

MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

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MBP 190
DECEMBER 2025



Howie's Hot Rod ready for the Road

Matarangi came alive last week as local resident Howie Smith fired up his 1938 Chevrolet Coupe for the first time since completing its restoration.

The next step over the coming days is to get all the paperwork in order so it can once again become road legal—87 years after it first rolled off the assembly line in Oshawa, Ontario. Howie hopes it won't be long before his pride and joy is rolling down the highway and he is keeping his fingers crossed that everything is in order before he heads off next week for a family Christmas and New Year.

Painted a deep purple with silver fenders, the coupe—affectionately known as “Old School”—is a tribute to the hot rods of the 1970s and represents decades of dedication, technical skill, and a passion for classic cars. At the heart of the vehicle is a rebuilt short-block 350ci V8, giving it a deep, resonant rumble.

Drawing inspiration from the style of the 1970s—an era that first sparked Howie's interest in hot

rodding—the '38 coupe reflects the simplicity, character, and sense of fun that defined the period. It is more reminiscent of vehicles from American Graffiti than the highly customized show cars of today. The result is a car that is approachable, visually striking, and fully aligned with the ethos of vintage hot rodding.

Howie first purchased the Chevy Coupe in the late 1970s when it was an old stock car in poor condition. Over five years, he searched the country for old parts, rebuilt the car, and finally got it registered in 1983.

Howie drove the car to hot rod shows up and down the country and competed at drag racing events. Its top speed over the quarter-mile was an impressive 102 mph.

Around 25 years ago, Howie put the car into storage, holding onto the dream that one day he would give it a full restoration and a new life. The car remained in his garage for years as work, family, and other commitments took precedence.

In 2015, following his retirement and a move to Matarangi, Howie began the process of rebuilding the car again from its bare-metal shell. He embarked on a painstaking restoration, methodically disassembling, repairing, and rebuilding every component. His training as a fitter and turner at A&G Price in Thames, along with his involvement in many hot rod builds over the decades, proved invaluable.

The restoration process to bring Old School back to its 1970s prime was meticulous. Every panel was reworked, every engine component rebuilt, and the interior carefully restored to reflect the car's original hot rod character. As the finished article, Old School emphasizes authenticity and craftsmanship.

The result is a classic that is functional, visually impressive, and—hopefully, Howie says—fast.

(Continued on Page 3)

Featured: Howie Smith and his 1938 Chevrolet.

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CONTACTS & DEADLINES

This is your community paper. We welcome all your stories, photos, messages and contributions.

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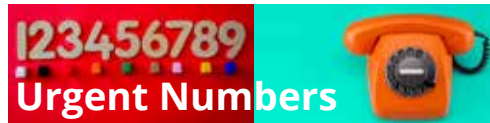
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Howie's Hot Rod hits the Road: Continued from Page 1

The project has also taken on a personal dimension for Howie. Just eight weeks ago, his wife, Carol, passed away, forcing a significant change in his life. Completing the car became a constructive focus, a tribute to Carol, and provided structure and purpose while finishing a long-term goal. Howie has also managed his own health issues over recent years, which at times slowed the completion of the car, making the successful restoration all the more meaningful.

Looking ahead, Howie is particularly excited to take Old School to the New Zealand Hot Rod Run in Napier—a major event on New Zealand's hot rodding calendar—for its first public outing next February. For years, he has wanted to bring the car there to show it to friends and fellow enthusiasts, many of whom remember the car from over 40 years ago. Within the hot-rodding community, Howie is widely regarded as a leading authority on vintage vehicles, and expectations for the car are high. His knowledge, skill, and reputation make his work highly anticipated among the old guard of enthusiasts, and Old School is expected to attract considerable interest. Those in the know understand what they are seeing: a rare, historic car that captures the true essence of a hot rod.

The body panels of Howie's car were first made in Detroit at the coachbuilding firm Fisher, then shipped across the border into Canada, where the rest of the car was assembled. Although Canada, like the US, drives on the "wrong" side of the road, it built right-hand-drive cars for the UK, Australian, and New Zealand markets. When brand new in New Zealand, it would have been bought by the well-to-do, retailing for nearly double the average annual salary of £155. One can imagine its first Kiwi owner in 1938—perhaps a country doctor making his rounds or a barrister heading to a district court appearance. Of the 60,000 Canadian-assembled, right-hand-drive 1938 Chevrolet Coupes, few exist in either stock or custom form in 2025.

One profound regret for Howie is that, sadly, he won't be able to take Carol along to the five-day February event they had so looked forward to attending together.



Featured: One of the first locals to check out Howie's car was 6 year old Archer Smith who said Howie's Hot Rod was "really cool."



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Matarangi Celebrates Netball's Comeback

Netball is having a real moment in Matarangi, with more locals lacing up their sneakers and joining the fast-growing sport. From casual throw-arounds to families organising friendly weekend matches, and players competing in representative competitions, enthusiasm is spreading across every age group. Over recent years, netball participation has soared across the region. In the 2025 season alone, Te Rerenga School proudly fielded five full teams: two Year 7/8 squads and three Year 5/6 squads. The younger players are stepping up too, with a Year 3/4 Future Ferns team and eager Year 1/2 students beginning to learn the basics.

The teams were made up of local children—girls and boys alike with more than 50 Te Rerenga students taking to the Moewai Courts in Whitianga every Wednesday night during the 2025 season. Their commitment paid off, with five Year 7/8 players selected to represent Mercury Bay, travelling across Waikato to compete in additional tournaments.

The adults are embracing the sport as well. Over 20 women from Matarangi and Kuaotunu hit the court each Wednesday night in the Mercury Bay Netball Centre competition, often after coaching, umpiring, or cheering on the younger players. As spring arrived, Matarangi also celebrated two mixed teams competing in the Coromandel Netball Club's summer twilight series and another mixed team playing in the Mercury Bay spring social competition.

Part of netball's growing appeal in Matarangi is its welcoming, accessible nature. The game is fast-paced yet easy to learn, making it perfect for beginners, families, and seasoned players alike. With its focus on teamwork, communication, and movement, netball stays fun and social while offering a great balance of fitness, connection, and pure enjoyment. No wonder it's catching on so quickly. Excitement is set to grow even further with the confirmation of a new multi-use court on Matarangi Drive by Thames Coromandel District Council. This will be the first full sized netball court locally and a dedicated space to train, play, and gather will be a game-changer for players of all ages—from the youngest Future Ferns to the adults who keep the sport thriving. More than just a place to play, the court will serve as a hub for connection, fitness, and community pride. With so much momentum behind it, Matarangi is ready to bounce into a new era of sport and togetherness.

Featured: Te Rerenga year 5/6 Thunder (undefeated in the 2025 season) from left to right: Eirik, Remi, Fallon, Pippa, Charlotte, Robbie, Leo and Rosie.

Reported by Chloe Watts

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**Matarangi
Fire
Report**

In November, the crew have been kept busy with several medical events, a vegetation fire started by an MVC, and a gentleman trapped under a rolled mower.

The trigger point for moving to a restricted fire season or a total fire ban is no longer determined by the calendar. Historically, the Coromandel would enter a total fire ban around 20 December, but now the decision is based on the Fire Weather Index (FWI) system.

Some summers are wetter than usual, yet controlled burns still may not be permitted. Legislation requires the fire danger indices to trend toward specific risk values before a restricted season or total fire ban can be declared.

If we remain in an open season, you can light a controlled fire—but it always pays to check first. Visit firepermit.nz for the latest information.

Bonfires on the beach pose several risks. For one, they should not be lit there in the first place. Leftover broken glass is hazardous, and the heat retained in the sand can cause serious burns to bare feet—the retained heat can be similar to that of a hangi pit.

As we head into the festive season, our population swells to an estimated 8,000+ people from Boxing Day onward. We anticipate an increase in callouts, and our dedicated crew will be ready to respond whenever needed.

We are one of the few brigades in the Waikato with a First Response crew, which means we attend medical events when required. You will still need to request an ambulance when dialing 111.

On a lighter note, on behalf of our brigade, we wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

Mark Hall
Chief Fire Officer
Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade



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Should we get serious about Mangrove Management?



Whangapoua Harbour in 1976 (Whites Aviation)

Walk the shores of Whangapoua Harbour today and you'll see it: mangroves spreading across once-open mudflats, roots twisting into channels, and green thickets creeping ever closer to the water. Nature is doing its work — but left unchecked, it could reshape the harbour in ways that threaten wildlife, recreation, and the character of our estuary.

Research over the years has shown a correlation between the proximity of pine plantations and an increase in mangrove growth in nearby estuaries and harbours. If current growth continues, scientists warn that within decades 70–80% of the harbour could be covered by mangroves. Mudflats for feeding shorebirds could vanish. Seagrass and saltmarsh nurseries for fish and invertebrates could shrink. Even kayaking and shellfish gathering could become difficult in tangled channels.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Targeted, sensible management — removing seedlings from critical mudflats, maintaining open channels, and reducing sediment from upstream — can slow mangrove expansion while keeping the harbour ecologically diverse. The goal isn't to remove all mangroves; it's to maintain a healthy mosaic of habitats, balancing wildlife needs with community use.

Whangapoua Harbour is at a crossroads. With thoughtful action today, it can remain a vibrant estuary for birds, fish, and people alike. Without it, we risk watching a unique landscape slowly turn into a single, green-dominated monotone. The choice — and responsibility — is ours.



MATARANGI'S NEW LIFE SAVING RING STOLEN

The new life saving ring installed last month as vital rescue equipment to stop drownings was stolen from its housing bracket at the Matarangi jetty.

"It's disappointing for everyone," says Chris Palmer of the Matarangi Reserves Management Group. "Particularly those who did the fundraising for it. That it only lasted 31 days before it was stolen makes us angry. We are lucky that we acquired a spare in case of it being stolen but we did not expect to be needing it so soon."

Removing life rings from their bracket, other than in a genuine emergency, can be a criminal offence.



Above: Volunteers backpacking in the new trap lines.

A Busy Spring for RBWG

Kia Ora Koutou,

It has been a couple of months since the last report and there has been considerable development and work completed over the spring period.

The latest round of wilding pine removal, funded through WRC was completed, with many thousands of pines cut and pulled over a large part of the central reserve area.

Rings Beach Wetlands Group funded further pine removal work through generous private donations and via a grant from Kauri 2000. This enabled track development work to occur, opening up new hard to access areas to enable further conifer removal as well as provide new lines for predator control.

Two new lines have been established, and 50 new traps have been deployed along those routes. We also have been fortunate in having been able to recruit some new volunteers to regularly service

the new lines and also provide back-up on established lines for when others are away.

The wilding pine and weed removal work as well as the development of the trapping network will continue next year as funding allows.

All the latest contracted work has been undertaken by the Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust support team, and RBWG is very happy with both the quality and volume of work they have achieved over the year.

After a long three year wait D.O.C have finally installed the directional signage in the reserve and seven of these are installed at junctions along the public walking tracks and at the three entrances. This will give clarity and added safety to visitors walking and running the trails, and we thank D.O.C for providing and installing these.

The summer maintenance programme has begun focusing on clearing and trimming the public walking tracks in readiness for the holiday season.

On behalf of all of RBWG I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Mā te wā, Dave Fitz

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The School Bell

We are counting down the last few days of school for 2025 here at Te Rerenga School. For our Year Eight children, it is their last year as a primary student. I am sure as well as the excitement and nervousness they feel as they head into their secondary years, there is also a tinge of nostalgia for their season at Te Rerenga School. For the staff we also feel the sands of time shifting and often recall highlights with these children in our staffroom with a smile and a laugh.

Here are a few words from our Year Eights in order from Mason, who has attended Te Rerenga School the longest, to Tori who joined us in Term Three this year.

Mason - I have really enjoyed the school bus rides on the way to school and the way back. I also enjoyed the sports events like cross country and athletic days. I am looking forward to having a longer holiday before heading to MBAS.

James - The thing I enjoyed most at Te Rerenga School was the many S.T.E.A.M. festivals where we get to express our creativity and create things. The thing I am looking forward to most in Mercury Bay Area School is all of their engineering resources so I can make more great projects

Ava - I really enjoyed all of the different sporting opportunities during my time at Te Rerenga School and I am really looking forward to seeing my friends at Coromandel Area School next year.

Hannah - I enjoyed all my memories during my time at Te Rerenga and I am looking forward to all the new opportunities when I move to Auckland.

Ava - In my time at school I really enjoyed the teachers and art. At MBAS I'm looking forward to meeting new people and all the new opportunities.

iZac - This year at Tererenga School I liked all the sports. I'd like to thank the school for having me there for my eight years. When I leave I would like to join the MBAS football team.

Ella - My favourite memory from Te Rerenga School is getting to play so many different sports and play some sports representing the school. Next year I am looking forward to making so many new friends at MBAS and getting to play more sports at a new school.



Reported by Sue Karl

This evening, we tasted wines from the Greystone Winery from Canterbury. Established in 2000 by the Thomas family, the vineyard lies in the Waipara Valley. It is situated on the slopes of the Teviotdale Hills, which provide an ideal microclimate for growing grapes. The soils are rich in limestone, which gives the wines a unique mineral character.

Greystone Wines is committed to sustainable viticulture practices, and they use a range of organic and biodynamic methods to manage their vineyards. They also have a strong focus on low-intervention winemaking, which allows the grapes to express their natural terroir. The winery produces a range of wines but is best known for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

First up, we tasted the Organic Petillant Naturel, a sparkling wine where the secondary fermentation occurs in the bottle, allowing the light natural sediment to stay in the bottle, adding flavour and textural elements. It has fresh and lively aromatics of pineapple, lemon balm and citrus fruits with a long and lingering palate that will gain in both layers and richness with ageing. It is secured with a bottle cap. A great drop for a summer's afternoon on the deck!



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Charlie - Ms Kedzlie often says that Te Rerenga is the best country school in New Zealand, I used to think that was a big claim, however when I consider my eight years we have had some cool experiences. To name a few of my highlights; Kevin (our bus driver) pulling over so we can see dolphins, representing the school at Thames Valley for various competitions, going to Wellington for the year 7 & 8 camp, a committed parent group who fundraised for a pump track and the bikes to go with it, & going to nature school down at Opera Point. I look forward to going to a new school and pursuing the subjects that I would like to study to build on the foundation that Te Rerenga has given me.

Mekhi - One of my favourite memories at Te Rerenga School was when I won cross country this year. When I go to Mercury Bay Area School I am most looking forward to playing football.

Taylor - I really enjoyed making memories during my time here at Te Rerenga School and I am looking forward to new things at MBAS.

Cash - I have really enjoyed my time at Te Rerenga School, especially the sports events. I'm excited to go to a new school with my friends.

Max - I have really enjoyed my time here at Te Rerenga School, especially the sports events. I am looking forward to going to school with my friends from Rugby League.

Harley - I enjoyed my time here at Te Rerenga School with the fun activities and camps, like the Wellington camp and Athletics. I am looking forward to going to Mercury Bay School to see all my friends.

Charlotte - I have really enjoyed doing sports, and all the sporting opportunities during my time at this school. At MBAS I am looking forward to making new friends and meeting new people.

Emily - I really enjoyed playing netball for the school and all of the cool sporting opportunities. I'm looking forward to playing netball for MBAS.

Ophelia - I have a few good memories from Te Rerenga school, which is the last days of term four when we had the waterslide, the gold mining camp in 2022 and any movie nights we have had over the years. One thing I am looking forward to next year is meeting new people and being in a new place.

Tori - At Te Rerenga School I have really enjoyed the art and the sports. I'm looking forward to learning new things and making new friends at secondary school.

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers to enable it to fly.

Odette Wilson - Acting Principal

To follow, we tried the Organic Greystone Rose 2024, made from 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Riesling. Wine expert Sam Kim, described it as "restrained and delicately expressed on the nose, showing pomegranate, lemon peel, crunchy apple, and oatmeal nuances, followed by a finely textured palate that's juicy and focused. At its best: now to 2027." (Source: Wine Orbit, November 2024). This was my personal favourite of the night.

The Organic Riesling is hand-picked at varying stages of the harvest, from 5 different parcels of land. It's an off-dry to medium style, with notes of honeysuckle, limes, guava and passionfruit. A must try for Riesling lovers!

The Organic Chardonnay is from two distinct vineyard blocks – one limestone, the other, clay. The clay contributes richness and fruit weight, while limestone adds vibrant freshness and length. It offers a nose of ripe white peach, lemon curd, and fresh nectarine. Subtle hints of toasted hazelnut, brioche, and a whisper of flint add complexity.

The last wine was the 2021 Organic Pinot Noir. The wine is aged for 16 months in Burgundian French Oak barriques of which 25 % are new. It was described by wine expert Sam Kim as "Seductive and complex, showing dark berry, tapenade, game, warm mushroom, and toasted almond characters on the nose. The palate exhibits excellent concentration, complemented by plush texture and beautifully melded tannins, finishing delectably long and satisfying. At its best: now to 2033." Try some!

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THE FISHING REPORT

Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

December 2025 Fishing Report

It's starting to happen, the fish are turning up, big and small. The weighmasters have already weighed in some impressive fish including Snapper, Kahawai, Yellow Fin, and a courtesy weigh, Big Eye Tuna. The competition within the club is starting to heat up.

The game fishing season is upon us with yellowfin tuna being weighed in - which only means that the billfish won't be far away!

Thank you to the team from Woods Construction Limited and the lads at Peninsula Forestry Services for putting up two new trophies for the 2025/2026 fishing season; 1st tagged and released billfish + \$250 cash and the last tagged and released billfish + \$250 cash.

KM Lures Gamefish Giveaway - Thank you to Kenneth Murphy from KM lures who has kindly sponsored two custom game lures to giveaway!

First Yellow Fin weighed in for the season - Congratulations to Andrew Mobberley for his 16.30kg Yellow Fin.

** Open to MBFC current financial members.

** Fish to be weighed in the MBFC weigh station.

Thank you to Chris Best from T & M Auto Electrical for sponsoring the Jet Ski Challenge for the 2025/2026 season. \$250 cash for the heaviest trevally and \$250 for the heaviest gurnard caught from a Jet Ski. Check out the flyer on our website for further details.

The details of our three events happening in December/ January are now on our website and Facebook page.

*28th December 2025 - Bar Crossing Advisory seminar - open to all interested boaties

*2nd January 2026 - Blue Lewis Tournament - get your crew together for this open event

*5th January 2026 - Small Fry Wharf Fishing - 8am - 10am, open to ages 0 - 12.

Join our Club here <https://www.mbfc.co.nz/membership>

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

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Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club Inc.



TEN YEARS ON IN THE MBP

December 2015 was a month of activity, achievement, and reflection across the Coromandel region. The rescue helicopter was particularly busy, with 33 call-outs recorded the previous month. One of these missions involved Nikau Reef Ward-Parr, one of the youngest members of our community. Nikau was flown to Starship Hospital in a moderate condition and spent six days receiving care. We are pleased to report that he has since returned home and is doing well.

Helicopter activity continued in the local skies for a different kind of operation at Bluff Hill, where the Rings Beach Wetland Group was completing the final stages of their long-awaited track upgrade. To improve the surface and gradient of the shorter circuit, the group employed the most efficient tool for the job—a Hughes 500 helicopter operated by HeliHire of Rotorua. Using a system of alternating hopper spreaders, the helicopter delivered 20 tonnes of metal in less than two hours, dramatically improving safety and accessibility on this popular track. Last summer alone, more than 6,000 walkers enjoyed the loop.

We also welcomed the opportunity to meet Adam Coleman-Smith, who has launched the Blue Fridge Brewery in Kuaotunu. A trained graphic designer, Adam left New Zealand in 2010 to explore the world—an adventure that took him across global surf

destinations and helped refine his understanding of great beer. His travels ultimately inspired the creation of Blue Fridge, a sustainable nanobrewery now producing well-loved craft beers including Sweet As, Riwakasaurus Rex, and Salty Sea Dog.

Our November issue also featured an editorial contribution from Ngati Huarere ki Whangapoua, an iwi of Te Arawa descent with deep ancestral ties to Moehau and Motutere (Castle Rock). Ngati Huarere are long-standing participants in Matarangi's ANZAC services and play a vital role in kaitiakitanga, providing guidance and guardianship on matters affecting the local environment and community wellbeing. Their collaborative efforts span a wide network of agencies and organizations, including TCDC, WRC, DOC, Opus, Earnslaw One, Kauri Dieback forums, ecologists, archaeologists, horticulturists, engineers, developers, and many community groups.

A look back at MBP archives from a decade ago highlighted another story of adventure—this time involving local Fisheries Officer George Ririnui. At the time, George was serving aboard HMNZS Otago, undertaking a five-week patrol in the icy waters of Antarctica. His work supported CCAMLR (the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), a coalition of 25 nations dedicated to the protection of Antarctic marine ecosystems. As a former RNZIR soldier, George relished the opportunity to work alongside his Navy colleagues once again.

Finally, our community paused to honour the lives of two respected members who recently passed away. Cliff Heraud of Kuaotunu will be remembered for his tireless contributions to local conservation, while Tony Cotton, a cornerstone of The Dunes golfing community and frequent MBP contributor, leaves behind a legacy of passion and knowledge.

MBP

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Our Coromandel

Meri Kirihimete

~ AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS ~

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



December 2025

Meri Kirihimete ~ NGĀ MIHI O TE TAU HOU ~

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your elected members and staff at Thames-Coromandel District Council.

We're reaching the end of what's been a busy and challenging year for our district. Our local elections have brought many new faces to the Council table and our Community Boards. We're looking forward to the year ahead as we continue the collective mahi of building deeper ties with our communities, groups and iwi partners. For those in the community who work to take care of those fortunate enough to have a break over the holidays, thank you for everything you do.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

From Mayor Peter Revell and everyone at TCDC



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Richard Shelford-Woodcock
Board Chair



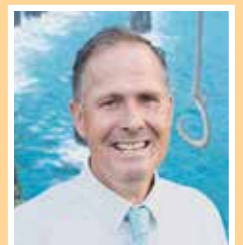
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Peter Mackenzie
Board Member



Rob Davis
Board Member



Tony Brljević
Appointed Board Member



John Grant
Appointed Board Member and Deputy Mayor



Flemming Rasmussen
Appointed Board Member

Matarangi's new resource recovery drop-off

A new resource recovery container drop-off system for reusable goods has started at the Matarangi Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station.

This is a great way to rehome your house or bach with pre-owned furniture and household items, instead of disposing of

them at landfill. It is similar to initiatives at Tairua and Pāuanui transfer stations, which are working well.

The drop-off will be open every weekend from 8.30am – 4pm. There will also be extended hours over the summer period.



What's happening over Christmas and New Year?



KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS

For year-round kerbside collection calendars, including summer peak collection dates from Christmas week to Waitangi week, check your local schedule at tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

Our seven refuse and recycling transfer stations are open daily over summer from 8.30am-5.30pm, and closed only on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. tcdc.govt.nz/rts



COUNCIL OFFICES

Our offices (including AA services) are closing at 12 noon on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December, and reopening Monday 5 January 2026. You can still reach us 24/7 at 07 868 0200 or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

RENEWED LOOS FOR MERCURY BAY

If you're caught short while out and about in Mercury Bay, don't panic. Our Council has just finished upgrading local toilet facilities thanks to the Mercury Bay Community Board and MBIE's Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Omaro Reserve (Matarangi Boat Ramp)

Observations before site excavation identified midden sites but support from iwi and archaeologists helped to progress our upgrade, resulting in a renewed two-pan with connection into the mains wastewater and power supply that's now open. Both units are accessible and include a bench seat to be used as a family changing area plus an outdoor shower and drinking fountain.



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TCDC/2025

Where in the WORLD is the Matarangi Beach Paper?



Left: During their recent South Island trip, Rob Dallimore and Paula Ryan caught up with former Matarangi residents Pip and Peter Teklenburg outside their new home, the Karamea Village Hotel, on the West Coast. While staying with Pip and Peter, Rob and Paula took the opportunity to pose with the MBP.

The Teklenburgs are enjoying their new life running a historic West Coast pub with nine attached accommodation units. Established in 1876, the Karamea Village Hotel is located near Kahurangi National Park and serves as an ideal base for a variety of local activities, including the Heaphy Track—one of New Zealand’s Great Walks—and The Fenian, a series of easy-access, gentle walking tracks.

Above: Here are Mary and Teresa Kedzlie with the MBP, captured at the summit of Piz Bernina (4,049 metres) in glorious weather. They were travelling on the famous Bernina Express, a panoramic train journey from Tirano in Northern Italy to Chur in Switzerland. The route crosses a UNESCO World Heritage landscape, passing over 196 bridges and through 56 tunnels.

Their next adventure was aboard the Golden Pass Express, which travels between Interlaken and Montreux, passing through scenic towns such as Gstaad and Château-d’Œx. Snow was falling when they arrived in Interlaken, turning the journey into a true winter wonderland. Snow-covered chalets and fir trees gave them an early taste of Christmas.

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Out and About in November



On the first Tuesday of November there was another successful Melbourne Cup Day gathering down at the Matarangi Shops. Enjoying the late afternoon fun was Jane McLean, Jen Cumins and Keiran Mullins.



Leanne Robinson and Nicky Clausen on the Norwex stand at the Christmas Market held last week at The Dunes.



The fundraising Quiz and Curry Night for Maddy Corles and her Rowing quest to get to the Maadi Cup secondary school rowing tournament was a great success. Winning team was Simple Minds, Matarangi based Coromandel Area School teachers, Andrew & Jessica Fisher, and Cathy and John Kirkman.



Jude Nicholson was out doing her Christmas shopping at the Dunes Christmas Market. Here she is with Kelly McGuinness and her delightful girls Shelby and Ava Grace who were helping Jude chose a gift.



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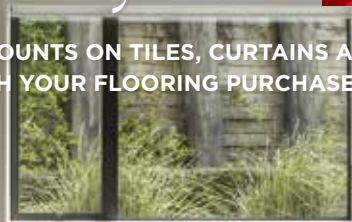
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Featured: Tony Nicholson is the 18-Hole Men's 2025 Shootout winner and recipient of the Tony Cotton Memorial Trophy presented by Rocket (Dave) Gaskell.

The Dunes Golfing Community extends its sincere thanks to Bev Gwyn, Chairperson of The Dunes Golf Committee.

After nearly seven years of dedicated leadership, Bev has decided to step down as Chair. When she took on the role in 2019—after a little persuasion—the Dunes was facing a challenging period. Member confidence was low, and our standing within the wider golfing community, including with Golf NZ, needed rebuilding.

Bev stepped forward with determination, integrity, and a genuine commitment to the game. Through countless hours of service, she brought structure, fairness, and fun back into our golf programme. A strong advocate for Junior and Women's golf, she helped drive participation and growth, and under her leadership our tournaments became some of the most respected events on our calendar.

Bev's guidance has played a major role in shaping the Dunes Matarangi Golf Club into the thriving, well-regarded club it is today. We are truly grateful for her contribution and dedication. Thank you, Bev, for everything you have contributed to our community.

DEC & JAN

SUMMER FUN AT THE DUNES

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DEC	JAN
05 FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR & HAM RAFFLES 4PM - 6PM	19 FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR & HAM RAFFLES 4PM - 6PM
12 FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR & HAM RAFFLES 4PM - 6PM	21 LIVE MUSIC WITH DAVE KENNEDY 3PM - 6PM
13 LIVE MUSIC WITH FRANCIE LIDGARD 6PM - 9PM	26TH DEC ONWARDS DAILY SUMMER VIBES WITH BREKKY / LUNCH / DINNER BAR SNACKS / WOOD-FIRED PIZZAS / BLACKBOARD SPECIALS / TAKE-AWAYS CABINET FOOD / COFFEE / COCKTAILS + MORE OUTSIDE GARDEN BAR OPEN DAILY
03 CLASSIC FUEL UP LUNCH HEADING TO CORO CLASSIC - FUEL UP WITH OUR \$20 BURGER & FRIES, WOOD-FIRED PIZZAS + MORE	15 NIGHT MARKET / CAR BOOT SALE 5PM - 8PM THE DUNES CAR PARK LIVE MUSIC
04 CLASSIC ALL DAY RECOVERY BREKKY from 8AM - 3PM	18 LIVE MUSIC WITH DAVE KENNEDY 3PM - 6PM
08 CORONA BEACH PARTY 3PM ONWARDS CORONA DEALS, GIVEAWAYS, DRESS HAWAIIAN THEME TO BE IN TO WIN SPOT PRIZES	22 GRINS SUMMER PARTY 3PM ONWARDS GRINS MERCH GIVEAWAYS AND LIVE MUSIC WITH FRANCIE LIDGARD FROM 4PM
11 LIVE MUSIC WITH JESSE WILDE 3PM - 6PM	25 THE DUNES SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL LIVE MUSIC WITH FRANCIE LIDGARD 12PM-2PM AND JESSE WILDE 3PM-6PM

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We have 12 golfers taking on this challenge this year, including our own members Rob Stevens and Grant Morgan, completing 72 holes in one day to raise vital funds for the Cancer Society.

Rob has personally raised over \$1900 so far and Grant \$1100.

They will tee off at 7:00am, continuing throughout the day. Come down, cheer them on, offer a salute, or support them from the deck by the 18th to help keep them motivated.

To support them in this great cause, click the link below: <https://longestday.org.nz/table-10-goes-again>

Your encouragement will go a long way in keeping them motivated through this massive effort.

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DEC

05 LONGEST DAY GOLF CHALLENGE

14 golfers including 4 of our own members, are taking on the challenge of completing 72 holes in one day to raise vital funds for the Cancer Society. Tee off at 6:30am, continuing throughout the day. Come down & cheer them on around the course or support them from the deck by the 18th to help keep them motivated. To support this great cause, you can donate at www.longestday.org.nz/table-10-goes-again

JAN

21 THE DUNES TIP TOP KIDS MINI PUTT

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Christmas Ham Tournament Wrap-Up

On Sunday, 30th November, The Dunes hosted its final members' tournament of the year — the always-popular Christmas Ham event. Sixty players took to the course for an 18-hole Gross, Net and Stableford competition, all eager for the chance to take home a Christmas ham for the festive table.

Results:

Best Gross Ladies Allison Drake-Wells 75

Best Gross Men Ivan Adams 74

Best Net Ladies Kerry CHALMERS 64 Net

Best Net Men Shane Webster 66 Net

Best Stableford Noeleen Mulligan 41

9 holes:

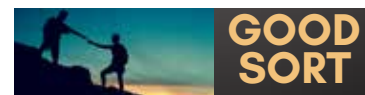
Best Stableford: Geoffrey Hill 19

2nd: Richard Cummins 16

Nearest the pin

Ladies: Cathy Drake Wells

Men: Ivan Adams



The Good Sorts of the Month for November are those 10 volunteers from the Matarangi Reserves Group who gave up a day to clear away rubbish from the causeway road that leads into the village. A job well done as we want the place looking good and most welcoming for all the holidaymakers who will visit us this summer. We salute you!

CONGRATULATIONS

CORNER



Congratulations to Dale and Peter Banks of Guthrie Bowron Whitianga who were the lucky winners of the fabulous 8 metre JB Touring Motorhome, the main prize of the annual fundraising raffle for the Coromandel Rescue helicopter trust. We hope you have many happy holidays in it!

The Editor's Desk



For more than a decade, the Matarangi-Kuaotunu coastline has been caught in the same cycle: a community asking for a simple walking and cycling connection, and a landscape and regulatory environment that make "simple" impossible. Bluff Road is where these realities collide, and the more closely the issue is examined, the clearer it becomes that only one solution remains workable.

Residents have repeatedly voiced their desire to restore the connection—a route to walk, cycle, and link the places that shape their everyday lives. Before COVID-19, more than 7,000 people each year used Bluff Road on foot or by bike, demonstrating how important this link has been for both locals and visitors. That level of use reflects more than nostalgia; it reflects a real, ongoing need for safe, practical access.

While public sentiment has guided the conversation, engineering realities now determine the outcome. The Cove section has changed irreversibly, and modern standards no longer allow a track to be created with a few tools and goodwill. As assessments show, a suspension bridge is not the first choice—but it is the only option that survives the technical, legal, financial, and environmental constraints.

In recent weeks, a handful of people have told the MBP Editor that they believe an alternative to a suspension bridge is possible. Their concerns vary: some believe it will be too expensive; others worry it will spoil the landscape; some assume it will fall onto ratepayers because they think TCDC will fund it; and a few argue that an entirely new cycleway in a different location would be better. These views are understandable, but they rely on assumptions that don't align with the engineering, land status, funding structure, or feasibility assessments completed to date.

The most commonly proposed alternative—a new track around the southern end of Bluff Hill—looks straightforward on a map: begin near the Mapauriki Stream bridge south of Matarangi, contour around the hill, and reconnect with Rings Beach. But this rests on the idea that a community can simply build an informal, low-standard track. It cannot. The moment bicycles are allowed, the route must meet New Zealand Cycle Trail Grade 2 standards—an engineered, all-weather corridor 2.2 metres wide, with controlled gradients, drainage systems, and safety protections. What many picture as a narrow benched track becomes, in practice, a major civil works project.

On steep and unstable coastal slopes, building such a trail is not only difficult but extremely expensive. Industry costs are around \$1 million per kilometre on terrain like Bluff Hill. A 4-kilometre route quickly becomes a \$4–5 million project before design, consenting, or contingency are added. For comparison, even the flat and uncomplicated Matakana Village cycle path exceeded \$2 million for just 2.2 kilometres. Bluff Hill's geology is far more demanding.

Other proposals have also been assessed and eliminated. Rock scaling and meshing on the Cove section came in at more than \$2.3 million, with no guarantee of long-term stability. A concrete avalanche-style shelter was deemed geotechnically untenable and practically impossible to build safely. It would require massive machinery on a fragile bench, months of high-risk work, and significant environmental disruption. None of these options provide a responsible or sustainable pathway forward.

Some residents assume the community can continue using the informal, unsafe walking route indefinitely. It cannot. TCDC has already budgeted \$27,000 to permanently block the Cove section if no safe alternative is approved. When a council knows a corridor is dangerous and cannot be stabilised, it must close it. Without a replacement, the connection will be lost entirely.

Land status adds another layer of complexity. Parts of Bluff Hill fall within Treaty settlement land. Any engineered trail would require iwi approval, and that support cannot be assumed. A Grade 2 track with extensive cut slopes may not align with cultural, environmental, or land-management priorities. This is also why neither DOC, iwi, nor TCDC are likely to fund a multi-million-dollar new trail in the area. These agencies have limited budgets and competing obligations.

The suspension bridge has therefore been shaped as a community-led solution—deliberately structured so it will not be funded by TCDC. Construction would be paid for through grants, donations, and local fundraising from the Matarangi and Kuaotunu communities. But three conditions must be met for the bridge to proceed:

The geotechnical report now underway must confirm that a bridge is viable and safe on the proposed alignment;
The final design must meet engineering requirements; and
The community must raise the necessary funds.

If these conditions are not met, the project cannot progress.

Technically, the bridge bypasses the unstable slope entirely, eliminating the geotechnical risks that make the Cove section unfixable. It has a smaller environmental footprint than a new hillside trail, avoids major earthworks, lies almost entirely within Council-owned road reserve, and removes the need for a 4-kilometre engineered Grade 2 corridor. Most importantly, it restores safe public access—something no other option achieves.

Opposition to the bridge often reflects a longing for the past. That sentiment is understandable. But the landscape is no longer the same, nor are today's public-safety and liability standards. What was acceptable decades ago is no longer permitted. The old Bluff Road track cannot be recreated under current conditions.

After years of studies and costings, alternatives have fallen away. What remains is not a perfect solution, but the only feasible one. The suspension bridge is not Plan A—it is the last plan standing after every other option proved unsafe, unaffordable, or unworkable.

The community now faces a clear decision: do we secure a safe, permanent connection—or accept losing it altogether?

One final concern relates to emergency access. During the 2023 cyclone season, the causeway road into Matarangi was closed by slips for several days. Ambulance access was limited, and at times poor weather grounded rescue helicopters. If a similar situation occurred today and the only route in or out was the current walking track, how could we evacuate someone experiencing sepsis, a heart attack, or a life-threatening injury? We simply couldn't—we would be calling on Twentymans.

With the Bluff Road trail reopened and a 1.5-metre-wide suspension bridge in place, however, all-terrain patient transport—like the ATV-towed stretcher trailers used in remote parts of Japan and Australia—could become possible. Fundraising for such equipment for our local FENZ brigades could be a practical and lifesaving step once connectivity is restored.

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The Rescue of the Lawn Ranger

A true tale as told by Margaret Lovell

We have all learned to accept the old saying, "boys will be boys." They just can't resist getting a little closer to danger, being a little more daring... because surely they can handle it. But this "boy" is 87 years old!

The section next door had been cut beautifully, but that small sloping part beside the retaining wall was just too tempting. My husband went a bit too close and, before long, he and the ride-on mower were over the edge of a 1.2-metre unprotected wall, landing on the soggy marshland below. Fortunately, he was thrown clear enough that the mower only trapped his foot when it toppled on its side.

By great luck, D.O.C was mowing the reserve a few sections away and rushed over. And who should just happen to be driving by but Mark, our Chief Fire Officer. Between them, they managed to lift the mower upright and free Edward's foot. Mark did what he could, but soon realised more help was needed—especially given Edward's heart surgery earlier this year.

What happened next was truly impressive. Mark called in the fire team and within minutes the place was swarming with volunteers. By the time I arrived I could only say, "I didn't know this many people lived in Matarangi!" They were marvellous. It was like watching an unspoken code in action—everyone knew exactly what to do, even standing by quietly "at the ready." No fuss. No confusion. Just calm, willing help.

A specialised vehicle appeared as if from nowhere to transport the "patient" across the wetland. A stretcher was ready but not needed. Soon after, an ambulance arrived. A few firemen managed to haul the mower out of the muddy water and even got it running again—despite its parts being scattered everywhere. One of them drove it back toward the house and shouted to ask where to leave it, but I was already needed near the ambulance for questions. All I could do was wave an arm vaguely "around the corner!"

And now, the icing on the cake.

When the ambulance departed with Edward, I looked around. The mower was nowhere in sight. That young fireman had not only figured out exactly where the mower's parking spot was—an awkward, narrow alleyway—but had reversed it in perfectly, bolted the gate from the inside, and even pulled the tarpaulin cover over it. I was amazed, and so very grateful.

Thank you, all you dedicated men—true heroes. To witness such "service to others" is heart-warming and makes life feel very worthwhile. What a wonderful place Matarangi is. Also very pleased and relieved to add that my husband didn't suffer anything too serious, and left hospital that night.



Mercury Bay Arts Hub Project

A new Trust, established after three years of work by the Mercury Bay Arts Centre Steering Committee, is formalising as a charity to advance the community's vision for a dedicated, shared home for arts and creativity.

The Trust is now moving ahead to carry the project forward.

Having an arts centre in the Mercury Bay has been an aspiration for many over the years. The district has long held prominence within the New Zealand Arts Community as a place where many legendary Kiwi artists have resided.

A 2023 feasibility study confirmed overwhelming community support and an urgent need for suitable exhibition, performance, and gathering spaces.

The project is grounded in consultation with Ngāti Hei and guided by principles of accessibility, sustainability, respect, and collaboration.

As well as aligning with several key regional and national strategic frameworks that recognize the arts as essential to community connection and wellbeing including the TCDC's 2024 Arts and Creative Industries Strategy and the Government's Amplify strategy for Arts, Culture and Creativity.

The Trust has outlined potential repurposing of part of the old Whitianga Fire Station site and adjoining Council-owned land following the buildings lease ending in 2030.

In the meantime the Trust will start to gather clear evidence of broad community and stakeholder support to present to the Community Board. They will also begin fundraising for a relocatable arts facility as a short-to-medium-term solution.

This initial relocatable arts hub is an important but short-to medium-term solution designed to provide a flexible and adaptable community space while the groundwork is laid for a future, permanent, purpose-built arts centre post 2030. Once the permanent facility is established, the relocatable structure would be repurposed for continued creative, educational, or social use elsewhere in the wider district

Leading Artists Michael Smither CNZM and G'ian McGregor expressed strong support, urging the Thames-Coromandel District Council to act and provide the facility.

Trust Co-Chair Stuart Christie emphasized that this is the beginning of a multi-phased journey requiring patience, persistence, due diligence, and full Council consultation. The Trust is working independently of TCDC but recognizes the need for a constructive working relationship to realize the vision.

Featured: Michael Smither at the Piano

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www.matarangibeachpaper.com

Project Kiwi Trust – Enhancement & Mauri Restoration at Whangapoua: Celebrating Local Leadership and Environmental Restoration



Project Kiwi Trust is proud to announce significant progress in the Whangapoua Catchment: Enhancement & Mauri Restoration Project. This is a landmark initiative dedicated to enhancing and restoring the ecological vitality of the Whangapoua Catchment. This collaborative project brings together iwi, residents, conservation groups, and regional stakeholders, united in their commitment to restoring the mauri—life force—of our treasured whenua, wetlands, and waterways. The Project Group includes representation from: Ngāti Hei, Ngāti Huarere ki Whangapoua, Rings Beach Wetland Group, Mana Manu Trust, Matarangi Residents and Ratepayers Association, Forest and Bird (Mercury Bay branch), Department of Conservation, and Project Kiwi Trust.

Project Origins and Purpose

The Enhancement & Mauri Restoration Project was established as part of an enforcement order to remedy and restore areas affected by a developer's unconsented vegetation clearance of a significant freshwater wetland adjacent to Matarangi village. Part of the restitution from the developers was a \$100,000 donation from the developers to Project Kiwi Trust for wetland-focused restoration work in the catchment. The Project Group acknowledges the hard work and dedication of several residents and Forest and Bird who fought to advance the court proceedings, Graeme Osborne, Peter Collins and Meg Graeme. The Project Group is working to deliver ecological wetland projects within the Whangapoua catchment, ensuring transparent and accountable use of funds, and that the project is guided by principles of consensus, inclusion, and respect for cultural values, with iwi and community voices at its heart.

Proud Achievements and Current Status

Recent meetings have seen the Project Group work in consensus to prioritise and advance key restoration activities. Notably, the Crosland Project at Crosland Farm is underway, focusing on retiring grazed boggy land to enhance habitat for matuku-hūrepo (bittern) and other native species. Project Group member, Meg Graeme from Forest and Bird, is delighted to share that, "this includes fencing, wetland-edge planting, and establishing pest control lines. With over 1,900 plants planted

and extensive trapping infrastructure planned, this is a project that embraces the values and principles of the wider Project. Wetlands, and many of the species dependant on them, continue to be threatened so such local restoration efforts can provide meaningful benefits to local wildlife including our nationally threatened bittern/matuku hūrepo." The project is carefully managed to ensure costs remain within approved budgets, with local contractors and volunteers leading the work.

Other major initiatives include the Mapauriki Stream Stage B project. Together with the Crosland Project, these initiatives have been awarded \$70,000 for restoration, and further work is currently being considered by the Project Group.

Community Impact and Wider Significance

This project is a testament to the power of local leadership and collaboration. The work being done is about restoring vital wetland habitats, protecting taonga species, and strengthening community connections and cultural heritage. The inclusion of Te Ao Māori across the project and the active involvement of iwi and local groups ensure the project reflects the values and aspirations of Whangapoua.

The Enhancement & Mauri Restoration Project stands as a beacon of what can be achieved when communities come together for the environment. Project Kiwi Trust extends its gratitude to all involved—landowners, volunteers, iwi, conservationists, and supporters—for their dedication and vision.

Looking Ahead

With ongoing planting, pest control, and habitat enhancement, the Enhancement & Mauri Restoration Project continues to make tangible, positive change. The Trust remains committed to transparent reporting, inclusive decision-making, and celebrating the proud achievements of everyone involved. Updates and images will be shared as the project progresses, showcasing the amazing work taking place in Whangapoua and inspiring wider action across the region.

Venus and Mars are hidden from us this month close to the Sun but as soon as it gets dark enough slightly yellowish Saturn can be seen high overhead with bright Jupiter rising a few hours later. A small telescope or powerful binoculars will clearly show its four moons moving from night to night and maybe Saturn's rings. We have a chance to briefly glimpse elusive Mercury very low in the eastern pre-dawn sky around the middle of the month.

There will be some Chinese Tiangong and several 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.

December 6 – The Moon has moved to be directly to the left of Jupiter and from 10:20pm we have a NW bright ISS pass.

December 7 – Jupiter is now directly above the bright Moon and from 9:32pm we have a bright ISS pass in the NW.

December 8 – The Moon now lies below and to the right of Jupiter after midnight and from 10:21pm we have a good ISS pass in the west.

December 9 – The Moon now sits well to the right and below Jupiter and from 9:33pm we have a good ISS pass in the NE.

December 10 – From 10:23pm very low in the SW we have an ISS pass moving through the Southern Cross.

December 11 – From 9:35pm in the west we have a good ISS pass moving just above the Southern Cross.

December 13 – There will be a very low ISS pass from 9:37pm in the SW moving through the Southern Cross.

December 16 – The crescent Moon lies well above and to the left of faint Mercury low in the east before sunrise.

December 17 – The Moon is now closer to Mercury but still above and to its left and from 11:17pm we have a low ISS pass in the south.

December 18 – Mercury sits very low in the pre dawn eastern sky with a thin crescent moon just above it.

December 19 – The minute crescent Moon now sits directly to the right of faint Mercury in the pre-dawn sky and from 11:18pm in the south there is a short ISS pass before it disappears into the Earth's shadow just above the Southern Cross.

December 20 – There is a low ISS pass in the south from 10:30pm moving just above the Southern Cross.

December 22 – The ISS makes a good pass from 10:30pm in the SW before it moves into the Earth's shadow.

December 24 – The crescent Moon sits well to the left and below Saturn after dusk. The ISS makes a good pass from 10:30pm in the SW and keen eyed children might just catch a glimpse of Santae Australis moving down from the north late tonight.

December 25 – The crescent Moon is now moving closer to Saturn but still below and to its left and there is an ISS pass from 9:42pm in the SW.

December 26 – The Moon now lies just below and to the left of Saturn after dusk and there will be an ISS pass from 10:31pm in the west.

December 27 – The Moon now lies just below and to the right of Saturn and from 9:43pm in the west there will be an ISS pass moving between the Moon and Saturn.

December 28 – The First Quarter Moon now lies to the right and slightly above Saturn after dusk and from 5:12am there will be a Tiangong pass starting right beside Jupiter.

December 29 – The Moon has now moved further to the right and higher above Saturn after dusk.

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<https://www.ourmatarangi.com/join>

Matarangi Summer Festival

December 2025- January 2026

Santa Parade

20th Dec 11:00 - 11:30 am

Santa is coming to town, gather your mates & Decorate your fav set of wheels or put your best Xmas Costume on for our beachside parade. All welcome and For the Kids Santa is coming! Thanks to: Northern Mercury Bay Business Assn & Puku & Kerre's Liquor Store

Fire Station Open Day

27th Dec 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Get up close & personal with the MVRFF engines. Down at the Matarangi Fire Station Kids can even have a go with the fire hose. Thanks to: FENZ

Bar Crossing Seminar

28th Dec 9:00 am

We are presenting a 'Bar Crossing Advisory Seminar' at the Fire Station. Everyone Welcome.

Thanks to: Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

CFM & Promo Crew Giveaways

29th Dec 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lots of Fun & Giveaways at the Village Green.

Thanks to: Warren Male & Coromandel CFM

Bike & Helmet Decorating

29th Dec 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

🚲 "Bling Your Bike, Make Your Helmet Style – Win a New Ride That'll Make You Smile!"

Calling all creative kids 12 years and under! Get your craft on and enter our Bike & Helmet Decorating Competition for your chance to win one of TWO brand-new bikes!

To enter: ★ Decorate your bike ★ Decorate your helmet 🚫 No helmet = no entry – safety first! Bring your most colourful, creative, and totally unique designs. The bolder, the better!

Proudly sponsored by Piper's Café,
Let's see what awesome creations you come up with! 🚲🏆👧👦👧👦

The Big Dig

29th Dec 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hey Kids, can you dig? If so, get down to the beach off the village green & find an ice block stick (Hands Only) see what your prize is. Age groups up to 5y, 6 - 10y & 11 - 15Y

Thanks to: Richardsons Real Estate

Show & Shine

30th Dec 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Calling all Matarangi Car enthusiast's no matter what year make or model bring down your treasured ride for the annual Show n Shine at the Matarangi Fire station. All welcome to view these classic beauties.

Thanks to: Matarangi Beach Realty

MVFB Collection

31st Dec 3:00 pm

Our amazing Crew at the Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade will be out and about show them some love with a gold coin donation.

Blue Lewis Tournament

Annual Fishing Comp 3rd Jan

The adults get a chance to show who the reel fisherman is! Tickets Avail online <http://www.mbfc.co.nz> Thanks to: Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

Matarangi Tennis Tournament

2nd Jan 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thanks to: Gilly Alexander

Cardboard Cup

3rd Jan 10:00 am - 11:00 am

If you're aged between 8-18 years get out all those cartons and boxes create your unique designed vessel ready to race on the day around the 50m course at the Wharf.

Entry forms from Richardsons
Thanks to: Richardsons Real Estate

Sandcastle Competition

4th Jan 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

From individuals to families, young to the not so young, Show your creativity on the day with castles big or small, Down on the Beach Off the Village Green. Thanks to: Matarangi Beach Realty & Tip Top & CFM with the Hellers BBQ

Beach Day Out

10th Jan 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

More Fun & Giveaways at the Village Green.

Thanks to: Coromandel CFM

Small Fry Fishing Comp

5th Jan 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Bring your small fry (Under 12years) down to the Matarangi wharf for the kids to show up their parents for the kids fishing competition, \$2 Entry, Biggest Fish, Smallest Fish, Best Crab, Strangest Fish and Best Dressed Bucket Sausage Sizzle \$2 Thanks to: Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

Night Market / Car Boot Sale

15th Jan 5pm - 8pm The Dunes Car Park

Buy or Sell, join in the fun of a car boot sale & market. Clean out the bach or fill it!

Enjoy The Dunes special market style food whilst listening to live music on the lawn. Stall Holder enquiries and/or to register a site, pop into the admin office at The Dunes or email events@thedunesmatarangi.com with contact details and description of type of wares you wish to sell. Arts & Crafts, Bric-a-brac, kids toys, home baking, produce, plants, books, clothing....

\$15 per stall holder | T&Cs apply

Thanks to: The Dunes

Kids Mini Putt

21st Jan - Test your golfing skills!

5-7yrs 10.30am, 8-10yrs 11.30am

11-14yrs 12.30pm

At The Dunes Bowling Green (adjacent to carpark) Ice-blocks for all participants, spot prizes for each age category. Gold coin entry fee Thanks to: The Dunes Golf Club & Tip Top

For more information about the Matarangi Summer Festival, go to our Richardsons Matarangi Facebook page

Matarangi Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc (MRRAI) www.ourmatarangi.com



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Family Fun Things to do Events
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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
Lesley, 021 280 0780.

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

18 Hole Men, 18 Hole Ladies and 9 Hole Ladies
Haggle last date of the Year:

Thursday the 11th of December: combined Xmas
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9 Hole Men: last date 18th December: Back 9 &
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	High	Low	High	Low	High
5		01:10:00	07:30:00	13:40:00	19:48:00
6		02:04:00	08:24:00	14:36:00	20:43:00
7		02:57:00	09:16:00	15:31:00	21:38:00
8		03:49:00	10:09:00	16:25:00	22:32:00
9		04:41:00	11:01:00	17:19:00	23:25:00
10		05:33:00	11:53:00	18:13:00	
11	00:19:00	06:25:00	12:46:00	19:06:00	
12	01:13:00	07:19:00	13:38:00	19:59:00	
13	02:08:00	08:14:00	14:30:00	20:51:00	
14	03:04:00	09:09:00	15:22:00	21:43:00	
15	04:00:00	10:04:00	16:12:00	22:34:00	
16	04:54:00	10:57:00	17:02:00	23:24:00	
17	05:46:00	11:48:00	17:50:00		
18		00:12:00	06:34:00	12:36:00	18:37:00
19		00:58:00	07:19:00	13:22:00	19:23:00
20		01:41:00	08:02:00	14:07:00	20:08:00
21		02:24:00	08:43:00	14:50:00	20:51:00
22		03:04:00	09:24:00	15:33:00	21:34:00
23		03:44:00	10:04:00	16:15:00	22:16:00
24		04:24:00	10:44:00	16:58:00	22:58:00
25		05:05:00	11:26:00	17:41:00	23:41:00
26		05:48:00	12:09:00	18:25:00	
27	00:27:00	06:34:00	12:55:00	19:12:00	
28	01:17:00	07:25:00	13:44:00	20:02:00	
29	02:11:00	08:20:00	14:37:00	20:56:00	
30	03:11:00	09:20:00	15:33:00	21:53:00	
31	04:13:00	10:22:00	16:32:00	22:53:00	
5	01:10:00	07:30:00	13:40:00	19:48:00	
5		01:10:00	07:30:00	13:40:00	19:48:00
6		02:04:00	08:24:00	14:36:00	20:43:00
7		02:57:00	09:16:00	15:31:00	21:38:00

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

T. and L. True, 2025

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Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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