

MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

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MBP 191
JANUARY 2026

Paying Twice as Much for Water?

Grant Short's Case for Water Reform in Matarangi



Santa Parade
Blue Lewis Fishing
Longest Day Golf
The Big Dig
& More

"Why are Matarangi residents paying, on average, \$4.09 per cubic metre for potable water, when the average Whitianga ratepayer pays only \$1.71 per cubic metre?"

That is the central question posed by Grant Short, a retired pharmacist and member of the Matarangi Ratepayers Association inc (MRRAI), who has been applying his professional expertise to a detailed analysis of Matarangi's water challenges. His work spans potable water, stormwater, and wastewater, and focuses on whether the current system delivers water that is safe, sufficient, sustainable — and equitably priced.

According to Grant, the answer lies not in water availability, but in how water is charged. "The components of water pricing are set out in the Council's Long-Term Plan and Annual Plans," he explains, "but the charging model itself is no longer fit for purpose."

Under the current framework, metered communities such as Whitianga pay on average \$1.71 per cubic metre, while non-metered communities like Matarangi effectively pay more than twice that amount.

MRRAI has been particularly active in advocating for Matarangi's interests in the Three Waters space,

an area Short describes as increasingly opaque. "Multiple legislative changes have clouded the pathway forward," he says. "The original model was discarded, turned inside out, and then fundamentally reshaped. What hasn't been addressed is a charging system that produces growing inequity."

Earlier this month, MRRAI presented a formal submission to Council, raising concerns across a range of water-related issues. Central to that submission was the widening cost disparity between metered and non-metered communities. Grant warns that under the existing approach, this inequity is not static. "Unless the system is reformed, the gap will continue to grow over time," he says.

In Grant's view, the most straightforward solution is the introduction of smart water meters. "There's a common perception that metering means higher costs," he notes.

"In Matarangi's case, the opposite is true for almost everybody — particularly absentee owners and infrequent occupiers. Metering ensures people pay only for the water they actually use."

"There is no practical reason why two or more tariff structures could not be offered if smart meters were installed throughout TCDC. For instance batch owners whom infrequently used their properties

might prefer a mix of lower line fee and higher m3 price and full time residents a higher line fee and lower /m3 price, both with caveats," says Grant.

"With such a high absentee ownership rate, having options could well be attractive. The point is that with such a difference in ownership and usage Council needs to do modelling to achieve not only equity but value."

Beyond pricing, Grant's analysis highlights serious resilience concerns. Matarangi's permanent population now sits at around 1,400, reflected in year-round demand and increased school bus use. The town relies on a single pipeline of uncertain lifespan and capacity.

"If that pipeline fails," Grant says, "the only alternative is water trucking, with the nearest treatment plants in Whitianga or Coromandel — both of which may face their own supply pressures."

Featured: Grant Short at the Opitonui Stream Intake Pump where our Matarangi fresh water supply originates. From there it travels by a mains pipe installed 35 years ago under the Whangapoua harbour to a landing pump near Kelly Jade Avenue.

(Continued on page 4)

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CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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

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GOOD SORT



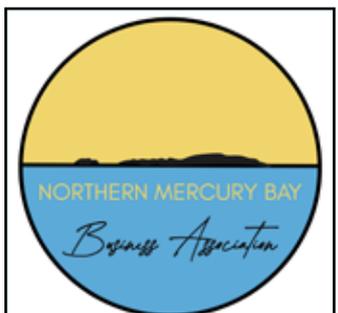
Jared Adams is our January Good Sort of the Month! Jared has replaced the old rope on the pōhutukawa tree rope swing at Whangapoua Harbour with a brand-new water ski rope, complete with handle. His only request? That everyone enjoys the swing — and leaves it there for others to enjoy too.

Good on you, Jared, for bringing back a bit of old-school summer fun and looking out for the whole community. We salute you!

It is so disappointing to see this here again



While 99.9% of people seeing the New Year in acted like responsible adults and behaved themselves, one group broke the alcohol and fireworks ban that was in place and left trash at the childrens playground area leaving Matarangi Reserves Management Group volunteer member Grant Short the job of tidying up after them. Were these the people who were still letting off fireworks at 2am keeping everyone awake and distressing dogs into barking?



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Paying Twice as Much for Water?

(Continued from Page 1)

While an upgraded water treatment plant is nearing completion, with commissioning expected in early 2026, Grant cautions that the increased treatment capacity will not be available in time for the next peak season. "Even with sufficient river water," he says, "restrictions should be expected."

For Grant and MRRAi, the conclusion is clear: without reform to both infrastructure planning and water charging, Matarangi will continue to pay more for less certainty. "Equitable pricing," he says, "is not optional — it's fundamental to delivering safe, sufficient, and sustainable water for the community."

A period of change is underway for Matarangi, with a substantially new Council now in place following elections fought on promises of reform and better value for ratepayers. The Matarangi Ratepayers Association says it will be watching closely to see whether those commitments translate into practical outcomes for the community.

As a member of the Association, Grant says expectations are high "Many of the newly elected councillors campaigned on improving value for money and being more responsive to community concerns," he said. "We intend to monitor their progress carefully and hold them to the standards they set for themselves, says Grant."

Meanwhile, uncertainty remains around the wastewater consent process. No decision has yet been notified, and even if consent is granted, residents should not expect immediate change. "A consent is only the first step," Short explained. "After that, a compliant design still needs to be completed and the facility built, so any new plant is still some time away."

Residents are encouraged to engage directly with these issues at the Association's Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 9.00am on Sunday, 25 January 2026, at The Dunes. Council representatives will be present to hear community views and answer questions. "This is an opportunity to learn the facts, ask questions, and influence outcomes in a positive way," said Short.

The Association also reminds residents to visit www.ourmatarangi.com for updates on the Bluff Road Connectivity Project.

Grant Short had a blunt message for locals on the sidelines. "Don't just bitch and moan," he said. "Participate, get informed, and consider putting your hand up for the committee. Regular infusions of new talent are vital."

While the AGM is a members-only meeting, new members can join at the door by paying the 2026 subscription.

Water Charges Cost Comparison Table - Whitianga vs Matarangi

Line Fee	Differential Ratio	Number of Connections	\$ per Connection	Revenue incl GST
Connected, metered and within a scheduled reading scheme e.g. Whitianga	0.5	11545	577.73	6,669,830.35
Connected, non-metered and not within a scheduled reading scheme e.g. Matarangi	1.0	9432	1155.46	10,898,537.87
The availability to the land but not connected	0.75	1309	866.60	1,134,631.09
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(Annual Plan 2025/26)

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Business Association Christmas Drinks



On Tuesday, December 9, members of the Northern Mercury Bay Business Association came together for pre-Christmas drinks, enjoying a relaxed and sociable evening.

The event was generously hosted by Mandy and Kalib Drake of Pipers Café, who kindly donated platters of finger food for those attending. Their hospitality was greatly appreciated and helped set the tone for an enjoyable night—many thanks to them both.

Speaking at the event, Simone Parr of Richardsons Real Estate highlighted the value of these gatherings, saying, "In a small community like ours it's really important for local businesses to come together, connect, and support one another."

"These social occasions help strengthen relationships and make our business community even stronger."

The next NMBBA event will be held in February and promises to be another highlight on the calendar. It will be hosted by Glenn Sonntag of GJ Gardner Homes at his new showhome on Matarangi Drive, which is featured elsewhere in this issue—certainly something to look forward to.

Featured: Simone Parr of Richardsons Real Estate, Jane McLean of McLean Books, and Steve Threadgold of Good as Gold Painters.

The Matarangi Fire Report

December we had 12 call outs. We had some strong gusts coming from the South East that toppled two large Gum trees along Matarangi Drive within half an hour of each other. For safety reasons we blocked the road for several hours until the winds subsided.

We also had 8 medical call outs and a motor vehicle versus a tree on the highway.

There was also a community boat rescue of 3 kayakers that had got into difficulty and were blown 5km plus off the bluff. Thank you to the vigilant residents and a personal boat that also went to their aid and the keen volunteers that averted a more serious situation.

I would also like to thank our community for their generous donations during our New Year's collection. Each year we face as a brigade increasing costs to keep our brigade on point for all events we may be challenged with.

We wish everyone a safe and happy 2026 and look forward to seeing your support on our regular Friday member nights.

Stay Safe,

Mark Hall
Chief Fire Officer
Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade



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The School Bell



As Acting Principal of Te Rerenga School, I am pleased to share in full the end-of-year address I delivered at our recent prizegiving. In this speech, I reflect on the year that was, celebrating our students' achievements, acknowledging the dedication of our staff and whānau, and recognising the wider community support that continues to strengthen our school.

It is with great pleasure that I stand here at our Annual Prizegiving Celebration. I believe we all make Te Rerenga School an amazing place to be. Motivated learners, outstanding teaching and support staff, a most supportive Board, a very busy PTA, and all of you, our school community. It is wonderful to have so many whānau here today to celebrate the achievements of 2025. The children at Te Rerenga are a group of kind and respectful children, who have fantastic learning opportunities available to them.

Recently we had Noeleene, our school neighbour, come into school to teach a group of senior girls the traditional art of cake decorating. The girls sprinkled glitter on to parts of the cake and told Noeleen that Te Rerenga School motto is to "Sprinkle kindness like confetti".

It was so wonderful to hear the children being able to speak of this, as this is just who they are! We have had a great year with so many exciting things happening, both in and out of the classroom. In particular the new Astro Turf which went down on the field to expand the playing surfaces, as our roll has grown over the last few years. This has been well used, as has the Gaga Gaga

Ball game Paul Dixon created for us. The replacement of the swimming pool pump system and painting happened in Term One. A very special event for me was the Cultural Festival at MBAS where the children wore their new kākahu and tātua. I have spent a number of years advocating for our kapa haka rōpū and wish to acknowledge the PTA and the donation from A Taste of Matarangi that made this possible. Sporting events, nature school, Āta titiro, and the school camps are always a highlight of the year for the children and were successfully run by our dedicated teachers.

We are a very privileged school to have a team of such experienced teachers who ensure the teaching and learning at Te Rerenga School caters for the needs of all of our children. There has been a lot of noise out there this year from the media and the government, following a reworking of the curriculum that has been rolled out over a very short time span. This has left teachers across New Zealand feeling breathless and strained. The teachers at Te Rerenga School have shown flexibility and composure. As experienced teachers they know teaching is about relationships, and they strive to build positive relationships first and foremost.

A huge thank you to the PTA who during the year have put on fun events, as well as fundraising events. Your dedication and hard work is really appreciated. The PTA organise the discos, the selling of Juices every Wednesday, a gumboot throwing contest, along with the Christmas parade this coming Saturday. The colour run was an outstanding success, and I know I thoroughly enjoyed watching my grandchildren run around the course. Also thank you to those sponsors that get in behind the PTA fundraisers and give so generously.

To our newly elected Board of Trustees, unbeknown to many, the work they do behind the scenes in terms of governance is a huge responsibility that encompasses property and financial management, your time and effort is appreciated. A special thank-you to our presiding member Michael Lintott, who has supported me as I have acted as principal during Mary's sabbatical this term. I would also like to acknowledge Danielle Threadgold, our office administrator, who keeps her finger on the pulse for all that is happening in and around the school, she is a busy lady who manages busy with a smile!

Today we congratulate and celebrate the students who are receiving awards at our 2025 annual prize giving. They are all awards you have richly deserved.

Matua Barry-George Colmer will present a taonga today to our "lifers". He has specially crafted pounamu for the lifers. These are the children who started their primary schooling journey here at Te Rerenga School, and are now leaving us as Year 8's.

This year we are farewelling Matua C as he heads back over to Coromandel Area School. Also Seara Tukiri who has had a fabulous year as a teacher aide as her own business becomes busier. And to Mrs Bay, whose eight year association with the school comes to an end today. Mrs Bay has been an outstanding relieving teacher and in recent years become part time. This term she has worked full time in Ruma Maunga. We are going to miss your whole family as you head to Tauranga with your family. We wish you all the best wishes for your next season and we appreciate the care you have shown to our tamariki. Arohanui!

We also farewell our wonderful Year 8s. This year you have been an amazing group of leaders who have strived for excellence. Today we are presenting you all with a Huia feather. The Huia feather is a treasure for Māori and symbolises leadership and mana.

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu

We hope we have adorned your feathers to enable you to fly.

A new leavers' tradition, which began last year, is to ring our school bell for one last time. All of the year 8's will come up for one last ring of the bell at the end of the assembly.

Finally to you all, I hope you all have a wonderful safe summer break!

Merry Christmas and we will see you in 2026!

Featured: Our Year 8 students pictured outside the Kuaotunu hall where they had their Leavers dinner to celebrate their years together at Te Rerenga School.



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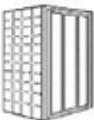
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THE FISHING REPORT

Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club



January 2026

Happy New year to you all. Great to see you all out on the water taking advantage of some good fishing days.

Just a bit of a recap of the events we held over the Christmas period.

The bar crossing seminar run was again well attended. The Harbour Master was very informative with some good tips for crossing a bar.

We had 68 registered anglers fished in our Blue Lewis Tournament held on 3rd January. Thank you to our sponsors for your support of this event. NES Hire Limited, Ray White Matarangi, Coromandel ATV & Jet Ski Services, Beach Realty Matarangi, Richardsons Matarangi, Matarangi General Store, Matarangi Four Square & T&M Auto Electrical. Catch all the winners on our website <https://www.mbfc.co.nz/gallery-1>

The Small Fry competition is being held on 5th January. Will report on this in the next issue of the Matarangi Beach paper.

The Club is looking forward to hosting the Ladies Doris Day Out Tournament on the Saturday, 14th March 2026. So, ladies, book the babysitter, organise the skipper and crew. This event is always a great day. Details for this competition will be released very shortly. Keep an eye out on our website or social media pages.

We couldn't run these events without our sponsors. We thank you all for your generosity and continued support of the club and making each competition bigger and better. A big shout out to our club members. We value your support.

You can keep up to date with news on our website www.mbfc.co.nz, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/matarangiboatandfishingclub> and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/matarangi.boat.fishing.club/>

DON'T TAKE RISKS, IF IN DOUBT, DON'T CROSS THE BAR. WEARING A CORRECT FITTING LIFE JACKET IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT WHEN CROSSING THE BAR.

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

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Featured: The Winner of the Heaviest Snapper at the Blue Lewis Tournament was Glen Robertson who weighed in with a fine fish of 7.175kg. Here is Glen being congratulated by prize sponsor Rod Cooke of NES Hire Ltd

Quiz and Curry Night to Support MBAS Student Trip to Japan

Four local students — Abby, Lucy, Zoe and Ivy, all Year 11 students at MBAS — are preparing for an exciting cultural trip to Japan in April, and the community is invited to help them get there.

Living in the Matarangi-Kuaotunu area, the girls have been selected to take part in the trip to practise their Japanese language skills, build relationships with host families and experience Japanese culture first-hand. They are hugely excited about the opportunity and are working hard to earn both the funding and the privilege of representing their school overseas.

To help raise the funds needed, the girls are hosting a Curry and Quiz Night on Thursday 8 January at the Matarangi Fire Station, starting at 6pm. Locals are encouraged to

assemble a team and come along for what promises to be a fun-filled evening.

The girls will provide the "brain food" with a selection of delicious curries, while teams of four or eight are invited to bring their best quiz knowledge — or at least their best guesswork. The night will also feature raffles and auctions, all in support of the Japan trip fundraiser.

Tickets and enquiries can be made by emailing or texting Jane McLean at: japantripfundraiser2026@gmail.com

It's set to be a great night out for a great cause — with the added bonus of helping local students take a big step onto the world stage.

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Matarangi Beach was a hive of activity as the annual Big Dig, sponsored by Richardsons Real Estate, returned for another summer highlight.

Hundreds of children took part, digging furiously in search of buried ice block sticks, sending sand flying as they raced to uncover their "treasure." Successful diggers then headed straight to Simone and her team to trade their finds for well-earned ice blocks.

A firm favourite on the Matarangi calendar, The Big Dig once again delivered simple, high-energy fun and proved why it remains a much-loved Matarangi summer classic for families year after year.

Photos courtesy of Richardsons Real Estate



The beach was alive with creativity on Sunday 4 January 2026 as families and friends gathered for the annual Matarangi Sandcastle Competition, proudly sponsored by Mark and Shirvani from Beach Realty. Competitors of all ages set to work transforming our Matarangi beach sand into an impressive array of castles, creatures and imaginative designs.

The competition once again proved to be a highlight of the Matarangi Summer Festival, drawing a strong crowd of spectators who wandered the beach admiring the handiwork and cheering on the fifty teams. The winners this year were: 1st - *Sandy Cheeks* #4; 2nd - *Holey Cheese* #65 and 3rd - *The Octopus* #56. Thanks to Mark and Shirvani from Beach Realty for their continued support, which helped make the event such a success.

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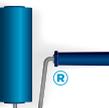
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Santa Parade



Matarangi put on a great Santa Parade, with several hundred people lining Matarangi Drive to enjoy the spectacle. Around a dozen floats took part this year, creating plenty of colour and Christmas cheer. The weather was so good that many spectators needed to apply sunscreen, adding to the relaxed, summery atmosphere.

Supported by the Northern Mercury Bay Business Association, the parade also marked the official opening event of the Matarangi Summer Festival. Puku Stevens of Puku and Kerre's Liquor Store had the honour of judging the floats. Clearly impressing the judges, the Fishing Club took out first place, followed by Te Rerenga School in second and Beach Rovers in third.

As expected, the highlight for many was the arrival of the Christmas superstar himself. Santa made a memorable entrance in a gold BMW convertible, accompanied by his mischievous little elf helper. From his Santa sack, he generously sprayed lollies to delighted fans both young and old.

Dozens of happy children then lined up to have their photo taken with Santa, rounding off a thoroughly successful and festive community event.



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JAN A MATARANGI SUMMER FESTIVAL EVENT

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SEE OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DETAILS ON EVENTS & UPDATES ON HOURS



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15

NIGHT MARKET + CAR BOOT SALE

5PM - 8PM | THE DUNES CAR PARK | LIVE MUSIC

18

LIVE MUSIC WITH DAVE KENNEDY

3PM - 6PM

22

GRINS SUMMER PARTY

3PM ONWARDS | GRINS DEALS, MERCH GIVEAWAYS
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The Dunes Report: The Longest Day Challenge Raises 24K

Friday 5 December marked an outstanding day of endurance, generosity and community spirit at The Dunes Golf Club, Matarangi, as golfers took part in the annual Longest Day Challenge in support of the Cancer Society.

From first light, two teams comprising 14 golfers set out to complete an extraordinary challenge: walking up to 34 kilometres and playing 72 holes of golf over 13 hours. By day's end, their collective effort had raised nearly \$24,500, funds that will directly support cancer services and patient care throughout New Zealand.

Leading the charge was the team "Table 10 Goes Again", made up of 12 players proudly sporting their signature pink shirts. As at 9 December, the team had raised an impressive \$24,431, placing them at the top of the

national leaderboard for the highest amount raised by a single team. This remarkable achievement is a source of great pride for both the team and The Dunes Golf Club.

Throughout the day, The Dunes provided logistical support to keep the challenge running smoothly, including refreshments between rounds. Local residents and supporters lined balconies, driveways and lake edges, cheering the golfers on as they passed. Additional funds were raised through raffles and a donation box, further boosting the total.

As the golfers completed their final round, a large crowd gathered on the clubhouse deck to watch the 72nd hole, applauding and cheering as the challenge was completed. Past Chairperson of the Dunes Golf Committee, Bev Gwyn, reflected on the moment, saying that although the

players were clearly exhausted, "they all had huge smiles on their faces and were exhilarated by what they had achieved together and the difference they had made."

Team leader Grant Morgan spoke about the personal motivation behind the challenge. "This event is deeply personal for all of us," he said. "Every member of the team knows someone — family or friends — who has been affected by cancer. Four rounds of golf in one day is tough, but it's nothing compared to what people living with cancer face every day. Taking on this challenge is our way of honouring their fight and supporting the vital work of the Cancer Society."

The Longest Day Challenge was an exceptional effort by all involved showing what can be achieved through commitment, teamwork and community support.



MRRAI

Matarangi Ratepayers and Residents Association Incorporated

2026 Annual Meeting Meeting

9:00 a.m - Sunday 25 January 2026 - The Dunes

Matarangi Ratepayers and Residents Association Incorporated (MRRAI) is a non-profit society that represents the interests and wellbeing of the Matarangi community.

The Association provides a collective voice for residents and advocates to the Thames-Coromandel District Council, Waikato Regional Council, and other relevant organisations.

Run entirely by local volunteers, MRRAI works to protect and enhance Matarangi's character, environment, and quality of life. The Association supports community infrastructure, public amenities, and sustainable development, guided by a strong commitment to collaboration and community involvement.

Funded solely through member subscriptions, MRRAI believes that by working together with residents, local groups, and council bodies, Matarangi can remain a vibrant, safe, and connected community into the future.

Membership is open to all property owners and/or permanent residents.

We always welcome new members who want to contribute to the future of our community.

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A Modern Kiwi Bach Comes to Life at G.J. Gardner Homes' New Matarangi Showhome



The team at G.J. Gardner Homes Coromandel team were excited to open their new Matarangi showhome for the first time last month, and were thrilled with the overwhelmingly positive response from the public, with strong attendance and encouraging feedback from visitors.

Known as "Matarangi Breeze," the showhome reflects a thoughtful combination of functionality, style and relaxed seaside living. This one-level design spans approximately 175.6 m², and features an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, three generous bedrooms, a family bathroom with a separate toilet, a dedicated laundry, and an ensuite off the master bedroom.

"There's always a bit of worry about how the public will perceive a new showhome, but the feedback was all positive, which was really pleasing. My main goal was to create a good old Kiwi bach where future memories are made with family and friends," said builder Glenn Sonntag.

"The home has a bit of a retro feel, with breeze blocks on the front deck and a semi-retro fit-out inside. It would suit a family looking for a great-value bach, or a permanent home for retirement or a local working family."

Indoor-outdoor living is a key feature, with every room in the house — including the bedrooms — opening directly onto the rear deck and private backyard. Front and rear decking provides options to enjoy both morning and afternoon sun, as well as sheltered outdoor areas for Matarangi's breezier days.

The living and dining area is enhanced by a scissor-trussed ceiling, creating a light, open feel while remaining a cost-effective way to achieve a raking ceiling. The designer kitchen includes stone benchtops, wood-fluted detailing to the island, and quality Fisher & Paykel appliances.

Designed to be adaptable, the home can be easily modified to suit different sites, budgets and lifestyles — whether as a holiday retreat, retirement home or permanent residence.

One of the strengths of this design lies in its simplicity and adaptability. The layout can be easily modified to suit different sites, budgets, or personal tastes, making it an ideal starting point for a wide range of homeowners.

The G.J. Gardner Homes Coromandel team understands that no two clients are the same. By working closely with customers, they aim to design and build homes that truly reflect individual lifestyles and needs. Backed by extensive local building knowledge and experience — and supported by New Zealand's most trusted home builder — clients can expect excellent service, quality workmanship and a home built to last.

It is this commitment to customers and quality that continues to define the success of G.J. Gardner Homes, and the new Matarangi showhome stands as a clear example of that promise in action.



Where in the WORLD is the Matarangi Beach Paper?

The MBP was recently in Slovenia with our intrepid deputy editors Mary and Teresa who stopped by the famous heart at Lake Bled, one of the most beautiful places on earth

It's a popular photo spot, symbolising romance, fairytales and love, with the emerald waters of the lake — perfect for postcard-style shots.

While there they enjoyed a beautiful walk along the lake edge looking over to heart shaped island and its church situated in the centre. Bled castle rises majestically over the lake and the scenery is quite spectacular. As sports fans they said it was interesting to see the Olympic rowing centre where many international events are held.

Later they were off to the Postojna caves. The caves are a 23 km karst cave system in South West Slovenia and really is a natural wonder of the world. The girls said the journey into the caves was awe inspiring. For the first 3.5 kms you were on a little train that wound its way through tunnels and various caverns. The next part was 1.5 km on foot and was absolutely spectacular taking you into the white cave and ending up at the concert hall. Incredible!

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SHOW & SHINE

Amongst the beautiful cars at the Show and Shine on December 30th at the Fire Station were these two young ladies and their pride and joys. Dressed in pink was this stylish youngster in her matching pink electric Range Rover. Slightly older was Karin who displayed her white 1966 Holden HR Station Wagon. A true unrestored Kiwi classic it was very much admired and bought back many memories of summer holiday car journeys to the Coromandel. Thanks to Mark and Shirvani of Beach Realty for hosting the chance for local car enthusiasts to display, view and chat about their classic cars!



Cardboard Cup Regatta

The ever-popular Cardboard Cup Regatta returned to Whangapoua Harbour on Saturday 3 January as a crowd favourite of the Matarangi Summer Festival, drawing plenty of spectators to the waterfront for an afternoon of fun and creativity.

While entry numbers were down on previous years, the enthusiasm and ingenuity on display were anything but. Homemade cardboard vessels of all shapes and sizes took to the harbour, cheered on by a supportive crowd as crews paddled, wobbled and occasionally sank their way around the course.

Event sponsor Simone Parr from Richardsons Real Estate said she was particularly impressed by the strong showing from female competitors. "Despite fewer entries, the level of competition was great, and the 'girl power' on display was outstanding," she said, noting that girls dominated the racing and took out the main prizes.

With laughter, good-natured rivalry and plenty of soggy cardboard, the Cardboard Cup once again proved why it remains a much-loved part of the Matarangi Summer Festival — celebrating creativity, community and a willingness to give anything a go



First home were Lucia and Remi who were adorned with Hawaiian luau and also won the best dressed prize too!

We are missing three of the planets this month as Mars, Mercury and Venus are all too close to the Sun to be visible. However, we can still enjoy the two largest, Saturn and Jupiter in the evenings and the Moon can help us find them. Jupiter rises several hours after Saturn and is at its best for the year this month. It will be the brightest thing in the sky apart from the Moon. A small telescope or even powerful binoculars will reveal its four biggest moons moving dramatically from night to night.

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.

January 7 – Bright Jupiter makes a pretty triangle with the stars Castor and Pollux which form the twin heads of Gemini low in the NE and from 5:09am there will be a good Tiangong pass in the SW.

January 12 – There will be a good Tiangong pass from 9:37pm in the NW.
January 13 – There will be a bright and long Tiangong pass from 10:14pm starting near Saturn in the west.

January 14 – The three stars forming the claws of Scorpio lie midway between the crescent Moon and the red giant star Antares in its neck before dawn and from 9:15pm in the NW there will be a long Tiangong pass.

January 15 – The Moon now sits right beside Antares in Scorpio just before dawn.

January 16 – The crescent Moon now lies well below and to the right of Antares the red giant star at the neck of Scorpio just before dawn and there will be a good ISS pass in the north from 5:45am.

January 18 – We have a bright ISS pass in the NW from 5:46am.

January 19 – There will be a very bright ISS pass from 5:00am in the NW moving high overhead.

January 20 – There will be a low ISS pass from 5:47am in the east.

January 21 – At dusk the Moon is low in the western horizon with Saturn above and to its right and at 5:00am there will be a good ISS pass in the west.

January 22 – The Moon at dusk has climbed to be below and to the left of Saturn low in the west and in the early morning there is a very low ISS pass from 5:48am in the SW.

January 23 – The Moon now sits just below and to the right of Saturn low in the west at dusk and at 5:00am there is a low ISS pass in the SW.

January 24 – The Moon has now climbed to be above and well to the right of Saturn low in the west at dusk.

January 25 – The Moon is now well to the right of Saturn low in the west at dusk.

January 29 – The bright Moon sits well to the left of bright Jupiter late in the evening.

January 30 – The Moon has moved to be just below and to the left of bright Jupiter.

January 31 – The bright Moon now sits right below bright Jupiter late in the evening.

February 1 – The Moon now lies well to the right and below bright Jupiter in the late evening and from 5:52am in the SW there will be a very low ISS pass.

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TEN YEARS ON IN THE MBP

In the MBP of January 2016 we reported on a Christmas-New Year season full of community spirit, celebration and resilience across Matarangi and Kuaotunu.

The Matarangi Santa Parade, organised once again by Puku and Kerre, kicked off the summer festival calendar in fine style. Widely regarded as one of the Peninsula's best small-town parades, it drew a strong turnout of floats and spectators, with Santa arriving in complete style — elf included — to the delight of young and old alike.

The Matarangi Summer Festival followed with all the favourite events back on the programme. Big crowds lined both the beach and harbour side to enjoy the Big Dig, Sandcastle Competition, Cardboard Cup, and the always popular Thundercats races. With great participation across all age groups, the festival once again proved why it remains a highlight of the summer calendar.

In the January 2016 edition we previewed a coming exhibition titled Across the Pacific, by photographer Ian Preece at Luke's Gallery, Kuaotunu. Ian's show revealed the contrasting and vast landscapes of the American West with the more intimate beauty of the Coromandel, reminding viewers that extraordinary images can often be found close to Home.

Not all news was festive. On 29 December, Bluff Road between Matarangi and Kuaotunu was closed again following further rockfalls, with safety concerns forcing a full closure to all traffic.

Community fun continued with a lively Quiz Night at the fire station on 5 January, hosted by Andy Corles of Castle Rock Café. The winning team was Ane Vander de Zeyden, Janine and Paul Wymer, and Maarten Van der Zeyden. A well-attended Bingo Night on 29 December drew 66 players, with one lucky visitor leaving \$170 richer.

The Rings Beach to Matarangi Beach Ocean Swim on 5 January was another competitive affair with around 60 swimmers lining up at 7am whilst most of us were still in bed. Tom Moulder won the men's race in 16.02 minutes, while Emma Brooks was the fastest woman in 18.37 minutes.

Bikes, Helmets and Bright Ideas



Pipers Café was bursting with colour and creativity on December 29th as children under 12 took part in a bike and helmet decorating contest that brought plenty of smiles and summer holiday energy to the café. Young participants transformed their bikes and helmets into eye-catching works of art, with designs that were bold, bright and wonderfully imaginative.

Adding to the excitement, two brand-new bikes were up for grabs, giving the children even more incentive to put their creative talents on display. The event was a great way to celebrate fun, creativity and safe cycling, while giving local kids a chance to shine. A big thank you goes to Mandy and Kalib, along with the entire team at Pipers Café, for hosting such a fantastic community event and creating a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere. Their effort helped turn a simple decorating contest into a memorable summer highlight for the children involved.



COROMANDEL CROQUET CLUB

The Coromandel Croquet Club has enjoyed a successful debut of its Whites Christmas Competition, with strong rivalry and closely contested matches throughout the day. Players reported tight games across the board, creating an atmosphere that was competitive yet friendly. Kelly Shaw and Chris Southwell emerged as worthy winners, demonstrating consistent skill and composure under pressure.

The Coromandel Croquet Club boasts a proud local history, having been formed in 1912. This makes it one of New Zealand's older croquet clubs and part of a long tradition of the sport in the country. Croquet itself arrived in New Zealand in the 19th century.

Today, the Coromandel club remains welcoming and accessible. Regular club play is held on Tuesdays and Fridays, usually starting around 9.45am and continuing through to late morning or around midday. Newcomers are encouraged to come along, with all equipment provided and coaching often available through a six-week introductory period before committing to membership.

The club caters to all skill levels, from complete beginners to experienced players. Casual players are also welcome, with the option to simply turn up and play for a small daily fee, typically around \$5.

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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

Please contact the Golf Shop for 2026 start up dates
for Club days.

Affiliated guests welcome to join our members.

golf@thedunesmatarangi.com or 07 8665394 ext 1

January 2026 TIDES

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	High	Low	High	Low
Tue 6	03:41	10:06	16:14	22:31
Wed 7	04:28	10:56	17:03	23:21
Thu 8	05:14	11:44	17:50	—
Fri 9	06:00	12:30	18:37	—
Sat 10	06:48	13:15	19:24	—
Sun 11	07:40	14:00	20:10	—
Mon 12	08:33	14:47	—	—
Tue 13	09:26	15:38	—	—
Wed 14	10:18	16:32	—	—
Thu 15	11:10	17:28	—	—
Fri 16	12:03	18:21	—	—
Sat 17	00:16	07:04	12:54	19:10
Sun 18	01:09	07:47	13:42	19:55
Mon 19	01:57	08:28	14:27	20:39
Tue 20	02:41	09:08	15:10	21:22
Wed 21	03:22	09:48	15:52	22:05
Thu 22	04:02	10:30	16:34	22:49
Fri 23	04:42	11:12	17:16	23:33
Sat 24	05:24	11:56	18:01	—
Sun 25	06:11	12:42	18:48	—
Mon 26	07:05	13:30	19:40	—
Tue 27	08:02	14:19	20:34	—
Wed 28	09:00	15:11	21:31	—
Thu 29	09:58	16:11	22:28	—
Fri 30	10:53	17:11	23:25	—
Sat 31	11:48	18:09	—	—

LINZ

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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\$895,000
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Negotiation
Simone Parr
027 657 2980
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Auction (unless sold prior) 11am Thur 5 February at 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton



Belinda Sammons
M: 027 272 7728 | B: 07 866 0098
belinda.sammons@bayleys.co.nz



Kylie Pullen
M: 021 163 6514 | B: 07 866 0098
kylie.pullen@bayleys.co.nz

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This Beach home is to be sold by deadline sale on or before the 30th of January 2026 (Unless Sold Prior)
Contact Mark & Shirvani to secure



Mark Hall Licensed Agent (REA 2008)
M: 021 607 135 E: mark@beachrealty.co.nz

Shirvani Hall Licensed Salesperson (REA 2008)
M: 021 028 464 58 E: shirvani@beachrealty.co.nz
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2 Kotare Way, Matarangi
PBN 2 cars 735m²



Louise Bradley
027 348 1700
louise.bradley@raywhite.com

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