

# MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

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MBP 189  
NOVEMBER 2025

## Bluff Road Connectivity Project - Progressing a Safe Bluff Road Connection

Matarangi and Kūaotunu Resident and Ratepayer groups have been exploring a proposal to establish a suspension bridge at Bluff Cove to enable a safe cycling and pedestrian reconnection of Bluff Road between the two communities.

In December 2021 a significant rock fall in the area resulted in the closure of Bluff Road 500m beyond Rings Beach bridge just west of Fisherman's Rock. The ongoing risk of rockfall and slips means the coastal road link through to Matarangi remains permanently closed. Despite signage and fencing, the track continues to be used informally, highlighting the community's desire for a safe and permanent solution.

"A community funded Feasibility Study has now been completed with a concept design developed and costed. Local iwi Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Huarere and TCDC have been consulted in the development of the concept," said MRRAI chair Mark Bedford.

This study was prepared by the bridge structures consultant DC Structures Studio Ltd whose core focus is suspension bridge design and bridge architecture. The firm has won many awards for its bridge designs including Gold at the 2024 Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE) Awards for its 100 metre suspension bridge across the Manganui Gorge on Mount Taranaki.

"There now needs to be geotechnical investigations and the assessment of the track to better inform the viability of the project and to finalise the feasibility. If viable then at that point considerable community consultation will commence."

These geotechnical investigations were included in the TCDC 2024-2034 Long Term Plan and the investigation is expected to be carried out at the Bluff Cove abutment sites for the proposed bridge commencing 28 October and work with heavy machinery scheduled to take place between 12 and 14 November 2025.

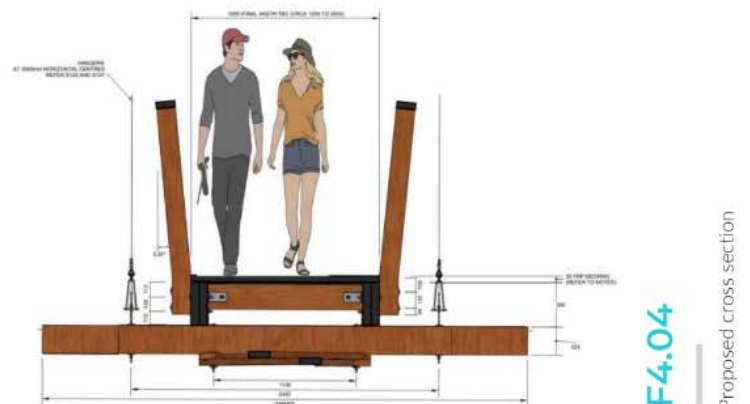
The site investigators have special TCDC permission to carry out their work and strict health and safety protocols will be put in place to ensure the safety of those on site and public access during this period will be closed. Local residents and visitors should keep an eye out for further TCDC communications. Further detail is currently on TCDC's website as a Project Page under "Community Projects". As summer approaches, please remember that the Bluff Road link to Matarangi remains closed due to the high rockfall and slip risk. The Department of Conservation's Matarangi Bluff Walking Track remains an alternative route but includes stairs and requires a suitable level of fitness.

### The Suspension Bridge Concept Design

DC Structures Studio have produced a bridge concept design illustrated in the images and should it proceed its detail design and construction will need to be community funded. The bridge is a lightweight cable-supported structure designed to span Bluff Cove without intermediate piers thereby avoiding tidal flow complications and minimizing environmental impact. The concept includes a 50 year design life in a severe marine environment and will be low maintenance using stainless steel suspension cables, glulam timber and fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) decking. It has key functional requirements that include a 56m span, 1.5m deck width, and a 1.2m high Type B barrier suitable for cyclists and fishbone crossbeams supporting lateral cables to provide robust wind stability. The bridge will be designed as a 4kPa unlimited load structure to minimise operational risk.

The site alignment of the DC Structures Studio design has been carefully selected to bypass the existing rockfall. From the eastern track headland it spans across the cove to a western abutment near the headland. The aim of the bridge is to respect the natural topography and cultural sensitivities of the site. The bridge will be oriented east-west and will be designed with a mast on the eastern side, with suspension cables anchoring directly into rock with better integrity at the western rock face. This asymmetric design not only meets structural and environmental requirements but also aligns with iwi preferences for minimal visual intrusion and a "light-touch" approach.

(Continued on Page 3)





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## Northern Mercury Bay Business Association

Pre-Christmas gathering at Pipers Cafe, Tuesday 9th December from 5:30-7:00pm.

## CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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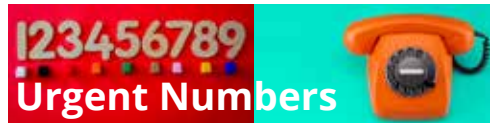
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## CONTRIBUTORS:

The Matarangi Beach Paper thanks the following contributors: Sue Karl; Kelly Bowen Design; Kuaotunu Garden Club; The Dunes, Mark Hall, Te Rerenga School; Alastair Brickell; Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club; Shelley Corles; Kuaotunu Garden Club; CJ Palmer; Matarangi Reserves Management Group; MRRAI, and Kay Airey, because without these contributions and stories, your local paper wouldn't be quite the same. Thank you!



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## Bluff Road Connectivity Project ... continued

Together MRRAI and KRRA have proactively collaborated with Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Huarere, holding several hui to understand iwi perspectives and incorporate their values into the design.

Ngāti Hei emphasized the importance of preserving the natural beauty of the cove, advocating for minimal visual impact and the use of local materials. The concept of "invisibility" was a recurring theme, leading to the removal of the western mast and the integration of the eastern mast behind a Pohutukawa tree. Ngāti Huarere highlighted the significance of the rock formations and the need for careful anchoring. Both iwi expressed concerns about increased litter and the potential for dirt bike access, which will be addressed in future design phases.

Before its closure Bluff Road had large numbers of users particularly during the peak summer period and was a part of a loop walk for the public who would use the Bluff Road as a

return section of the wonderful Rings Beach walk. It was also a popular walking and cycling connection between the two communities. Bluff Road is an early example of Coromandel roading infrastructure. It was built by hand with pick and shovel during the first decade of the 20th century and stands as a monument to the earlier generations. It was then the only link from Kuaotunu through to not just Matarangi but to Whangapoua and Coromandel for most of last century.

Both the MRRAI and KRRA have been strong advocates for the retention of this roading asset to enable the public to cycle and walk between our two communities as essential, especially given the emphasis placed by both central government and TCDC on connecting communities in ways that promote healthy activities such as walking and cycling.

MRRAI, KRRA and TCDC look forward to the completion of the geotechnical investigation, the assessment of the track access and confirmation of the viability of the project. Considerable community consultation will then follow as the project needs strong community support to restore this key safe connection between our two communities.

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## Matarangi Reserves Management Group: The Who, What, When & Why

In light of some recent Facebook comments, the Matarangi Reserves Management Group feel it is important to inform the wider Matarangi community what we do in and for Matarangi.

This group has been operating for over 27 years, made up of volunteer residents who assist TCDC with the development of ideas, beautification and maintenance of Matarangi's open spaces, parks and reserves. We have regular monthly meetings with a TCDC representative in attendance.

Here are some examples of regular volunteer events we organize in Matarangi. The MRMG have recently completed our bi-annual clean-up of all the tennis and pickleball courts. We will soon be doing a rubbish clean-up of our Causeway entrance road in early November. We also organise an annual Beach Clean-up.

MRMG volunteers frequently submit an RFS or Request for Service to the TCDC for; broken pavements; storm damaged trees; vandalised or missing road signs; overgrown phoenix palm trees needing trimming; unstable eroded dunes / access ways, pooling of water at the entrance to Village Green; remarking and repairs to courts; street lights obscured by overgrown trees; anything of a safety concern in a public place - fences, seats, tables, board walks; out of date reserve signage; pest control issues (rabbits, geese). Essentially the MRMG are Matarangi's 'eyes and ears' for issues relating to open spaces, parks and reserves.

The MRMG instigates new ideas and improvements like the basketball baseboard and hoop at the tennis courts opposite the Refuse Centre;

permanent pickleball nets; a new picnic table (dedicated to longstanding MRMG member Paul Kelly) in the Village Green; and new seats at our tennis courts.

In October, the MRMG completed a lengthy project to install a Lifesaving Ring on the Boat Ramp jetty, kindly funded by the community. The Omaro Reserve and the conversion of a tennis court to a multi-sport court for netball and basketball are two long-term projects going through a community consultation process that we work on alongside many other community groups.

Matarangi, like most small communities, is mainly run by volunteers who put their own time in to assist in a variety of ways so if you would like to join our group or any other of the numerous volunteer groups in order to have your say and help out, then please reach out.

For transparency, here are the names of the current members of the MRMG (who also have been or are currently in other community volunteer groups such as the Menz Shed, Dunes Restoration, The Dunes Golf Course committee/maintenance group, Community Patrol, The Dunes Community Centre etc): Kay Airey(Chairperson), Tadek Gower, Robin Fleming, Chris Palmer, Mark Rea, Stu Vaughan, Chloe Watts, and Leonie Hogg.

Featured: Volunteers of the Matarangi Reserves Management Group during a working bee held last Easter to maintain our community tennis courts.

## The Matarangi Fire Report

This month we had our "Watch Room" communications upgraded. It must be a few decades since this last happened as the old radios and receivers were worthy of been donated to MOTAT.

New aerials have also been installed on the large 10m pole at the rear of the station. Just the one call out this month with a medical in the early hours of the morning, needing the helicopter.

Last month we held our annual golf tournament to raise funds for the brigade. A huge thank you to all our sponsors for their generosity in providing prizes, raffle items and

auction items. A successful day that raised just over \$4500.

Our social club also turned over \$600 providing golfers with fresh whitebait fritters.

As we lead up to the new Cadetship that we start early next year, I would like to invite next years, "Year 9" students and upwards to contact me to register their interest.

This is an exciting initiative that we look forward to.

Stay Safe,  
Mark Hall

Chief Fire Officer  
Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade



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## Designing a Logo That Reflects Our Coastline

By Kelly Bowen Design



When the newly formed Northern Mercury Bay Business Association approached me to create their logo, I wanted to design something that truly represented who we are as a community - coastal and connected by the beauty of where we live.

The inspiration came from one shared perspective we all have along the northern beaches, our view towards the Mercury Islands. No matter which bay you stand on, that same horizon line connects us all. I wanted to capture that view in a clean, minimalist design.

The final logo reflects this and is instantly recognisable. It's not just a mark, it's a visual reminder of our shared identity and the coastal landscape that ties our communities together.

It was such a privilege to create something that represents the businesses of our area.

The Northern Mercury Bay Business Association meets regularly, and everyone is encouraged to come along and show support for our local businesses. It's a great way to connect and be part of the growth happening in our community.

On the 7th of October the NMBBA held a networking get together at Pipers Cafe which drew around two dozen local business owners. Our next social get together will be a pre Christmas event held on Tuesday 9th December at Pipers Cafe from 5:30-7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. On 20th December the NMBBA will also host the Matarangi Santa Parade so start thinking about your float as a way to promote your business and support this fun event.

Stay up to date with upcoming events and meetings by visiting their Facebook page for the latest news and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=6158112984598>

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It was a fun evening with the ever-lively Nicky from Procure Wine showcasing Soho Family Vineyards from Waiheke, Marlborough and Central Otago. The business was founded by Rachael Carter. As a youngster, Rachael worked under the leadership of her late father, John Carter, a pioneer of the New Zealand Wine Industry. She went on to manufacture screwcaps for the New Zealand Wine Industry with the slogan BEST SCREW ON THE PLANET!

Next, she took on her father's growing portfolio of vineyards & created her own wine brand.

Here are the wines we enjoyed. (source <https://www.sohowineco.com>)

The first was Mara, a sparkling Rosé from Waiheke, made from Merlot and Syrah grapes. It was very dry with hints of wild strawberries & raspberries. A great festive treat!

The second wine was the Black Label Stella Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough. Delicious zesty fruit meets gorgeous minerality, with white fleshy stone fruits, fresh lime & tropical lushness. Great on a summer's afternoon!

Next was the Jagger Pinot Gris, from the Clutha Ridge Vineyard in Central Otago, with notes of honeydew, pear & fresh fig with grilled nectarine. Apparently, ideal for men with full lipped swagger!

On to the Carter Chardonnay, a hand harvested Waiheke wine, a concentration of nectarine flesh, creamy panna cotta & roasted hazelnuts. Subtle toasty oak & fresh mineral nuances lead to a superbly long & linear finish.

The Westwood Rose (named after Vivienne!) was dry, with macerated cherries & raspberries offset by blood orange & pomegranate, with a refreshingly long, juicy finish.

The McQueen Pinot Noir from winemaker Matt Connell is layered with rich cherry, blackberry & underlying savoury flavours. Intriguing spice, silky tannins & vibrant acidity lead to a superbly sustained finish.

Finally, we tried Valentina Syrah, a palate of black berries, black pepper & seductive spices, nutty oak balanced by fine chocolatey tannins. Violet & black florals lead to a stylish lingering finish with mineral elements. A stunning finish to a fun evening!

All these wines are available at Puku and Kerre's.

Reported by Sue Karl

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# THE FISHING REPORT

## Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

The club held two events over Labour Weekend with great success.

On Saturday 25th October the annual Zone 3 Interclub Snapper competition was held involving 5 clubs along the coast. For the first time MB&FC came away with the trophy. Congratulations to Hayden and Dave with the winning 11.802 kg fish.

On Sunday 26th October the annual NES Hire Ltd Labour Weekend, points-based tournament was held. Fishing for 7 species and limits on each species to weigh in, to build up their final score. Thank you to NES Hire Ltd for your support and sponsorship and thank you to all who took part.

The club is now focused on the next 3 upcoming events. The Bar Crossing Seminar on 28/12/25, Blue Lewis Tournament on 03/01/26 and Small Fry Fishing on 05/01/26.

Further information regarding these events will be posted in December via direct email to club members, MB&FC website and our Facebook page.

\$500 Average Weight Snapper challenge for the upcoming 2025/2026 season. All details can be found on our website and Facebook page. <https://www.mbfc.co.nz/newsarticle/155388?newsfeedId=2035672>

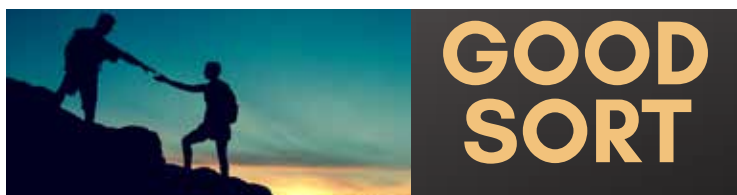
You can keep up to date with news on our website [www.mbfc.co.nz](http://www.mbfc.co.nz) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/matarangiboatandfishingclub>

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The WHITIANGA COASTGUARD can be contacted on CHANNEL 63 and the NOW WEATHER REPORT is on CHANNEL 20.

Safe boating and limit your catch, don't catch your limit.

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The nomination for Good Sort of the Month for November has been sent in by Simone Parr of Richardsons.

Bob Segetin has weed eaten and mown a lawn for one of Simone's vendors out of the kindness of his heart as he saw that it was very long and on the market. Apparently Bob does this type of thing quite often, which is very kind and community minded. Thank you Bob. We salute you!



In the MBP of November 2015 we reported that Room 4 at Te Rerenga School travelled to Wellington last month for their biennial senior school camp. For the class of year 5-8 students it was a week crammed full of exciting adventures with visits to Te Papa where they saw the Gallipoli exhibition, the Planetarium, Tenpin bowling, the Cable car, Capital E for 3d game design and newscast recording, a train trip to a wave pool and hydrosides, a sleepover and night tour of the Zoo. Finally they had a visit to Parliament where Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel met the students and answered all their burning questions before showing them around where all the laws are made.

During October the The Matarangi Boating and Fishing Club held their annual prize giving dinner. Members were treated to a smorgasbord of seafood including smoked fish, scallops, mussels, paua and crayfish. Club President, Harry Karl presented fifteen trophies and vice president Grant Robinson paid tribute to the late Malcolm Troop (a former member who passed away earlier in the year). 'Troopy' was an enthusiastic fisherman and a great supporter of the club. Rueben Veevers won the Atlas Gentech Shield for the 'Heaviest Snapper' trophy caught during the year. Grant Robinson told the MBP that "the 12.38kg snapper that Rueben caught was a new club record and will probably never be beaten. Certainly not in my life time anyway."

Three local MBAS surfers, James Scott from Whangapoua, Atawhai Charteris from Kuaotunu and Jay Piper-Helion from Whitianga, were selected to represent the Coromandel Peninsula region at the National Scholastics Surfing Championships which were held in Gisborne during the school holidays. The National Scholastic Surfing Championships are the pinnacle of junior surfing in New Zealand and it was great to see three young locals in the mix. Though not making the finals the boys were competitive and represented our community superbly.



Congratulations to our two new TCDC Councilors Tony Bjrevlich of Whangapoua and Flemming Rausmussen of Kuaotunu on their recent success in the local body elections.

The Mercury Bay North is fortunate to have really strong local representation with 20% of the councillors now residing in our small patch of paradise.

Also birthday congratulations are in order for Mark Bedford, the chair of the Matarangi Ratepayers and Residents Association. Mark hosted all his children and grandchildren at his Ocean Place home for what he said was a wonderful weekend of celebrations for a significant birthday milestone. However, his discretion was such that he was unable to confirm the exact numerical detail of his birth date other than he possesses a Super Gold Card.

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## Lifesaving Ring Installed



Around 12 months ago Chris Palmer at one of the Matarangi Reserves Management Group meetings raised the subject of how the community could look to replace the existing old and redundant lifesaving equipment along Matarangi beach. His original suggestion was to look at having 4-5 Lifesaving belts placed along its length.

Kay Airey the Committees Chairperson investigated the costs and discovered it required equipment purchasing through Lifesaving N as they want to standardize all their lifesaving equipment through out NZ.

"The cost of just one of these was going to be around \$4000 excluding compliance and installation costs. Therefore to instal four or five of these lifesaving rings along our beach we were looking at an outlay of \$16-\$20000," said Chris.

"Upon further discussions at subsequent committee meetings it was suggested that our beach is relatively safe with very few incidents and that if there is likely to be a mishap it is more probable that it would occur around the Boat Ramp area. We made a decision to look at securing funds for a lifesaving ring for that area at a considerably lower cost of around \$1400."

A fundraising evening was organised by Jackie Buckley on June 12th and kindly held at Martin van Doorn's property in Pacific Parade raised the required \$1400. It was a fun 60s/70s themed disco evening with around 70 invitees each reaching to the back of their wardrobes for their dancing gear from yesteryear in which to boogie the night away.

This money plus a further gold coin donation event held separately by Jack Threadgold from Good as Gold Painters covered the cost for the new lifesaving ring and a spare replacement ring in case it goes missing.

This was a great result and example of our community coming together for a common cause.

## Margaret's Garden Goodness



As you most of you would know, Te Rerenga has a community garden in the bottom paddock beside the school house. It is a place that anyone can come and collect vegetables, help with weeding and plant in new seedlings. It is not only just for the Te Rerenga community, but for all to use.

Margaret Briggs, lives opposite the school, has spent many an hour planting, weeding and watering and we would like to acknowledge her for that. We are very grateful for her commitment to not just the community garden, but also the hours she gives with the senior children at school teaching them about pruning, keeping the orchard tidy and any other little jobs that need doing in the outdoors! Thumbs up to her.

Anyone is allowed to come and help in any way they can. Just turn up and do some weeding, or bring along some seedling and pop them in!



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# Matarangi & Kuaotunu Abuzz for Coromandel Garden Groups Combined Day



Matarangi and Kuaotunu were buzzing with colour and community spirit on Monday as around 120 women from garden groups across the Coromandel Peninsula gathered for the 2025 Combined Garden Day, hosted by the Kuaotunu Garden Group.

Guests visited five local gardens from coastal and cottage styles to subtropical and edible plantings with warm hospitality and garden stories appreciated at every stop.

The day continued at the Kuaotunu Hall, where attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch before exploring the market tables offering preserves, plants, crafts, baking and other tasty morsels — along with a quirky clothing rack that drew smiles: Loved Once, Rejected Twice, Yours Forever!

A generous raffle table, supported by local businesses, added excitement with fabulous prizes on offer, while spirited competition unfolded in the themed “Bloom” flower competition.

Guest speaker Jo McCarroll, editor of NZ Gardener magazine, captivated the audience with an insightful talk on the history and future of gardening in New Zealand, reflecting on evolving traditions, creativity and sustainability.

The Kuaotunu Garden Group has also created a special journal, Nourish, Nurture, Note, now available for pre-order for \$30. For more details, email KuaotunuGardenClub@gmail.com.

Heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, sponsors and garden hosts who made the day such a success.



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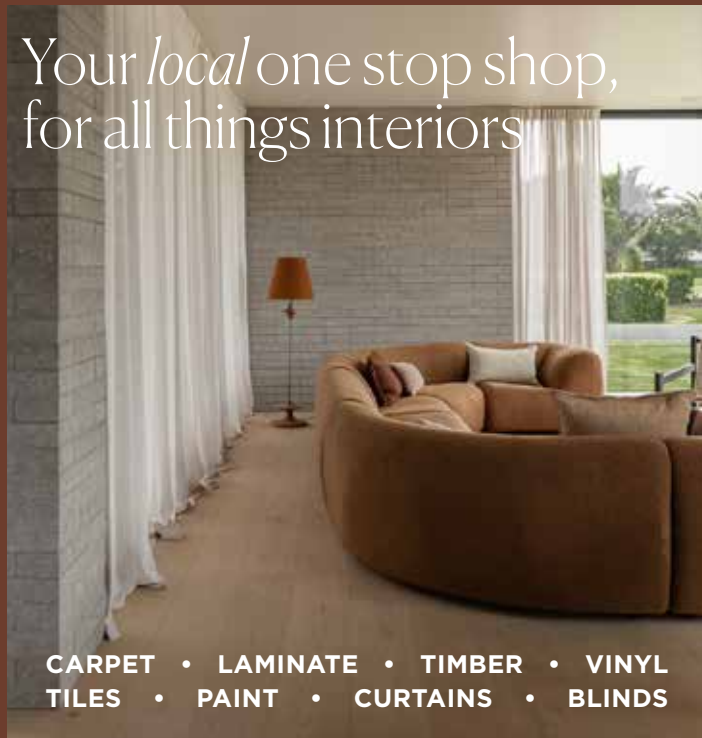


Featured: Last week contractors were hard at work laying down the new concrete carpark at the Matarangi Shops ready for the expected boost in visitors this summer. Everyone passing by has noted the dramatic improvement it has made to the visual appeal of the village. Great to see local businesses All Terrain Bobcat Services, Povey Concrete, Peninsula Concrete Layers and Peninsula Concrete Pumping involved in this upgrade work.

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## Where in the WORLD is the Matarangi Beach Paper?



Mark Rea and Glenice Thompson with the MBP taken at Farmlee House, Ballylooby, County Tipperary in the Republic of Ireland. Mark's grandfather and great grandfather were born here and the farm is still in the Rea name.

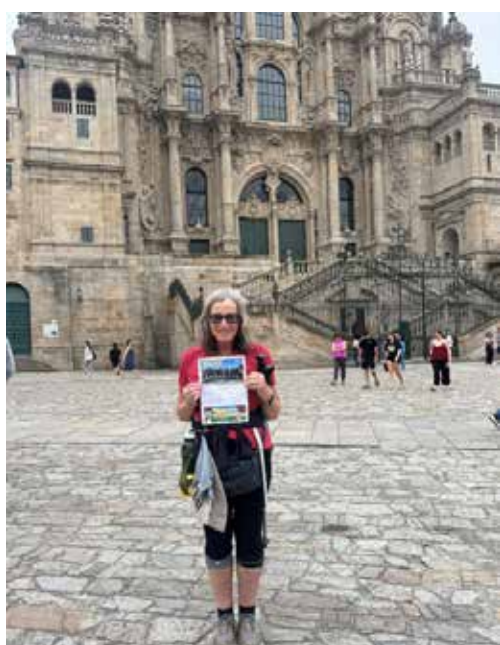
From Ireland they travelled to Le Harve in Normandy, where Glenice's grandparents sailed from to migrate to Akaroa. Their wonderful holiday finished with a river cruise along the beautiful Rhine and Danube rivers.



After a 52 year absence Alastair Brickell of Stargazers Astronomy Tours brought his wife Harriette to rediscover the unspoilt paradise that is the Solomon Islands. Alastair lived in the Solomons back in the early seventies doing geological work and lots of diving in his spare time.

Here are the Brickell's at Seghe airfield with the MBP, no doubt reading the ever popular Stargazer Sights column. Alastair says that Seghe airfield has been recently resurfaced and upgraded with New Zealand foreign aid and that the terminal building behind them is next project to be funded by MFAT.





If you noticed a lot of local women in training with backpacks and walking poles walking the Bluff Hill and enroute to Kuaotunu this autumn, you would be correct. Three local lasses - Pauline Dickinson and Barbara Te Awhitu have completed the Camino Frances (The French Way - 779kms) and Kay Airey completed the Camino Portugues (The Portuguese Way via Littoral route - 350 kms). Our local training terrain set us up well with lots of steps, slopes, tree roots and coastal views. Although we needed more cobblestone training for walking in rural medieval towns which tested our ankle strength.

A historical pilgrim (or peregrino) walking a Camino (Spanish meaning The Path or the Way) from the 12th Century must carry only essentials in their back-pack, so our pre-Camino challenge was weighing everything to the gram to carry only the minimal amount often leaving things behind as we discovered how little we actually needed. Who knew type, number and weight of undies would be such a coffee catch-up conversation question! The answer is 2-3 pairs if you were wondering, for a 12-42 day's pilgrimage. Luxuries are few but the Camino family you adopt along the way and sights seen, make up for our 2 only changes of clothes for the entire journey.

Camino infrastructure means a pilgrim does not need to carry food, as we wined and dined along the way. Some pilgrims carry their own backpack, while others get their bags transferred day-to-day. Pilgrims stay at albergue (hostel style accommodation) which can be run by nuns in a monastery. Albergues range from basic to high end, many are historic monasteries or churches. Ear plugs are essential, and a tolerance for smelly socks and boots. All have an amazing Camino camaraderie as each pilgrim exchanges stories of the days walk and blister care advice.

Each pilgrim carries a passport - Credencia del Peregrino which must be stamped a minimum of twice a day to prove you have walked your distance and at the end receive a Compostela certificate. A pilgrim traditionally carries a scallop shell so we all had a customised Matarangi scallop shell each individually designed by Toa Te Awhitu. Laylines on the scallop shell represent the many Camino routes which converge at the final destination - Santiago de Compostela cathedral in Spain. Pilgrim reactions vary on completion from euphoria, relief, tears of joy, exhaustion as they take photos in front of the cathedral to commemorate their pilgrimage.

## Pilgrim Pauline on the Camino Frances (16th May to 27 June) - 43 days including rest days

Q: Highlight? A: Waking up to a beautiful sunrise in Orisson and walking over the Pyrenees into Spain. Stunning.  
Q: Lowlight? A: Having a fall down some stairs in an albergue and straining my neck and shoulder - BUT it got sorted and off I went.  
Q: Best Food / Meal? A: Three course pilgrims' meal at the 100 km Albergue not far from Sarria.  
Q: Backpack essential item? A: Creepers toe socks  
Q: Backpack splurge item? A: Merino undies  
Q: Most challenging section? A: Descent from Alto de Erro down into Zubiri is known as the Dragon's Teeth. It's a steep uneven rocky part of the trail and I picked my way very carefully down it.  
Q: Random moment? A: Being given a rain poncho by a fellow pilgrim as I didn't have my rain gear with me and I was getting very wet.  
Q: Worth it? A: Absolutely worth it - challenging, fun, and deeply reflective and an opportunity to live in the moment with minimal gear, walk at my own pace and just be present and grateful for being able to traverse Spain through small villages, towns and a few cities. I would split it in two - half is the walking and half is the most beautiful kind pilgrims and local people I met along the way who helped make this journey so wonderful. 'The Camino provides'.

## Pilgrim Kay on the Camino Portuguese Littoral - follows the Atlantic Coastline( 19th June to 3rd July - walking 12 days)

Q: Highlight? A: Stone and Water route on the Variante Espiritual in Spain  
Q: Lowlight? A: Uneven cobblestones resulting in ankle stress fracture  
Q: Best Food? A: Pasteis de Nata (custard tart), freshly squeezed orange juice and Pulpo Gallego - Galician grilled octopus  
Q: Backpack essential item? A: Loop Ear Plugs  
Q: Backpack splurge item? A: A book and 2 extra pairs merino socks  
Q: Most challenging section? A: 38 kms (49,720 steps) from Vigo to Pontevedra in Spain in 1 day  
Q: Random moment? A: Meeting Mike & Sue Beadle (ex Matarangi residents) in a tiny coffee cart by beach in the middle of nowhere in Portugal. Our paths crossed 4 times over the Camino including seeing them walk into the Santiago de Compostela cathedral.  
Q: Worth it? A: Absolutely, although I am definitely more a tramper than a pilgrim.

## Pilgrim Barb on the Camino Frances - 4th August - 2nd Sept (30 days)

Q: Highlight? A: Getting to the start line after all the

preparation alongside my daughter Tarina and crazy sister Mustang Sally.

Q: Lowlight? A: Having to miss out the the Cruz de Ferro (The Iron Cross), an iconic and emotionally section where pilgrims leave stones to symbolize their burdens.  
Q: Best Food / Meal? A: Mason 42 restaurant in Santiago with another Scottish pilgrim and my daughter. Seafood, salad and wine  
Q: Backpack essential item? A: Walking poles and all in 1 shampoo, bodywash and laundry liquid  
Q: Splurge item? A: Couple of nights in a hotel.  
Q: Most challenging section? A: Steep downhill section into Porto Marin due to injured ankle. 2 kind pilgrims assisted my descent.  
Q: Random moment? A: Booking an albergue (hostel) run by Marist priests with Joesph from Wellington volunteering over his summer. Joesph recognised the surname Te Awhitu and knew of a Pa Wiremu Te Awhitu (Toa's uncle) who was the first Maori Catholic Marist priest in NZ. Over dinner Barb showed the priest her St Peter Channel necklace inscribed with Uncle William (Wiremu) name on the back that I had chosen to wear on the Camino. Joesph had a photo of Pa Wiremu on his office desk in Wellington. Amazing family connection a long way from home.  
Q: Worth it? A: Totally. The path is a silent conversation with yourself. The art of walking slowly, living simply and a time of reflection on oneself and one's life. Time for appreciation and direction.

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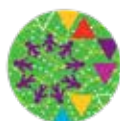
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# The School Bell



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Term Four started with all children busy practicing for athletics, and competing in the Te Rerenga School Athletics. The place-getters then competed at the North Peninsula Athletics held at Coromandel Area School. We had a great turn out of parents and grandparents to watch, and as always we wish to thank those parents that support the running of these days. Your assistance to help teachers run events and transporting a number of children to Coromandel is truly appreciated. Without your support we could not run these days!

A group of children represented Te Rerenga School at the Waikato Full Primary Kapa Haka Showcase at Hamilton West School on Friday the 24th of October. The children looked and sounded fantastic! They made themselves and Te Rerenga School proud as they demonstrated our school values. A huge thank you to Matua C, Christine Threadgold, and Kayla Clarke who helped prepare the group for this showcase.

On Thursday the 23rd October teachers across the country who belong to NZEI took industrial action. We understand that the teacher strike creates disruption for families, and is always a difficult decision. Teachers took strike action primarily to advocate for better learning conditions for students and to address a growing crisis in teacher recruitment and retention. Educators are struggling with an increasing number of students with complex needs and a lack of adequate support staff (like teacher aides and counsellors).

Following a community and staff survey in 2024, a list of attributes and attitudes were collected. These are what we all believed a Year Eight graduate from Te Rerenga School would carry with them when they left for secondary school. We create opportunities to grow these attitudes and attributes through the design of the school programmes and the relationships that are built with the people the children work and grow with. The attributes and attitudes that were repeated many times in that survey are the ones that you see on the graduate profile visual because they were deemed important. The visual was created to embrace these and the school whakatauki, which is represented by a kererū, designed by Ange Gregory.

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu / Adorn the bird with feathers to enable it to fly.  
Odette Wilson, Acting Principal

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## Stargazer Sights

November 2025 By Alastair Brickell

The gas giants Saturn and Jupiter are both on show this month. Slightly yellowish Saturn is visible all night and followed across the sky well after midnight by much brighter Jupiter. Mars and Mercury have a meeting this month but brighter Mercury is rapidly approaching the Sun so is very low in the western dusk sky, getting noticeably lower each night. Planets do not twinkle like stars which can help us locate them.

There will be one Chinese Tiangong and many International Space Station (ISS) passes to enjoy this month but, as usual, timings may change especially towards the end of the month if they have to be moved to avoid space junk. Always best to check the website heavens-above.com for updated timings.

November 5 – A Full Moon tonight. It's a bit closer than usual so a 'Supermoon'. November 9 – The morning sky sees the Moon sitting well to the left and just above Jupiter.

November 10 – The Moon now sits just to the left of Jupiter at dawn.

November 11 – The Moon is now below Jupiter and to the right of Castor and Pollux, the twin heads of Gemini.

November 12 – The Moon is further to the right and below Jupiter and just below the Beehive Cluster visible in binoculars.

November 13 – The moon now sits just to the left of the bright star Regulus in Leo and far to the right of Jupiter. At dusk Mars and Mercury are at their closest on the western horizon with Mercury the brighter of the two.

November 16 – We have a low ISS pass starting at 5:17am just below Jupiter.

November 18 – There is a bright ISS pass from 5:17am starting just to the right of Jupiter.

November 20 – There will be an ISS pass from 5:15am in the west.

November 21 – A minute crescent Moon lies just to the left of Mars on the western dusk horizon.

November 22 – The Moon now sits above Mars at dusk and there is an early ISS pass low in the west from 5:14am and from 9:50pm there will be a Tiangong pass in the west ending beside Saturn as it moves into the Earth's shadow.

November 23 – The crescent Moon is now high above Mars at dusk and is inside the teapot or Sagittarius and there are two Tiangong passes, one from 8:50pm in the NW and another short one from 10:26pm in the west.

November 24 – The Moon now sits high above Mars and near the handle of the teapot.

November 26 – There will be a Tiangong pass from 9:01pm in the west.

November 27 – The Moon sits below and well to the left of Saturn throughout the evening.

November 28 – The Moon is to the left and just below Saturn all night.

November 29 – The Moon has moved to be just below and to the left of Saturn.

November 30 – Saturn is just above and to the left of the Moon.

December 1 – The bright Moon is now well to the right of Saturn.



# The Dunes Golf Club Report



THE DUNES  
MATARANGI

October saw the Club Championships, at The Dunes with some incredibly close scores and plenty of competitive spirit. Congratulations to all the winners, and a huge thank you to everyone who took part - especially those who travelled from afar to be part of this members-only event. Your passion for the game is what keeps our club alive and thriving!

## RESULTS:

9 Hole Ladies  
Gross - Maree Cabaret 107  
Net - Ruth Fiskén 63 Net

9 Hole Men - Net comp  
Robert Fiskén 65 Net

18 Hole Men  
Senior Men: Ivan Adams 146  
Intermediate Men: Tony Munro 163  
Junior Men: Kevin Adlam 179

18 Hole Ladies  
Silver: Allison Drake-Wells 168  
Bronze 1: Marie Dunn 190  
Bronze 2: Ann Dale 208  
Bronze 3: Marie Murphy 231



Featured: Our 2025 Club Champions'



Featured: Ivan Adams on the 18th green putting for the Senior Men's Championship.

We hosted the four golf associations, Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Waikato for the 2025 Men's Senior Garrard Shield and Junior Boys' Ralph Cup. This year Bay of Plenty claimed the Garrard Shield and Northland took home the Ralph Cup.

Our AGM is on the 23rd of November at 10:00am at the clubhouse. The golf course will be closed for course coring from the 3rd - 7th of November.

## WINE, DINE & JUDGE ~ With ADRIAAN

Adriaan Van Rooyen our 2003 Master Cook Winner is back in The Dunes Kitchen this November for a Night to Remember!!

Adriaan loves being in the kitchen and has been craving to cook for you again. He will be cooking a main & dessert drawing on his South African roots for the flavours of his dishes.

You be the judge on just how good he is, you get to score his dishes on presentation & taste. He will do a Q&A after you've finished dining, an opportunity to possibly find out his secret ingredients! Remember, this is the winner of our very high calibre 2023 Master Cook Series.

Starts at 5.30pm - Welcome drink, canapés & live music.

Main - Savoury Chicken & Mushroom Pannekoek served w/ grilled asparagus & potato.

Dessert - Adriaan's take on a South African Peppermint Crisp Tart.

Tickets can be purchased at the Bar, or online by emailing: [events@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:events@thedunesmatarangi.com).

This will be popular so don't delay, \$70pp or \$650 for a table of 10. This is a pre-paid ticketed evening.

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THE DUNES  
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## CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Wednesday 26th November  
4.30pm - 7pm

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with friends

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## Monday

### Ladies' Pilates

Matarangi Fire Station  
9-10 am Christiane 0273 122 584

### Kuaotunu Craft & Social Club

Kuaotunu Hall  
1-4 pm Lia 07 866 2054

### Books & Banter (Book club)

7-9 pm 1st Mon each month Pauline  
dickinsonpauline@gmail.com

### Contract Bridge

St John's Room, 355 Tiki Rd, Coromandel  
Tadek 027 235 6335 or Tadekgawor@gmail.com

## Tuesday

### Croquet

Coromandel Croquet Assoc, Woolams Ave  
9.15 am-12 pm 07 866 8066

### Bridge for Beginners

The Dunes 3-5 pm  
Bronwyn 021 0231 1130

### Menz Shed

Matarangi Drive 8 am-12 pm  
(open at all times to members)  
Phil 021 0272 5230

## Wednesday

### Men on Mats (Men's Pilates)

Matarangi fire station 9-10 am  
Christiane 0273 122 584

### Pickleball – social play

Matai Place Courts 9.30-11.30 am  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Kuaotunu Steiner Playgroup

9am-12pm Phone: 07 866 0094

### Mah Jong

The Dunes 12.30-3 pm  
Sheila 021 185 8567

### Contract bridge

Mercury Bay Bowling Club, Whitianga 1 pm  
Tadek 027 235 6335 or Tadekgawor@gamil.com

### Kuaotunu Garden Group

2nd Weds of the month  
Kuaotunugardenclub@gmail.com

### Ladies Coffee morning

The Dunes, 10 am first Weds of the month

### Kuaotunu Dune Care Group

3rd Weds of the month  
Jenny 021 566 6035

## Thursday

### Pickleball – competitive play

Matai Place Courts 3.30-5.30 pm  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Walking Group

Meet at the Dunes 9.00 am  
Briar 021 361 944

### Craft Group

The Dunes, 12.30 fortnightly  
Lesley 021 280 0780

### Matarangi Dune Restoration Group

Village Green, 9.00 am 1st Thurs of the month  
Kay Airey 0204 120 0975

### Recreational Darts

The Dunes, 6.00 pm every other Thursday  
The Dunes 07 866 5394

## Friday

### Lawn Bowls

The Dunes, 2.15-4.15 pm  
Wayne Davis 027 458 9544

### Croquet

Woolams Ave, Coromandel 9.15 am-12 pm  
07 866 8066

## Saturday

### Pickleball for all

Matai Place Courts, 8.30-10.30 am  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Hash House Harriers

3 pm winter and 4 pm summer  
Bronwyn 0210 231 1130

### Brew Crew (Home brewing)

Fire Station Matarangi  
Phil Mosen 027 4761734

## Sunday

### Sunday Market

Matarangi Drive (in front of shops), 10 am-1pm  
Long weekends summer to Labour weekend  
Lesley 021 280 0780

## Golf

Mens 9 Hole: Monday (front 9) and Thursday  
(back 9) at 9.30am.

Ladies 9 Hole: Tuesday (front 9) and Thursday (back  
9) at 9.30am

Mens 18 Hole: Wednesday - 10am

Ladies 18 Hole: Thursday - 10am

Saturday Haggie: 8am -12pm.

## OCTOBER 2025 TIDES

## STARGAZERS

## Astronomy Tours

392 SH25, RD2

KUAOTUNU

[www.stargazersbb.com](http://www.stargazersbb.com)

PH: 07 866-5343

## NOVEMBER 2025 TIDES MERCURY BAY

	High	Low	High	Low	High
5		00:42:00	06:59:00	13:07:00	19:17:00
6		01:34:00	07:51:00	14:00:00	20:09:00
7		02:26:00	08:42:00	14:53:00	21:02:00
8		03:17:00	09:34:00	15:46:00	21:55:00
9		04:08:00	10:26:00	16:40:00	22:48:00
10		05:00:00	11:19:00	17:36:00	23:43:00
11	05:53:00	12:14:00	18:33:00		
12	00:40:00	06:48:00	13:11:00	19:31:00	
13	01:38:00	07:46:00	14:08:00	20:30:00	
14	02:38:00	08:46:00	15:06:00	21:28:00	
15	03:39:00	09:46:00	16:02:00	22:23:00	
16	04:37:00	10:43:00	16:54:00	23:15:00	
17	05:32:00	11:36:00	17:43:00		
18		00:03:00	06:21:00	12:23:00	18:28:00
19		00:48:00	07:06:00	13:08:00	19:11:00
20		01:30:00	07:47:00	13:50:00	19:52:00
21		02:10:00	08:27:00	14:32:00	20:33:00
22		02:49:00	09:07:00	15:13:00	21:14:00
23		03:28:00	09:46:00	15:54:00	21:55:00
24		04:07:00	10:26:00	16:36:00	22:37:00
25		04:47:00	11:07:00	17:20:00	23:19:00
26		05:27:00	11:50:00	18:04:00	
27	00:03:00	06:11:00	12:35:00	18:51:00	
28	00:51:00	06:59:00	13:23:00	19:40:00	
29	01:42:00	07:51:00	14:14:00	20:32:00	
30	02:39:00	08:48:00	15:08:00	21:26:00	
1	03:38:00	09:48:00	16:03:00	22:22:00	
2	04:38:00	10:48:00	16:59:00	23:19:00	
3	05:38:00	11:46:00	17:56:00		
5		00:42:00	06:59:00	13:07:00	19:17:00

LINZ

## STARGAZERS

BB: An adventure, activity, and values based ministry for boys aged 5-15 years old. For info contact: Robyn 020 409 39674 or email: robyn.balfour2@hotmail.com

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P. McNeill, 2025 (repeat customer)

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R. Preston, 2025

"The boys were marvellous. Couldn't fault them!"

T. and L. True, 2025

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**Maddie's  
annual rowing  
fundraiser is  
back!**

# QUIZ!

Get your team of 4 ready to come along and enjoy a delicious curry, fun quiz, raffles and prizes. Help us get Maddie to the Maadi Regetta in Twizel.  
Join us at the Matarangi Fire Station

🕒 **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** | **Doors Open At 5.00pm**  
**Quiz starts 6pm**

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