

WINTER/EARLY SPRING 2018
COMPLIMENTARY

OTAMA ROCKS
by IAN PREECE



COROMANDEL

life

Celebrating the people and places of the Coromandel Peninsula

WINTER: 'GOOD FOR THE SOUL' • WHANGAMATA: 'HARBOUR OF OBSIDIAN' • THE FLAT WHITE
ASTROPHOTOGRAPHERS LOVE NZ SKIES • THAMES 150th CONCLUDES • COROMANDEL ART SCENE

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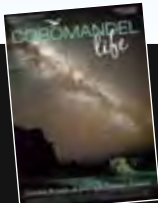
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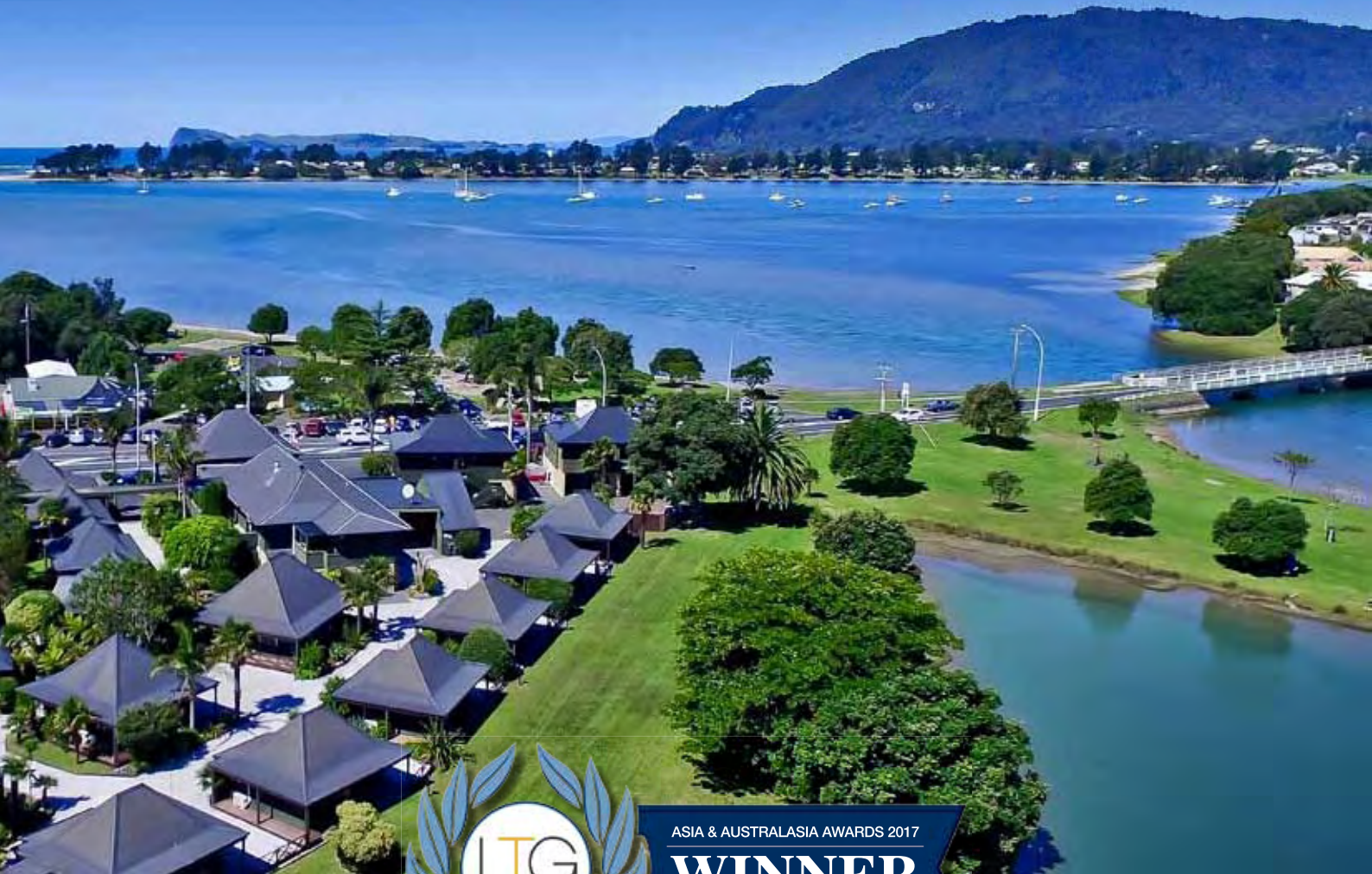


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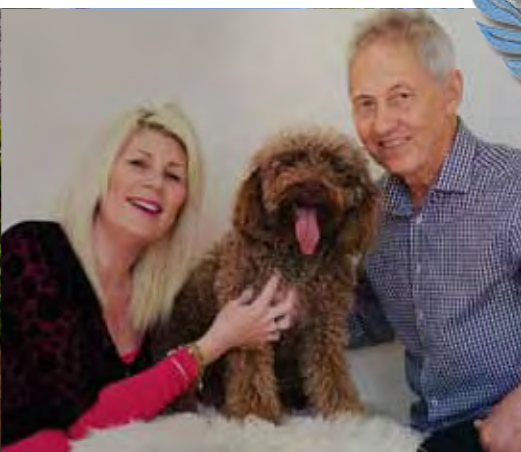
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Kia ora...

"Look up at the stars, not down at your feet.
Try to make sense of what you see,
and wonder what makes the universe exist.
Be curious."

Stephen Hawking

Little did we know when we first started this issue that we would spend so much time 'looking up at the stars'. But then we found Kuaotunu photographer Ian Preece's photo of the very same beach Greg and I are standing on below, only 'Otama Rocks' are cloaked in darkness with the brilliant Milky Way above.

Ian's photos left us wanting to learn more about astrophography, and so we did. Research led us to other talented photographers including Mark Gee and his infamous 'Full Moon Silhouette' featured inside.

Learning that Whangamata means 'Harbour of Obsidian' led us to the unique and black glassy stone known to Maori as *mata*, which is even now highly valued by surgeons. What stories this stone can tell, and it does on p36.

Then we did a complete flip to the light side by revealing the process of pulling'n'pouring a perfect flat white.

We are pleased to be collaborating with Destination Coromandel on projects to remind everyone just how good for the soul The Coromandel really is – and at any time during the year. It was rewarding to find and share ways to regenerate, relax and have some Winter fun (p13-25).

While immersed in this section, I took a 'break away' for a short walk, and as I soaked up my surroundings, I was amazed at how much greenery there was and how many trees and flowers were still blooming although it's now Winter. Except for the temperature, it could almost be any time of the year. I was so appreciative as I remembered the barren landscapes of the US Midwest where I spent childhood – no grass, no leaves, no colour. What a contrast!

We were on a journey of many discoveries in this issue. Not only of appreciating and embracing our Winters, but also more fascinating people, products and places (not to mention poppets! p46). We hope you find the information as fascinating as we did.

See you Labour Weekend!



Greg and Tovi Daly

Find more things to do on The Coromandel

We realised while putting together the Guide for our 'Winter Fun' section, that many past issues of *Coromandel Life* are filled with numerous 'fun' ideas for kids and adults – like the 14-page 'Family Fun' spread in the Holiday 2014 issue. And also see the many 'Road Trip' sections published from Spring 2013 through Summer 2016.



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About OTAMA ROCKS

"It was a particularly dark moonless night when I set out for Otama Beach at around 11pm last winter. The sky was very clear and the patterns of the stars in the Milky Way

were particularly noticeable. This was my pick of the set of images from that night – capturing the stunning sky and those recognisable 'Otama Rocks'.

"This is one of my favourite locations for workshops. I have photographed this same beach and rocks at many different times during the day, and it has such a different feel at nighttime."



"I normally prefer star shots to be point sources but if you open the shutter for longer – say 3 hours – you can get some really interesting star trail effects."

This photo of the Milky Way was shot in 2014 at Kuaotunu around 2am.

Our cover artist

IAN PREECE

Searching for a cover image for this off-season edition – we wanted to find an appealing image that represented Winter yet was dramatic and inspiring. When we saw Ian's recent images of the Coromandel Night Skies we knew we'd found the perfect cover. However, the problem lay in which one – the entire team struggled with choosing from the dramatic night scenes Ian had captured.

Once our interests had been aroused, we investigated the magic and mystery in night time photography. This led to our centre spread article on Astrophotography, a growing passion for many, and a popular outdoor winter activity!

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

"The unsociable hours aside, taking pictures of the stars is one of the most rewarding areas of photography I am currently involved in," states Coromandel photographer Ian Preece.

"Cameras have the ability to 'see' even more stars and more colours than the naked eye, so when I view my final photos later it's like opening a window into a new world – a world that has fascinated man for many thousands of years, leading us to contemplate the nature of our existence and place in the universe."

For those living here, it might be easy to take our clear night skies and stunning views of the Milky Way for granted, but not for Ian.

"As someone who has photographed around the world, I marvel at the unique quality of the night skies in NZ – something that continues to amaze. There is an intensity and clarity rarely seen in other countries.

"We are particularly blessed here on the Coromandel where almost perfect conditions make it ideal for astrophotography. It is one of the reasons I really appreciate living here.

"Winter is special because of clearer light and longer nights giving even more opportunities to capture the moon and stars. There is something very special about capturing images of the Milky Way in all its glory."

Ian describes himself principally as a "nature photographer focusing on all aspects of the natural environment – forests and rivers, birdlife, sea and landscapes – much of which is unique to NZ". And he photographs it all, from

the tiniest flowers and insects to those 'bigger than life' night skies.

THE ART OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Technically, star photography is very different to photographing at other times of day", shares Ian. "The lack of light, focussing and managing exposure within the camera are all challenging, but well worth the effort."

For people interested in exploring this unique and exciting world, Ian offers courses and on-location workshops on astrophotography as well as other aspects of nature photography. "The camera, lens and tripod have to be up to the job", he says, "but I have equipment available for use if needed.

"As with any type of digital photography, a certain amount of image processing is required. To do this, I use (and teach) a simple process in Photoshop – as I like to spend as much time behind the camera as possible."

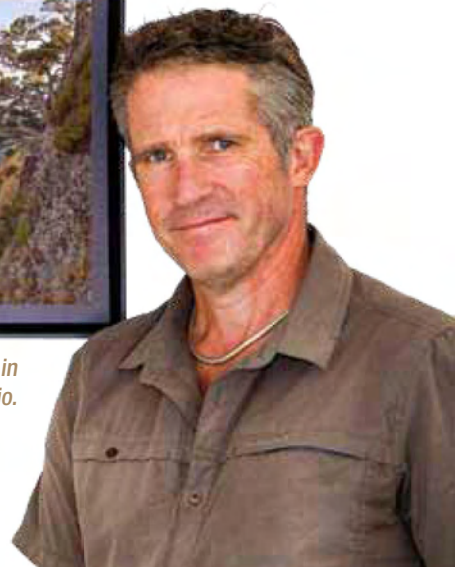
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ian and his partner Shirley have owned land in Kuaotunu since 2005, and their commitment to the environment runs even deeper than photographing it. "We have placed most of the 45 acres in QE2 covenant and have been replanting for over 12 years. We have a host of native birds, including kiwi." The covenant provides permanent protection of private land, regardless of who owns it.

Ian's interest in photography started in his early travels when he purchased his first 35mm film camera. He later partnered with



'New Chum Beach' hangs in Ian Preece's Kuaotunu studio.





'Fishing by Starlight' taken by Ian from the Matarangi Jetty.

an Indian adventure travel company. As their principal photographer, he established on-location photography workshops in the Himalayan mountains.

Accredited by the Royal Photographic Society, Ian runs regular exhibitions in the UK, Scotland and NZ. He also has images on display in a number of private galleries and sold a number of corporate commissions. He was also featured on BBC Radio for his exhibition, "Images of India".

Meet Ian and view his work in his studio throughout the year. He has participated in the Mercury Bay Art Escape 'Open Studio' Tour for the last 2 years and has recently accepted a position as a MBAE trustee.

As one of the founding members of the '10 Kuaotunu Artists' group, Ian will participate in their second exhibition of the year over Labour Weekend at Kuaotunu Hall. He will display some of his astrophotography work as well as run a small workshop on both astro and macro photography.

Visit Ian's website to view images and get details on upcoming workshops: www.seascape-photography.com or on FB.

After spending the Winter overseas, Ian will restart workshops upon his return in October. Contact him then at 021 134 7865 or before by email: ianpreece1@hotmail.com.

See centre spread for more about astrophotography and the International Dark Sky programme.

From galaxies to the end of a weta

Ian photographed this at Mahakirau Forest Estate thanks to Sara Smerdon who is their Community Advocate. It is the ovipositor (egg laying tube) of a female tree weta with raindrops hanging on.

"Like taking pictures of the Milky Way, micro-photography opens up an amazing new world that we often overlook. Here again, the camera sees more than the naked eye, like the condensation on the ovipositor – and look at those reflections."



"When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty."

Scottish-born American naturalist **John Muir**

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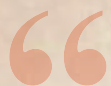


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GABRIELLE 'COCO' CHANEL

by Rowena Brown

Karilyn Arnold's sense of sartorial style was influenced by her lifelong fashion heroine, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel. "Chanel's progressiveness was quite something – she was way ahead of her time," says Karilyn. "One day she would dress like a woman, the next like a man – and no matter what she wore, she always looked fabulous."

Credited for liberating post WWI women from frills, fuss and chest-restricting corsets, Chanel's look was one of youthful ease, a liberated physicality, and unencumbered sportive confidence. Karilyn has followed that lead, offering discerning women a feeling of understated luxury rather than ostentation.

Her team of dedicated staff also stand behind Coco's claim that "women can be gorgeous at thirty, charming at forty and irresistible for the rest of their lives".

"Every woman has her own distinct style," says Karilyn. "And our goal is to help ladies project their individuality confidently. We love seeing women try on our garments and feel good about themselves."



A LIFE OF TWISTS AND TURNS

Born in New Plymouth to dairy farming parents, Karilyn grew up on the ethos of hard work, having responsibilities and a love for land and animals. After marrying, Karilyn pig farmed near Morrinsville – and whether she was building pens, managing electrics, or towing a trailer of pigs to market, her hair and make up were always done before she stepped out the door!

Farming taught Karilyn business economics and the necessity of finding solutions to problems. And the pigs? "They were very happy pigs, very clean pigs," she told us. Not surprising, considering the avant-gard conditions they enjoyed: a farrowing house with electric under-floor heating, plants to de-stress, and music to keep her porcine babies entertained.

Although Karilyn actually started a career in fashion by owning her first boutique at age 23, she hasn't always been involved in the industry. She was a dancer, a dance teacher and a dance adjudicator, and owned a large Highland and Irish dance studio in the Waikato, winning many prestigious dance competitions including NZ Championships.

Karilyn has also worked as a qualified Lifeline counsellor, a victim support counsellor and as a liaison officer for the American Field Services, working abroad with international students coming to the Waikato and Coromandel regions. These jobs taught her the art of listening, the importance of being non-judgemental, and patience.

"In the fashion industry you have to be patient and have a genuine interest in the person. We do our best to show women how special and beautiful they are inside, and that our clothing only enhances that."

Karilyn, and her teams at Milly's in Tairua and Kayla in Thames, invite you to visit them in-store where they offer a full wardrobe service and advice on the essentials of 'destination dressing'. Helping women find clothing that is fashionable and flattering to their figures, they give clients options with sincere honesty if it's not the right style.

The stores' reputations speak for themselves – their clientele is far-reaching and loyal,



'Coco' Chanel (above) has been a long time inspiration for Karilyn Arnold, owner of Milly's on Main in Tairua and Kayla in Thames.

coming from across NZ, to shop for their new-season wardrobes.

Fashion-conscious women will find Karilyn's refined capsule of ready-to-wear quality garments in either of her two stores. Her curated collections include mainly upmarket local and international fashion labels not available elsewhere on the Coromandel.

Women are encouraged to invest in quality basics that can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. Karilyn adds, "It's a good feeling to put on quality clothing that makes you 'feel good.' It creates a sense of confidence to be able to tackle whatever challenges the day may present."

Karilyn Arnold is a sophisticated business woman who dresses impeccably. She has successfully created an exclusive fashion niche on our beautiful peninsula, yet is unpretentious and humble.

Karilyn explains, "What I enjoy most about the business is getting to know so many genuine people – I learn a lot from the women who shop with us and I'm truly thankful for that." And with a smile she adds, "I'm also grateful for my best friend and partner, Paul, and my extremely supportive staff."

Currently it's a bit like a mid-winter Christmas party at the two stores with the 'girls' busy opening boxes of stock that have just arrived from Germany and Italy with more arriving every day. Having worked together for many years, the staff is extremely knowledgeable about the products and labels the stores' stock. "Please come in and try on the new season's garments – with no pressure to buy. We call this 'having a play'."

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Breaking FREE

Is there any better feeling than getting in the car on a Friday and driving – just getting away, with nothing but a break in mind?

Winter is the most wonderful time for a rejuvenating getaway because it really is all about you. There are no expectations in winter – not even of good weather (though that’s a bonus)! There are no family functions to organise, no Christmas, no competing priorities or colliding logistics.

A weekend winter getaway is simple. Because it’s just three days, it is easy to organise. There is no annual leave to book in advance, no schedules to coordinate, no peak holiday traffic to try and avoid.

The simplicity increases even more when The Coromandel is the getaway destination. It is an easy drive from anywhere and boasts the best opportunity for doing the things that serve your purposes on a winter getaway – to relax, indulge, slow down and enjoy the simple things in life.



PHOTO CREDITS: CARMEN HUTER

ENJOYING WHAT THE COROMANDEL HAS TO OFFER... BOTH OUTDOORS AND INDOORS... TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER CARMEN HUTER IS SHOWN ABOVE ON HER OWN 'BREAK AWAY' WEEKEND IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY.

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THE COROMANDEL

ALL YOURS in Winter

Winter is undoubtedly the best time of year to indulge, and The Coromandel is fast becoming known for its boutique day spas designed to enhance your wellbeing. Tucked away in serene locations in every town, these day spas deliver the latest treatments guaranteed to relax even the most stressed-out client. Step out of the spa and continue to enjoy the benefits well after your appointment has finished.



Pamper yourself with a relaxing massage at Tairua Health & Beauty day spa.



... no crowds, wide open spaces and an easy-going pace allowing you to slow down and unwind.

Whitianga's The Lost Spring is the best spot to warm up, soak away your troubles and settle into the slower pace of winter. A poolside cocktail and gourmet treats offer enough of a tropical island holiday vibe, though the lush landscape and genuine hospitality are quintessential Coromandel.



And flowing outdoors is the eternal soothing warmth of the Hot Water Beach geothermal springs shown below.

Avoid the Summer crowds when you dig your own steaming 'sand spa'... guaranteed to soak off the chill....then scoot over to nearby Hot Waves Café for a warm-up and coffee by the cosy fire.





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ENJOY *Life's Pleasures*

...invest in yourself, enjoy a Winter weekend getaway to The Coromandel. It's good for your soul.

Should all that pampering stir up an appetite, be assured that restaurants are wonderful in The Coromandel in winter. The heartiness of a slow-cooked stew, a velvety red wine and a blazing fireplace will further serve to remind why a three day getaway to The Coromandel is a good for your soul experience.

Restaurants are mostly owner-operated, and your chance of meeting the restaurateur is highest in winter. Discover their story, enjoy their hospitality. There is less stress and more time to linger longer at your table, time to order the molten fudge lava cake for dessert, time to take a post-dinner stroll on an empty beach under the moonlight and stars.

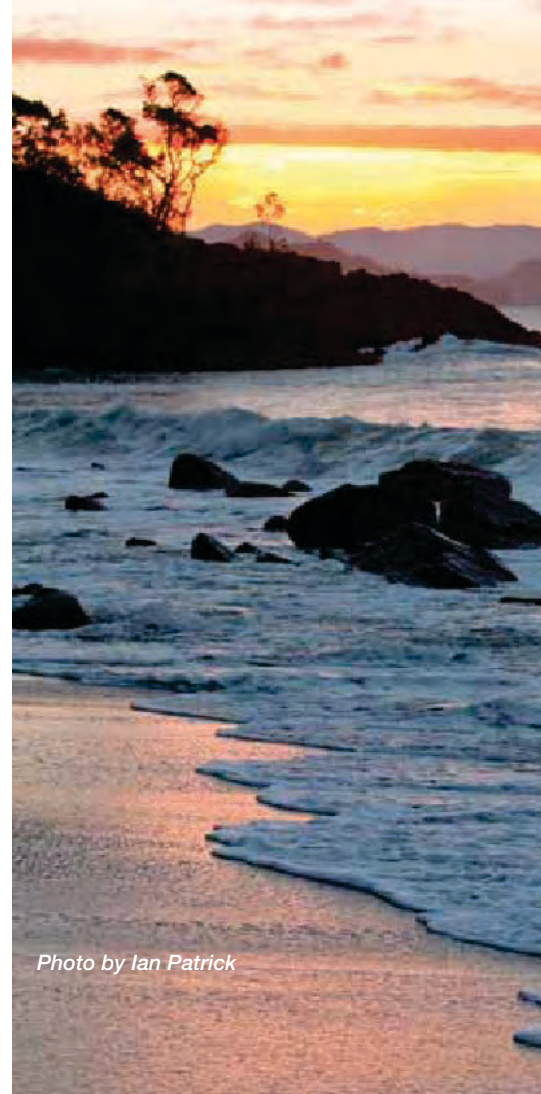


Photo by Ian Patrick



What better way to relax and unwind than by playing board games with friends, family or that special someone in front of a roaring open fire. Sip a glass of wine and allow yourself to be hypnotised by the crackling flames while considering your next move.

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Enjoy a cosy fire in a luxurious chalet set in an idyllic bush landscape. Spend your evening stargazing from the private deck of your grand chalet in the treetops, following a delicious meal at the Resort's award winning Miha restaurant.

And where to stay on this mini-getaway?

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Winter - 10am and 2pm. Departs from the south end of Hahei Beach, off Wigmore Crescent.

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Getting Outdoors

Many days have the perfect weather to soak up that special outdoor experience.

Seasonal winds can be brisk, yet often temperatures are mild - ideal conditions for sailing. And we love those Winter blue-sky days when the vibrant hues of the sea and our lush forest green thrill the eye.

Clear, cool mornings are perfect for setting off on longer hikes. The Kauaeranga Valley (below right) is home to one of our best-loved, The Pinnacles. It is a good day walk, and the views atop the summit are worth



Well-trodden and more remote trails run along the coast where hill intersects with ocean, proffering great views to the offshore islands and the sea. The golden light of winter adds a special hue to the landscape from the Coromandel Coastal Walkway shown above.

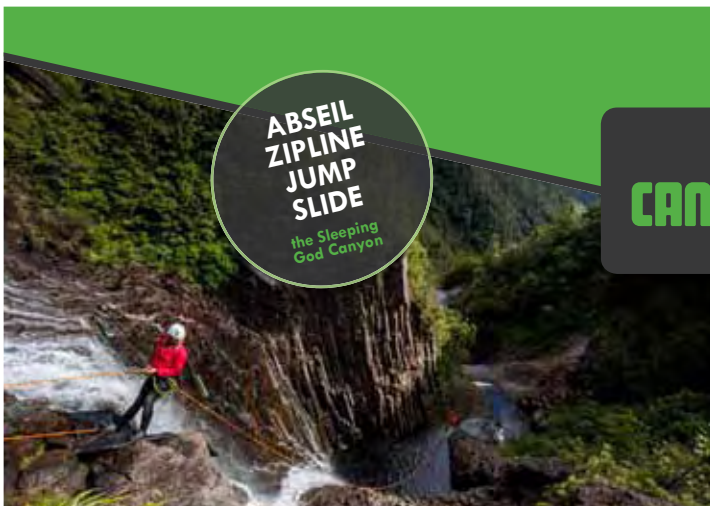
Photo credit: Daniel Murray

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It was warm enough on this mid-winter day that Carmen couldn't resist getting into her bikini at Cathedral Cove.

Credit: Carmen Huter

the climb. Stairs and ladders now make the rocky peak accessible to all those with some energy, snacks and a sense of adventure. Long views from our many easily accessible scenic vantage points are somehow sharper in winter... maybe it's the clear, untainted air.

Most of the local water activities and charters operate year round. In fact, Hahei Explorer crew tells us that Winter offers constant sightings of seals lounging on the rocks and playing in the water near Hahei. And a baby seal was spotted this week.

"As we get some of our clearest, calmest days in Winter and early Spring, it's a great time to also spot dolphins and orcas – not to mention the abundant fish and bird life."



Te Whanganui-a-Hei Marine Reserve at Cathedral Cove is sheltered from the southerly winds, making it perfect for a Winter or Spring visit. Hire a kayak, or learn more about this unique unspoilt environment from knowledgeable crews on the guided boat tours. You'll revel in the sights of plentiful wildlife and coastal wonders.

Photos courtesy of Hahei Explorer



Stay overnight in a DoC hut so you can be up early to savour a sunrise from the peak of The Pinnacles in Kauaeranga Valley, or explore these breathtaking canyons with CanyonNZ (see left). More about this park and area on page 48-49.

Photo credit: Jack Austin

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Family
FUN

Loads of great activities await your family on The Coromandel.

Enjoy a slower pace with mini-golf, animal petting, easy bush walks and bird watching. For the more active, try horse trekking or paintball. Water-lovers can catch a boat activity to see coastal caves, wildlife and other scenic spots.

Cyclists of all abilities will find a variety of tracks in many locations on The Coromandel. From the Coastal Walkway to the Hauraki Rail Trail. Bring your own, or hire bikes from several shops located in most towns on the peninsula. Even electric bikes are available in some places, offering the perfect choice for all levels of fitness and ability.

Indoor choices galore...

And its not all about the great outdoors - there are plenty of indoor activities to amuse the kids. The region boasts numerous historical museums pertaining to the gold rush era, while others showcase our maritime history and the region's industries.

Check out our parks and wild bird visitor centres. Browse a bookstore; attend a booksigning. Gather round for storytime at the library. Get creative with art workshops or music lessons. School performances, church concerts, community choirs. Be dazzled by quartz stones at gem shops and mineral museums. Or see exotic butterflies up close in stunning colours resting on orchid blooms. Experience the thunderous stomp of the stamper battery.

Kids can become Kiwi Guardians indoors or out, and there are medals and awards to be won! Activities can be completed at home or at either DoC Adventure Sites – Kauaeranga Valley or the Port Jackson Campground. See the Toyota Kiwi Guardians FB page to get started.



Cranking the handle to discover the story of Power at the interactive Power Wheel display at the Gold Discovery Centre.

Get up close to modern-day mining techniques with their 'inside the fence' Waihi Gold Mine tours.





Cyclists enjoy a picnic break along the Hauraki Rail Trail. Enjoy magnificent scenery with plenty of options for fun stops – a healthy day's outing of fresh air and fun. This popular Grade One trail, one of the easiest in the country, is suitable for all fitness levels.



This tempting mangrove-lined boardwalk leads to the Karaka Bird Hide in Thames. It is an interesting afternoon's sojourn to a 'room with a view' where patient bird-lovers can enjoy catching sight of the array of water birds foraging along the water's edge. Bring your camera, tripod or binoculars. It's worth a wander further on round the easy walkway to Kuranui Bay.

Even more spectacular is the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre across the Firth with its vast flats filled with migratory flocks and knowledgeable staff.



The Cheese Barn in Matatoki gives the family a chance to experience farm animals up close, like Tinks below – and she loves the attention. This is one of several locations on The Coromandel where kids can pet a variety of these cute farm critters.



An uncrowded Pauanui Beach awaits the winter traveller and provides hours of fun for the entire family, including the dog – beachcombing, sandcastles, frisbee and more!

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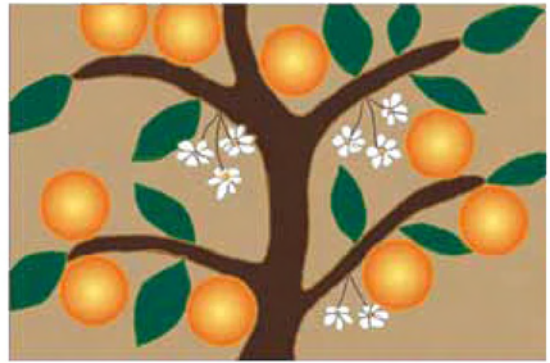
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Retail Therapy

There are many Coromandel galleries offering fine art for the discerning buyer, like the The Little Gallery above, with locations in both Whangamata and Tairua.

Big city shopping at a small town pace

Our towns may not have the super-malls and busy centres of the cities, but The Coromandel shopping experience is second to none. Enjoy a slower speed in our wide streets with plenty of parking and friendly staff that are eager to provide you with that old-time service, often lacking these days. You can rely on their local advice, competitive prices, and hear about the wonderful lifestyle we're happy to share with you while you're here.

The Coromandel is a creative haven for many, and what better time than winter to wander into an Aladdin's cave of creativity, to be found at any of several exceptional local art galleries across the region. With time and without crowds, discover what truly moves you. Enjoy painting, sculpture and other artworks that include many created by the region's talented artists and craftspeople.

Local boutiques offer a soothing antidote to the stress and overwhelm of shopping in today's larger centres. Where mall shopping has become stressful and chaotic, a leisurely stroll along the towns' wide footpaths provides the pleasurable experience shopping used to be.

High quality fashion, homewares, gifts and accessories are carefully curated and stylishly displayed with an element of care no longer seen in many chain stores. Service is helpful, time is abundant and fitting rooms are generous. There is a proud tradition of stocking locally – and NZ-made – in Coromandel boutiques. Expect to happen upon treasures not found elsewhere.

Call into the local Information centres for great advice from the knowledgeable and friendly staff about where to go and what to see. Here you can also make accommodation, activity and travel bookings as well as browse their shops for local art, unique gifts, books and souvenirs.



Left: Browse the unique selection of gift and culinary items at Beach Habitat in Hahei.

Below: The fine art photography of Peter Latham is just one of many talented artists showcased at Whitianga's Mosaic Gallery.



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SCOPE THINGS OUT FOR Your Big Day

From pristine rainforests to barefoot on the beach, there are picturesque and relaxed settings available to suit any style of wedding. Celebrate in an epic winery, a historic building or church, an airport hangar or a museum exhibition space.

And there's no better time to 'break away' to The Coromandel to plan your festivities than Winter when everyone is a less busy and able to focus on you. Talk with a planner, check out the venues, meet suppliers and caterers, and make those bookings.

There are endless opportunities for that hen party or stag do – from ladies' pampering packages to rugged outdoor pursuits. A stag party might include anything from fishing to paintball to abseiling.

There is a great selection of accommodation for you and your guests from hotels and resorts to Bed & Breakfasts and lodges. From beach-side studios with an ocean view, to secluded bush hideaways; chic apartments near the shops, to roomy homes suitable for larger groups – you name it, The Coromandel has it!

And what about that honeymoon!? Choose one of the many idyllic locations – romantic getaways are a regional specialty with something for everyone. Even if you didn't fall in love in The Coromandel why not fall in love with it!




Jodi La Grouw
 p +64 21 141 1719
 www.lushphotographynz.co.nz



The ideal wedding awaits you on The Coromandel.

Located a relatively short drive from some of NZ's main centres, The Coromandel, with its relaxed atmosphere and spectacular scenery, is the perfect location for your wedding, honeymoon, or any other celebration.



Unwind in a spa at Tangiaro Lodge, located north of Coromandel Town. Set amongst this enchanting native bush, it provides a unique and secluded wedding venue.

Although The Coromandel is a small region, it offers lots of creative talent, especially when it comes to assisting you with your unique event. The Destination Coromandel website provides a comprehensive collection of images, ideas and resources to both inspire and help you bring together a memorable 'big day'.

THE COROMANDEL
good for your soul
www.thecoromandel.com



A couple unwind at Manawa Ridge Luxury Eco Retreat in Waihi.

Enjoying The Coromandel

YEAR ROUND

Any time is a good time to come to The Coromandel!

While Summer is hot and bustling with people out and about enjoying life, Winter is ideal to take time for yourself for regeneration and relaxation at a slower pace. Spring is still unhurried yet gives us longer, warmer days, hinting at the rush that comes with the magic of summer weather.

Whether it's a romantic getaway, a girls' weekend, a solitary retreat or a family reconnection, The Coromandel provides precisely what you need to return home rested, refreshed and happily recharged.



Coromandel Life was delighted to collaborate with Destination Coromandel on this guide that encourages everyone to enjoy every season in this unique and beautiful area. As we say here about The Coromandel, no matter what the time of year, "it's always good for the soul!"

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Coromandel Arts Tour OPEN STUDIOS



6-7 & 13-14 October, 2018

SEE ARTISTS AT WORK

The Coromandel Town area is famous for its creative and talented artisans, and the upcoming 'Coromandel Arts Tour Open Studios' in October, offers art lovers the opportunity to meet with 35 of those artists. Most will open their home studios, while some 'remote' artists will 'relocate' studios to the 'Arts Tour Hub' in the town's historic hospital building on Rings Rd.

A kick-off celebration showcasing a piece from each artist is scheduled for Friday 5 October from 5pm at the Hauraki House Gallery at 230 Kapanga Rd. The hall will also be open both weekends of the tour, and from 10am – 4pm on the weekdays between. See working artists and try your skills, too.

The free 2018 Artists Guidebook and tour map will be available at the Hub and Hauraki House, or by pdf download. Most artists welcome visitors any time of year, and the guide offers contact details to schedule visits. Otherwise, they will display an 'Open' sign or flag at the roadside, welcoming you to call in and meet them, chat about their work, view and purchase art and craft pieces, and even arrange commissions.

You will find more information about artists that interest you, and see more examples of their work at the Coromandel Open Studios website.

See www.coromandelartstour.co.nz and Coromandel Open Studios on Facebook.



Kay Ogilvie sculpture.



Allan Beaver Oils/Pastels/Sketching. "My love of the outdoors shows in my artwork." His studio at 95 Pagitt St is open most days to the public. t: 07 866 8053



Caitlin Moloney "My ceramic art celebrates rich jewel colours, design and texture." www.caitlinmoloney.com t: 07 866 7215 e: caitlinjmoloney@gmail.com



Petra Meyboden Potter. "I create a mixture of domestic ware and sculpture, nikaus and totems." Visiting her workshop and sculpture gallery is a real treat. www.puketaipottery.com t: 07 866 7906, e: petra@puketaipottery.com



Raewyn Penrose Felting. "Using the finest NZ merino wool, I personally design and hand-create an eclectic range of one-off fashion garments and accessories, soft furnishings and artwork." Offers workshops as well. t: 07 866 8880 e: raewynpenrose@gmail.com

LOTS HAPPENING AT THE HAURAKI HOUSE & HOSPITAL HUB

The Hauraki House Gallery hosts the gala opening of the tour. Built in 1877 as a new school for the 'lower town', it sits by a small reserve at the north end of the main street. The handsome, historic building now houses an Art Gallery, Art Room and boutique theatre. (Look for exhibitions and workshops hosted throughout the year). Some of the artists from more remote parts will relocate to the Arts Tour Hub in the historic building on Rings Road that once served as the Coromandel Hospital.



Kay Ogilvie

"It's all about colour for me. I'm loving making 'one off' platters and bowls combining brightly coloured glazes and glass."

Open every day of the Arts Tour (1800 Wyuna Bay Rd) and most other days. Her work is shown at Weta Design, Mosaic, Thames Society of Arts, Outside the Square, and Arts Post (Hamilton)

t: 07 866 8582 020 4003 1399
e: kaythepotter@gmail.com

Sally Tennent-Brown

Works in paint, print, textile, sculpture, mixed media, and jewellery. Studio and gallery at the Old Kindergarden, Lindisfarne. Open by appt, or if sign is out.

t: 07 866 8680
m: 027 302 4245
e: sally.L@outlook.com



John Eaglen



"I work with dreams and folk tales, and my travel experiences...with steel and aluminium, timber, fine metal leaf and coloured glazes."

Eaglen's studio is at 1116 Colville Rd, and his work is shown at The Source in town and Outside the Square (Thames).

t: 021 930 470 e: john@johnaglen.co.nz



Barbara von Seida

"My expressionistic style has evolved over decades, resulting in invigorated, emotional and atmospheric imagery", shares Barbara. "My inspiration is the everchanging scenery from my clifftop home and studio...even the storms and clouds."

One of her new acrylics is shown. However, after a break, Barbara has returned to watercolour with a new floral series.

Barbara has received numerous prestigious national awards, including a merit award from the 2018 Royal Easter Show. A recent solo exhibit at

ArtMatakana was well received, and she also displayed in the Lysaght Watt National Exhibition in Hawera.

Join her at 600 Wyuna Road for the arts tour days as well as other times by appointment. t: 07 866 8453 or 021-895292.

Watch Barbara in action on YouTube: "Put Some Colour in Your Life" (over 26,500 views).

See her paintings at Weta, Thames Society of Arts or online at www.barbara-von-seida.co.nz.



Julie Pijfers



"I have designed and created jewellery for 17 years using traditional techniques, gold, silver, precious and semi-precious gems. For me it's all about colour, form and texture – letting the process evolve naturally."

Visit Julie at her gallery at the corner of Rings Rd and Driving Creek Rd or see www.jewelleryart.co.nz or on FB.

t: 021 157 0040 e: julie@jewelleryart.co.nz



Jan Panther

Jan moved to the Coromandel six years ago to escape the hustle and bustle of Auckland. "My oils depict the light in our wonderful sky which interacts with the dramatic landscape. The Coromandel's beautiful and diverse scenery constantly inspire my journey through art."

Jan's studio at 1900 Tiki Rd is open during the tour or phone for a visit other times.

Jan's work is displayed at The Source.

t: 07 866 7236 m: 027 605 6989

e: janp.johnb@xtra.co.nz

Nici Greulich

"I love exploring and creating traditional woven pieces using rich colour and modern forms, sometimes reaching outside the 'known' to produce unique pieces."



Nici will relocate her studio to the

Hospital Hub. Nici's work is at The Source and BackRoom Gallery.

t: 021 031 9878 e: nicigreulich.ng@gmail.com

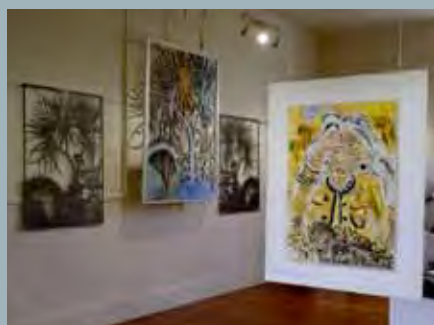


Vaughan Udall

"A kauri tree stands at the entrance to my studio, nestled in the native bush. It's here I get much of my inspiration. I work in pastel, oils, acrylic and printmaking. The love of colour and movement is what I aim to convey in my work."

Studio address: 117 Preeces Point Rd. Also at Wyuna Studio and Outside the Source.

t: 07 866 7969 m: 021 148 7044
e: ufallvaughan@hotmail.com





'Capturing Light' by Pam Mundell gains MBAE double honours

Mercury Bay Art Escape presents two awards each year: the 'Artists Choice' (chosen by the MBAE artists) and the 'People's Choice', voted by the public viewing at the month long exhibit. Pam admits feeling overwhelmed and is hugely appreciative of the show of support for her work. Describing her painting she explains, "I wanted to capture the way the light fell on a single iconic tree in the dark of the bush." People's Choice voting was tight with Sally Samins taking second with 'Urban Summer 2018', a mixed media abstract painting which was featured on the cover of this year's guide. Becs Wood gained third place with her delicate and highly detailed self-portrait drawing 'Finding the Light'.



2018 MBAE A SUCCESS ON MANY LEVELS



The audience at Hot Waves Café on opening night was treated to an entertaining talk by T.J. McNamara on the highlights of his years in his role as NZ Herald Art Reviewer.

This year's Art Escape featured 37 Open Studios for the two-weekend March arts tours, with more visitors than have attended over the last 3 years.

New events included an outstanding film of the life of Michael Smither, and sculptor Chris Charteris hosted a workshop at Buffalo Beach, where a heart-shaped ever-expanding shell composition was created. New galleries, such as the Little Gallery Whangamata, and groups such as the Printmakers Combined cooperative also enriched the tour.

The MBAE artists welcome visits throughout the year by appointment. For contact info see www.mercurybayartescape.com.

Applications from artists for the 2019 tour must be in by 31 July 2018. See www.mercurybay-artescape.com/artistapplications.

Coromandel Peninsula Art & Craft Fair, July 14

One day only! This is an excellent opportunity to purchase work directly from talented and enthusiastic Coromandel artisans and artists. This indoor "winter warmer" will be held at the Whitianga Town Hall, 24 Monk St from 9am-3pm. Gold Coin donation.

Make your weekend stopover worthwhile and visit other MBAE artists' studios while you're here. See www.mercurybay-artescape.com.



NEW STUDIO IN WAIHI NOW OPEN

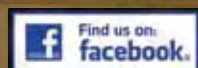


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The Coromandel has long been recognised both nationally and internationally as a regional arts hotspot. Realising this, TCDC introduced an 'Arts Strategy' in 2016. A board of dedicated arts lovers from each of the 5 TCDC wards was appointed with the aim to enrich the Coromandel lifestyle by fostering the arts and empowering and nurturing artists.

'Creative Coromandel' (CC) got off to a strong start with its regularly updated Facebook page. We at CL have learned to check it regularly for new arts activities. We just learned, for instance, that Coromandel Town is mid-way through building an outdoor performance stage to honour Driving Creek's deceased Barry Brickell. We also found that a knitting group meets every Sunday at an unlikely location: Luke's Pizza in Kuaotunu.

CC is working on a massive arts website, a Youth Arts development programme, Peninsula-wide Arts forums, increased profile for Maori art and artists, and inter-cultural arts initiatives. They invite everyone to participate; whether local resident, visitor or tourist.

The new website – www.creativecoromandel.co.nz – will go live in mid-July. It will be a vital tool to find information on creative people, events, groups of creatives, places where creative achievements can be seen or held, with maps of each section. There is an 'Opportunities' section where classes, tuition, auditions, employment, funding, and competitions can be found.

They plan to be your go-to website for everything to do with the arts and creativity in the Thames Coromandel District.

Contact Jude Elliot at 027 476 6019 or Jane Parson at 021 228 6644, 07 866 3067 or info.creativecoromandel@gmail.com.

... over Labour Weekend

'10 Artists' of Kuaotunu Exhibit

Following the successful inaugural exhibition in January, the group is holding their second exhibition at Kuaotunu Hall over Labour Weekend, the 20-22 October.



Our cover photographer Ian Preece will be participating and is one of the founding members of the '10 Artists' – all based in Kuaotunu. He tells us, "It will be part exhibition and part interactive workshops and demonstrations, which is funded by the 'Creative Communities' programme initiated by TCDC."

Contact Isabel for info at 021 171 6192 or isabelgilbertpalmer@mac.com.



Saturday to Monday, 20-22 October
WAIKINO VICTORIA HALL

ARTWaikino, now in its 18th year, is one of the major art exhibitions on the Coromandel. The show kicks off at 6:30pm, Friday 19th October with a Wine & Cheese & Meet the Judges evening. The show hours are 10am to 4pm.

Categories include painting, sculpture (displayed at The Falls Retreat), photography, and crafts. Unique this year is a competition to commemorate Armistice Day, celebrating the end of WWI.



Terry Tinting from Waihi, 2017 ARTWaikino supreme winner won \$500 (sponsored by Oceana Gold).

The artwork will be for sale, and entry will be gold coin donation. This fundraiser is organised by the Waikino Victoria Hall Committee. Contact: Convenor Helen Wilson on 07 863 6974 or email artwaikino@gmail.com

Barbara von Seida

ARTIST



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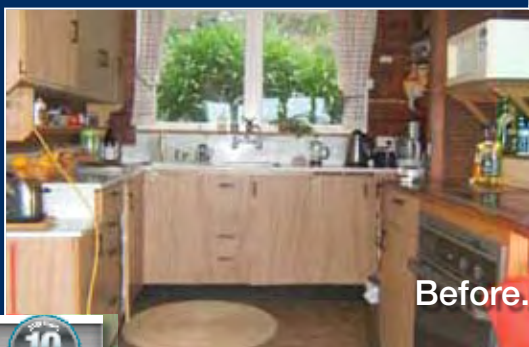
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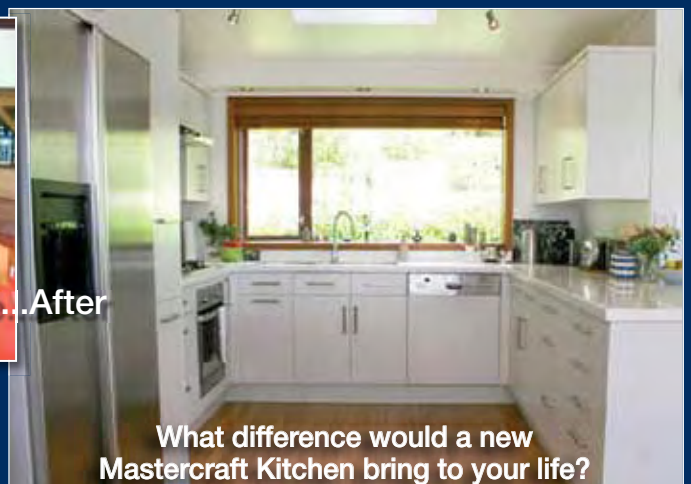
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www.kitchensoncoromandel.co.nz

ASTROPHOTOLOG

Little did we know that selecting Ian Preece's stunning Milky Way shot for our cover would prompt such a fascinating journey of discovery to learn more about astrophotography, a growing interest among photographers and amateur astronomers. Then we couldn't resist sharing some of the awesome photos we found with our readers, as well as a bit about the talented photographers that captured them.

This specialized type of photography records images of astronomical objects, celestial events, and large areas of the night sky. Cameras have been a great tool for astronomers since professor John William Draper made the first photograph of the moon in 1840, but it was not until the late 19th century that advances in technology allowed for detailed stellar photography.

Besides being able to record the details of objects such as the Moon, Sun, and planets, astrophotography has the ability to image objects otherwise *invisible* to the human eye such as dim stars, nebulae and galaxies. This is done by long time exposure since both film and digital cameras can accumulate starlight photons over long periods of time.

Now, photography fans with no scientific knowledge have the ability to follow their passion for astrophotography with easy access to cameras, tripods, GPS and phone apps. Anyone can learn to shoot stop-motion videos, landscapes, panoramas, and 3D virtual reality. Even those living in urban areas can capture the night skies with the use of special filters that screen out the light pollution, and computer techniques that can remove ambient urban light from images.

There's a whole new undiscovered realm out there, waiting to be explored by the camera's eye. Thrilling shots can easily be taken with readily available equipment, images to remind us that we are merely a drop in the bucket of the wider universe.

Port Jackson

BY IAN PREECE

From Ian about 'PORT JACKSON'.

"We are particularly blessed on the Coromandel which offers as close to perfect conditions for astrophotography as you can get. And located at the northern tip of the Coromandel with minimal light pollution is the best of the best, Port Jackson. It looks out toward Little Barrier and Great Barrier Islands, the first island in the world to receive International Dark Sky 'Sanctuary' status.

"I had been there a number of times to photograph the Milky Way. On each occasion there was something that didn't quite work out, meaning I couldn't get the shot I wanted. On this trip I camped by the beach for three days waiting for my opportunity. I wasn't optimistic but set the alarm this night for 3:30am when I knew the moon would have set.

"I was welcomed by an amazing view of the Milky Way stretching from horizon to horizon. I used an ultra wide-angle lens and took 16 separate images to compose this panorama. It took several days of work at the computer to stitch the images together, but the result was worth it."

Astrophotographers grateful for dark NZ skies

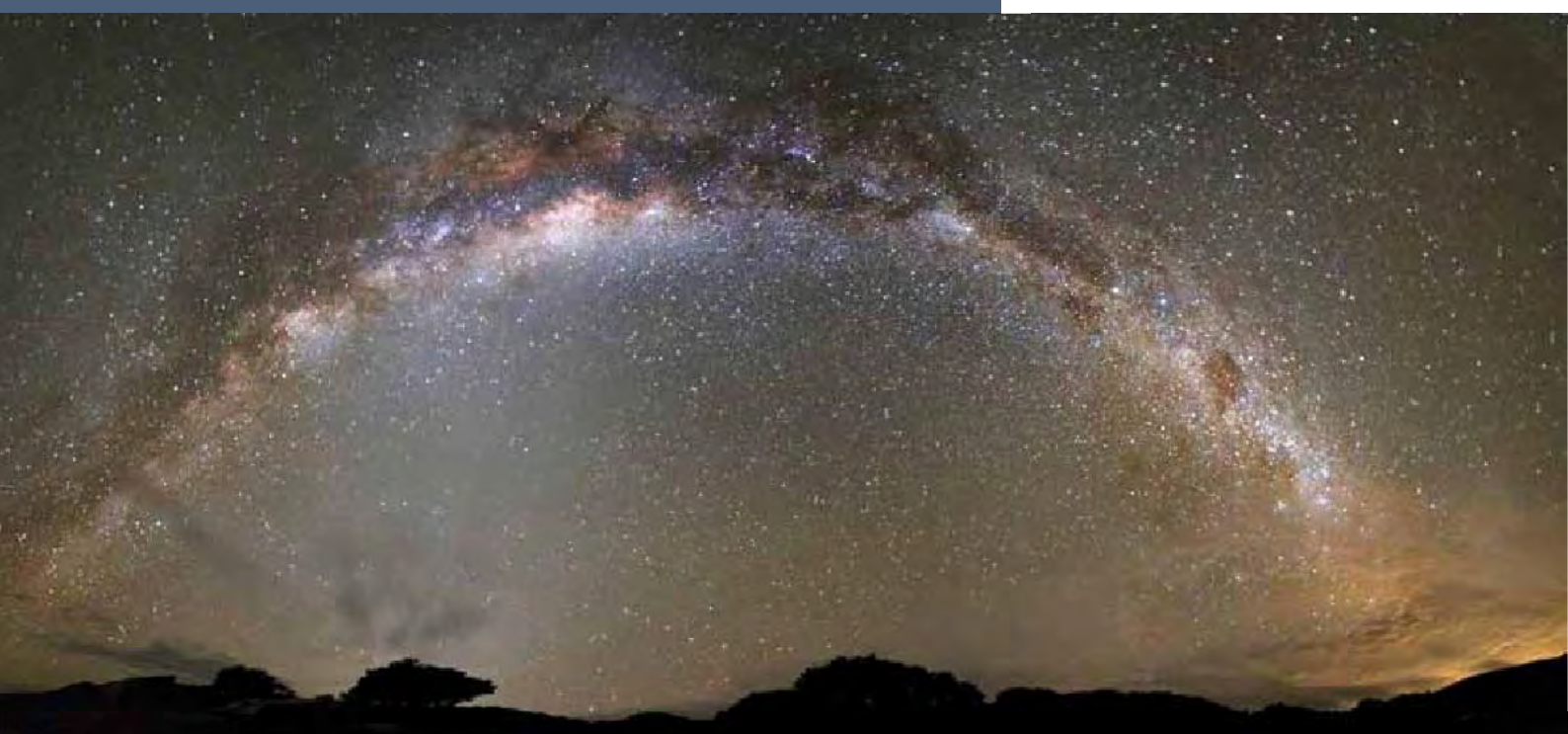
from Alastair Brickell

The stunning images presented in this edition are only possible due to the wonderfully dark skies that most Kiwis enjoy. This is a gem of our natural environment we have grown up with, thanks to our sparsely populated country. And so many people in the rest of the world can't see what we tend to take for granted!

National Geographic reported in 2016, "80 percent of Americans can't see the Milky Way anymore. A new generation can no longer appreciate this beauty." Why? – light pollution

The main cause of this global problem is bright street lights lining roads and highways as well as shopping malls, high rises, car yards, sports grounds and security lights. City lights are often extremely bright, and poorly designed light fittings often spill light upwards rather than to the ground where it is actually needed.

New more energy efficient LED lights are becoming more widely used, especially for street lighting. Unfortunately the first generation have had a very harsh white light, rich in blue wavelengths, which actually contributes to the problem. In addition there are serious concerns about the health effects; most recently by the American Medical Association (AMA) who have linked this light to increasing rates of cancer, sleep disorders and other illnesses. Newer LEDs with a warmer yellowish glow are less harmful and are gaining popularity around the world, but not as yet in NZ.



RAPHY

NZ Awarded Two prestigious 'Dark Sky' Designations

Happily, efforts are being made to help preserve our valuable NZ dark skies. A few years ago the Mackenzie Basin area around Lake Tekapo was given the prestigious designation as a 'Dark Sky Reserve' by the International Dark Sky Association. This is the largest reserve of its type in the world and acknowledges the importance of the large research telescopes at Mt. John, and the need to preserve that darkness.

Last year an even more important designation of a 'Dark Sky Sanctuary' was awarded to Great Barrier Island (Aotea), a designation shared at that time by only two other sites in the world; one in Chile and one in the New Mexico desert.

Astro-tourism businesses ranging from night sky tours and accommodation to astrophotography courses have been established at both Great Barrier and Tekapo. A new \$10 million astro-tourism centre is now under construction on the shores of Lake Tekapo with funding from government and private interests, including local Iwi.

Since receiving its coveted Dark Sky Sanctuary status, Great Barrier has seen a flourish of related businesses that offer astrophotography guidance, tours and the use of equipment. There are even qualified 'Dark Sky Ambassadors' who offer a unique night under the stars experience at your accommodation.

The ongoing success and status of the Great Barrier Island Sanctuary will depend on controls on the increasing numbers of ever brighter lights from Auckland and the east coast Coromandel settlements of Matarangi, Whangapoua and Whitianga. Kuaotunu residents are actively making the wider community aware of light pollution so future developments will help preserve the dark sky 'taonga' we all enjoy.

See below for more from Astronomer Alastair Brickell and for more details of the Dark Sky designation programme:
www.darksky.org/idsp

Visit Stargazers B&B and Astronomy Tours for a delightful stay or a 'tour of the skies'. Alastair has an impressive observatory, including the largest telescope on the Coromandel for those who want to learn more and see those night skies close up.



Great Barrier Island

BY MARK GEE

"I just returned from Great Barrier where I ran an astrophotography workshop. I was surprised and impressed by how dark the skies were. I thought they may have been somewhat affected from the light pollution of Auckland, but I quickly found that wasn't the case. The clarity in the sky was incredible, with features of the Milky Way you could see with the naked eye that simply isn't possible elsewhere. I shot this image literally 5 steps from my accommodation at Orama Oasis. It's so dark there – especially when the generators stop at 10.30pm each night. The red glow you see is airglow, and the bright star in the middle of frame is the planet Jupiter." - Mark Gee



Mars Rules the Night

Alastair Brickell from Stargazers

Stargazers, even those in the cities, are in for a real treat over winter with a parade of planets on display. Mars will undoubtedly be the star of the show as it will be brighter and bigger from mid-July to mid-August than it has been since 2003 (or will be until at least 2035). It is unmistakable as the brightest and pinkish hued "star" in the sky rising late in the evening and will be closest to Earth on July 27. Through a telescope it is hoped one can see the planet's ice caps and surface markings that are otherwise virtually invisible.

However, 'Houston, we have a problem!' As Mars has been getting closer to the Sun, its atmosphere has been heating up. And in early June a dust storm was whipped up on its surface. This has now grown to be a planet wide event; the biggest one since at least 2007 and maybe even 1977.

NASA announced on June 26 that the 14-year-old *Opportunity* Rover ran out of vital heating power from its solar panels as the sky became ever darker. They hope it regains power after these storms subside, but NASA's nuclear-powered rover *Curiosity* is unaffected and studying the extreme weather conditions.

It is hoped that this global storm will subside by late July so we can all get a glimpse of Mars' elusive surface during this rare close approach.

Other bright objects in the winter sky are brilliant Venus low in the northwest after dusk with bright Jupiter above it. In between this and Mars lies slightly yellowish Saturn, itself a lovely sight in a big telescope. So regardless of the weather on Mars, this winter there will still be plenty to enjoy in our lovely dark skies.



Church of the Good Shepherd

BY PETER LATHAM

The village of Tekapo (pop 300) is one of three small communities within Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, recently earning a five star rating for being almost entirely free of light pollution. Lake Tekapo, stretching 25km north to south, radiates with a magnificent turquoise-blue hue, which is caused when the violet rays of sunlight are scattered by fine glacial silt that is suspended in the water.

The church sits at the south shore of the lake. It is believed to be the most photographed church in NZ – and very possibly the world.

“With ideal astrophotography conditions of clear skies and a new moon, I arrived after 10pm on this evening to capture night sky images with Lake Tekapo’s ‘Church Of The Good Shepherd’, but the constant stream of tourist car headlights and people’s torches killed any prospect of good images!

Ever since the Mackenzie Basin (about midway between Christchurch and Queensland along Route 8) was declared an International Dark Sky Reserve in 2012, Lake Tekapo and its iconic church on the lake has exploded in popularity.

So I returned at 3am for another attempt – by which time the Milky Way was now overhead, dictating a different composition to what I had planned – shooting in front of the church, looking straight up. This was in the middle of winter and the freezing conditions were a challenge to keep my lens clear and my fingers moving, as both wanted to constantly freeze over!”



Peter Latham specialises in photographs of exceptional size, for both high resolution framed prints and architectural use. See his showroom at Mosaic Gallery in Whitianga, where his coffee table book “Looking for Light”, is available (\$79.95, signed). His jacketed special boxed edition is currently sold out and being reprinted.



Otama Wetlands

BY IAN PREECE

“The Otama Wetlands and dunes are a beautiful and very historic place. It is a very good thing that they have been preserved. Normally I try not to photograph the stars looking towards the east because of the ambient light from Auckland, which you can see above the horizon. In this case the reflection of the light in the creek brings out a range of colours that I think make the shot.”



**“I’ve loved the stars
too fondly to be
fearful of the night.”**
~ Galileo

AURORA AUSTRALIS *and the Milky Way*

BY MARK GEE

Within the Aoraki Mackenzie Dark Sky Reserve is the Tasman Valley with its glacier and lake. It is located about twenty miles from the Tekapo Village, seen below. Mark notes that this 305 megapixel panoramic is made up of 42 photos stitched together to create the final image.

“The Tasman Valley in the Aoraki/ Mount Cook National Park, New Zealand, is an amazing place to visit by day, but once night falls, I can honestly say it’s one of the most amazing night skies you will ever see. I recently spend a night under the stars there above the glacier lake. It was a spectacular view looking down the valley, especially when the Aurora Australis lit up the sky to the south. The bright band of the Milky Way spanned overhead from east to west, and there were so many shooting stars that night, I lost count – it was certainly one incredible night under the stars to remember!”



Arc of Light

(2015) We had just finished the Dark Skies of Wonder Astrophotography workshop at Lake Tekapo when all of the sudden this stunning arc of light formed low to the horizon to the south. It was the Aurora Australis making an appearance, but somewhat unique, as the arc formation wasn’t really seen that much in the southern hemisphere. I knew I had to get a photo of it, so jumped in my car to head to a location near Lake Alexandrina where we had been shooting earlier in the night.

The location was perfect for the photo I had in mind. The Aurora was arcing behind the big old tree there, and the Magellanic Clouds were also stunning in the night sky. I composed the scene in front of me, and took the shot – this was certainly one night of astrophotography to remember...



"Full Moon Silhouette"

Mark Gee's video begins with a sliver of the top of the moon appearing through the scrub. The orb rises to the left, as people arrive and set up their gear. As the moon finally centres directly over the crowded platform, the observers had no idea they were being filmed by Mark. Many were later thrilled to know they were not only featured, but central to the show.

Mark Gee's short film, 'Full Moon Silhouettes' gained him international acclaim after going viral online, and has been broadcast all over the world by the likes of CNN, The BBC, NASA and various other main stream media.

He admits he had been wanting to photograph this full moon scene for a long time. "The video is a real time capture of the moon rising over the Mount Victoria Lookout in Wellington. On the evening of the 28th January 2013, after

"... there has been no editing or manipulation whatsoever."

many failed attempts, and a lot of planning, I finally managed to pull it off."

And he got his footage using a long telephoto lens, zooming in to that tiny hilltop (see right).

"There were numerous factors I had to consider – the weather, moon phases and finding a suitable location where I could actually get the moon rising directly over the lookout. Then it all came together – I found the perfect location, and the weather was amazing! And luckily there were even people watching the moon rise from the Lookout.

"I didn't know what to expect with the performance of everyone up there, but I couldn't have directed it better myself, even though they had no idea I was filming them. I shot 8 minutes of footage between 9.14pm and 9.22pm and the finished edit shows about the first 3 minutes of that."

Even for Mark, who knows his moonshots, shares, "Technically, getting the shot was quite difficult. I was 2.1km away from my subject, and there was no room for error. I only had one chance of getting the shot right on the night. Thankfully it happened, and what I ended up with was this wonderful performance of total strangers silhouetted against the full moon as it rose above the lookout." And so it is that Mark captured a view of the viewers – as well as the moon.

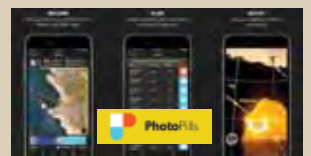
"The video is as it came off the memory card – there has been no editing or manipulation whatsoever."

Mark quickly posted the "Full Moon Silhouette" video online at www.vimeo.com/58385453 and enthusiastic comments flooded in, some even expressing how moved they were by the simplicity and majesty of his clip.



Mark Gee with his moonshot telephoto lens. "I shot it on a Canon ID MkIV in video mode with a Canon EF 500mm f/4L and a Canon 2x extender II, giving me the equivalent focal length of 1300mm." His full sky photos, however, would be shot with a short lens.

How did Mark know the moon would be full, in perfect position, at that desired



location? And where he would have to be to frame that event so perfectly? Answer: a smartphone app called PhotoPills. See www.photopills.com

So how is the moon so big and people so small?

Mark explains: "Well it's all about optics and distance from the subject. I shot this video on a DSLR camera with a super telephoto lens, so it's just like looking at the moon with binoculars or through a small telescope.

"The people in front of the moon are small in comparison because I was 2.1km away from them. I couldn't even see them with my own eyes as they were so far away, but when looking through the camera, they look exactly as they are in the film. If I was to move closer to the subjects, say just 1km away, they would have looked twice as big. The moon would still have been the same size in frame, but because the people look larger and you can use them as a point of scale reference, then the moon would have looked smaller in scale, even though it's not."

About Mark Gee

Mark Gee's images cast NZ in a great light: showing that this is home to some of the best night skies in the world.

The practice of astrophotography is truly a painstakingly patient art, one that award-winning Mark Gee has crafted over the years. And what led him to this passion for capturing the night skies? His move to NZ.

When the Australian visual effects company Mark had been working with closed, he took a brave step to cast his net wider. He was lucky enough to get an interview to work on 'Lord of the Rings' with Weta Digital and director Peter Jackson. He got the job and moved from the Gold Coast in 2003 and has remained here ever since – all the better for us!

Mark has continued with time-lapse filmmaking and is currently digital visual effects supervisor for Weta, where he has worked on many high profile and Oscar award winning feature films. "After more than a decade in the film/digital visual effects," shares Mark, "I've chalked up a few credits on some amazing films that I've been lucky enough to have worked on."

Listed or shown are just some of the movies Mark has worked on (mostly as visual effects supervisor) with Weta Digital: *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003); three *The Hobbit* movies; *The Chronicles of Narnia*:

"For me personally, living and working in NZ for well over a decade now has been an amazing experience. In that time I've spent many hours under the night sky with my camera, capturing the incredible universe above."

Prince Caspian;
Avatar; 2017's *War for the Planet of the Apes*; *Robot of King Kong*; and *Peter Pan*. (For complete list see www.imdb.com/name/nm1454503)

With his unique eye for detail, self-taught Mark strives to create work of high quality, in both his photography and film work, regardless of the subject matter. He constantly seeks out new techniques and ways to improve. His imagination was captured by astrophotography, and NZ provided the perfect skies for this craft. He revels in the combination of striking landscape and night photography.

His love of the NZ landscape is a big part of the inspiration for his personal photography. In 2013, Mark won the prestigious Astronomy Photographer of the Year. Not only did he win it overall, but Mark also won both categories – 'Earth and Space' and 'People and Space'

– which had never been done before in the competition's history.

Mark shares his knowledge of and delight in astrophotography on the public speaking circuit and on his facebook page. One of the highlights was his well received TEDx talk in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2014.

See his comprehensive website where he even shares 'how tos'.

His awesome photographic works are also available for purchase at www.theartofnight.com/. View Mark's 2014 TedTalk about the moon video at www.youtube.be/IOzdXNXzDqE



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Whangamata...

'HARBOUR OF OBSIDIAN'

by Robert Simmons

We asked our rockhound Robert Simmons from Heaven and Earth Gallery in Tairua, to share more about this shiny prized stone as a feature for this issue.

The suggestion for the article came from Rodney Dyer, owner of Whangamata Souvenir and Jewellery Gallery. He shared with us that the town's name actually translates as 'whanga' meaning harbour, and 'mata' meaning obsidian. It was said that pieces of obsidian from Tuhua (Mayor Island) washed ashore and were found on the beaches and in the harbour.

On our very first visit to NZ in 2011, my wife Kathy and I visited the Coromandel Peninsula. We immediately fell in love with this incredibly beautiful and truly magical place. We spent days exploring as many of the sights as our time allowed, and that included Hahei Beach.

On a short walk through the bush – thoroughly dazzled by the richness and variety of green growing things – my attention was captured by something dark and shiny on the ground, glinting in the sunlight. Rock lover that I am, I picked up the shard to examine it and was amazed to recognise it as black obsidian!

Not knowing its history on the Coromandel, I puzzled over what it was doing in the bush, and why so bright and sharp? I was used to finding dull, worn stones while fossicking in America.

MATA – MAORI TAONGA (TREASURE)

Obsidian is a natural glass, a kind of volcanic rock, produced when lava (high in silica content) cools rapidly and solidifies without time for crystal growth. With no crystal structure, obsidian blade edges can be honed to reach almost molecular thinness, leading to its value for various cutting tools.

Maori referred to obsidian as tuhua, the name also given to Mayor Island, where most of the pieces found on the Coromandel originated.

Black obsidian from Tuhua is called mata tuhua and was used for tools and weapons and by the moa hunters. Other types of tuhua were the light coloured waipu, the green panatao, and the red kahurangi – used to cut human hair, or to cut themselves when mourning the dead.

Maori stonemasons used obsidian shards to make weapons, tools for shaping wood and drilling holes, and for cutting flax, meat and hair. Moa hunters would chip off pieces as needed to cut up the giant bird, and then discard the shards at the spot – as they would not be used for anything else.

So the Hahei obsidian I found may well have come from Mayor Island and been a shard broken from a larger piece by Maori. In discovering the history and myths around obsidian, I realised that this volcanic material is an important element of NZ's cultural history, as well as its geological past.

MYTH AND LORE

One Maori tale tells how the explorer Ngahue rode across the sea from Hawaiki on the back of Poutini, his magical green fish. When he came to Tuhua (Mayor Island) he found the precious obsidian.

Poutini picked a fight with Mata, who lived on the island. Poutini lost, so he and Ngahue fled to Arahura, the Grey River on the west coast of the South Island. There Ngahue tore off one side of his fish and returned to Hawaiki, leaving Poutini behind.

Today Poutini lies in pieces among the river bed stones as pounamu or greenstone. Mata remains on Tuhua as the boulders, cliffs and veins of black obsidian.

A COROMANDEL VOLCANIC TREASURE

The North Island in general has many volcanic land masses. The Coromandel volcanic zone includes nine geographically distinct obsidian sources: Waihi-Waimata, Whangamata, Cooks



Robert stands in the Heaven and Earth gallery holding an impressive large hand-carved black obsidian bowl from Mexico.



This big piece of obsidian from Mayor Island came to Robert from an old collection (he did not dig it himself). Notice the embedded rocks in it.

“Just as it has been sought and utilised by cultures on every continent, obsidian has been prized by Aotearoa’s first settlers, and is still treasured by modern-day rockhounds and jewellery makers.”



Robert Simmons holds two pieces of mata (obsidian) found near Whangamata.

Beach-Purangi, Hahei, Tairua and Maratoto as well as Awana-Te Ahumata on Great Barrier Island and Fanal Island. Coromandel obsidian most often occurs as cobbles in stream beds or on beaches, hiding its shardy sharpness, laying in wait for an unwary footfall.

The different sources can be distinguished by chemical analysis and sometimes by colour, which helps geologists and archaeologists in their research.

REFLECTION, HEALING AND CUTTING EDGE

From its origins in the fiery depths of the earth, obsidian has moved into a web of connections to the human world. From its early uses in tools and weapons in cultures around the world to its present-day application at the literal ‘cutting edge’ of

medical technology, obsidian has displayed unique properties still benefitting mankind.

Dating back thousands of years is the divination practice of ‘scrying’– looking into a reflective substance such as polished obsidian, in the hope of detecting significant messages or visions, for perhaps personal guidance, prophecy, revelation, inspiration, or fortune-telling. Scrying with a black obsidian ‘mirror’ has been particularly favoured in attempting to communicate with the souls of those who have died.

Still ‘cutting edge’, surgeons today are using obsidian scalpels, particularly in heart surgery, to carry out fine incisions that they say heal with minimal scarring.

continued next page...

TUHUA (MAYOR ISLAND)

The *mata tuhua*, as the obsidian from the island was called, would have been easy to collect, with its lava’s visible veins and piles of stone. Tribes fought many times to protect their access to this valuable glass. These days, one still has a bit of a fight to see it.

A wildlife refuge since 1953, the island is home to many native birds. Well marked walking tracks circle the lip of the caldera and to the two lakes below. Visitors are welcome by prior arrangement and are asked to follow a few rules and biosecurity precautions. Removing the prize obsidian is not permitted.

Download brochure for more info at www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/tuhua-mayor-island/
Also on FB see Friends of Tuhua (Mayor Island).



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continued from previous page...

Dr. Lee Green, professor and chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta, routinely uses obsidian blades as they have a cutting edge many times sharper than other high-quality steel scalpels.

“The biggest advantage with obsidian is that it is the sharpest edge there is. It causes very little trauma to tissue, heals faster, and more importantly, with less scarring making for the best cosmetic outcome.”

One study found using obsidian blades produced narrower scars, fewer inflammatory cells, and less granulation tissue than blades made from surgical steel.

From Maori lore to New Age healing to today’s cutting edge technology, obsidian has long been revered for its many uses. Oh, the stories this stone has to tell!

I couldn’t have known when I picked up that shining shard in Hahei, that it would take me on such a rich and complex journey of discovery!



Raw obsidian from other parts of the world is often used for producing beautiful polished gemstones for jewellery and ornaments. See a selection of obsidian spheres, eggs, massage wands, polished scrying discs, tumbled stones, beads and jewellery at Heaven and Earth Gallery, located on Main Road in Tairua. 07 864 8875.



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www.heavenandearthcrystals.co.nz



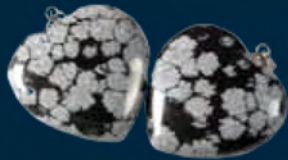
Robert Simmons with co-owner and wife Kathy Helen Warner in their gallery.

The healing... and metaphysical uses of obsidian

from Robert Simmons

Because my involvement with stones includes an avid interest in their energies and beneficial spiritual qualities, I have worked with obsidian intuitively. In **The Pocket Book of Stones**, I write about several varieties. Below is a sampling:

Black Obsidian (right) helps bring one’s own shadow material out of exile, allowing it to be transmuted through the heart. Much like a ‘psychic vacuum cleaner,’ cleansing the auric field of disharmony, negative attachments, and astral ‘junk,’ (anger, greed, fear, resentment, etc). It is also a strong grounding stone, helping people to find clarity and balance.



SNOWFLAKE OBSIDIAN (above) helps enable one ‘to make the best of a bad situation’ by clearing negative and self-defeating thoughts, and inspiring new ideas that can improve your condition. It grounds the thinking, eliminating energy-draining fantasy. It can also increase one’s psychic sensitivity and intuition, making one more aware of life’s synchronicities.



RAINBOW OBSIDIAN (above) helps one take the downward journey to unexpected Light. As one descends, one finds – and reclaims – the forgotten pieces of oneself that have been left behind at each wounding.

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The art of Heinrich Harder (1858-1935). Unfortunately, the artist seems to have been unaware that Maori did not use bow and arrows.

Rare find on Great Mercury Island

A 600 year old site with Moa Bones and Mata

In 2015, a group of 25 from Auckland University (including 12 students from Field Methods in Archaeology) travelled to Great Mercury Island as part of their course work. During the three week excavation, it was surprise all round when they found not only significant amounts of obsidian, but also moa bones within the remnants of an ancient oven – estimated to be 600 years old!

It is one of the oldest sites found in NZ to date with evidence of human habitation, and, while not unusual to find moa bones, it is rare to find evidence of moa being prepared and eaten, especially in North Island. “The moa was likely procured elsewhere and brought to the island,” commented Professor Simon Holdaway. “The significance is that the moa must have been alive shortly before they ate it.”

There were lines of stones and burnt wood – signs that a dwelling may have been there. An obsidian blade was also found inside the shoulder and flipper of a seal and, as there haven't been any seals breeding on the island for 600 years, this assisted the excavation team in dating the remains.

Over 12,000 objects were discovered, including stone artifacts and bones. The large number of obsidian objects – flakes and cores – was sourced with portable x-ray fluorescence and identified as coming from several Coromandel locations such as Hahei, Cooks Beach, and Mayor Island, but also as far away as Taupo and Northland regions.

Their dig site at Coralie Bay, just 8km off the Coromandel coast, covered an area of 15m x 10m, but was expanded on the many subsequent visits since 2015. The Ahuahu Great Mercury Island Project is a joint venture between the University and the Auckland Museum. The work is also supported by Ngati Hei, the local iwi, and the island's owners, Sir Michael Fay and David Richwhite.



Students from the University of Auckland found significant amounts of obsidian as well as moa bones within the remnants of an ancient oven at this dig site in Coralie Bay on Great Mercury Island in 2015.

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Its beach, at 4km long, offers a great walk and a wonderful vista. *NZ Herald* readers voted it NZ's '2018 Best Beach of the Year', confirming that many others think it's tops too. There's a wide range of water activities on offer and to suit all interests and ages – surfing, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, and fishing – truly something for everyone!

And don't forget your hiking shoes! The Wentworth walk up to the waterfalls is probably as well trodden as the Tongariro Crossing.

Every year thousands of people from all over the world pour into town for the annual 'Beach Hop' event every March. Anything American from the '50s and '60s is everywhere, with folk all dressed up and moving to the beat of good old rock 'n' roll – 'Happy Days' in more ways than one!! – *Jude Oliver, Manager Info Plus*



CHECK OUT THE INFO PLUS CENTRE



The Centre caters to locals and tourist alike with information, ticket selling, accommodation and activity bookings. Check out their store selling unique gifts galore for taking in the suitcase. Locally made and some 'not-so-local' goodies are available.

The centre also serves as agent for NZ Couriers and a drycleaner. They are open to servicing other agencies or businesses.

They also have a brilliant idea on the horizon.

WHANGAMATA
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"In the near future, our hope is to build a museum of surfing memorabilia behind the Info Plus centre," says Jude Oliver, Centre Manager. "It will house original surfboards, photos and show the involvement of people through the years of surfing! A bit like the rugby museum in Palmerston North."

Pop into 616 Port Road or contact:
 07 865 8340, enquiry@whangamatainfo.co.nz
 or www.whangamatanz.com

FOR A FUN WINTER'S DAY

While preparing their ad, we mentioned to Chris and Rebecca from Pedal & Paddle that this issue would include ways to encourage people to get out and about on the Coromandel, even in the Winter months. They were keen to offer their take on suggested 'in and outdoor' activities around their beloved surf-centred town.

After 25 years in the business, they are certainly a go-to for advice about where to go and what to do, and for the gear to get you into the Whangamata outdoors. Call into their shop at 700 Port Rd.

It all sounds like a bit of a cliché really, but it's true! We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place as Whangamata – an epic coastline and offshore islands, mountain bike trails, bush walks, hidden beaches to discover and explore – this little piece of paradise continues to turn it on, even through the Winter months.

So what would we recommend to do in just a day in Whangamata? First, we'd tell you to slow down, relax, stay a while and enjoy what we have to offer. But if time is not on your side, here's what we'd do:

Start the day off early. If you've never witnessed the sunrise over the ocean, (and even if you have), it is a special sight to behold. Find a spot on the beach to watch the world wake up as the sun peeks over the horizon.

Probably in need of some waking up yourself, head into town and grab yourself a quality coffee and breakfast at one of our many cafes scattered along the main street. #Luvcoffee on Port Road is our go-to for excellent coffee and the friendly staff.

Keen for a morning adventure? Come see us at Pedal & Paddle and get sorted with a kayak or SUP (Stand Up Paddleboard). Then wrap up warm and head off to check out the spectacular islands accessible off the beach, especially Whenuakura Island – it holds a special place in our hearts.

Whenuakura is significant historically and culturally, and an amazing geological phenomenon – colloquially known as 'Donut Island' due to the eroded hole in its middle, creating a stunning lagoon inside. It makes for a fantastic couple of hours on the water.

Or hire a bike from our large selection and selection and make your way to the mountain bike park. Whangamata has an awesome network of trails, looked after by local volunteers, and there's something for all level of riders.

Afternoon activities. After your morning on the water, grab some fish and chips for lunch, maybe peruse some of the shops in town and pick your afternoon activity.

Let's surf, fish, swing or stroll! Hire a surfboard or have a surf lesson with the girls down at Whangamata Surf School, you'll keep warm from all that paddling! Sneak in a round of 9 hole golf or mini putt if that's more your style. Drop a line off the wharf and see if you can bag yourself a fish.

Take a bush walk – check out the water fall in the Wentworth Valley (all the more impressive if it's been raining). This is a well graded track and can be walked in all conditions, or find the tracks to some of our beautiful beaches where you will most likely find you have stretches of sand all to yourself. The local information centre can give you updates on the tracks that are currently open.

Sunset wine 'n' dine. After a full-on day of outdoor adventures, enjoy a well-deserved beverage and meal at one of the great restaurants in town. Sunset is the best time to find yourself at the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club with great views over the harbour and beach. The perfect spot to wind down and reflect on a fantastic day in the outdoors and start making plans for the next one!

Whangamata, whatever the weather. The weather and the water might be a little cooler, but there's still so much to do in Whangamata in the Winter and early Spring months.

Take care to dress appropriately for the activity you are doing and be prepared for the odd change in the weather, but most importantly enjoy escaping the Summer crowds and finding yourself in some magical spots, often having them all to yourself!

– Rebekah Gee

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The Coromandel's #1 Fan!

Kitschy Cat -

This cat-themed shop offers quality of life to Whangamata's kitties



Cat-lover Victoria Cordery was dropping rubbish at Whangamata's refuse centre where she noticed stray cats teaching their kittens how to jump up under the night lights to catch moths and other insects.

The urge to help them overcame her and her desire to do this grew from idea to implementation. With husband Dave at her side, evenings for the next two-and-a-half years were spent trapping strays.

It was evident that the colony of cats at the refuse centre would have a better quality of life if TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) was implemented, so they did, personally paying for the neutering. The result was a stabilised cat population and a decline in the rodent population.

The kittens were socialised by foster-cat-carers in the community, then adopted out, while the mature cats were returned back to the centre or their original territory. The Whangamata Cat Adoption Team (CAT) was established!

The realisation of the massive amount they'd spent neutering (117 cats to date) dawned on the couple, so in late 2016 'Kitschy Cat' was born. The vintage-themed shop directs 100% of net proceeds to fund rescues, colony care, and neutering assistance within the Whangamata community.

Described by Victoria as "Absolutely Shabulous", Kitschy Cat's eclectic range of new and used goods includes retro furniture, art and collectibles, and all things kitsch.

Located on Casement Rd, the shop is run by volunteers. "It's a labour of love for all of us - no one gets paid," said Victoria, "and we encourage supporters to donate their unwanted and surplus goods so CAT can continue this work."

Victoria condones the feeding of stray cats, but not their breeding. "Many of them are simply lost family pets like Ginga." (See below.)

To donate goods, adopt a cat or volunteer, call in or check the Whangamata CAT Facebook page to see the rescue cats, post lost and found notices, and get a preview of new 'kitschy' stuff for sale.

Above: Rescue cat 'Spirit' with purrfect reading material. Wai-Lin Terry's, 'Kitty Karma' seeks to elevate the lives and welfare of abandoned, homeless, ill and disabled cats. Proceeds from book sales benefit three cat charities, Il Gattaro in Syria, Abaykitties in Hawaii, and WCAT.

About the WCAT logo...



When Victoria founded the Whangamata Cat Adoption Team (CAT), (to the shock of USA designer Jeff Fisher) she offered to licence and pay royalties for

use of his adorable cat logo.

A winner of many international graphics awards, it was also Jeff's most ripped-off creation.

"There was no doubt what I would do", he said. "No one had even asked permission before. Plus Victoria was personally involved in a cause in which I strongly believe, and she lived in a town in NZ with the cool name of 'Whangamata'. Within a week, we had an agreement."



Victoria Cordery at the Whangamata Cat Adoption Team's fundraising store, Kitschy Cat.



Kitschy Cat's très classy displays are a delightful treat!



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I WAS LOST... but now I've been found!

After Ginga escaped from the car while en route to a new family home, he had to fend for himself seeking food and love. Over two years later, a Whangamata resident succumbed to his pleading meows, and realising he must be a lost family pet, contacted WCAT, who collected him and posted his photo on Facebook.

Ginga's distinctive nose freckle was soon recognised. "The following day the family came for him. It was a really emotional reunion for all of us," Victoria said. "They told me Ginga didn't leave the couch for three days and purred non-stop with 'catitude-gratitude'."



Fibre Frolic

Saturday and Sunday, 15 - 16 September at 10 am

The Whangamata Spinners and Weavers invite you to come learn, explore, create, inspire and enjoy a range of fibre arts and crafts at the Whangamata Memorial Hall, 326 Port Rd.

Members will exhibit and demonstrate knitting, yarn spinning, weaving, needle felting, paper making, painting on silk, flax weaving, quilting, embroidery, crochet, wool blending/colouring and more. All welcome, for all skill levels and ages. Koha entry – raffle and some additional activity fees.

This very active group meets at Cornerstone House four times a month – the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5.30-7.30pm, and the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10am-2pm. Get info on the group's colourful FB page, Whangamata Spinners and Weavers.



Natty Knitters

keep Whangamata in stitches



The Whangamata Spinners and Weavers celebrated 'Worldwide Knit in Public Day' on June 8 by proudly knitting above at the Smash Pipi. Photos were taken by Cherry Estcourt, who heads up the group.

Cherry found their day so exciting she suggested to her 'nutty knitter natters' that they needed to follow it up with a 'Worldwide Gin Day' followed closely by a 'Worldwide Stay in Bed Day'!

We say 'Cheers' to that!



This photo above, was taken at a Spinners and Weavers meeting by Marie-Louise Nordberg. "My granddaughter Niamh enjoyed herself on this morning. She asked if this was my 'school', as she thought it was just like her daycare!" Yarn spinner Maureen Griggs (aka 'Tootles Mawsiggs') laughs along.

Maureen is not only a spinner, she creates delightful quilts, as shown above, to be raffled at the Fibre Frolic

Centre baby: Baby Kadence Elizabeth in her Elizabeth Zimmerman jacket made by Spinners and Weavers member Mary Patterson.



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Kauaeranga Valley

BACK ON TRACK

...and better than ever!

RECENT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS MEAN BETTER ACCESS



BEFORE
&
AFTER



Above: The Wainora Ford was damaged and undercut during last year's storms. Work is now complete, and the new Wainora Bridge is open.

It has been a busy year for the Kauaeranga Valley, however not in the way that the Department of Conservation (DOC) would have preferred!

Described by DOC senior ranger Leanne Irvine as "one of the worst events we've ever had", last year's debilitating storm in early March 2017 caused havoc and mayhem forcing closures as well as major damage to roads, trees, tracks and campgrounds. Repairs have taken well over a year, but fortunately, even as work continued, some areas remained open

for visitors in Summer and the Easter holidays. "Most of the work is complete with no further disruption expected. The Valley can enjoy a renaissance as it welcomes visitors back," says Wendy Hillerich, Visitor Centre's Supervisor. The entire staff agrees, "It is wonderful to see the large number of people again enjoying the attractions and facilities that the area offers."

One of the most welcomed improvements is the main access road to the Visitor Centre itself. "Sealing of the road makes the centre and its facilities even more accessible to more people, including drivers of rental vehicles whose insurance does not cover travel on unsealed roads", adds Wendy. "It means an easier drive with much better road safety for those users. The road beyond the Visitor Centre, although still gravel, has been greatly improved, and there is a new bridge to replace the Wainora Ford." (See photo.)

CAMPING, ACCOMMODATION AND TRACKS

The upgraded road beyond the Centre provides improved access to a wide variety of walking and tramping tracks in the Coromandel Forest Park. These range in length from 15 minutes to overnight hikes, and lead you to giant Kauri, stunning views, peaceful streams and fascinating volcanic geography.

The carpark for the locally famous Hoffman's Pool is just 2km beyond the Visitor Centre, and the spectacular Pinnacles Walk begins 9km from the centre at the end of the road. DOC estimates that even though remote, the Pinnacles attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year. Near the base of the peak, the popular Pinnacles Hut (shown below), sleeps 80 and is the largest in NZ. Book ahead, as Saturdays are always in demand.

"Most of the tracks have also been repaired, and 99% of the Valley is open again," Wendy explains. "Work continues on the campgrounds, and eventually these facilities will be upgraded as well."

Campsites and accommodation in the Valley range from tent camping and back country huts to powered RV and bus camping sites. There are also two new fully equipped cottages available – Cookson and Kauri Cottages.



The Pinnacles Hut.

“ Nothing can compare with arriving at the top of the Pinnacles just in time to capture the perfect sunrise – a fiery blaze to the east over Tairua. Silently we remove marmite sandwiches from camelbaks with fingers cold from the wind chill factor at 759m. The stillness and magnitude of the mountainous surroundings is staggering.

Light hits the sharp peaks of the ancient, once-volcanic ranges to the North. The dramatic boulders and vast valleys of the Kauaeranga are laid out behind us and a tiny glimpse of the Firth of Thames and Hauraki Plains to the west seems a million miles away. ”

– Emma Darragh



THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

Receiving more than 30,000 visitors each year, the Centre offers a wealth of information on the many walks, educational treasure hunts and the area's fascinating history and environment. Enjoy 24hr free access to wifi and checkout the range of short films, available to watch on request. Then venture out for that swim in the river, or a bushwalk to a model kauri dam.

Take advantage of their existing classes and nature adventures or organise a number of talks and activities that are ideal for large groups of children or adults.

The Audio-Visual room seats up to 50, and is available for hire on a half day or daily basis.

CONSIDER THE VALLEY FOR YOUR EVENT OR RETREAT

Whether for day or overnight stays, Kauaeranga Valley offers meeting facilities, accommodation and catering to meet your needs – inside or outdoors. Take advantage of existing classes and nature adventures or they will organise talks and activities ideal for large groups of children or adults.

The adventure company, CanyonNZ, offers individual or teamworking courses in the Valley in climbing, abseiling and more.

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

In summer, be sure to visit the Centre's Kauaeranga Café for delicious food, pastries, ice cream, coffees, and more.

Phone KVC at 07 8679080 or email: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

See more about the Valley in *Coromandel Life* 2017 Spring issue.



CLEAN YOUR FEET-HELP SAVE THE KAURI!

The roll-out of 20 prototypes of the Mark 2 Kauri Dieback hygiene stations was announced in April as part of DOC's efforts to reduce the spread of kauri dieback. Shown is one of these innovative cleaning stations placed at the entrance to the Pinnacles Track. These will help protect our forests by ensuring everyone's footwear is free from



possible disease. Other locations for these stations on the Coromandel for now include Wentworth, Whenuakite and Broken Hills.

Looking ahead ... To summer fun

The Visitor Centre's Summer Fun Programme, which runs from mid-December through January, will again offer dozens of children-and family-orientated events – "our tried and true as well as new". Join the popular gecko encounters, learn to polish kauri gum, attend a stream study, or take twilight walks, to name a few. New treats include a themed kids' day, art activities, competitions and more. Look for the full schedule and more info in our next issue of *Coromandel Life* as well as on

www.facebook.com/KauaerangaValleyVC



TOYOTA KIWI GUARDIANS

As an approved Toyota Kiwi Guardians Adventure Site, there are many activities in the Kauaeranga Valley for children and families, for which an achievement medal can be earned. Now that the Valley is open, all these are "ready to go". Find details of these self-directed activities by enquiring at the Visitor Centre or look on-line at www.tinyurl.com/y78jn6w4

The overall Kiwi Guardian programme also offers challenges kids can do at home or at other outdoor locations, for which they can earn medals. View videos, photos and learn about new 'Adventure Sites' at www.facebook.com/kiwiguardians/ and www.doc.govt.nz/kiwiguardians



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RBHW would like to thank everyone from near and far who came to celebrate with us during the year.

The Thames 150th Target Sporting Shoot was a highlight, so much so we will support this event again this year.

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GOLD PANS / SHOVELS / PICKS

RBHW congratulates the Thames community and all involved in the 150th celebrations held to commemorate the opening of the goldfields.

The future is looking bright - may Thames prosper and our whanau thrive in this great town of ours. Here's to Thames and another 150 years!

No reira, kia umeretanga ki Temu a kotahi rau mā rima tekau tau anō.

Photo by Peter James Quinn - www.peterjamesquinn.com

Don't miss our August/September promotion - "The Winter Mug Shot". We have restocked our popular RBHW enamel mugs so come in to get one, then take a "Mug Shot" of yourself or someone else enjoying a cuppa with our mug while adventuring over Winter. Post it to our Facebook page to enter!



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See more at www.readbros.co.nz

Commemorating the 150th Thames goldfields anniversary...

BELLA STREET PUMPHOUSE TO RE-CREATE POPPET HEAD

During Thames later years as a mining town, the Queen of Beauty Mine boasted the largest water pumping facility in NZ, the Thames Hauraki pumphouse (now called the Bella Street Pumphouse). It opened in 1898 and its iconic turret tower, called a "poppet head", was built about a year later atop its 305m deep mine shaft. The wooden structure supported heavy cables and support pullies used to lower and raise cages which transported miners and the mined quartz ore.

The pumps were powerful enough to remove water from a shaft depth of almost twice its 305m. However, in 1914 the Inspector of Mines ordered the pumps to cease, due to the risks posed by the influx of gas. The imposing poppet head, towering some 20m, was dismantled and the valuable kauri lumber reclaimed for other uses.

The Bella Street Pumphouse Society now owns and manages the site. It is located at 212 Bella Street in Thames. "The museum houses not only exhibit displays but well-engineered recreations of some of its massive machinery", notes the Society's secretary Bain Cross. "These include replicas of parts of the steam-powered pumping equipment. Visitors enjoy a far better impression of what the site was like in its heyday."

And thanks to now deceased Tairua resident Des Morgan, the star exhibit is a working 1/40 scale model of the Cameron pump, a labour of



The tall scaffolding, called a poppet, may well once again dominate the skyline of Thames. Help the Society to rebuild this Poppet Head on its original site at the Bella Street Pump House.

love that took him over 5000 hours to complete (see photo). No detail was left out by the retired engineer – the sand cast metal model is complete with the kauri poppet head.

THEIR SIGHTS ON HEIGHTS

For many years, the Society has been building the largest replica yet, on-site at the Bella St Pumphouse – the massive kauri poppet head.

"Resource consent has been granted", says Bain, "and the Pumphouse Society will need to raise a significant amount of money to fund the reconstruction of the 20m high poppet head." He notes that \$90,000 must first be raised by local efforts, before the Society can apply for further

funding and larger outside grants.

The Pumphouse Museum is now a key tourist attraction and event venue in Thames. "As well as being a museum, the building is used as an event venue for corporate dinners, car club meetings, live theatre (there is an indoor stage), wedding receptions, and of course, the Steampunk Festival. Now, we are asking for real community support to raise the funds necessary to build this lasting monument to the Thames goldfields. Quite the project to commemorate its 150th anniversary."

To help rebuild the poppet head on its original site, contact Bain at bacross@xtra.co.nz or call on 027 273 7572 or 07 868 9917.

See their website:

www.bellastreetpumphouse.com/projects for more information about the project and how

to make a monetary donation. Donations of \$1,000 or more will get your name on one of the poppet legs!



This working 1/40 scale model of the Cameron Pump made by Des Morgan, took 5000 hours to make.

– Photo courtesy of historian Althea Barker



Left: Merv Grafton from the Bella Street Pumphouse Society oils the bearings of the replica flywheel the Society built to demonstrate the scale of the heavy engineering.

A truly epic undertaking for Meghan Hawkes!

Meghan Hawkes, author of five historical books about the Thames area, was the perfect writer to take on the challenge to chronicle the day-to-day history of the first year of the Thames Goldfields – its hopeful miners, shop keepers, churchmen, investors, builders and ordinary people needed to build a thriving mining community. What a truly epic undertaking! Meghan's weekly blog has been part of the Thames 150th commemoration of the opening of the Goldfields in 1867.

We applaud her mammoth effort to inform and amuse us. If you haven't yet read her blog we recommend you do. Meghan will be continuing her entries through the end of July. See www.firstyearthamesgoldfield.co.nz



As you can see, even with a computer on board, Meghan took copious notes for each day of the Thames Goldfield's first year, writing longhand in these numerous notebooks.

150 YEARS AGO: THAMES FIRST HARD YEAR

By Meghan Hawkes

'The First Year on the Thames Goldfield', was a huge undertaking which took two years of research and writing.

My rough blog notes filled six 200 leaf refill pads, some 1200 handwritten pages. A final typed version came to 272,000 words. It often involved many 4am, and even earlier, starts.

Every Monday for 52 weeks – including Christmas, New Year's and other public holidays – the weekly blog was published online, despite illness, injury and the usual ebb and flow of family life.

It was a daunting prospect – a *Paper's Past* search for the word Thames during the years 1867 and 1868 yielded 6,624 results but as the area was known by other names – Karaka, Waiotahi, Kauaeranga, Tapu, Shortland, and Grahamstown – these had to be separately searched as well.

Even then I could not document every claim, schooner, cutter, steamer, parcel of gold or claim jumping cases, which were countless.

Once the Thames goldfields were opened, there was an avalanche of news, some of it with conflicting reports. Media beat-up's are common today, but the discovery of the Thames goldfield was an early example of it. The two main players, the *NZ Herald* and *Daily Southern Cross*, battled it out over the printing presses, producing wildly differing accounts, which was read by people trying to decide whether to go to the Thames and risk everything, or stay put.

The *Daily Southern Cross* took a headily optimistic, and at times exaggerated approach, while the *NZ Herald* was more cautious, staid and initially pessimistic. Several of the reporters were miners whose experiences coloured their reporting. Glowing newspaper accounts

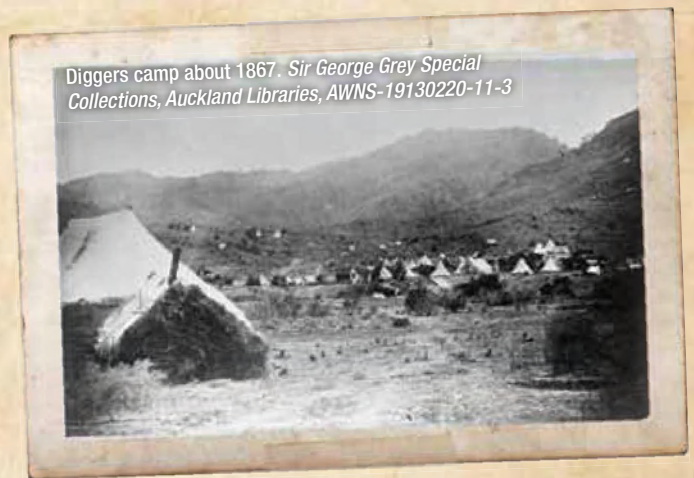


Meghan's working space is not any ordinary office, but the small corner of a house bus where this passenger seat is a desk, with a real desktop computer. "It is from here I immersed myself in life 150 years ago," says Meghan. "My loyal research assistant, Sampson, keeps my seat warmed up."

were often brought up short by the cold hard facts of medical officer, geologist or police reports. The Southland papers, likely trying to keep their mining population, continually poured cold water over the hot news coming from the Thames.

Yet, with no photographs in newspapers at the time, the detailed, written descriptions were vivid and invaluable.

It has been a fascinating journey for me. When the first official discovery of gold was made at the Thames, Auckland was in the grip of a depression. There were empty houses and scores of unemployed. Trade was bad, money scarce, wages low and work hard to find. Businesses crashed, one after the other. There had been a land boom, and it had burst. There was no place to go as 1867's winter set in.



The first diggers arrived at the Thames in wretched weather. Hills were covered in tangles of scrub and undergrowth; and on the flat there was nothing better than raupo swamp and ti-tree scrub. Along the Kauaeranga Creek was a church mission station and a Maori settlement of whares and crops. There were few Europeans and only one store.

The ground officially opened for mining spanned a distance of not quite two miles. It was mostly covered in peach trees and swamp. A desolate area, part of which was a Maori burial place, was thickly studded with carved posts, with leering heads and thrust out tongues, which the men found unnerving.

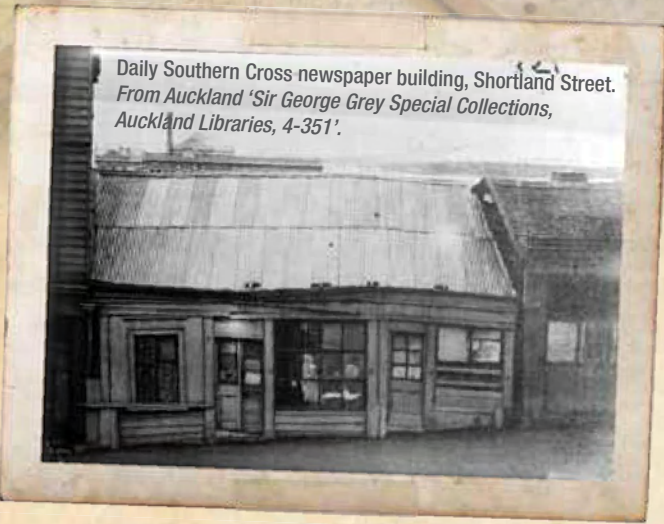
AS THAMES' SECOND YEAR BEGINS, THE WEEKLY BLOG ENDS

One short year later, there was a town with numerous well built and commodious hotels, well-filled stores, comfortable cheerful weatherboard houses, and more than one brick house. The main thoroughfare, Pollen Street, almost as broad as Auckland's Queen



NOTE: CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 150TH GOLDFIELD ANNIVERSARY will be held 7pm Tuesday, 31 July at Thames Civic Centre. See calendar p48-50.

MAKE YOUR HERITAGE WEEKEND COMPLETE, dine or stay at the historic Junction Hotel (below), the oldest operating hotel in Thames. And be sure to congratulate them – they will soon celebrate their 150th year too – in 2019!



Daily Southern Cross newspaper building, Shortland Street. From Auckland 'Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 4-351'.

Street, was crowded with dozens of buildings. There were churches, a theatre, and a court house. There was activity and business-like energy, the rattling clatter of steam engines and the accompanying thud of the crushing machines.

Wharf vans, carts and hand barrows were loaded at Auckland, with goods apparently sufficient for the supply of an immense city – in reality destined for the Thames.

Ponderous portions of machinery were slung into the various cutters lying alongside the wharf, while vast piles of timber were being ceaselessly carted to vessels. Livestock were constantly shipped to the 'golden district'. In the stores, boxes in abundance were ready to be transported. There was a steady rush from other goldfields – the steamers from the other ports were crowded with passengers intent on trying their luck at the Thames.

As the first anniversary of the opening of the Thames goldfield approaches in July, seams of gold of extraordinary richness are being discovered, rumours of great wealth are rife, and the *Daily Southern Cross* runs a headline which crows "The Thames Diggings the Richest in The World". The Thames appears to be on the brink of a golden future. But that is another story.

Just as success struck the Goldfields, my writing assignment covering a year of hardships ... ended.



'Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 4-857'

View of Shortland, 1868. Looking north from the landing place on the Kauaeranga River showing part of Shortland, Thames with Grey Street (left to right, centre) and Butt's Shortland Hotel and American Theatre, (centre), on the corner of Pollen Street.



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JUNE 2018

WED 20 - SAT 23 JUN



THEATRE - Kindly Leave the Stage Coghill Theatre, Whitianga 7pm. A fun evening with many twists and turns and a little bit risqué! Tickets from Paper Plus Whitianga. www.facebook.com/coghilltheatre.

SAT 23 JUN



MINDFULNESS - From Breakdown to Breakthrough - Self Discovery Immersion Day Puka Park Resort 10am-4pm. Covering many different strategies and techniques throughout the day. 0800 BUY TIX www.nicolabow.com.

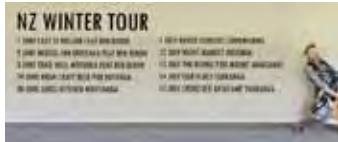
SOCIAL - Mid-Winter Buffet - The Ohinemuri Club Princes St, Paeroa 6-11pm. Buffet dinner, live band. Bookings essential \$30pp: Call the Club on 07 862 7987 or email ohinemuriclub@xtra.co.nz.

SOCIAL - Whiritoa Library Midwinter Dinner Whiritoa Community Hall 6pm. Dress theme: Silver & white. 3 courses \$30, BYO, no door tickets. 07 865 7550 to book.

SUN 24 JUN

MUSIC - Bernie Griffen and The Thin Men Kauaeranga Hall 2:30pm. Dubbed Southern Gothic, Bernie Griffen's music could also be called 'swamp folk' or 'psychedelic country'. Book on 0219 12993 or Kauaerangahallmusic@gmail.com.

SAT 30 JUN



LIVE MUSIC - Sonic Delusion NZ Winter Tour Luke's Kitchen 6pm. Too funky for folk & too folksy for funk - that's Sonic Delusion's Latin-infused, pop-laced "funky electroacoustic folk". Free entry.

JULY 2018

SUN 01 JUL

CONCERT - Sonic Delusion NZ Winter Tour Coro Sonic Lab, 23 Colville Rd, Coromandel 6:30pm. See June 30 for desc. Tickets \$20, inc snacks. www.sonic-delusion.com.



WORKSHOP - Husband/Wife Duo - Tim & Mia O'Brien Workshop and Gig at Coghill Theatre, Whitianga. Workshop 10am-2:30pm (BYO Lunch) Gig from 4pm. Book your place at admin@creativemercurybay.co.nz or text 027 741 3230.



CARS - American Muscle Car Meeting Frankies Sports Bar & Grill, Whitianga 11am. Bring your old & new American cars, trucks and motorcycles for an American Muscle line up! Spectators welcome.

THU 05 JUL



THEATRE - Seed Whitianga Town Hall 7pm. A truly contemporary, hilarious and smart look at modern reproduction and female friendship. Book: Whitianga Paper Plus. Youth \$15, Adults \$30.



MUSIC - Live Music Waikino Tavern 7-9:30pm. Live music by award winning singer-songwriter Amir Yussuf, playing covers and originals every Thursday night from 7pm. Free admission.

FRI 6 - SAT 7 JUL

FISHING - Winter Slammer Surf Casting Competition Kuaotunu. Loads of prizes, cheap drinks, lots of fun and just an all round fantastic event. Briefing on Fri at 7pm, Kuaotunu Fire Brigade. Fishing on Sat from 5.30am until lines out at 4pm. Seniors and Juniors (under 12yrs) divisions.

SAT 7 JUL

BALL - Waihi Beach Op Shop Ball Waihi Beach Community Centre 7pm-12am. Tickets from The Professionals Real Estate on Wilson Road \$45pp.

WED 11 JUL



SHOW - Kelvin Cruickshank Live (Soul Food) Thames War Memorial Civic Centre 7-9:30pm. An Evening with NZ Medium Kelvin Cruickshank. GA \$65 0508 iTICKET. www.kelvincruickshank.com.



FRI 13 JUL

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill Arts Centre, Whitianga. A monthly gathering of musicians and music fans. Held on the 2nd Fri of every month at 7pm. All welcome. Facebook: Whitianga Music Club.

FRI 13 - SAT 14 JUL



FESTIVAL - Illume Festival 85 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel 5pm. FREE The main street of Coro Town will be lit up for 2 nights. Live music, projections, street performers, lights, fireworks, parade, food, & fun. www.illumefest.co.nz.

SAT 14 JUL

FAIR - Coromandel Peninsula Art and Craft Fair Whitianga Town Hall 9am-3pm. Showcasing quality handmade Arts and Crafts produced in the Coromandel Peninsula. www.mercurybayartescape.com.

SUN 15 JUL



EXPO - The Coromandel Wedding Expo The Waihi Events Centre 10am-4pm. Everything you need to plan your dream wedding on the Coromandel. Visit the best suppliers and vendors under one roof. Ph: 0800 BUY TIX, www.thebridaltable.com.

SAT 21 JUL

FISHING - Strictly Land-based Whitianga. Be into winning some fantastic prizes thanks to our sponsors. Entry forms available from @Strictlylandbased (Facebook page) or email strictlylandbasedwhitianga@gmail.com.

SAT 28 JUL

JUBILEE - St Mary's Catholic Church Paeroa 50th Jubilee St Mary's Catholic Church, Paeroa 12-3:30pm. Mass at Midday; Jubilee luncheon at the Ohinemuri Club 1.30pm. \$15pp. To register, call Sandy Saunders on 07 862 6323 or email sfsaunders@gmail.com.

TUES 31 JULY



CELEBRATION - Closing Ceremony of 150th Goldfields Anniversary 7-9pm An evening of entertainment and reflection on the past 12 months of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Opening of the Thames Goldfields. Thames Civic Centre. Gold coin entry. Contact: Diane Connors Email: sar@slingshot.co.nz



AUGUST 2018

FRI 03 AUG

THEATRE - No Holds Bard Whitianga Town Hall. Michael Hurst brings a powerful performance to the stage playing four of Shakespeare's greatest creations.

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FRI 10 AUG

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill Arts Centre, Whitianga. A monthly gathering of musicians and music fans. Held on the 2nd Fri of every month at 7pm. All welcome. Facebook: Whitianga Music Club.

SAT 11 AUG



RACE - Whangamata Adventure Race Whangamata Ridges MTB Park. A variety of tracks for all ability levels. www.whangamataevents.co.nz/adventure-racing.

SAT 18 AUG



RALLY - Mahindra Goldrush Rally of Coromandel Head Quarters: Whitianga, Moewai Park 7am-5pm. The event provides a stunning backdrop for Round 5 of the 2018 NZ Rally Championship. For info see www.nzrallychamps.co.nz/event/rnd5-rally-new-zealand-whitianga.

SAT 25 - SUN 26 AUG



RACE - Coromandel Classic From surf beaches to sub-alpine native forests, this race will challenge individuals and team competitors of all abilities. For info see www.coromandelclassic.co.nz.

FRI 31 AUG

RETREAT - Wisdom of the Moving Body: Mana Retreat Centre. Mixing yoga with Gabrielle Roth's 5Rhythms dancework. Book: www.manaretreat.com/events/5rhythms-dance-and-yoga.



FUNDRAISER - Daffodil Day is an annual fundraising & awareness campaign. Volunteers collect donations for fresh daffodils and pins. Locations inc Tairua, Pauanui, Cooks Beach, Hahei, Whitianga, Matarangi & Kuaotunu. Baked items and jams. www.daffodilday.org.nz

SEPTEMBER 2018

SAT 1 SEP

MUSIC - Quizzical Tipples and Tunes Whitianga Town Hall. Music from the movies and dance, brain quizzes, wine and cheese sampling. Tickets: Paper Plus Whitianga.

SAT 8 SEP

FESTIVAL - Whangamata Run Walk Festival Whangamata Area School 8:30am-6pm. With the half marathon (21km), the 10km and 5km events, there's something suitable for all ages and abilities. For info see www.whangamatarunwalk.co.nz.

FRI 14 SEP

MUSIC - Whitianga Music Club Coghill Arts Centre, Whitianga. A monthly gathering of musicians and music fans. Held on the 2nd Fri of every month at 7pm. All welcome. Facebook: Whitianga Music Club.



The Little **GALLERY**

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WHANGAMATA
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SATURDAY 7 JULY, 4PM - 6PM

Woven Time, Kete Weaving: BERNIE ROSS
Discover this traditional Maori art form the weaving techniques used in the creation of a kete. Opportunity to win Bernie's finished piece!

SATURDAY 4 AUGUST, 4PM - 6PM

From Raphael to Mondrian: Art History with a twist with: LYNNE ROBINSON
Tour Gallery with former art history teacher and artist to find out how great movements in history are influencing our local artists.

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 4PM - 6PM

Art Collecting with BELINDA WILEY
As an experienced collector, Belinda shares how to form a collecting group and what to look out for in building your own collection.

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER, 4PM - 6PM

Printmaking: JOANNE MAHONEY
Joanne will demonstrate drypoint, chine colle and collograph printmaking techniques. Have a go rolling a print through the press!

SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER, 4PM - 6PM

Labour Weekend WHANGAMATA EXHIBITION

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER, 4PM - 6PM

Labour Weekend TAIRUA EXHIBITION

What do you see? Our Summer kickstart exhibition, 'I See...' happens at both galleries. Explore spectrums of subjectivity and interpretation, celebrate diversity in perspectives. Meet our artists - all welcome!

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER, 4PM - 6PM

Developing Depth: KATE JONES MADILL
Kate offers how an artist develops depth using layering and glazing.

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER, 4PM - 6PM

Printmaking through the Eyes of a Painter: PAULA MCNEILL
A demo in collograph printmaking with award-winning artist Paula McNeill! This collage enables a tremendous scope for the creation of innovative works. Enjoy a glass of wine. Be in to win Paula's finished creation!

FRI 14 - SUN 16 SEP



CELEBRATION - Ohinemuri Club 100 Years Celebration Princes Street, Paeroa. A trip down memory lane with events on each day. Enrolment forms from the bar or requested by email: ohinemuriclub@xtra.co.nz.

SAT 15 - SUN 16 SEP



EXPO - Fibre Frolic Whangamata Memorial Hall 10am. Come along to learn, explore, create, be inspired and enjoy a range of fibre arts and crafts. See page 43 & on FB: Whangamata Spinners and Weavers.

SUN 16 SEP

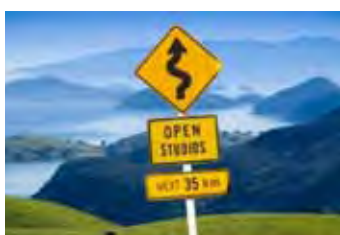
RACE - Trail Trilogy Kaiaua, Thames, Te Aroha, Paeroa, Waikino and Waihi: 6 towns, 5 start lines, 1 finish line, 5 events: the event will use the entire Hauraki Rail Trail. www.trailtrilogy.com.

OCTOBER 2018

MON 1 - WED 31 OCT

CELEBRATION - Waihi Goldfest Waihi's annual month long Goldfest celebration runs across Oct, with something for everybody. www.waihi.org.nz/events/goldfest.

SAT 6-SUN 7 & SAT 13-SUN 14 OCT



ART - Coromandel Arts Tour The first 2 weekends of Oct, over 30 artists in-and-around Coromandel Town welcome you into their studios. See article P26-27. www.coromandelartstour.co.nz.



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MARKETS... AROUND THE COROMANDEL

WINTER/EARLY SPRING 2018



THAMES MARKET- Saturdays 8am-12pm, Pollen Street. Food, 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 STARTING 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.

FRI 12 OCT

MUSIC - **Whitianga Music Club** Coghill Arts Centre. A monthly gathering of musicians and music fans. Held on the 2nd Fri of every month at 7pm. All welcome. Facebook: Whitianga Music Club.

SAT 13 OCT

COMMUNITY - **Ngatea Garage Sale** Thousands flock to Ngatea to find a bargain. www.facebook.com/ngateagaragesale.



MUSIC - **Andrew London Trio** Coghill Theatre, Whitianga 7pm. Satire & swing, new songs about life's trivial and not so trivial issues. Tickets \$25 from Paper Plus, Whitianga.

FRI 19 OCT

RETREAT - **Experiencing Self-Love** Te Moata Retreat, 180 Paul Rd, Tairua. Grow and expand in self-love and self-worth. Let go of daily concerns, routines and looking after others. Tickets: 022 084 3095 www.alivepsych.co.nz/events.

LABOUR WEEKEND

SAT 20 OCT

COMMUNITY - **Whangamata Lions Craft & Farmers Market** hosts nearly 100 stalls offering a huge variety of craft, food and produce. Inside Memorial Hall Complex, and outside in open air market. 'Huge' Book Sale. Contact John Hares on 07 865 6007 or jjhares@xtra.co.nz.

SAT 20 - SUN 21 OCT



ART - **ARTWaikino** Victoria Hall. All art work is for sale. A great place for affordable, original art to add to any art collection. See Art Scene P29 for details and see www.waihi.org.nz/events/art-waikino.



ART - **10 Artists of Kuaotunu** Following the successful inaugural exhibition in January, this group of '10 Artists' will hold their second exhibition at Kuaotunu Hall. It will be part exhibition and part interactive workshops and demonstrations. See Art Scene P29. isabelgilbertpalmer@mac.com, 021 171 6192.

SAT 27 OCT



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

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Taking action

to protect the
Coromandel
Environment

Just a pinhead of soil can infect our precious kauri

Like us, readers will be devastated to know that Kauri Dieback, the disease that kills our mighty kauri trees, has been found on a private property at Tairua. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and DOC are working with the landowner to prevent spread of the infection.

The new discovery has been confirmed following aerial and ground surveillance. This brings the number of confirmed Waikato locations to six. The other locations are in the Hukarahi Reserve near Whitianga (the first site to be identified in 2014), and multiple sites in the Whangapoua catchment. It is believed there is no connection between the new site and these others.

As an initial response, DOC has closed nearby tracks on Public Conservation Land at Lynch Stream and Twin Kauri Tracks.

WHAT IS KAURI DIEBACK?

Phytophthora agathidicida, the pathogen that causes kauri dieback, was discovered in the 1970s but not identified correctly as a new species until 2009. The origin is undetermined as yet, but the spores can be spread by just a pinhead of soil. The pathogen in effect starves the kauri to death, and thus far, there is no known cure.

Major efforts are being taken to isolate the

infected trees by limiting the movement of soil, fencing stock out of kauri areas, preventing people entering, good machinery cleaning practice, and killing feral animals that spread infected dirt. Boot cleaning stations have been installed at some track entrances to help prevent the transfer of dirt from footwear that might contain the spores. As well as using stations entering and exiting, make sure you clean any gear that comes in contact with soil before you leave home, and again when you return, and always stay on tracks and off kauri roots.

It is difficult to tell by looking whether a tree is infected, as symptoms may not show for many years, and other factors can cause the same symptoms which include yellowing and thinning of the canopy. These may also be the result of poor soil, extreme drought, high winds, or cattle and other animal movement around the tree, but take no chances!

Thousands of photos were taken of the Waikato region during last year's aerial survey as part of the national Kauri Dieback Programme. This survey identified other kauri as showing symptoms of the disease. However, follow-up soil testing confirmed that only the Tairua site was infected with dieback.

Kauri dieback is caused by a microscopic organism belonging to the *Phytophthora* (Greek for 'plant destroyer') genus. The disease has various life stages, and is transferred through soil, groundwater and streams.

Dormant oospores are protected by a hard case that enables them to survive in dry soil for 8 years or more. A pinhead can contain thousands of oospores, which are easily picked up and transported on footwear and machinery. Mobile zoospores use their tail to 'swim' through the water film in soils, and infect kauri through the feeding roots. They can travel 3m a year, especially when soil conditions are damp or muddy. And contrary to popular belief, they are NOT killed by sea water!



The Twin Kauri track on SH25 has been closed until the dieback disease has been contained on a nearby Tairua property.

Learn more at www.kauridieback.co.nz

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'Artistry in a cup' from Colenzo Country Café in Whenuakite
Thanks to owner Judy Inglis for sharing photos of their flat white process so we might also provide a visual story for our readers.



Still #1 Choice

**FL
WHI**

Kiwis love their coffee and...

THE FLAT WHITE still reigns as 'king'

Flat white still reigns as the Kiwi favourite according to the majority of NZ baristas who say it accounts over half the drinks ordered in our cafés. Colenzo Café concurs.

While the name 'flat white' cannot match the sexy *cappuccino*, one sip on the lips and its texture evokes a divine coffee connoisseur experience. It is said the concept of a flat white had originally been created for a stronger espresso with less milk.

But what makes a really great flat white? Some of our best coffees are made on the Coromandel, and we asked Mark Tugendhaft from Coffee LaLa, our popular Coromandel roaster, for the secret. And here it is.

"Start with a clean machine, a warmed cup, and a double shot of expertly roasted coffee, like LaLa, of course," he chuckled. "Then it's all about getting the texture of the milk perfect – not foamy like a cappuccino and not too thin. It should be smooth and pour like white paint rather than foam. That's what gives it the 'flat' look. Other tips? He adds, "Milk not too hot, cup not too big."



Coffee LaLa's Mark Tugendhaft just 'pulled' a sample of one of his new blends and is giving it a taste. "Wow!" he beamed, "This is pretty good, seriously!"

Get to know Mark in this charming video by James Muir titled "LALA de DA". See www.vimeo.com/194751976?ref=fb-share&1 and their website or facebook, www.coffeelala.com.

So what makes a flat white different from other popular milk-based drinks such as cappuccino and latte? Besides what Mark has explained, the obvious difference is the ratio of espresso to milk, with the cappuccino having heated milk poured from the jug to just below the rim of the cup then a pile of frothy foam, often topped with a shake of cinnamon or chocolate. The latte is larger, with a ratio of approximately one-to-five espresso-to-milk, and a little foam.

The flat white will be a ratio of one-to-three espresso-to-milk. But it is that silky velvety textured milk integrated throughout that makes it such a delight to drink. Smooth, but with the big bang of a double espresso hit.

And let's not forget the process of getting that milk just right. The swooshy hiss-slurps and tap tap tap of the long stirring spoon to the sides of the metal milk jug is the standard music of an espresso barista. The spoon holds back that top layer of foamy milk to ensure the perfect pour, and skilled baristas often create a design on top.

A flat white is usually served in a small ceramic cup, whereas a latte may be served in a glass or bowl, with a single espresso shot (about 30ml), milk and a little foam. A latte may also be topped with fancy art work.

Why the term 'flat'? This often describes a soda that lost its fizz and doesn't have bubbles. Likewise, the flat white surface appears more like a matte finish, unlike the glossy bubbles of cappuccino.

It is nearly 40 years since the first flat white was served and rapidly became part of our café culture. Now though, baristas have to be schooled up because every possible permutation is requested on a daily basis, from trim to soy to goat's milk flatties, made extra hot, single shot flats to decaf...You name it, somebody's drinkin' it!

Is the cherished flat white in danger of disappearing down the sink? Nah! Flat whites still reign supreme, and long live the 'king'! Let's all drink to that.

AT TES



MEANWHILE OVERSEAS...

Café giant Starbucks rolled out the flat white in 2015 with some fanfare, but it doesn't seem to have caught on. A friend in California offered to go into a Starbucks and test one. When she queried if it was popular, the cashier replied that it was the first time anyone had ordered one!

The barista seemed to know what she was doing and, although my friend enjoyed the drink – whatever it was – it was covered with a thick layer of bubbly foam. The 'white paint' consistency was not apparent and our clever managing editor has coined it a Starbucks' 'Fail White'!

Perhaps they just haven't learned the secret to the preparation...

We found the posted Starbucks' flat white recipe here: www.delishably.com/beverages/Starbucks-Drink-Guide-Flat-White

This exemplar flat white was served to the judges at the 2018 Meadow Fresh New Zealand Barista Championship



THE LEGENDS OF FLAT WHITE

Both Aussies & Kiwis claim credit

The flat white has not been immune to that old Kiwi-Aussie rivalry, along with pavlova, Phar Lap and Crowded House.

When Starbucks included the drink on its menus in January 2015 with an accompanying description that said: "Originating in Australia in the 1980s", it ignited the old Aussie vs NZ debate all over again.

Earliest documented references indeed date back to 1985 at the Moors Espresso Bar in Sydney, when this Canberra café put up signs stating "flat whites only". There was a seasonal problem with milk that prevented baristas from being able to create the perfect froth for cappuccinos.

However, some coffee experts claim the modern flat white we all know and love is thanks to a coffee pioneer in Auckland who 'improved' the Sydney flat white in 1988. NZ claims the iconic drink came from Auckland's Café DKD, when Derek Townsend and Darrell

Ahlers sought an alternative to the Italian Latte.

The legendary Derek was reportedly able to steam three jugs of milk in one hand, make more than 1,500 flat whites in an hour, and grind coffee to the correct particle size using nothing but his bare fists! He must have been downing quite a few of those coffees himself!



Derek Townsend

And then there was the claim from the windy city that flat whites originated from a failed cappuccino at the Bar Bodega on Willis Street in 1989. Former Wellington barista Fraser McInnes reckons he invented the term after the milk he was using for cappuccino failed to froth due to low fat levels. Serving the failed 'capp' he apologised with "Sorry, it's a flat white", and thus the new coffee was born!

Of course, consensus here in NZ is that if you really want a true flat white you'll have to order it in a real Kiwi café.

Let's all lift a flattie to that!

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TAIRUA INFO CENTRE in new location



Sam Taylor, manager of the Tairua Information Centre, tells us they are delighted with the new location within the library building. "Not only did we manage to fit into our new temporary space," she said, "we enjoy sharing the building with the library." The room was formerly a meeting space, and Sam sends out a "huge thank you" to the friendly library staff and community groups that had to find other meeting spaces.



"All our signage is now up" she adds, "and tourists are finding their way to us. There was some concern about the Information Centre moving off the main road, but we believe it's a positive thing as it gets traffic off the main thoroughfare."

Sam reminds residents that info centres are not only for visitors. "The library and Information centre are at the heart of a town – a place for people to communicate, share, enquire, volunteer and shop. Our building has now become a community 'hub' with both resources conveniently located together, a 'one stop shop'."

What's next? "We have secured a lease for land in the campground, where an Information & Heritage centre will be built. A concept plan is well underway, and we will now seriously start fundraising. (This will not be funded by the ratepayer.)"

"Tairua has an amazing story to tell and the Heritage centre will create a one-hub cultural destination for Tairua residents and visitors alike."

For more info, contact Sam at admin@tairua.co.nz, 07 864 7575 or www.tairua.co.nz.

CORO ROW



The Coromandel's #1 Fan!

BED AND BREAKFAST Masterclass

You know The Coromandel is booming when a 'Masterclass' for Bed & Breakfast operators is offered. And that's what Donna Brooke of Sunlover Retreat in Tairua is doing to help operators up their game.

Interested in capitalising on the scarcity of upper-end accommodation and having a double garage that could easily be converted to self-contained accommodation, Coro Row signed up! Learning the tricks of the trade from the maestro herself was simply too irresistible to resist.

Directed at start-ups, professionals and change makers, the Masterclass covers the B&B must-dos: operation, sales and marketing, financial, people, and compliance. Think your Bed & Breakfast could do with a tweak? Donna will inspire you to new heights. Workshops run once a month until September with limited places available. "What I offer is a few simple tricks that have the potential to double or triple an operator's current B&B income."

Donna and husband Chris get a kick out of delivering true kiwi hospitality, and for this they



were recently awarded Trip Advisor 2018's Traveller's Choice for The Coromandel's #1 Bed & Breakfast. Homemade Anzac biscuits, honey from their own bees, and a genuine commitment to deliver an unforgettable guest experience is just one point of difference at Sunlover Retreat.

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TAIRUA'S BAG BRIGADE

The Coromandel 'Bring Your Bag (BYB)' groups are not alone in trying to change plastic use on the peninsula. While some communities take aim at banning plastic straws or disposable coffee cups, this Tairua group has its sights set on the reduction of single-use plastic bags.

Small groups of "bag ladies" (and men and students), are busy making shopping bags. They meet regularly in Tairua, Coromandel Town, Whitianga, Whiritoa, Waihi Beach and Thames. Some come under the umbrella of Boomerang Bags, an Australian-led movement which has nearly 500 groups working worldwide.

Vicki Murray from **Plastics Free Tairua** (see their FB page) notes, "There's been a real bonding with these groups as they work through bag designs, fabric sources, quality control issues, life stories and the environmental learning curve. This offers a sense of community and positive action toward a brighter future. It's encouraging to hear of other small and large initiatives starting both locally and worldwide, however we really need more people to keep the momentum going, especially with reminding the decision makers at all levels of government." Look for a group near you and see how you can help. And don't forget to BYB!



Tairua students moved to action

Right: Tairua School students volunteer to sew fabric bags as part of their Marine Biology Tai-tech elective. Foreground, Anna Wood is shown how to use the sewing machine.



Tairua School students Anna Wood and Shae "the shark" Tee raised awareness of plastic pollution as part of Samantha Telfar's Marine biology Tai-tech elective, on Tairua's Plastic Free Day in June. Anna's outfit represents the number of plastic bags used per person per year.



WHO'S THIS STANDING WITH THE ROYAL COUPLE AND PRINCE CHARLES?

Why, it's Kay van Lubeck – looking smashing at a local Royal Wedding celebration. We note that Charles has his hand resting comfortably on Kay's shoulder and conclude that the 'old boy' must have shed his declared pre-wedding jitters. Kay is clearly hoping to calm her jitters at meeting the royals, with whatever tipple she has in her glass!

"We were asked to dress up as if we were guests at the real wedding!!" Kay shares. "It was at a friend's beautiful home overlooking Hot Water Beach. We drank champagne and were served beautiful food prepared by talented local chef Nick Roberts, who also owns Sand Shifters. He was asked to cater for the party by my friends who had been using him to transport them from Hot Water Beach to Tairua."

Fashion note: The fur was from Milly's on Main Street, and the hat was from Tairua Troubadours wardrobe. And the cut-outs?... Courtesy of the host.

Where the locals go.



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Planet or Plastics



THE STATISTICS ARE STAGGERING!

A trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. Nearly a million plastic beverage bottles are sold every minute. Eight million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in the ocean every year. Single-use plastics have brought great convenience to people around the world, but they also contribute to the plastic waste that's now choking our oceans. Plastic pollution is in plain sight and it affects us all. In an effort to raise awareness about the global plastic crisis, *National Geographic* magazine June 2018 featured Laura Parker's excellent article "Planet or Plastic?" "We made plastic. We depend on it. Now we're drowning in it," writes Parker. "The miracle material has made modern life easier,

but more than 40% of it is used just once, and it's choking our waterways. For animals, plastic is turning the ocean into a minefield." Ocean plastic is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year. Some are harmed visibly – strangled by abandoned fishing nets or discarded six-pack rings. Turtles mistake bags for real jellyfish and die an horrific death. We've all seen the images, but much of the harm is unseen. Marine species of all sizes, from zooplankton to whales, now eat micro plastics, the bits smaller than 5mm across. Ocean plastic is a looming ocean 'Armageddon'. Get the facts here: www.plasticoceans.org/the-facts/ PLANET OR PLASTIC? *Coromandel Life* agrees with Laura! Choose our planet!

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Cheese champs



Kelvin and Cathy Haigh from The Cheese Barn at Matatoki were crowned 2018 *Champion of Champions – Commercial* for their cumin seed gouda. They won a gold medal for this cheese, and a bronze for their regular gouda. Learn how their award-winning organic cheeses are made, check out their gift shop, and make time to pet the adorable farm animals and their babies. Visit the café and farm at Matatoki, approx 5km south of Kopu, and 11 km from Thames. Find out more about this organic cheesemaker on their "The Cheese Barn at Matatoki" FB page. See www.thecheesebarn.co.nz.



Mackenzie and Jacob Read have an 'adventurous' Winter picnic. Great to see the future generation continuing the Read Bros traditions, one cup at a time.

Read Bros 'Winter Mug Shot' Contest



"We know Read Bros customers are an adventurous bunch and we also know how much they like those commemorative enamel mugs! So join in on the fun this Winter!" Read Bros Hardware in Thames is winding up their 150th Anniversary year with a fun activity everyone can get involved in – 'The Winter Mug Shot' competition. Post your Mug Shot and be in to win a prize pack to keep you adventuring through Winter. Your photo must include the Read Bros enamel mug, and say where you are and what you are doing. Best shot wins the prize – skill, creativity and location will be considered. The store has just received a fresh stock of Read Bros mugs – so call in soon, pick up your mug, and get adventurous! Then post your mug shot on the Read Bros Facebook page or email it to admin@readbros.co.nz before September 30th 2018.



The annual Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) Community Guided Snorkel Day took place on Sunday 25 February. This Coromandel area dive took place at Gemstone Bay's Snorkel Trail, part of the Te Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve near Hahei.

Gemstone Bay's Snorkel Trail features signage and floating buoys with hand grips that offer the weary a place to rest. EMR Coordinator Amber Boyd, 9 volunteers, and over 70 snorkelers of all ages and nationalities took part. "Even Tania, a grandmother and first time snorkeler," says Amber. "Our Marine Reserve is home to so many types of fish – the kids saw baby eagle rays, BIG snapper, BIG crayfish and Pipe."

The annual Snorkel Day is just part of the mission of the EMR. The ongoing purpose is to enlist NZ coastal schools to be advocates for creating even more marine reserves. DOC and the Te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve committee help fund and coordinate the programme and about a dozen peninsula schools are involved. For info about the Coromandel EMR school programmes see www.emr.org.nz. See feature about the reserve in the 2018 Summer issue of *Coromandel Life*.



"It just gets bigger and better" – mentioned one of the 2500 attendees this year. Another said, "What a way to enjoy a day out – listening to music, eating amazing food and drinking some quality wine next to a beautiful beach. It's like one big happy family."

The well thought out line up of music proved very popular, and had people up dancing earlier in the day with no room to spare, as the photo above shows.

"The great 'A Taste of Matarangi Cook Off' was a new event this year. The competition featured a cook off between three local home cooks", explained Event Coordinator Bronwyn Ririnui. "Also three teams from the Te Rerenga School competed by creating their own dish."

Fish catchers, fish cooks and fish lovers enjoyed a Fish Demonstration where they learned the ins and outs of seafood prep.

Search and Rescue benefit big! \$16,000 was donated – \$10,000 to the Auckland/Coromandel Rescue Helicopter and \$6,000 to Kuaotunu Search & Rescue services.

And the Taste keeps coming! Next year's festival will be 6 April 2019. See www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz and visit the festival's FB page to view photos. To be a sponsor or volunteer for the 2019 festival, email info@atasteofmatarangi.co.nz or contact Bronwyn on 021 158 4774.



A crowd pleasing clown makes balloon creations, while three Te Rerenga School students show off their cooking chops in the ATOM Cook Off tent.

- Photos by Felicity Jean Photography



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Saturday: Kidzone (4-6pm), DJs pump up the sound in the streets (5:30), parade (6pm), Power Co. fireworks (6:30), and a band at the Peppertree and the Star and Garter (7pm). The market and food stalls will be open til 8:30.

Create your own lit costumes, umbrellas, lanterns, glasses...let your imagination run wild. See www.illuminate.com for event schedule, and special DIY section for tips on making your own light shine – with a little help from a battery pack.

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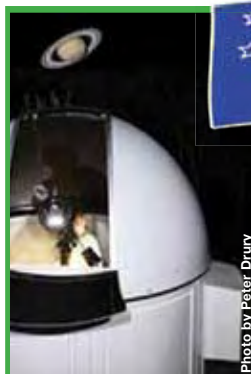


Photo by Peter Drury



"In this shot, I was trialling a new filter (Natural Light) – capturing the Moon rising over Slipper Island, before the Milky Way is over-polluted with light from the Moon. I used a speed light to highlight the tree."

– Paul Schrader

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY from PAUANUI

MOONRISE OVER SLIPPER ISLAND by Paul C Schrader.

"The Coromandel is a great place for astrophotography, and Pauanui has been designed for viewing the stars – street lighting has been purposely limited to overcome light pollution. As an amateur still learning the finer details, it is great to live in an area within walking distance to photograph the Milky Way, the stars and Moon. The Milky Way makes you realise how insignificant we are...how it relates to the Moon, how it relates to our earth's rotation and the other planets and stars."

Photo specs on above photo for those interested parties: 17mm on a Canon 5dii, 30 second exposure, 2.8f/s, 3200iso, 2 flashes of speed light, NiSi Natural Light filter

View Paul's prints at the Post Plus shop in the Pauanui Shopping Centre, or see his photos on 'Creative Images by Paul C Schrader' on Instagram and Facebook.

Attend Paul's Astro Photography Workshop with the Whitianga Camera Club on 14 July. Also join him and the Pauanui Photography Club. Contact Paul about either at 0274 988016.

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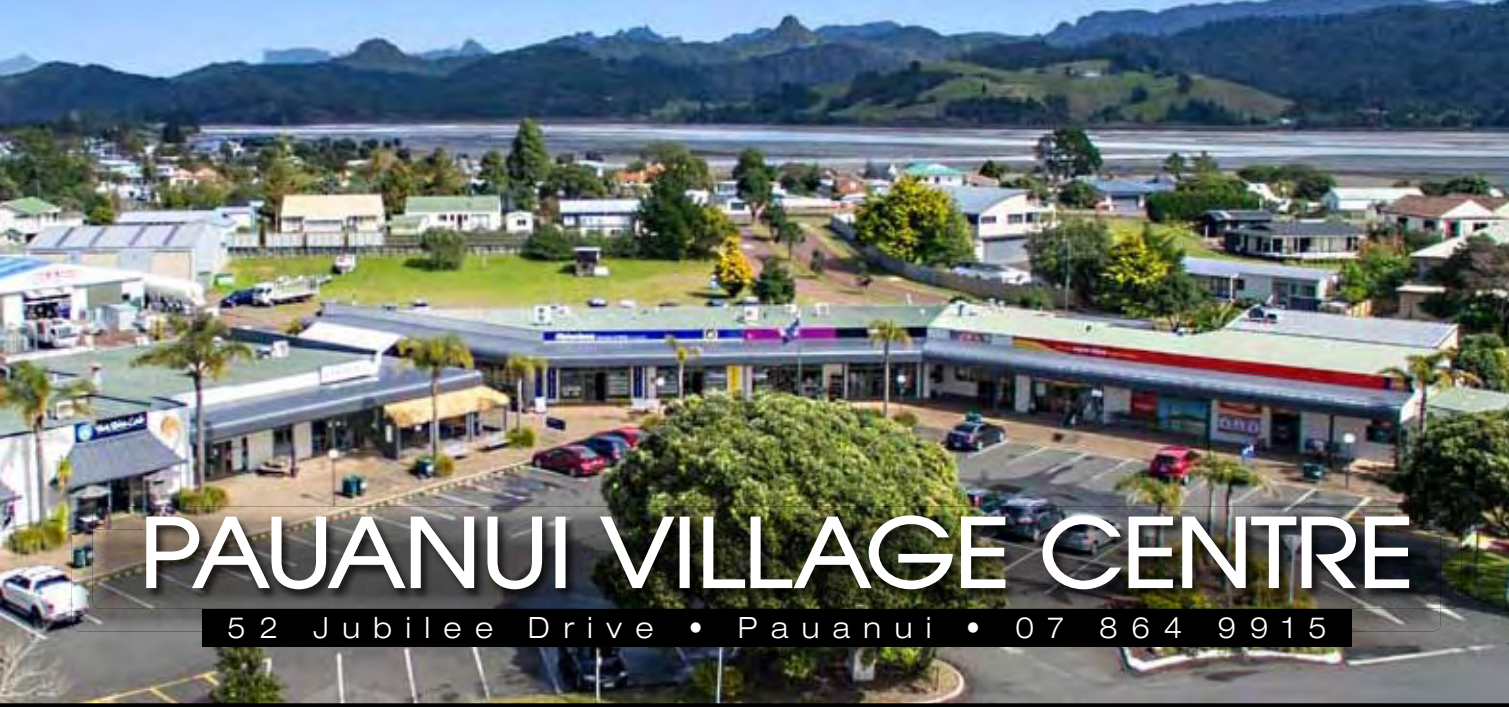
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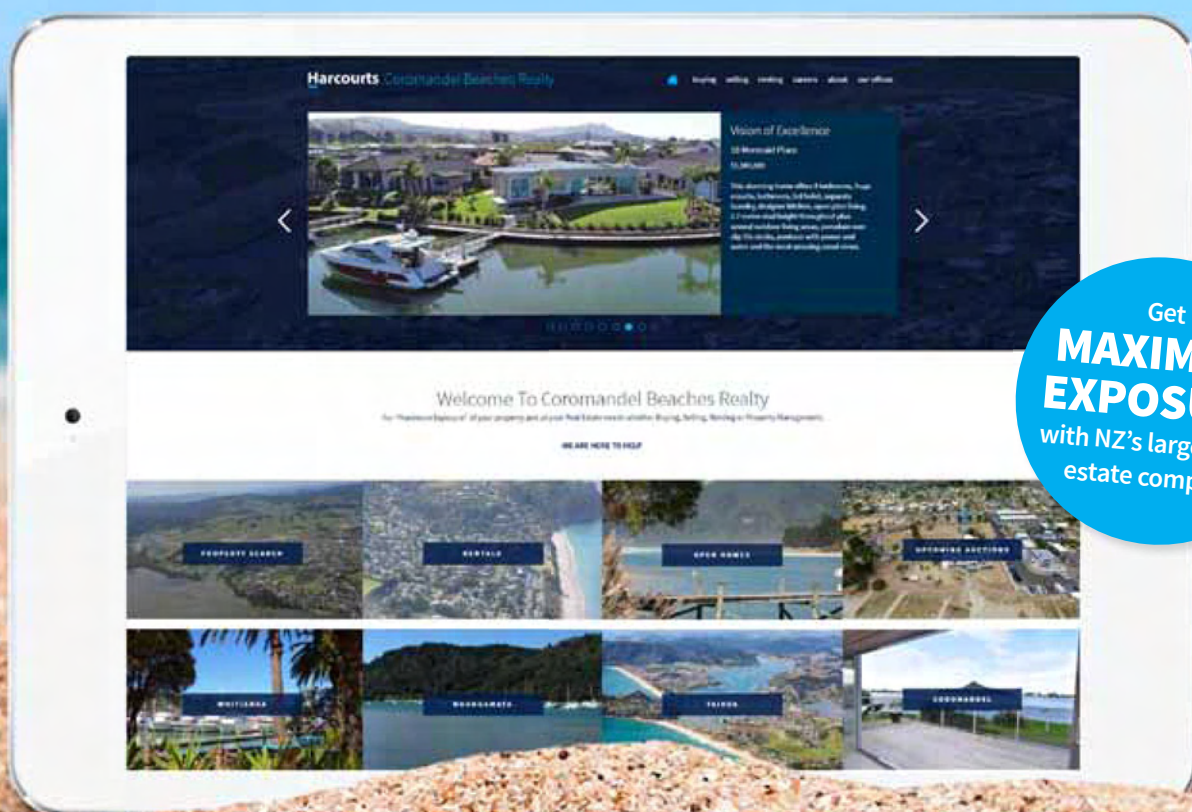
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