up for builders, the same goes for plumbers, brick layers, tilers and painters. It's a synergy where everyone profits."

Communication has also improved greatly between property owners and contractors/subcontractors. "Builders make every effort to keep their word. It gives me peace of mind, having deadlines and knowing that I'll be informed about delays and any change to schedules."

The area is fortunate to have many forward thinking entrepreneurs locating here like the Lees and Carol and Tony. They saw the opportunity to fill the need for up-to-date, industry leading builds, cutting-edge design, and high standards of modern workmanship, utilising the latest products and techniques.

It seems the 'cowboys' have been weeded out, and talented and reputable locals have stepped up to the plate.

continued next page...



BEFORE

A dramatic example of the before/after transformations happening at Mastercraft Kitchens in Whitianga.



AFTER



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Award-winning registered 'master builders' Ohlson & Whitelaw in Whitianga handle major projects like this one at Pauanui Waterways.

TOP BUILDERS USE LOCALS ALSO

Award-winning 'master builders' Ohlson & Whitelaw in Whitianga attest to the skill of local sub-trades they now engage, and they also source their materials locally as much as possible.

"As Carol said, word of mouth can be very beneficial to your business, and this is how we get the majority of our business, says co-owner Kelly Ohlson. "Clients demand quality, excellent communication and a robust building process, which is what we aim to deliver."

They understand that clients invest a lot of time and money into their projects, so they ensure their structures are built properly to remain sound and solid for a lifetime of enjoyment. "We build homes that all involved with can be proud of."

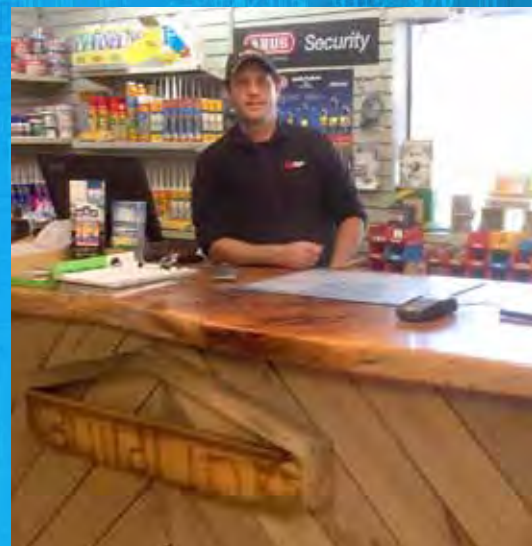
SUPPORTING LOCAL SUPPLIERS

In 2011, Shane Osborne and wife Vanessa Coory purchased Cooks Beach Timber & Hardware, and then, just two years later, expanded to the Tairua location. They have seen an influx of new customers, especially builders and tradespeople.

Shane agrees the industry has experienced significant growth in the last five years and trades people are flat out. "We really started to see the boom here last year. Things have gone crazy. Builders on our books are booked up – and painters, tilers, plasterers are in short supply."

Educating people to 'buy local' has been a big focus during his time in the business. In the past, holiday home owners had a tendency to bring in supplies or labour from out of town.

THE OLD SAYING:
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The building business is booming all over the Coromandel.

"They may think if they source from a bigger store in a bigger city the price will be better. But we've always been able to match what a big city supplier can do, perhaps a bit better – particularly once you add in the freight costs.

"I keep telling people, you are always better off going local. There's also the big bonus of being able to ensure accountability and follow up service. If something goes wrong, a business closer to hand can respond more quickly and is more likely to see you right."

A WIN-WIN...AND-WIN

One thing for certain with everyone we've talked to – they are all committed to building or creating a product they, their customers and everyone involved can be proud of. So if you're looking to build, or renovate, rest assured the trades here come highly recommended.

It's vital to the local economy that we all support local businesses to maintain the flow of money through the community. All the experts and the best quality supplies available are here on our own doorstep.

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life calendar

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JUNE 2017

SAT 10 JUN



CHARITY - Kauri 2000 Volunteer Tree Planting Day Kuaotunu. Join the Kauri 2000 group in Kuaotunu as part of their tree planting day. www.kauri2000.co.nz.

SAT 10 - SAT 17 JUN

THEATRE - Disney's Beauty And The Beast 200 Mary Street, Thames. A much loved Disney tale brought to life on stage. This is the first live Disney production to hit the board anywhere in the Coromandel. Don't miss it! www.thamesmad.co.

FRI 16 JUN



PARTY - Back to The 80's Waikino Tavern, 8541 SH 2, 8pm-1am. Pull out your most tragic 1980's costume, dress up as an 80's celeb or get your crew in some aerobics gear to take home one of the prizes!

FRI 16 - SUN 18 JUN



RETREAT - Mid Winter Restorative Yoga Retreat Mana Retreat Centre, Coromandel. A safe, nurturing and joyful practice. Tickets \$480: 07 866 8972.

RETREAT - The Buddha In the Compost Heap Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre, 126 Victoria St, Thames. A weekend exploring permaculture basics in a buddhist context. \$240 includes vegetarian food and accommodation <https://sudarshanaloka.nz/events/the-buddha-in-the-compost-heap>

SAT 17 JUN

WORKSHOP - Creativity & Music Workshop Buddhaloka, 517 Pollen Street (Top Floor), Thames, 1-5pm. Up for some winter music fun? Come play music with people who are also exploring self-expression with sound. Bring your voice, your instrument and your open heart. <https://karenhunter.com/2017/05/01/winter-workshops-2017/>

SUN 18 JUN

CONCERT - Sunday afternoon concert Corner Mackay & Mary Street, Thames, 2pm. Chamber ensemble Hausmusik will perform a recital of music including works by Telemann, J S Bach, Handel and Heinrich. \$15 general admission; \$13 TMG members; \$5 students & CSC holders. www.thamesmusicgroup.com.

WED 21 JUN



CONCERT - Toru Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Rd, 7:30pm. Toru reignites the 25-year musical association between Denny Stanway, James Wilkinson & Davy Stuart from Rua, the Christchurch Celtic band formed by Denny's late husband, Jimmy Young. Tickets \$18 or \$20 at door. 021 912993.

FOOD - Degustation Evening at Salt Restaurant, Blacksmith Lane, Whitianga, 6pm. Come and meet winemaker Matt Stafford from Cragg Range and experience six unique wines matched with six specially designed courses. Make your booking now as numbers are limited: Kelly 07 866 5818.

SUN 25 JUN

MUSIC - The LMM Club Manaia Cafe, 228 Main Road, Tairua, 2-6pm. All year music sessions are here to stay. Every Sunday our talented entertainers invite you to enjoy great food, company and be in the draw to win spot prizes, musical instrument and dinner for two. <http://localmusicians.co.nz>

WED 28 JUN



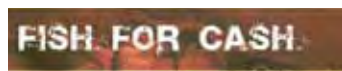
CHARITY - Pink Ribbon Breakfast at the Pauanui Club. Pauanui Beach, 9:30am. Tickets \$30 from Pauanui Club and Pauanui Information Centre. www.pauanuiclub.co.nz/noticeboard.php.

THU 29 - FRI 30 JUN



RETREAT - Introducing Self Love Approach Te Moata, Tairua. For those working within the mental health field, the retreat includes theory and mindfulness practices to get a personal experience of the approach before introducing it to clients. R20, tickets \$250: 07 868 8798. www.temoata.org

THURS 29 JUN - SAT 1 JUL



FISHING - Bounty Hunter Fishing Tournament 611 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town. Reg Thurs 11am - 10pm, briefing 7:30pm. Fishing days from Fri 1am-Sat 5pm. Days of fishing, catching up with mates and the chance to win awesome cash prizes. \$150 per angler. www.thebountyhunter.co.nz

JULY 2017

SAT 1 JUL

PARTY - Pauanui Clubs Mid Winter Marshmallow Wonderland Pauanui Club, 31 Sheppard Avenue, Pauanui Beach. Members \$50 Non-members \$55. Welcome drink 6pm. Three course dinner, great band, fun times and a special guest. Don't forget that gift from santa. www.pauanuiclub.co.nz/noticeboard.php.

THU 6 JUL

EVENT - The Ride of The Legends (ROTL) Thames Rugby and Sports Club, 4pm. The Ride of The Legends (ROTL) is coming to NZ for the first time, and you have the chance to meet some former All Black and British Lions rugby sporting greats as they roll through Thames. Tickets \$5. www.rideofthelegendsnz2017.co.nz

SAT 15 JUL

ART - Coromandel Peninsula Art and Craft Fair Whitianga Town Hall, 9am-3pm. A huge success last year and a 'winter warmer' for locals and visitors alike. Do diary it now!

FRI 8 - FRI 15 JUL

RETREAT - Insight Meditation at Te Moata. A 7-day residential retreat led by Stephen Archer. Paul Rd, Tairua. Harnesses the power of mindfulness to develop understanding in all aspects of our lives. Suitable for people who are new to the practice as well as those with experience. 07 868 8798. www.temoata.org

AUGUST 2017

TUE 1 AUG

FESTIVAL - 150th Anniversary of Thames Goldfields Thames, ongoing events through 2018. www.thamesheritage.co.nz. For more info and calendar see p48-49.

SAT 5 AUG

ADVENTURE - Whangamata Adventure Rogaine There will be a variety of tracks for all ability levels. You will receive a MTB Park map as well as the navigation map. Good planning will be essential for the MTB stage as most of the tracks are 1-way. www.whangamataevents.co.nz

SAT 25 AUG



COMMUNITY - Daffodil Day is annual flagship fundraising & awareness campaign. Local volunteers collect donations for fresh daffodils and pins. Key locations in many towns inc Tairua, Pauanui, Cooks Beach, Hahei, Whitianga, Matarangi & Kuaotunu. Some offer baked items and jams. www.daffodilday.org.nz

SAT 26 AUG

RALLY - Mahindra Goldrush Rally of Coromandel RH: Moewai Park Rd, Whitianga, 7am-5pm. Competition will take place over 135km on forestry and public roads. www.nzrallychamps.co.nz/event/rnd4-rally-new-zealand-whitianga.

FRI 25 - SUN 27 AUG



MUTLISPORT - Coromandel Classic A two-day multisport challenge traversing both coasts of the central Coromandel, including mountain and road biking, trail running and kayaking. www.coromandelclassic.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUN 3 SEP

THEATRE - Arts on Tour presents Bill Massey's Tourists, Whitianga Town Hall. Titled so because this is what the Kiwi soldiers called themselves, referring to their Prime Minister Bill Massey. The ironic title sets the tone of the play that is peppered with jokes, dances, songs and soldiers ditties about the war. Performed by Jan Bolwell. Tickets available from Paper Plus, Whitianga. Ticket prices to be confirmed.

SAT 9 SEP



FESTIVAL - Whangamata Run Walk Festival Port Road, Whangamata. With the half marathon (21km), the 10km and 5km events, there's something for participants of all ages and abilities. www.whangamatarunwalk.co.nz.

SAT 16 SEP

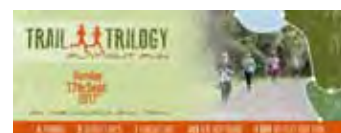


FESTIVAL - Whitianga Scallop Festival Whitianga Marina Reserve, The Esplanade, 10am-5pm. A celebration of all things seafood and cuisine. Once again the festival will play host to 60 cuisine stands producing mouth-watering dishes alongside some of NZ's most popular wineries. Adults \$45, Youth \$10. 0800 BUY TIX (289 849).

SAT 16 - SUN 17 SEP

FAIR/CAR SHOW - Paeroa Antiques Fair, Vintage & Classic Car Show Enquiries to Positive Paeroa 07 862 6999. Remember to dress for the occasion 20-50's attire. See you in the crowd! www.paeroa.org.nz

SUN 17 SEP



RUNNING - Trail Trilogy Kaiaua, Thames, Te Aroha, Paeroa, Waikino and Waihi. Flat out fun! Through 6 towns across the Hauraki Rail Trail. www.trailtrilogy.com.

OCTOBER 2017

SUN 1 - THU 5 OCT

SPORT - Ice Skate Tour MB Game Fishing Club, Whitianga 10am-5pm daily, till 8pm on Wed 4 Oct. Door sales only. Adults \$13 Kids \$7 Family (2 kids + 2 adults) \$35 www.eventfinda.co.nz/2017/ice-skate-tour/whitianga

FRI 6 OCT

MUSIC - Arts on Tour: Andrew London Trio, Whitianga Town Hall, TBA. Songs about the trivia and minutiae of daily life from the point of view of a middle-aged, middle-class, Middle Earther, in a 1940s swing style with occasional forays into folk, blues, country and hip-hop. www.andrewlondon.co.nz

FRI 6 - SUN 8 OCT



FESTIVAL - Brits at the Beach A celebration of all things British in Whangamata. Includes a car and bike show, whiskey dinner, village fete, live concerts, organized drives and more. www.britsatthebeach.co.nz. See p23 for more info.

SUN 7 - SUN 15 OCT



ART - Coromandel Arts Tour During the first two weekends of October 2017 artists in and around Coromandel Town welcomes you and share their process as well as the finished results. www.coromandelartstour.co.nz. See p50 for more info.

SAT 14 OCT

EVENT - Ngatea Garage Sale 9am-2pm. NZ's biggest Garage sale – or as it was promoted back in 1996... Thousands of 'out-of-townners' flock for a bargain. Don't miss this popular annual event.

SAT 21 OCT



ART - ART Waikino Recognised as a major art exhibition on the Coromandel Peninsula - paintings, craft, photography and sculpture. All proceeds to the upkeep of community hall. Wine and Cheese opening Fri. www.waihi.org.nz/events/art-waikino.

SPORT - XTERRA Trail Challenge Waihi Karangahake Gorge, Waihi. We are all about getting you, your mates, and your family to some of the best off-road locations around. www.trailrun.co.nz/waihi-home.html

SAT 21 - SAT 28 OCT



ART - The Endeavour Ship Replica Captain Cook 250th Commemorations. A fantastic chance to see a replica of Captain Cook's ship The Endeavour when it visits the Mercury Bay. More information to come!

SAT 28 OCT



RACING - K2 Cycle Race Toughest 1-day cycle challenge in Southern Hemisphere. Also one of the most scenic. Whitianga start and travels anticlockwise direction through Coromandel, Thames, Tairua and back to Whitianga. www.arcevents.co.nz.

MON 31 OCT

COMMUNITY - Halloween Trick or Treating Friendly Houses Whitianga. Download your 'Trick or Treating Friendly List Map': www.allaboutwhitianga.co.nz/mercury-bay-events-guide/community/halloween-trick-or-treating-friendly-houses

MARKETS... AROUND THE COROMANDEL

LATE AUTUMN / WINTER 2017



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

TAIRUA MARKET DAY - 1st Sat every month, 9am-1pm, Tairua Town Hall, Main Rd. Crafts, goods and produce. Info: Fay 07 864 7451.

KUAOTUNU COMMUNITY SWAP - Sundays Fortnightly 10am. Lukes Kitchen. Exchange home-produced food or produce with other community members. See the 'Kuaotunu Community Swap' Facebook page.

PAEROA 'N' WAIHI CARBOOT MARKET Every 1st and 3rd Sat each month; WAIHI every 1st and 3rd Sun each month, Weather Permitting. Trevor. 07 862 7833 or see FB Page - Paeroa 'n' Waihi Carboot Sales.

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



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

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

KATIKATI LIONS MOGGIE MARKET - 2nd Sat every month, 8am-12pm, Katikati War Memorial Hall. Arts & crafts, food, plants. Margaret 021 507 456, Alan 027 279 1096.

LOOK FOR THESE MARKETS STARTING AGAIN IN OCTOBER:

Whitianga Craft & Farm Market Saturdays 8.30am-1pm.
Coroglen Farmers Market Sundays 9.30am-1pm.
Coromandel Town Market Fridays 8am-12pm.
Waihi Beach-Sundays 9am-12pm.



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by Phil Smith of Talk of Turkey Rugs

Over many years the only consistent thing in décor design is change. Styles have shifted from minimalism to extravagant and back again.

Some say minimalism, featuring neutral colours and clean, unadorned spaces is now falling from favour. It sharply contrasts with more ornate schemes, which tend to feature diversity of colour and bold, contrasting textures. One way of adding colour is the use of fabrics, floor rugs and kilim.

Antique rugs can command price levels beyond affordability, but some more affordable semi-antique rugs (rugs from 30-80 years of age), can offer the same patina, depth and beauty. No need to break the bank to enjoy a quality carpet.

ANOTHER FORM OF ART

Décor pieces can add to the appeal of your home – whether it is in the form of a rug, large or small, or, perhaps even a donkey bag, camel bag, or cushions. Many have found that hanging a rug can be a cost effective way of creating wall-art. Hanging is probably the wisest use of a well-worn valuable antique as the piece is protected from dirt and floor wear.

We have had a lifelong love affair with all forms of fabrics and particularly with hand-knotted rugs, and we love to share our passion with our visitors. Our stock includes mostly tribal patterns, with colour being to the forefront, rather than



This room at Talk of Turkey's previous Auckland location appeared in a magazine spread.

traditional or formal Persian style design. These days, we include more pieces from the Caucasus and Iran than from Turkey.

Over the 40 years we've been in this business, customers often comment how their eyes are still drawn to their rug years after purchase, or that they still catch sight of a beautiful feature they hadn't previously noticed.

If you're unsure of the history of a family heirloom carpet, bring it, or a good photo, with you. We'd be happy to try to help you know your rug.

Call in to Talk of Turkey...

to see our great selection in our Tairua home showcase and view how we can make your home décor come vibrantly alive – with rugs.

We welcome viewers and never engage in any form of sales pressure. In fact, we encourage you to take your selections home for a 'trial run' to see it in different locations and lighting.

Browse through a selection online anytime. www.talkofturkeyrugs.co.nz.

COROMANDEL ARTSTOURS

OCTOBER 7-8 and 14-15, 2017



Coromandel ArtsTours have shifted their popular open studio weekends to early October this year. Previously, the self-guided tour was held in April, but the move to Spring will set it apart from other events happening at that time.

Pick up the attractive and informational ArtsTour map (shown at left) from Coromandel region i-Sites, galleries and selected cafés. It contains artist details and their locations. It will also be available via download from the website.

Each participating artist will display

a piece of work at the ArtsTour Exhibition to be held at the Hauraki House Gallery, open every day from October 7-15, 10am-4pm. The gala exhibition launch will be held 6pm, Friday 6 October.

The exhibition gives people an overview of the range of art on offer, and a chance to view the style of each artist. They can then plan their own studio visits and plot the route for their self-drive tour.

See www.coromandelartstour.co.nz/ and FB page, Coromandel Open Studios.

Driving Creek Café showcases mural by Waihi artist Shane Walker

Marijke Miller, new owner of The Driving Creek Café & Bookshop in Coromandel Town, enlisted the talents of Waihi muralist Shane Walker to paint a vivid extension of the café's own garden. He's shown at right installing the first panel.

An icon of the Coromandel food scene for almost 20 years, Driving Creek Café is renowned nation-wide for its commitment to providing delicious vegetarian fare. It was a perfect fit for Marijke's personal ethic of "good food made by good people". Winter hours are Tues-Sun from 9-4 (Closed in August). See more at www.drivingcreekcafe.nz.





WAIHI'S LAUGHING POTTERY OPENS NEW STUDIO & GALLERY

Andrew Killick is the potter and craftsman behind Laughing Pottery. Visit him at his brand new showroom and workshop at 18 Rosemont Road, Waihi – peaceful and quiet, leaning toward a natural, tactile environment. You'll often find him at work, displaying the ancient craft of pottery making at the wheel.

His Autumn/Winter collection has just been released with a new line of homeware ranges, named after Coromandel locations. Andrew also teaches workshops and offers gift vouchers and commissions.

View his ranges online at www.laughingpottery.com and Laughing Pottery on Facebook to see video programmes of his work. Ring him at 0277 344 548.



People's Choice Award winner Airdrie Hamilton and Mercury Bay Art Escape Trust chairman Stuart Christie with the winning painting.

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES FOR ARTIST AIRDRIE HAMILTON

Congratulations to artist **Airdrie Hamilton** for her double win at MBE in March, for 'Sally on a Good Day'. Her oil painting won the 2017 Artists' Choice Award, as selected by the artists who attended the tour's March 3rd launch event at the Hot Waves Café in Hot Water Beach.

Airdrie's lovely painting also later took first in the People's Choice Awards. The artists' showcase exhibit was on view to the public for a full month at the café, where some 300 voted for their favourite. Winning second place was **Becs Wood's** "Ecological Weave", with flax weaver **Raewyn Hildreth's** "Flaxi Girl" claiming third.

The next Art Escape event is the popular Coromandel Peninsula Art and Craft Fair on Saturday 15 July 9am-3pm at the Whitianga Town Hall. A huge success last year and a 'winter warmer' for locals and visitors alike. Do diary it now!

Visit www.mercurybayartescape.com for viewing art and event updates.

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Taste of Matarangi brings in the bucks for local rescue services



Warm weather and great music were again on offer for over 2000 at the fifth Taste of Matarangi event in April. The big news from event Coordinator, Bronwyn Ririnui is the funds raised for two excellent local services: \$12,000 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and \$4,000 for Kuaotunu Land Search and Rescue.

Excellent treats for the pallet were served including delicious pastries, Balinese style dishes, and lip-smacking scallops on a stick.

A cooking demo by locals Andy Corles from Castle Rock Cafe - ably assisted by his kitchen slave, wife Shelley - attracted big numbers of appreciative foodies. There were retail stalls, the ever-popular helicopter simulator, and a

bouncy castle and mini jeep rides for the kids. The charity auction gained great bids, and the music had everyone up dancing and singing along to some well-known favourites.

The crowd embraced the festival with such enthusiasm, proving to the committee they have the recipe right with that great beach-side location, the music, kids activities, and the delicious tasty treats on offer.

"We couldn't do it without the support of our volunteers, sponsors, and local businesses. Thanks to them and the leagues of festival-goers, we've been able to make substantial donations to these necessary services."

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New Thames visitor website has successful launch

The Thames info website is now operating, offering a handsome photo slideshow at the top, with a different topic for each photo, and easy access to main tabs below. History, how to get there, events, where to eat, etc. It offers a well organised list of businesses and community services/organisations as well.

The slick and solid website, created by tourist website developers Visitor Solutions (see www.visitorsolutions.net/), was the result of community planning stretching back to 2013.

The Thames Focus Group, a subcommittee of



Visit the website – www.thamesinfo.co.nz

the Thames Community Board, was given the mandate to "bring together past community input, heritage, inspirational urban design and realistic business planning to produce a strategy for the future of Thames."



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Tairua has its own Tardis?

Tairua introduces a totally unique ATM machine in the main street – a 1938 telephone box. The person behind the idea is local retiree Gavin Morris, owner of the nearby commercial building. He thought Tairua needed another ATM machine for peak periods, as well as a unique tourist attraction.

Although this idea is nothing new in the UK, it may be the only one in NZ. Near the Info Centre as you enter town from the south, the red box certainly catches the eye!

Between discovering Whangamata's space-age loo (p22) and Tairua's Tardis-like ATM machine, I felt like I could be time travelling in an episode of 'Doctor Who'. – T Daly

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E. tairua@harcourts.co.nz

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Jen Beare
Branch Manager
021 210 9552

Graham Beare
021 151 5683

Clive Mosen
021 796 203

Greg Dickie
021 664 870

Harcourts

www.tairua.harcourts.co.nz