

MATARANGI BEACH PAPER



Whangapoua
Matarangi
Kuaotunu
Otama
Opito Bay
Te Rerenga
Wharekaho

Who says the beach is only for summer?



Another Plunge into Matarangi Midwinter Swim Madness

On a crisp, bone-chilling midday, the Matarangi shoreline transformed into a vibrant stage of laughter, community spirit, and pure Kiwi bravery as locals tackled the 13th annual Matarangi Midwinter Swim.

With ambient temperatures hovering around a bracing 10°C minus the wind-chill factor, it took absolute nerves of steel—and perhaps a bit of madness—to swap heavy winter coats for swimwear.

With around 35 people hitting the water this year, which is a solid muster for such a dodgy day of weather, it was great to

see people of all ages charging into the surf, from youngsters with mums and dads to some of the Matarangi old-timers.

Two of them, Werner “Schwarzenegger” Muellers and Paul “Hasselhoff” Falleni, proved they still have the physique and confidence of champions! What is shocking the MBP found out is that some of those who are in the more mature age bracket swim Matarangi Beach everyday!

Screams of shock instantly turned into roars of laughter as swimmers dove headfirst into the waves, proving that winter cannot damp the Coromandel spirit. However, the real magic happened back on dry land, as the event relies heavily on dedicated helpers to keep its traditions going.

“I absolutely enjoyed my chilly dip and I’m already looking forward to coming back next year,” says local resident Kimberly White-Chambers. “These fun, casual community events are exactly what make living in Matarangi so

wonderful. Honestly, it wasn’t really that cold! I highly encourage everyone to come out next year and give it a go.”

This year, Leanne Robinson stepped up as a wonderful volunteer to serve the traditional post-swim port. This vital role was historically held by the late Trevan Smith, the community icon who established the Matarangi Midwinter Swim 13 years ago with his wife Carol. Leanne performed her duties with great aplomb and no doubt Trevan was looking down thinking - “thank goodness, finally they have found my successor!” A Matarangi midwinter swim without the port as a post-swim revival tonic would not be what it is—Trevan would be as proud as punch (or is that port) of you, Leanne!

Teresa Kedzlie again served her fabulous hot chocolate, ensuring participants had another of the event’s traditional, comforting post-swim pick-me-ups to help them warm up after the chilly plunge. It was a spectacular afternoon of frozen toes, warm hearts, and unmatched community fun.



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Serve, Dink, and Sunshine: Matai Place Courts Get a Fresh New Look!

If you've taken a stroll down Matai Place recently, you might have noticed a vibrant transformation. Matarangi's tennis and pickleball courts have officially been resurfaced, and they are looking sharp!

Thanks to a fantastic effort by Tanya Patrick and the Thames Coromandel District Council, the courts have been resurfaced, the lines are freshly painted, and—best of all for fans of the paddle—two brand-new pickleball courts have been added to the space.

Pickleball has been gaining a lot of traction lately and is currently exploding in popularity worldwide, mostly because it's a game almost anyone can play. It doesn't matter your age or fitness level—it's simply about getting

outdoors, having a fun, enjoying some light exercise and learning to 'dink' (soft shot).

It has become a wonderful activity for Matarangi families. Throughout the year, permanent residents and holidaymakers alike can be seen heading down to the courts with their kids in tow. It's social, it's fast, and above all, it's incredibly fun.

What exactly is pickleball? Think of it as a mashup of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, played with a lightweight paddle and a perforated plastic ball. Easy to learn, but addictive to master!

The sport got its start here in late 2022, after members of the Mercury Bay Pickleball Club kindly approached the council to request local courts. Following that, Matarangi locals Grant and Kimberly Chambers formed the Matarangi Pickleball club.

Grant has been playing the sport at a high level within New Zealand for the past six years, and he has been incredibly generous in sharing his experience with those of us just learning the game.

Today, the Matarangi Pickleball Club has 42 paid members, alongside many casual players who drop in. An average of 22–26 players per

session over the busy summer months.

We've been fortunate to welcome a wide variety of visitors to our courts. People traveling from the United States, Germany, Europe, and all over New Zealand have stopped by for a game. We've even hosted some of the country's top-ranked players, touring professionals, the odd celebrity or two, which has been a treat for the club. Our friends from the Mercury Bay club also pop over from time to time to enjoy a game outdoors and a change of scenery.

The club currently plays twice a week (weather permitting), with extra sessions packed into the busy summer peak.

Now that the council has served up extra courts, the club is gearing up for a fantastic season ahead. As the weather warms up, if you've been curious about the game, keep your eyes peeled for upcoming "Give Pickleball a Go" sessions. Please feel free to come down, meet some neighbors, and try it out for yourself. All are welcome! Paddles, laughs, and good company are guaranteed.

Whether you're looking to unleash your competitive streak or just want a casual hit with the family, the new Matai Place courts are ready for you. See you there!.

Opinion: Local Democracy Demoted — Why the New Council Accord Silences Our Communities



Last month, the Thames-Coromandel District Council voted 7–4 to replace our Community Boards Terms of Reference with a new, watered-down "Accord." Councillors Rasmussen, Brljevic, Ashman, and Smith opposed this shift. They were entirely right to do so.

We have just traded a powerful engine for local democracy for a vehicle that can barely get us down the driveway. To borrow the blunt words of one councillor: "We have just swapped a Ferrari for a skateboard."

The 2019 Terms of Reference—which technically remain in force—give our Community Boards genuine decision-making authority over the assets that define our daily lives. This includes harbour facilities, parks, reserves, community halls, libraries, swimming pools, cemeteries, local roading, economic development, community grants, and local strategic planning.

Critics argue these extensive delegations did not deliver results. But that argument completely misses the point. A document

cannot deliver if it is never picked up. These powers sat unimplemented for six years by Council's choice, not because of Community Board failure. Six years of inaction is an indictment of Councillors and staff, not the delegation model itself.

In contrast, the new Accord replaces genuine local power with a superficial checklist. Under the new rules, our Community Boards are reduced to approving street names, signing off training, and allocating minor grants within strict Council policies.

For everything else, our local representatives are stripped of voting power and reduced to offering "feedback and advice." This is not an empowerment strategy. This is simply rebranding what Section 52 of the Local Government Act already requires. As Councillor

Alison Smith noted during the vote, the closer a decision is made to the community it affects, the better the outcome.

That fundamental principle is the heart of local democracy. The Accord completely abandons it by centralising control back to Thames, channeling every board enquiry through bureaucratic Governance Services, and giving our boards speaking rights rather than decision-making rights.

Local communities deserve financial teeth, not just a microphone. Whangamatā's current discretionary budget is roughly \$90,000. When I stood for Mayor, I campaigned for local boards to receive up to 5% of the district rate take. For our board, that would mean roughly \$1.2 million, paired with real responsibility for our

local assets. That is what genuine empowerment looks like.

With local government amalgamation looming on the horizon, our local structures are more critical than ever. The stronger our local representation is right now, the better placed we will be when regional boundaries are redrawn. Unfortunately, this Council decision has just made us weaker at the worst possible time.

The Accord is up for review in six months. If you want your community's voice back, do not sit in silence. Contact your Community Board chair, your ward councillors, and the Mayor. Let them know—loudly, and in writing—that our communities deserve the Ferrari, not the skateboard.

By Patrick Kerr

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Matariki
Time: 5am - 7am, [Correct Date from 2026, e.g., Friday 10th July 2026]
Location: Kūaotunu Domain by the tennis courts
Coffee, BBQ, free snacks and take home Star Charts
Community Support and Events are a critical part of our quest for Dark Sky accreditation - please help get us over the line!



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WHICH WAY SHOULD TCDC GO? Have Your Say



SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Now is the chance to have your say on three options Thames-Coromandel District Council has shortlisted for potential local government amalgamation.

Why is this happening?

The Government has said that they want councils to work together to decide new and larger structures for local government services and delivery. The new councils will deliver the functions and services of city/district and regional councils combined.

They said any proposal needs to cover the following criteria:

1. must simplify local government
2. must support the new planning system
3. must demonstrate economies of scale
4. must maintains local voice
5. must be deliverable

What you have told us so far

Through our initial community survey, you told us rates control and affordability were your main concerns for local government reforms. Also important were local representation, real simplification and partnering with councils of similar size and character.

The options

We identified three options to seek your views before we make a decision on which way to go.

Each option has potential opportunities and challenges. You can read more on these by reviewing our *Which Way Should TCDC Go?* booklet (see link below).

OPTION 1 Greater Waikato

This option would bring together all councils currently in the Waikato Regional Council area.



OPTION 2 North Bay of Plenty

This option brings together TCDC with Tauranga, Western Bay and part of Hauraki.



OPTION 3 East Waikato

This option brings together TCDC with Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and South Waikato.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Time is short. Our proposal needs to be with the Government by 9 August.

We, as your elected Council, very much want to hear your views by **Wednesday 15 July** before we decide which way to go.

Head to www.tcdc.govt.nz/localgovernmentreforms to find out more and fill in our online feedback form.

Not online? Pick up our *Which Way Should TCDC Go?* information booklet at our Council service centres and district libraries as well as a feedback form. You can also call us on 07 868 0200 and one of our team will ensure your views are included.

Make sure your voice is heard.

The Editor's Desk



Could the Bay of Plenty Option Offer the Coromandel Its Strongest Future?

Local government reform is once again forcing the Coromandel to confront decisions that will shape the region for generations. As Thames-Coromandel District Council considers the options ahead, three broad models are emerging: an East Waikato unitary authority, a larger Greater Waikato authority centred on Hamilton, and a coastal Bay of Plenty-aligned authority linking Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga City.

While these options are often presented in administrative terms, the reality is far more significant. This is not simply about restructuring councils. It is about where decision-making power sits, how infrastructure priorities are set, and whether the Coromandel remains on the edge of regional planning or becomes central to it.

At the heart of the reform is the transfer of regional council functions into new larger unitary authorities. These new organisations will not just manage local services. They will control environmental regulation, water and land management, flood protection, pest control, regional economic development and, critically, strategic transport and infrastructure planning. In practice, they will determine which regions receive investment and which localities are developed.

Long term for the Coromandel, that is the key issue. Our challenge is not just local administration. It is whether we are positioned within a structure that recognises and prioritises the transport and infrastructure needs that underpin our economy.

For decades, those decisions have largely been shaped through a Hamilton-centred framework. That is not a criticism of Hamilton, but a reflection of how regional governance has evolved. The result, however, is clear: inland priorities have consistently taken precedence over coastal needs. The question now is whether reform will reinforce that pattern or change it.

The East Waikato Option: A Region Without a Clear Strategic Core

The East Waikato proposal is being presented as a practical compromise between coastal and inland interests. On paper, it combines the Coromandel, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and South Waikato

districts into a single unitary authority. In reality, it raises a more fundamental question: what is the shared strategic purpose of such a region?

This configuration would stretch from Cape Colville and down the peninsula, across the Hauraki Plains and Matamata, and onwards towards Putāruru and south to Tokoroa. It would bring together coastal tourism economies, dairy and horticultural land, provincial service towns and inland forestry and farming areas.

The difficulty is that these areas do not form a coherent economic or transport corridor. They are connected geographically, but not strategically. There is no single dominant infrastructure spine or shared economic engine that naturally binds them together. The dominant Waihou catchment is only a part of it and not its totality.

That matters because unitary authorities will not simply administer services. They will compete for investment and set long-term priorities. A region without a clear centre of gravity risks becoming a constant balancing exercise between competing inland and coastal interests, rather than a focused programme of development.

There is also a structural concern around representation. Under current discussions, the Coromandel would contribute a disproportionately larger share of the rating base while holding only a minority of representation. In practical terms, ratepayers could be contributing close to half of the funding while controlling only around a quarter of decision-making influence. That is a significant imbalance in any governance structure.

The Greater Waikato Option: Continuity of an Inland-First System

If East Waikato is geographically broad, the Greater Waikato option is politically familiar. It extends the existing Waikato governance model, centred on Hamilton, across a much wider area.

In this structure, Hamilton remains the clear political and administrative centre. Regional investment, transport planning and economic development will continue to be shaped primarily by inland growth pressures and urban expansion. That is understandable given Hamilton's size and role within the region.

However, the consequence for the Coromandel is also predictable. Coastal priorities remain secondary within a system that is structurally designed around inland needs. The Coromandel becomes one small part of a much larger inland-focused region, competing for attention against major urban and freight priorities.

We can already see the outcomes of this model in transport investment patterns. Significant funding has been directed into the Waikato Expressway and associated inland corridors over many years, reshaping connectivity between Auckland, Hamilton and the central North Island freight network.

By contrast, the Coromandel transport system continues to operate with significant vulnerability. SH25 remains susceptible to closures and weather-related disruption. SH25A required full

reconstruction following catastrophic failure. State Highway 2, despite its national importance, remains below the standard expected of a corridor linking New Zealand's largest city with the eastern coastline of the nation.

This pattern is not accidental. It reflects where strategic focus has been directed.

The "Golden Triangle" and the Reality of the Hockey Stick

Regional planning often refers to the "Golden Triangle" linking Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga. It is described as New Zealand's key economic engine, connecting population, industry and export infrastructure. However, when the transport network is examined in detail, the shape is not truly a triangle. It is more accurately described as a hockey stick.

The Auckland-Hamilton corridor has been heavily developed over time. The Hamilton-Tauranga corridor has also received sustained investment. But the coastal connection through the Hauraki Plains, linking Auckland and Tauranga via State Highway 2, remains underdeveloped.

This missing link is not a minor detail. It is the most direct and quickest route between New Zealand's largest population centre and its fastest-growing city and principal export port. It carries significant potential for freight, tourism and long-distance connectivity. Yet because it sits between established political and administrative centres, it has never received the same sustained strategic policy attention.

Why a Coastal Bay of Plenty-Coromandel Authority Changes the Equation

A coastal unitary authority linking Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty, Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel would fundamentally alter this dynamic. For the first time, the communities along State Highway 2 would sit within a single governance structure with a shared interest in developing that corridor.

This alignment matters because infrastructure investment follows political focus and economic growth and resilience follow infrastructure. When regions share a clear strategic objective, they are better positioned to advocate for funding, prioritise projects and align long-term planning.

In this case, the shared objective is the development of State Highway 2 as the principal coastal spine of the upper North Island. Under such a structure, SH2 would no longer be viewed as a secondary or alternative route. It would become the central transport axis of the region, connecting population, industry and export infrastructure between Auckland and Tauranga.

The implications for the Coromandel-Hauraki would be significant. SH25 and SH25A would be redefined not as isolated coastal roads, but as essential feeder routes into a major economic corridor. Their resilience and reliability would directly affect the performance of the wider regional system. Investment decisions would shift accordingly. Roads that are currently treated as peripheral would become strategically important

components of a connected transport network. That network drives jobs, a higher quality of services and improved access to public services and increased local community capacity.

Identity and Long-Term Regional Direction

There is also a question of identity. The Coromandel is one of New Zealand's most recognisable regions, defined by its coastline, tourism economy, environmental assets, societal connections and lifestyle appeal. Hauraki and the northern BOP share many of these coastal and gateway characteristics. However, within a large inland-focused Waikato authority, this identity risks being diluted within a monolithic regional framework where coastal priorities sit alongside, rather than at the centre of, decision-making.

Within a coastal regional authority, our Coromandel identity will be less diluted than the inland options. We would still be become important to the region's economic and strategic direction. Long term that will benefit us and will give us real agency rather than being an outlier with less representation and our rating base farmed as a cash cow in a Waikato centric model.

Vale Warren Male



The MBP wishes to acknowledge the sudden passing of its friend Warren "Mr Radio" Male, who passed away on 12 June in Pauanui.

Warren was the literal and cultural voice of the Coromandel for nearly four decades. His broadcasting journey on the Coromandel began in 1977 with Radio Sam on Slipper Island. In 1990, he launched Coromandel FM, uniting coastal communities. After selling the station to MediaWorks in 2004, he remained the face of local radio, spending his final years mentoring talent back at 95CFM.

For 38 years, Warren was at the heart of our annual Matarangi Summer festivals, bringing his radio and promotion roadshow with him to the beach and the village green. Warren was a local fashion icon, unmistakable in his signature sunglasses, sunhat, and colourful Hawaiian shirts. Rest easy, Mr Radio. Your impact and passionate contribution to the Coromandel region has been incomparable.

Featured: Warren Male entertaining his great broadcasting mate Barry Soper at his Pauanui home.

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1. Matarangi bach owner Allison Snowling from Tamahere recently visited Diddly Squat farm with a group of friends and of course took a copy of the MBP to read. Here is Allison with partner John who is holding a copy of the Tamahere Country Club Gazette, before they went to have a pint at Jeremy Clarkson's pub The Farmers Dog. .



2. Here are local teens Jackson, Wilf & Indy from Mercury Bay Area School pictured at Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal, which is 5,364 metres above sea level. To give you an idea how high that is – it is Mount Cook with 2 Table Mountains here on the Coromandel piled on top of each other. They are incredibly grateful for the support from the community that made this unforgettable journey possible!



3. CJ Palmer last month took a 6 day canal boat trip on The Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal in South Wales with his niece, Sarah, her husband Ady, and their dog called Gracie. CJ was on a six week holiday to the UK to visit his family. Sadly, the weather didn't play ball and they got only one reasonably fine day out of the days they were on the canal.



4. Brigid and Chris Southwell have now returned to Wales permanently, but haven't forgotten us here in Matarangi! Here is Brigid with the MBP next to St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire, St Davids where they now live – the smallest city in the UK with only 1500 residents, but qualifying as a city due to its beautiful cathedral. They are settling back into life on their smallholding, enjoying some beautiful spring days in between days with Wales' more usual offering of rain and wind! They frequently think of the beautiful Coromandel beaches and all the friends they made while living here and hope to visit again soon.

5K Art Exhibition Benefits Emergency Management Group

Held over the King's Birthday long weekend, the recent 5K Art Exhibition at Kūaotunu Hall united the Coromandel Peninsula's creative community to support a vital local cause. Every year, the 10 Artists collective utilises its exhibitions to fundraise for critical local charities.

This year, all philanthropic efforts supported the Kūaotunu Community Emergency Response Team (KCERT), which manages communication and practical aid during regional crises. To generate funds, each of the six exhibiting artists donated an original artwork for an opening-night raffle, with tickets priced at five dollars each or three for ten dollars. The collective presented a diverse range of styles and mediums.

Ian Preece displayed coastal landscape photography capturing local light systems, while Roimata Taimana presented striking Māori narratives through detailed ink and digital designs. Annemieke Kregting exhibited lifelike bird mosaics made from upcycled crockery, and Lutz Gaebler contributed Bauhaus-influenced mixed-media pieces on canvas. Contributions from Louise Penberthy and Dave Bryant completed the showcase with original paintings and detailed craftsmanship, providing a comprehensive view of the local creative landscape while successfully funding the area's essential emergency management services.

Featured: Ian Preece with Roimata Taimana leading the Karakia which opened last month's 5K exhibition.




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As the winter months loom, since 2022 (the first celebration of the Matariki public holiday) locals have been approaching Roimata Taimana to ask if anything was happening to celebrate the Māori New Year.

Although his own whanau did not celebrate Matariki growing up, Roimata recognised the growing appetite to celebrate the country's first indigenous public holiday.

This year, with funding from Creative Coromandel and a boost of support from his friends at CoroMind, Roimata has been happily telling all those who ask that yes, there will be a community celebration this year!

The Matariki Festival and Te Toi o Matariki (the art of Matariki) is a chance for those living in Kūaotunu and its surrounds to come together as a community to celebrate the three central tenets of Matariki: remembrance, celebration and preparation.

- *Matariki Hunga Nui (remembrance) honours those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki
- *Matariki Ahunga Nui (celebration) is a gathering together to give thanks for the present
- *Matariki Manako Nui (preparation) looks forward to the promise of a new year.

With tautako (support) from kaumatua of Ngati Hei and Ngati Huarere, Roimata has put together a hautapu ceremony which will begin at 6am on July 10 and will take place on the reserve opposite Luke's Kitchen. The

ceremony will involve members of the Te Rerenga School kapa haka, the speaking of karakia relating to the different stars of Matariki and will conclude with the sharing of kai from a central pot (BYO mugs and spoons!) as the sun rises.

Following the dawn hautapu ceremony, the community is invited to attend the opening of the exhibition Te Toi o Matariki (the art of Matariki) at the Kuaotunu Hall at 9am. The exhibition will showcase the work of nine local artists who have each interpreted the meaning of the nine stars of Matariki.

There will also be wānanga (seminar/gathering) in the garden of the hall from 10am onwards, where people of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in uku (clay), harakeke (flax) and whakairo (carving) with artists in these fields.

While the exhibition will run through until Sunday, the Matariki holiday on Friday will conclude with a bonfire on the beach in Kūaotunu to which all are invited.

The Matariki Festival is an opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on the past, show gratitude for what we have, and look together to the future. All people are welcome to attend all aspects of the festival as this is an opportunity to celebrate Matariki together.

What: Matariki Festival
Where: Kūaotunu
When: Matariki Public Holiday, Friday July 10 to Sunday July 12)



As Term 2 comes to an end, Te Rerenga School has had plenty to celebrate.

Earlier this term, four Year 8 students travelled to Hamilton to attend National Young Leaders Day (NYLD). Chosen by their peers, Fay, Aoife, Niko and Struan joined students from around New Zealand for a day packed with inspiring stories and valuable leadership lessons.

The students heard from a range of speakers, including bestselling author Graci Kim, marine scientist Riley Elliott, adventurer William Pike, young entrepreneur Lola Fisher and Auckland band Borderline. A common theme throughout the day was having the courage to try new things, take opportunities and keep going even when challenges arise.

Back on the sports field, our students headed to Whenuakite School on June 9 for the annual Winter Sports Day. The school was well represented, with students showing great teamwork, sportsmanship and determination throughout the competition.

The results were impressive, with Te Rerenga teams earning top placings across all age groups.

Year 4 teams secured first and second places, Year 5 and 6 teams finished first and second in their divisions, while the Year 7 and 8 teams came away with first, second and third placings. A big thank you goes to the parents and caregivers who supported students throughout the day.

The school is also delighted to welcome NZ Move It as its fourth Gold Sponsor. Based in Whitianga, NZ Move It provides moving services throughout New Zealand and internationally. The support of local businesses plays an important role in helping the school provide opportunities and experiences for students, and Te Rerenga School is grateful for the company's generosity.

The term will finish with students taking part in the Great NZ Bird Count alongside the Whangapoua Predator Free Group on July 1. Students will visit eight monitoring stations around Whangapoua to help count and record local birdlife.

Birds are often described as nature's health indicators, and the annual count helps build a picture of the health of the environment around us. It's a great opportunity for our students to connect with nature while contributing to an important nationwide project.

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu
Adorn the bird with feathers to enable it to fly.

Odette Wilson - Acting Principal

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

A massive double congratulations to local identities Steve and Maureen Moss, who are both celebrating their milestone 65th birthdays this month!

Reaching this magical age means Steve and Maureen from now on will officially be card-carrying members of the SuperGold club.

Rumour has it they plan to abuse their new senior privileges immediately. Jumping on every free train, bus and ferry available when they are up in Auckland visiting the grandchildren. The Waiheke ferry looks especially compelling!

Turning 65 never looked so good, and they both pass for years younger, decades even.

I'm sure they will get questioned about their age again. Hot tip take your drivers license as proof!

Happy 65th birthday, Steve and Maureen!

Welcome to the freebie club!

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

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Survey Reveals Overwhelming Support for Restoring Safe Coastal Access



A community survey conducted by the Matarangi Ratepayers & Residents Association Incorporated (MRRAI) has revealed overwhelming support for a proposed suspension bridge that would restore safe pedestrian and cycle access along the Bluff Road coastal route between Matarangi, Rings Beach and Kūāotunu.

The survey, undertaken between 30 May and 15 June 2026, attracted an impressive 786 responses, a remarkable level of participation for a community of this size and a clear indication of how strongly local residents, bach owners and visitors feel about the future of the track.

The results leave little doubt about the community’s position. More than 95 percent of respondents support for the

maintaining of a safe coastal connection between the three communities, while 91 percent support the suspension bridge proposal itself. Even more striking, 84.6 percent selected the highest possible level of support when asked about the bridge option.

For many respondents, the issue is not simply about access to a walking track. The Bluff Road coastal route is regarded as one of the area’s most treasured community assets. For decades it has provided a unique way for people to walk between Matarangi, Rings Beach and Kūāotunu while enjoying some of the Coromandel’s most spectacular coastal scenery.

Since a major rockfall in 2015, however, the route has remained officially closed due to ongoing safety concerns. While

various attempts have been made to manage the unstable cliff face, no permanent solution has emerged. Despite the closure, the survey found that 83.5 percent of respondents had still used the track during the past summer season.

That finding is perhaps one of the strongest messages to emerge from the survey. People continue to use the track because it remains important to their daily lives, recreation and connection to neighbouring communities. The closure has not removed demand; it has simply forced people to make their own judgement about risk.

Safety was a recurring theme throughout the survey. More than 93 percent of respondents said they would like to use the track without the risk of rockfall, while almost 84 percent said they would use it more often if that danger were removed. Parents spoke of concerns about taking children along the route, while others noted that elderly family members and visitors have stopped using the track altogether because of safety fears.

The survey also highlighted the broader social and economic benefits many people believe the bridge would bring. Respondents described the track as a vital link between communities, allowing people to walk or cycle to local businesses, beaches and attractions. Several noted that the bridge itself could become an attraction, helping draw visitors to the area and supporting local

cafés, shops and tourism operators.

Support for the proposal was strong across all respondent groups. Part-time residents, who made up the largest group of survey participants, recorded support levels of more than 93 percent. Frequent visitors showed similar levels of support, while support among permanent residents remained above 84 percent.

Importantly, community support appears to extend beyond simply endorsing the concept. Nearly 90 percent of respondents who answered the funding question indicated they would support community fundraising initiatives to help make the project a reality. Suggestions ranged from crowdfunding campaigns and “sponsor a plank” initiatives through to business sponsorship, grant funding and targeted local contributions.

The survey did identify a small minority who remain unconvinced by the suspension bridge proposal. Their concerns generally centred on the cost of the project, potential impacts on ratepayers, long-term maintenance requirements and whether alternative engineering solutions should be explored further. Most, however, still supported reopening the route and improving safety; their reservations related primarily to the preferred solution rather than the need for action.

For MRRAI, the survey results provide a strong mandate to continue working

with Thames-Coromandel District Council and other stakeholders to advance the project.

The association argues that the findings demonstrate overwhelming community support for a permanent solution and reinforce the conclusions of the recently completed feasibility study, which identified a suspension bridge as the only practical long-term option capable of providing safe access for both pedestrians and cyclists.

The next steps will involve discussions around funding, ownership, consenting and detailed design. Many respondents expressed frustration that more than a decade has passed since the original closure without a permanent resolution, and there were repeated calls for the Council to take a leadership role in progressing the project.

What is clear from the survey is that the Bluff Road track remains deeply valued by the communities it connects.

Whether viewed as a transport link, recreational asset, tourism opportunity or simply one of the region’s most loved walks, the message from respondents was consistent: they want a safe, permanent solution, and they want progress.

After eleven years of closure, the community has spoken with a united voice. The challenge now is turning that support into action.



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The Kūaotunu Art Trail map is moving significantly closer to its official launch later this year, with an evening of community music scheduled to kickstart vital fundraising efforts.

On the evening of Saturday, 22 August, the historic Kūaotunu Hall will resonate with the warm sounds of strings and voices as local musical duo SaltWood takes the stage. Combining the talents of multi-instrumentalists Len Salt our former TCDC Mayor and Anna Dunwoodie a globally recognised harpist and a prolific composer, the group blends guitar, bass, harp, and vocals into an engaging performance spanning folk, acoustic, and jazzy contemporary styles. “We are absolutely delighted to welcome SaltWood to the Kūaotunu Hall for this wonderful cause,” says local arts advocate Isabel Gilbert Palmer.

“Having Len and Anna share their incredible music is the perfect first step in raising funds for the art trail. Their performance

embodies the collaborative spirit of our Coromandel creative community.”

Since the initial project proposal earlier this year, the community’s vision has expanded to include 25 identifiable trail sites. These locations encompass everything from the significant Harakeke Library planting in Otama to the custom-built, user-friendly platforms showcasing original outdoor glass paintings of the islands in Kūaotunu Bay.

The trail aims to give residents and visitors alike a new way to explore the local village, dunes, and surrounding neighbourhoods whilst connecting deeply with local social history. Local historical, sculptural, memorial, and significant markers along the route are currently being sketched out. These sketches will serve as the preparation for a hand-painted wall mural, which will be fixed in a prominent, easy-to-find public location to anchor the trail.

Ten Years On

Conservation was front and centre in the July edition of the MBP as the Project Kiwi Trust hosted another successful kiwi call survey. Keen volunteers hunkering down for the evening on a chilly but clear Queens Birthday weekend Saturday night to get an estimate of local kiwi numbers within the 4100 hectare tract of bushland stretching from Simpsons farm at Wharekaho through to the forestry block behind Opito. This year the number of listening locations increased from 11 to 26 and according to Paula Williams of the Project Kiwi Trust their non invasion assessment next year was to expand to new sites which will include around Pebbles Lane and the Matarangi Wetlands.

During the month of June there was another a huge planting effort in and around the Rings Beach to Matarangi walking track by a class of students from Mercury Bay Area School and Room 4 at Te Rerenga School. A total of 265 trees were planted to add to the 4300 that have been established over the past year.

Also in the July 2016 edition of the MBP we introduced the first 3 cooks competing to win the Matarangi MasterCook competition hosted by The Dunes. Maree Taylor, Anita Clark, and Neil Tombs were the first bunch to be up in front of the judges producing a 2 course meal for 60 paid guests and the chance to win the grand prize of \$750 cash.

Down on the beach we covered the Mid-Winter swim with 17 keen locals plunging into icy waters and over in Kuaotunu we covered the Kuaotunu Lantern and Matariki festival hosted by the Kindergarten.



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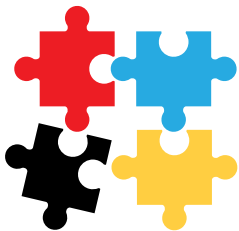
Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

THAMES
COROMANDEL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

July 2026

Which Way Should TCDC Go?



By now you've heard of the Government's plans to simplify local government. Councils have been requested to submit a proposal to the Government by 9 August.

We have shortlisted three amalgamation options that would meet the Government's requirements and we want to narrow this down to one.

You can help by ranking the three options in order of your preference. The options are: the

Greater Waikato, Northern Bay of Plenty, or Eastern Waikato.

But time is short.

Head to www.tcdc.govt.nz/localgovernmentreforms before 15 July to find out more and have your say.

Not online? Paper forms can be accessed at your local Council service centre or you can call us on 07 868 0200 and our team will record your views.

In this paper is another page with more information and how you can be involved. Make sure your voice is heard.

MATARANGI WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPENS

The Mayor and other dignitaries gathered in Matarangi last week to celebrate the opening of our new water treatment plant. The plant, on Matarangi Drive, is designed to supply fresh, safe water to up to 2000 properties. It should also reduce the need for water restrictions. More on this milestone can be found at www.tcdc.govt.nz/dws



ALL GO FOR DOG REGO



THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL EXP. 30-6-27 0000

Register your dog online by 31 July 2026 to avoid late fees.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

Entries are now open for the Claymark Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards.

The Awards offer several entry categories, each recognising different aspects of business success and impact. There are also three nomination-based awards for Service to Business and a People's Choice for both Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki.

Entries close 31 July. Submit your application, nominate or find out more at www.tcdc.govt.nz/HBCA



OUR NEXT MERCURY BAY COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST FROM 9AM AT THE MERCURY BAY SERVICE CENTRE 10 MONK ST, WHITIANGA. WWW.TCDC.GOV.TZ/MEETINGS

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Council services over Matariki weekend



KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS

There are no scheduled rubbish and food waste collections on Matariki public holiday, Friday 10 July. Collections in affected areas are one day later. For year-round kerbside collection calendars, check your local schedule at www.tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

Our seven refuse and recycling transfer stations are open daily from 8.30am–4.30pm. www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts



OFFICES | DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Our offices (including AA services) will be closed on Matariki public holiday on Friday 10 July, resuming normal hours on Monday 13 July. Our district libraries will also be closed on the public holiday, resuming normal hours on Saturday 11 July. You can still reach us 24/7 at 07 868 0200 or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz



ALCOHOL BANS

Alcohol bans are in place over the Matariki long weekend from 4pm on Thursday 9 July to 4pm on Sunday 12 July. Check out www.tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

New online boat ramp launch system



We're making it easier and more convenient to get out on the water from 1 July 2026. Our Council is introducing a new online boat ramp launch system,

delivered in partnership with Stellar - a trusted provider of parking and boat ramp solutions across New Zealand.

The new system is designed to provide a smooth transition, minimal disruption and an easier experience for everyone. Find out more at www.tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY BOARD

At its 3 June 2026 meeting, the Mercury Bay Community Board approved \$13,266.75 (inc. GST) in discretionary funding for four applicants:

- \$5,807 to Whitianga Oceans Festival for portable toilets
- \$1,207.50 to Whangapoua Community Association for surf lifesaving equipment and signage
- \$4,350 to Whangapoua-Te Rerenga Emergency Response Group for equipment including high visibility gear, tablets, spotlights, batteries and chargers
- \$1,902.25 to Mercury Bay Performing Arts for blackout theatre curtains

The board raised concerns about its Action Schedule, requesting clearer insight into task status. Staff confirmed an improved version, with greater transparency, will be presented at upcoming meetings.

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Kiwi, Kaitiakitanga and Conservation Progress

Rings Beach Wetland Group reports on restoration, predator control and future plans for the Matarangi Bluff Scenic Reserve

Late autumn and early winter to date have for the most part given us beautiful sunny, clear days and mild temperatures. After a wet summer punctuated by severe weather events, it has been great to have a period of calm weather. The regenerating native bush has flourished in these mild conditions, as have the weed species that we are continually targeting throughout the reserve.

To that end, we are again applying this year for funding to control wilding pine re-growth. If successful, we will target the bluff faces and adjacent areas where pines are clearly seen emerging through the native regeneration, particularly on the steep upper faces.

The last six to eight months have seen the development of new trapping lines within the reserve, giving access for both extended predator control and opening up areas for pine and coastal banksia removal. Traps have been, or will soon be, deployed along these lines. These include six AT220 auto-traps, which require servicing only every few months. We hope to purchase more of these AT220s for use in the more inaccessible and rugged areas where it is difficult to maintain regular trapping intervals. We wish to acknowledge the donation of funds by Kauri 2000, as well as generous private contributions, which have enabled much of this work over the last year.

The Rings Beach Wetland Group (RBWG) would also like to acknowledge the settlement between Ngāti Hei and the Crown. Part of this settlement includes a 21.7-hectare block

on the western edge of the Matarangi Bluff Scenic Reserve (MBSR) that is to be renamed the Matarangi Pā Reserve.

We look forward to working further with Ngāti Hei and the Department of Conservation (DOC) on the kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the entire reserve, continuing the huge amount of work already undertaken over the last fifteen years or so. Recently, the annual kiwi call survey, facilitated by Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel, took place, with two sites in the MBSR being monitored. This year, audio recording devices were installed for four nights at the two sites. While the results are yet to be analysed, we expect good numbers of kiwi to be heard again this year, as birds are caught on our cameras regularly.

The main boardwalk has been partly underwater for some time now. This poses some safety issues as it can be quite slippery. The crossing can be avoided by using the wetland loop track and exiting at the Rings Beach east entrance, which adds an additional 1.4km to the walk. Signs have been erected at the entrances to advise visitors of this option.

We are currently holding discussions with DOC and private contractors to investigate affordable alternative structures across this wetland, where water levels have been rising over the last few years since the pines were removed.

Hei konā mai,
Dave Fitz (0211740721)
Rings Beach Wetlands Group



GOOD SORT OF THE MONTH

Our community is incredibly lucky to have local legends who go the extra mile when it matters most. This month, the well-deserved Good Sorts of the Month award goes to Toby and Anna, our fantastic RD2 Whitianga delivery drivers!

They were nominated by local resident Jodie Robertson after they went completely above and beyond their usual duties to support a member of our community during a difficult time.

Jodie wanted to send a deeply precious parcel to Australia to one of her best friends who has entered palliative care. With time being of the absolute essence, Toby and Anna stepped in to help."

They had it on its way with professional advice and a friendly smile," Jodie wrote in her nomination, expressing her super gratitude for their swift action and care.

To say thank you for their kindness, Toby and Anna can head along to Lesley's Matarangi Matas coffee cart by The Dunes sometime this month to enjoy a well-deserved complimentary coffee and muffin.

Thank you, Toby and Anna, for being such a wonderful part of our Peninsula community!

If you know of someone who has gone the extra mile to help out another member of our northern Mercury Bay community or contributes quietly in the background for the benefit of us all, let us at the MBP know and nominate them to be a good sort.

You can send your nomination to contact@matarangibeachpaper.com.

THE FISHING REPORT

Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club

The 2026/27 fishing season is officially underway, and we're looking forward to seeing familiar faces back at the club and welcoming new members for the season ahead.

We kick things off with the Matariki Land-Based Fishing Tournament on 11th July. This is an open tournament, so whether you're a regular member or just keen to give one of our events a go, we'd love to see you there. Tournament details and registrations on our website. <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mbfc/newsarticle/152979?newsfeedId=2035672>

A big thank you to all the businesses and individuals who have come on board to support this year's fishing grid. Your

support helps us continue running events and activities for our members and the wider community.

We are introducing an exciting new monthly competition for the 2026/27 season. The competition will be open to all current financial members, with details being released in early July. Keep an eye on our club communications and social media channels for more information.

If you're planning to join us again this season and haven't renewed yet, now's a great time to do so. Renewal information has already been sent to members by email. For anyone thinking about joining the Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club, memberships for the 2026/27 season are now open.

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

[matarangiboatandfishingclub](https://www.instagram.com/matarangi.boat.fishing.club/) and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/matarangi.boat.fishing.club/>

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

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

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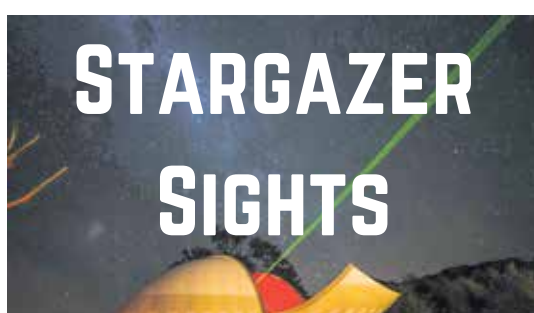
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JULY 2026

This is an excellent month for trying to locate the very elusive planet Uranus. Slightly reddish Mars can help us since Mars will lie about half way between Matariki or the Pleiades and the similarly reddish star Aldebaran in the very early pre-dawn sky. Mars will be passing right beside Uranus early in the month as the red planet moves downwards from day to day. A small telescope or even powerful binoculars will help show Mars approaching and then passing slightly bluish Uranus. Matariki morning has a lovely thin crescent Moon joining the party.

Meanwhile Jupiter is now too low to easily view in the dusk sky but brilliant Venus remains a bright beacon in the northwest.

There will be some Chinese Tiangong and International Space Station (ISS) passes to view 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. It is always best to check the website heavens-above.com for updated timings.

July 2 - We have a good ISS pass from 6:31pm in the SW.
July 3 - We have a bright ISS pass from 5:43pm in the SW passing right overhead.
July 4 - There will be a good ISS pass from 6:23pm in the west moving just below Venus. In the eastern pre-dawn sky Mars sits just above Uranus and lies about half way between the Pleiades/Matariki and the red giant star Aldebaran.
July 5 - From 5:44pm in the west we have an ISS pass moving just above Venus while Mars has now moved to be slightly below Uranus in the eastern pre-dawn sky.
July 6 - The Pleiades/Matariki, Mars and the red giant star Aldebaran in Taurus are equally spaced out in a line low in the eastern pre-dawn sky with Mars just below Uranus. In the evening brilliant Venus sits just below the star Regulus in Leo in the west.
July 10 - Matariki morning has the crescent Moon sitting well above and to the left of Matariki or the Pleiades with reddish Mars and Aldebaran on the right. The western dusk sky has Venus now lying just beside Regulus.
July 11 - The Moon now sits right next to the Pleiades/Matariki at dawn with Mars and then Aldebaran on their right while at dusk the Moon sits just above Regulus after dusk.
July 12 - The Moon now sits directly below Mars and Aldebaran at dawn with Venus slightly above Regulus at dusk.
July 13 - From 6:26am we have an ISS pass from the NW.
July 14 - There will be an early ISS pass in the north from 5:39am.
July 15 - There will be a good ISS pass from 6:27am in the west.
July 16 - We have another bright ISS pass starting right overhead at 5:42am and at dusk the Moon sits below Venus with Regulus in between.
July 17 - There is a low ISS pass from the SW at 6:29am just after a Tiangong pass at 6:17am in the west while at dusk the Moon sits between Regulus and Venus.
July 18 - At dusk the Moon, Venus and Regulus are evenly spaced in the western dusk sky.
July 19 - The Moon now sits well above bright Venus at dusk.
July 20 - The Moon lies high above Venus at dusk in the west.
July 21 - The Moon now lies half way between Venus and the red giant star Antares in Scorpio at dusk.
July 23 - There is a good Tiangong pass in the west from 6:39am.
July 24 - The Moon is just below the red giant star Antares in Scorpio.
July 25 - There will be a good Tiangong pass in the west from 6:15am.
July 27 - There is a good Tiangong pass starting high overhead at 5:51am when it pops out of the Earth's shadow.
July 29 - There will be a low ISS pass in the south from 6:33am.
July 31 - There is a good ISS pass from 6:34am in the SW.
Aug 1 - From 5:47am there is an ISS pass in the south.
Aug 2 - There will be an ISS pass in the west from 6:34am.
Aug 3 - From 5:48am there is a good ISS pass starting high overhead

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Water Treatment Plant Opens



The opening of the new Matarangi Water Treatment Plant on 24 June 2026 marks a significant step forward for the Thames-Coromandel District Council engineering teams, contractors, and local partners who worked to complete the project. This new facility represents the culmination of planning, technological upgrading, and physical labour.

Mayor Peter Revell attended the opening to unveil the treatment plant's plaque, alongside TCDC Councillors Tony Bjelievich, Flemming Rassmussen, John Freeth, and Mercury Bay Community Board Chair Richard Shelford-Woodcock.

Mayor Revell noted that the event meant more than opening just a treatment plant, stating, "It's an investment in the health of this community. It's an investment in resilience. And it's an investment in the future of Matarangi."

The completed facility is designed to supply fresh, safe water to up to 2,000 properties. Delivering this project required the construction teams to address specific environmental and logistical challenges. Previously, the local community relied on an older system that was vulnerable to high sediment loads. This vulnerability frequently triggered water restrictions during heavy weather events and busy summer tourist surges.

The project teams resolved these chronic issues by implementing upgraded filtration systems to handle heavy sediment, creating a resilient design to withstand severe weather events, and building infrastructure to ensure a steady supply from the Opononui River.

The completion of the Matarangi plant relies on the integration of modern water treatment

technologies. Workers and technicians installed and calibrated advanced systems to ensure the site fully complies with the updated Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules. These technical upgrades involved equipping the plant with membrane units for filtration, modern dosing equipment for precise chemical treatment, and automated monitoring tools to track water quality in real time. This collective effort stabilises the water supply for the region for future generations.

The project also involved collaboration with local iwi to ensure that the infrastructure developments align with community well-being. Celebrating this partnership, Ngāti Hei kaumātua Joe Davis acknowledged the work done and highlighted the broader significance of the facility.

He stated, "The plant is a wonderful addition to the community. The huaora or wellness of the community is important, and these types of infrastructure projects deliver this."

This opening is one of the last major milestones in the council's multi-year, district-wide water upgrade strategy. Infrastructure teams have already upgraded plants across Onemana, Tairua, Pāuanui, Whitianga, Coromandel, Whangamatā, and Hāhei.

With the Matarangi site now fully operational, the next item on the agenda for council will be to make sure that the oxidation ponds are desludged in time for Christmas so as to avoid a repeat of last years overflow fiasco.

Featured: Mayor Peter Revell attended the opening to unveil the treatment plant's plaque, alongside TCDC Councillors Tony Bjelievich, Flemming Rassmussen, John Freeth, and Mercury Bay Community Board Chair Richard Shelford-Woodcock.

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The Dunes' Life Members Supporting Junior Golf.



The two The Dunes' Life members, Allan Dickinson and Bev Gwyn, have decided to sponsor a Junior membership annually, and they hope any future Life members would support this also. Both Allan and Bev agree that it would be a way to support the Club and promote our 'up and coming' Juniors.

Juniors will be invited to apply for this sponsorship and criteria has been developed from which both Allan and Bev will make the final decision about the successful applicant. It will be open to all Juniors to apply who are students up to the age of 18 years and applicants will be asked to write a few sentences about why they think they deserve the sponsorship and what they hope to achieve for that year.

The closing date and selection will allow time to align the annual subscriptions and there will be further information available closer to time of application for this sponsorship. Allan and Bev said, 'We look forward to watching the Juniors grow in our Club and being able to be part of that growth.'

Sunday Junior Haggie

The Sunday Junior Haggie has proven to be very popular with up to 12 Juniors participating each Sunday afternoon. This is a

time when Juniors can go out to play on their own with a Dunes' member accompanying them. The Juniors all have a membership disc with them with a contact phone number and are all told that if they wish to stop playing for whatever reason, their 'safe place' is back at the clubhouse where the contact number can be phoned.

Prior to each haggie a golf rule and a rule of etiquette is chosen by the member accompanying the Juniors and this is explained to them.

Something they have to remember and think about whilst out on the course. The member is able to help with some golf etiquette whilst playing as well as some little tips to help if asked. There is a prize giving back at the Clubhouse at the completion of the Haggie and Juniors can enjoy some social time together as do we adults.

Bev Gwyn has accompanied the Juniors a couple of times and is impressed with the calibre of golf played by these Juniors. She said she remembered some of these Juniors participating in the early days of coaching with Golf HQ, then moving on to entering the Junior Tournaments and now playing some great golf in the Junior haggie. It is fabulous to see.

The Matarangi Fire Report

Last month the Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade successfully executed a realistic multi-agency training simulation during June at The Dunes Matarangi. The exercise simulated an out-of-control kitchen fire in a busy, crowded restaurant, forcing crews to manage multiple high-pressure objectives simultaneously. Responders rapidly deployed fire suppression tactics from the car park while coordinating the orderly evacuation of simulated diners and staff from the building.

In addition to fighting the blaze, teams established a dedicated medical sector on-site to handle simulated casualties. Emergency crews practiced triaging and treating volunteer actors presenting with realistic burn injuries and potential smoke inhalation. This comprehensive drill provided invaluable hands-on experience, strengthening the brigade's readiness for commercial structure fires and mass-evacuation emergencies in the local community.

On Saturday 20th, we held our honours night recognising service awards with our brigade, I would like congratulate the following 3 year certificate recipients; Evan Kaska, Grant Cameron, Wayne Varga and Mike Smith. 2 year service medals; Neil Robins 7 years, Russell Povey and Steve Clay 9 years, Matthew O'Connell 13 years, Peter Hazael 15 Years and Mark Hall 17 Years. It was also an opportunity to thank our entire crew, partners and support people and our invited guests.

If you haven't been to the fire station lately, pop down on a Friday from 4pm. During the winter, we have the fire roaring out back making a cosy and popular spot to gather. We have also rearranged our brigade photos and displays, which is well worthy of a look.

Mark Hall
Chief Fire Officer
Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade







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Friday

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Thursday

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

Saturday

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
Leslev 021 280 0780

Golf

Mixed Haggie 18 Holes Saturday - 10.30am-11.30am (Pre-register via The Dunes website)

Justice of the Peace

MATARANGI

Mary Kedzlie 027 2904940 or 07 8664096 (work).
Simone Parr Ph: 027 6572980
Ernest Raina Ph: 021 716 852

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MATARANGI BEACH PAPER (Liam) 027 8689568
LANDSAR KUAOTUNU (Emergency 111)
MAREE TAYLOR (Celebrant) 021 0429127
MEDICAL CENTRE 866-5911
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MATARANGI RATEPAYERS 021 754 078
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MATARANGI RESERVES MANAGEMENT GROUP (Robin 021548070)
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RUBBISH TIP 866-5427
RD2 WHITIANGA (Toby) 021 587 221

CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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

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Te Toi o Matariki

A celebration of Matariki through art and community.

July 10 Matariki Public Holiday
Kūāotunu

July 10 Matariki Public Holiday
Kūāotunu

6am **Hautapu ceremony**
community celebration at dawn*
Gather 5:45am on Kūāotunu Reserve (opp. Luke's Kitchen)
Finish at 7:29am sunrise

9am **Exhibition opening**
at Kūāotunu Hall, all welcome
Nine local artists with artwork around Matariki stars
Show running July 10 to 12

10am **Ukahain i** 10am – 1pm
Kūāotunu boat
All ages & experience

10am **Wānanga 10am – 3pm**
in the hall garden
Whakairo (carving) 10am+
Harakeke 10am-12pm
Uku (clay) 1-3pm
All ages & experience

6pm **Bonfire (time TBC)**
Kūāotunu boat ramp. All welcome.
BYO guitar and marshmallows.

July 2026 Tides

Date	Morning Low	Morning High	Afternoon Low	Afternoon/Night High
Thu 2 July	02:22 am	08:34 am	02:46 pm	09:21 pm
Fri 3 July	03:02 am	08:44 am	03:27 pm	12:00 pm
Sat 4 July	03:42 am	09:55 am	04:08 pm	10:42 pm
Sun 5 July	04:22 am	10:37 am	04:51 pm	11:23 pm
Mon 6 July	05:05 am	11:21 am	05:35 pm	12:07 pm
Tue 7 July	05:49 am	12:06 am	06:21 pm	12:07 pm
Wed 8 July	07:27 am	11:31 am	08:04 pm	01:50 pm
Thu 9 July	07:22 am	02:32 am	08:01 pm	02:47 pm
Sat 11 July	09:21 am	03:29 am	10:01 pm	03:48 pm
Sun 12 July	10:22 am	04:31 am	11:03 pm	04:51 pm
Mon 13 July	11:23 am	05:33 am	--	05:54 pm
Tue 14 July	12:04 am	06:34 am	12:22 pm	06:55 pm
Wed 15 July	01:03 am	07:33 am	01:21 pm	07:54 pm
Thu 16 July	02:00 am	09:25 am	03:18 pm	08:82 pm
Fri 17 July	02:55 am	10:10 am	04:07 pm	10:43 pm
Sat 19 July	04:42 am	11:12 am	05:01 pm	11:37 pm
Mon 20 July	05:66 am	--	05:56 pm	12:05 pm
Tue 21 July	06:31 am	12:32 am	06:51 pm	01:00 pm
Wed 22 July	07:27 am	01:28 am	07:49 pm	01:57 pm
Thu 23 July	08:26 am	02:26 am	08:50 pm	02:58 pm
Sat 24 July	09:27 am	04:32 am	09:54 pm	04:01 pm
Sun 26 July	11:28 am	05:34 am	--	05:04 pm
Mon 27 July	12:01 am	06:32 am	12:25 pm	07:01 pm
Tue 28 July	01:00 am	07:25 am	01:18 pm	07:53 pm
Wed 29 July	01:50 am	08:14 am	02:08 pm	07:53 pm
Wed 30 July	01:54 am	08:00 am	02:06 pm	08:41 pm
Fri 31 July	02:44 am	09:44 am	02:56 pm	09:27 pm
Sat 1 August	04:17 am	10:27 am	04:28 pm	10:56 pm
Sun 2 August	05:03 am	11:11 am	05:14 pm	11:41 pm

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