

MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

FEBRUARY

EDITION 119

Including Simpsons, Kuaotunu, Otama, Opito, Rings and Whangapoua Beaches



ANNEMIEKE KREGTING: KUAOTUNU'S AVIAN ANGEL

In 2005 someone knocked on Annemieke Kregting's front door holding an injured duckling. They had heard that Annemieke had trained and worked as a veterinary nurse in her native Holland and maybe able to help. Help she did and soon local people started bringing other injured, orphaned or ill wild birds for her to rehabilitate. Kuaotunu Bird Rescue was created and by 2009 licensed by the Department of Conservation and 6 years ago a recognized WrenNZ Bird Rehabilitation Centre. In layman's term a bird hospital.

Today Kuaotunu Bird Rescue is an established Charitable Trust and handles between 250 and 300 birds per year. Birds are brought in from the very tip of the Coromandel Peninsula to as far as Whangamata, and include most bush, wading and seabirds, to the more unusual and less frequently seen such as bitterns and albatross. To better handle this workload Kuaotunu Bird Rescue has recently upgraded its hospital, which now has a critical care/treatment room and 3 aviaries. This whole operation is run from a converted garage and sleepout area at the rear of her property.

"The aim of what we do here is to rehabilitate the bird so it will be able to survive in the wild once it is released back into its own environment. That it is not imprinted on humans or on the wrong species, or seeks humans out for food or company to ensure that the bird remains as wild as possible," said Annemieke.

All native birds are protected species and a DOC permit allows Kuaotunu Bird Rescue to hold birds under their care for up to 3 months. After that time they must be returned to the wild, fit and able to fend for themselves. This involves a huge amount of hours put into their care as well as medical resources, food and general support. She is incredibly grateful to the medical support that Kuaotunu Bird Rescue gets from the veterinary surgeons in Whitianga.

Annemieke has always been grateful for the support she receives from the Kuaotunu community who have assisted her over the years in the ever-increasing workload involved in looking after such numbers of birds. Kuaotunu locals have provided not only financial support but also gifts of food and supplies and voluntary help with feeding, cleaning and administration.

"We have had several volunteers involved over the last 15 years. Currently we have 3 adult volunteers and two youngsters JJ and Lila living in the area who give of their own time to come and are keen to learn," says Annemieke. "Because we cover most of the Coromandel Peninsula, some rescuers do not always have transport or the time to get the birds to us. So we are always on the lookout for volunteer drivers to help us courier sick and injured birds to us. If people are available to be a volunteer courier driver then please contact us and let us know what areas on the Peninsula you can cover."

This past month Annemieke was thrilled to receive from Chris Cotton of the Matarangi Markets group, a generous donation of \$400 raised from the proceeds of the Matarangi Markets. "I went to see her and she is a wonderful person, very caring and her bird rescue organisation is almost a full time voluntary position," said Chris. "Annemieke does wonderful work in caring for sick and injured birds. She always needs food for them and every bit of help or monetary donations would be appreciated."

Continued on page 3...

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CONTRIBUTORS

The Matarangi Beach Paper thanks the following people for their contributions in this edition...

Sharon Clay; Alastair Brickell; David Key; Pete Murphy; Steve Johnson; Hilary Falconer; Rachel Smith; Chris Severne; Te Rerenga School and Stu Arnold.

...because without these contributions and stories, your local paper wouldn't be quite the same. Thank you!

CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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

THE TEAM

Editor	Liam Kedzlie
Deputy Editors	Mary & Teresa Kedzlie
Printer	Endeavour Print
Designer	Shannon Nicolson at Okey Dokey Designs

ALL ENQUIRIES

Liam 027 868 9568 contact@matarangibeachpaper.com

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ANNEMIEKE KREGTING: KUAOTUNU'S AVIAN ANGEL

... Continued from page 1

"As soon as I got that donation from the Matarangi Markets it was straight into town to stock up on Watties baby fruit for our Tuis and Kereru as well as a host of other things we needed urgently," quipped Annemeike. "Donations of food and other supplies are really welcome, but the majority of our work involves paying for things such as Vet bills, laboratory costs and specialised diets."

To stay current and compliant as a WrenNZ Bird Rehabilitator and to keep D.O.C onside, involves Annemeike having to attend courses and seminars. She does this out of her own pocket, but is philosophical about having to cover course fees and travel costs herself.

So by donating money to Kuaotunu Bird Rescue (06-0457-0736392-31) you can help Annemeike and the Kuaotunu Bird Rescue Trust (Registered Charity: CC57087) to keep doing what it does best for our avian friends. If money is short then volunteer time is a great option. Who know? You may become an avian angel in your own right!

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

Congratulations to Richard Inger who caught this 82.1kg striped Marlin using a 24kg line on the 11th of January off the launch Winston. Well done Richard your proud mum Lesley sent in a photo to the MBP so we could all share in your angling success!



Your Coromandel Tracks & Trails Guide is back

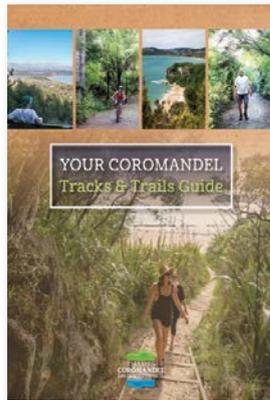
Our popular, free, 'Your Coromandel Tracks & Trails Guide' is available again at our Council offices, district libraries and visitor centres, after we ran out of copies late last year.

We listened to feedback we received on the earlier edition of the guide and made a few small revisions for the reprint.

It doesn't include every track and trail in the district, but we've included a good selection from across the Coromandel that are for the most part short jaunts in or near our town centres. There are plenty of treasures to discover among these paths, taking you from harbour and river margins, heritage town centres, playgrounds, busy working wharves and, of course, the sandy beaches the Coromandel is famous for.

"I love giving this guide to visitors to help them get out there and discover our beautiful part of the world," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"The guide fits right in with our strategy to promote walking and cycling infrastructure in our communities, not just to help people be active, but also to encourage tourism and help promote local economic



development," Mayor Sandra says.

Developing walking and biking paths on our Council's own reserves, and helping community groups and business people develop tracks of their own, is a major strand of our economic

development programme. We welcome feedback on the guide and we'd like to hear from you if you've got plans to develop a walking or cycling track in your area of the district. Email us at communications@tcdc.govt.nz

Summer water use

As dry weather combines with high visitor numbers, water supplies are put under pressure and restrictions have to be put into place. These are shared daily on local radio stations, our Council's Facebook page and the home page of our website. We thank you for your cooperation with recent restrictions and kindly ask that you continue to use water responsibly. tcdc.govt.nz/water

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Kerbside Summer Collection

Our summer schedule with extra collections finishes on 8 February 2020. Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9am and remember that collections following the Waitangi Day public holiday (6 February) will be one day later that week. Schedules are at



tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

If you leave town before your collection day, you can drop off your rubbish in blue Council bags at your nearest Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS). Hours and locations:

tcdc.govt.nz/rts

Mercury Bay Community Board UPDATE

The Mercury Bay Community Board will next meet at 9am on Wednesday 19 February at the Mercury Bay Service Centre, 10 Monk St, Whitianga. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can comment in the public forum. Check tcdc.govt.nz to read the agenda online. (Order papers are listed two working days prior to a meeting.)

FIRE BAN

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) has declared a Prohibited Fire Season, which means a total fire ban in urban and rural areas. If you see an out-of-control fire phone 111. checkitsalright.nz

COASTAL SURVEY

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MRAI IN GOOD HEART

The Matarangi Ratepayers Association (Inc) AGM was held at The Dunes on Monday 27th January. The golf club house was packed to over flowing with members, keen to hear a summary of the action packed year the MRAI has had and what the plans are for the future of Matarangi.

Alastair MacCormick the outgoing chairman of the MRAI welcomed the crowd and said how fantastic it was to be back here in our clubhouse and what a fantastic community centre this is for Matarangi. In attendance at the meeting were Sandra Goudie, TCDC Mayor, Murray McLean, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Mercury Bay Tony Fox, Councillor for Mercury Bay, Jeremy Lomas, Community Board Member and Alan Iplady, TCDC District Manager for the Northern Area.

Respectfully, before proceedings got underway Alistair asked for a moment of silence in memory of Paul Kelly and Trevan Smith who both had contributed significantly to Matarangi and the MRAI.

The key points in the Chairman's report was a review of the fantastic year 2019 was for Matarangi. Firstly, the Environment Court dismissal of Golf (2012)'s Appeal has meant the land occupied by the golf course now remains zoned as Open Space. Secondly was the purchase of the

golf course property by Matarangi Land Holdings [MLH] and finally the establishment of the Matarangi Community Trust. As Alistair said, "It has been like a dark cloud has lifted in Matarangi and there has been a lift in community spirit." Another highlight of the year was the relaunching of the golf club and the re-opening of the club house. Alistair acknowledged the people behind this and the amazing group of volunteers who have helped the new owners to improve the course and spruce up the clubhouse.

For all of this to be a continued success the support of Matarangi ratepayers is needed. Alistair explained to the meeting that while the twenty-three shareholders have made temporary advances to MLH, the wider Matarangi community will need to raise further funds. This group does not see themselves as the continuing owners of the property but as the negotiators who were willing to take the lead on behalf of the Matarangi community before the Matarangi Community Trust could be established. It is planned that the Trust will buy back the golf course from the investors and with funds raised will also undertake activities to improve the amenities of the wider Matarangi community.

Aside from community donation and investment, one suggestion for raising such funds is that a 'targeted rate' in

Matarangi is introduced. This would mean that Matarangi property owners would pay a levy of perhaps \$100-\$200 a year. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of this concept but Mayor Sandra said there would be significant community consultation before any such levy was adopted.

Other business conducted at the meeting was the election of the new MRAI committee. Mark Bedford will be the new Chairman replacing Alistair MacCormick. Alan Cunningham was re-elected as Honorary Auditor.

Topics during the General Business section of the meeting covered issues such as sewerage, the water shortage, dog control and the green waste charges with Mayor Sandra and Alan Iplady responding to any questions asked from the floor. Ian Patrick also moved that a vote of thanks be made for the service and leadership of Alistair MacCormick. Alistair responded to this by giving thanks to another outgoing committee member, Bob Stevens.

For more information about the Matarangi Ratepayers Association Inc and the Matarangi Community Trust check out the following websites:-

<https://www.ourmatarangi.com/>
<https://www.matarangitrust.nz/>

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RETIRING AFTER 15 YEARS OF RUNNING THE OPITO BAY ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION



Allan Parker is stepping aside from organising the Opito Bay fishing competition. Allan with his wife

Cheryle, their family and many volunteers have done an outstanding job in running the competition over

the last 15 years. Over the years thousands of dollars have been raised from the competition, held annually on the 2nd January. These funds have been used to enhance facilities in the Bay plus donations have been made to Westpac and their lifesaving helicopter service. The Opito Bay Ratepayers Assoc are extremely grateful for Allan and his families contribution to the Bay. On the left is Roger Gwynne who will be co-ordinating volunteers and sponsors for next year's competition. Next Year Smuggler Boats have agreed to come on board as a major sponsor of which we are very grateful. To the right is Chris Severne Chair of the Opito Bay Ratepayers Assoc at a gift giving ceremony for Roger in the Bay.

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FAREWELL TREVAN

Matarangi is mourning the loss of Trevan Smith who was a well-known and popular member of our community. Trevan aged 73 passed away peacefully in Auckland on January 19th with his family by his side. He was farewelled at the All Saints Chapel at the Purewa Crematorium on January 24th with a number of Matarangi locals travelling to Auckland to pay their respects.



Trevan a retired accountant and his wife Carol lived in Matarangi for 18 years before re-locating back to Auckland in 2018 to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Trevan and Carol were extremely active members of our community during the years that they lived here. This was acknowledged at a community farewell held in their honour in March 2018 organised by FENZ Matarangi. Trevan's community involvement was significant. He was a Trust Board member and Trustee Treasurer of the Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force for 12 years and was also Honorary Auditor for both the Matarangi Ratepayers Association and the Matarangi Boat and Fishing Club. He was also Chairman of the 'A Taste of Matarangi' committee, for 7 years and was involved in the Mercury Bay Summer Carnival for 3 years.

Golf played a large part in Trevan's life. He was a life member of the Remuera Golf Club and was also extremely active on the Matarangi golf scene. He was involved in organising our Wednesday men's golf for many years and organised their golf trips. In 2002 he worked in the golf shop and looked after the Waikato Vets between 2006 and 2007. In 2012 Trev and his wife Carol together won the Strokeplay Championship. "Trevan ran many tournaments at the Dunes and was part of the group that organised tournaments to raise funds for 'two of our own' when they needed our help", said long-time friend Wayne (Puku) Stevens, who shared with the MBP some of his memories of Trevan.

Carol and Trevan also instigated and organised the Matarangi Mid-Winter swim, which has now become an annual event on our Matarangi calendar. "While Trevan did not actually participate in the swim, he was great handing out the 'warm up' port that he generously donated", reminisced Puku.

Trevan will be forever remembered for his dry wit and fabulous sense of humour. He was truly a very funny man but also one of life's gentlemen. As Puku says, "he created a ton of humour in anything he did". With a lovely and eloquent speaking voice he would be the one often called upon at community events to 'MC' the proceedings and make sure that the event would proceed smoothly and in an "orderly fashion"!

So farewell Trevan. You were a legend who will be sadly missed by our community. We are extremely grateful for the contributions that you made for the betterment of Matarangi. Your professionalism, wisdom and astuteness will not be forgotten.

Trevan is survived by his wife Carol, daughter Leah, son Mark and wife Alanna and five grandchildren.

Above: Trevan Smith handing out the 'warm up' port following the 2018 Matarangi Mid-Winter Swim to a soon to be revived Barry Bowen.

GOOD SORTS SPY

Matarangi and other local beach side communities have once again seen a rise in crime this summer with unwelcome thieving scum bags entering our slice of paradise and tainting it. Vigilant locals have certainly been doing their best to ensure that these criminals are apprehended and driven out of town. One particular Matarangi local, Mark Deutsch certainly did his bit on January 9th. Mark caught red handed two low lifes checking out people's properties in Matarangi. He alerted the Police and then followed by car one suspect out of town travelling on SH 25, to meet up with the Police that were despatched from Thames. Due to Mark's actions the offender was duly arrested. Thank you Mark, you are a hero and the Good Sorts Spy and the Good Folk of Matarangi salute you!



CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to Gordon Barnaby and family on the loss of Diana, who passed away at home in Wharekaho recently. Each year it is Gordon who MCs our wonderful Anzac Service and their Santa House at Wharekaho is legendary. Diana will be forever remembered as the lovely Mrs Claus, bringing so much delight and Christmas joy to the many children who visited the Santa House over the years. RIP Diana.

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WHAT TO DO AT A WHALE STRANDING



Following the recent mass stranding of pilot whales at Matarangi in early January, we spoke to marine mammal welfare charity Project Jonah and asked for their advice. Rachel Smith a trained Project Jonah Marine Mammal Medic has responded.

Whale and dolphin strandings are complex events that can be caused by several factors, and in most cases, the exact cause is unknown. Most strandings are of single animals, but mass strandings are also common and can involve hundreds of animals at a time.

If you discover a stranding, the most important thing to do before anything else, is report it immediately by calling Project Jonah or the Department of Conservation.

Important details such as, **SPECIFIC LOCATION** and **NUMBER OF ANIMALS**, need to be included in your report. The more information you provide, the better informed the response will be.

If you hear of a stranding close to you and are able to help out, please ensure you take a few essentials along. These include snacks, water, warm clothes, wetsuit, sunblock and sun hat.

Providing basic first aid to a stranded whale or dolphin can be the difference between life and death. Knowing some basic actions to take will give otherwise healthy but stranded whales the best chances of survival. When reporting the stranding, you will be given instructions over the phone to follow, which will likely include:

KEEP THE ANIMAL COOL

Out of the water, whales and dolphins will heat up very quickly and their delicate skin will dry out and burn. The priority is to cool them down. We do this by:

- Gently pouring water over them, focusing on their flippers, fin and tail flukes (flippers).
- Gently pour water over the head to wash away any sand or mucus from the eyes to prevent irritation.
- Covering them with a lightly colored, wet sheet will protect their skin from the sun and wind. Do not allow any air pockets to form under the sheet and do not cover the eyes or blowhole with the sheet.

DO NOT POUR WATER DOWN THE BLOWHOLE!
This could drown the animal you are trying to save.

KEEP THE ANIMAL COMFORTABLE

The flippers (each side of the body, behind the head) are delicate and are used to direct the whale through the water. If possible, we want to relieve any pressure from these. Depending on how the whale is laying on the sand. We can:

- Use your hands to dig around the flippers to relieve cramping, ideally deep enough so the flippers can hang freely down.
- If these holes form pools of water, remember to regularly flush them out, as the water will heat up.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPOSITION BY PULLING ON THEIR DORSAL FIN, FLIPPERS OR TAIL AND NEVER ATTEMPT TO DRAG OR ROLL BACK INTO THE SEA!

STAY CALM

Stranded whales are likely to be highly stressed. How we behave can impact this. Please consider the following:

- Work quietly and calmly around the animals.
- Avoid unnecessary crowding around the whale.
- Avoid standing or sitting directly in front of their head.
- Avoid touching them unnecessarily.
- Ask people with dogs or young children to move away if they are being loud.

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY DO NOT STRADDLE, STEP OVER OR STAND NEAR THE TAIL!

Saving stranded whales and dolphins isn't easy and successful rescue often depends on properly trained volunteers. This could be you! To become a Project Jonah Marine Mammal Medic go to <https://www.projectjonah.org.nz/> for more information.

STRANDING EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS:

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LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT OPITO BAY



Reported by Chris Severne

On a recent trip to Hawaii one of our ratepayers saw and photographed lifebelts installed every 500m along a beach in Maui. He thought it was such a good idea to have these belts (housed in a sturdy box) on the beach at Opito especially where lots of people were swimming. While Opito is considered a safe beach we do not have a Surf Lifesaving presence and these two units will offer an opportunity to assist someone in trouble if needed. Currently there are two old boxes with the circular style life ring, which have become old and battered. It was time for an upgrade.

The Opito Bay Ratepayers Assoc have funded and installed two opflot units. One inshore from the swim platform off Stewart Stream and the other at Skippers Stream. I would

like to thank Opito Bay residents Wally Leighton and Craig Roe for their help in installing both units. I encourage other beach communities to enquire about these potential lifesaving belts. The website is very informative. Contact details are below.

Pat Millar, 021 460 388

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For more information contact Chris Severne, Chair Opito Bay Ratepayers Assoc. Ph: 021938402

Featured: Pat Millar of Operation Flotation charitable Trust with one of the newly installed unit at Skippers Stream in Opito Bay.

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10 ARTISTS EXHIBITION

The Kuaotunu Hall over Anniversary weekend was busy with over 700 patrons attending the annual 10 Artists exhibition. As usual feedback from the public was very positive with many intrigued by the special collaborative work inspired by French artist Marcel Duchamp titled 'The Box'.

The Box itself was a mini-exhibition, demonstrating the variety of artisan skills existing within this creative collective who live and work in northern Mercury Bay and have been exhibiting in Kuaotunu since 2017, working in diverse art

mediums such as sculpture, painting, drawing, wood work, paper engineering, photography, harakeke weaving and mixed media.

"The public was really impressed with the diversity and quality of what was shown," said 10 Artists Spokesperson Ian Preece. "This was reflected in a number of sales of the artists work over the weekend, which was very pleasing."

The 10 Artists exhibiting were Chris Charteris, Claire Eliot, Phillip Fickling, Lutz Gaebler, Peter Matai Johnson, Lucy

Kuchlein, Ian Preece, Roimata Taimana, Colin Verner with guest artist Estelle Withy.

Above: The 10 Artist collective busy preparing for the exhibition



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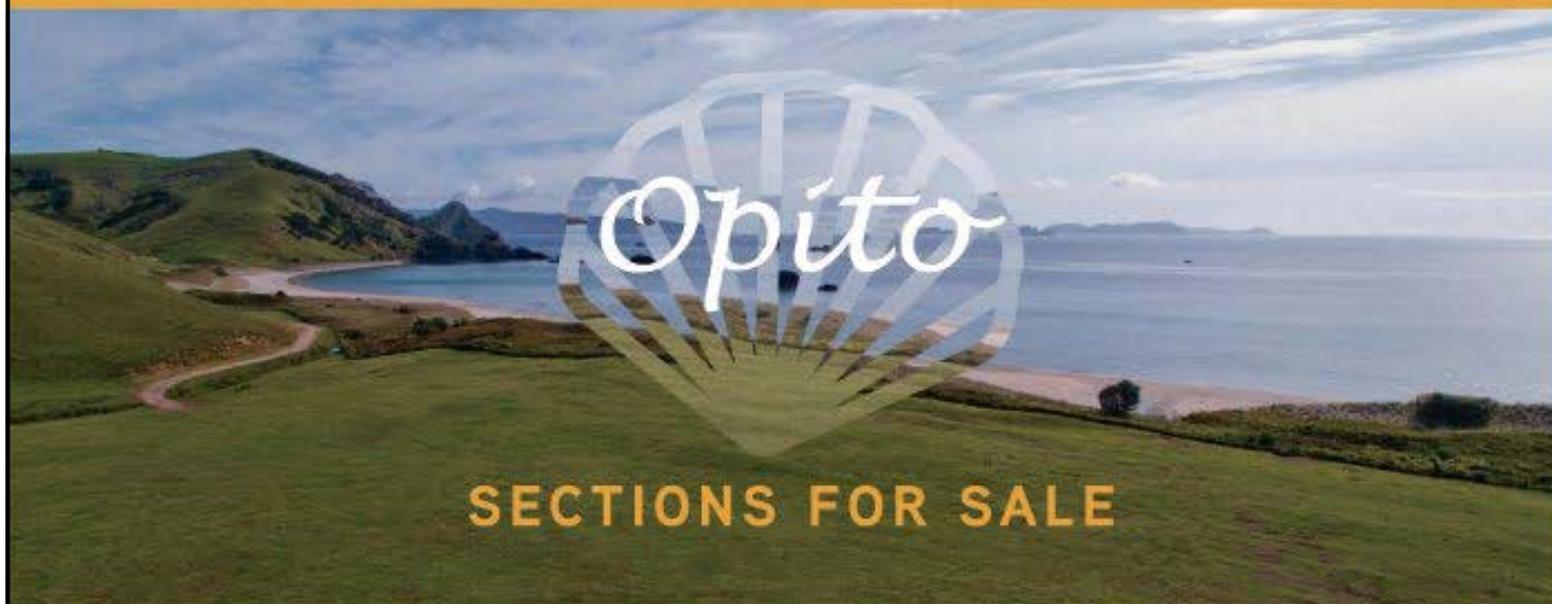
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SUGAFIX TO HEADLINE A TASTE OF MATARANGI

The countdown has started for this year's A Taste of Matarangi and the headlining band on the 4 April will be Sugafix, a versatile four-piece party band from sunny Tauranga. With the perfect blend of male and female vocals, their repertoire satisfies a wide range of musical tastes. Everyone will be up and dancing at the end of the day with Sugafix!

Food stalls booked for this year's festival have an international flavour, including the Paella Pan, Turkish and Greek food, French crepes, Hungarian bread puffs and Spanish churros along with all your favourites to tempt your taste buds such as scallop and prawn skewers, Coromandel mussel fritters, the KSAR sausage sizzle, the famous Serial Griller burgers, Luke's Kitchen pizzas, meaty and prawn tacos, seafood fritters, real fruit ice creams and smoothies.

If you need transport to the festival it's important to book early with the following transport operators; Coromandel Adventures, freephone 0800 462676 or Go Kiwi shuttles, freephone 0800 446549. Pre bookings are essential for

these services to operate for the festival.

For those looking for shade on the day, Peninsula Party Hire will be providing a large stretch tent, so get to the festival early if you want to grab a shady spot to enjoy the entertainment. There will only be limited space for small gazebos on site.

Now is your last chance to enter the A Taste of Matarangi Cook Off competition – it's loads of fun and a great opportunity to show off your culinary skills and win prizes too. Grab a friend to form a team and be part of the action at this year's festival. For more information email hayley-harris@hotmail.com or apply online at:

<https://form.jotform.co/ATOM2020/atom-cook-off>

Purchase your festival tickets now at www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz or at the following outlets – Richardsons in Matarangi, Whitianga I-site and Coromandel Adventures.

Thanks to our Gold sponsors – Coromandel More FM, All About Whitianga and Creative Fuel Web Design.



What an exciting start to our 2020 School year with our roll reaching 104 the highest it has ever been in the history of Te Rerenga School. Times are changing in our communities with many families moving to the area for lifestyle and work. These families are able to move here confidently due to the knowledge that their children will be receiving high quality education. As I said in my end of year address at the 2019 prizegiving, Te Rerenga School has a very good reputation and this is certainly reflected in our significant roll increase throughout 2019 and the start of 2020!

School started for the children on February 3rd but our amazing and dedicated teachers have been busy back at work for the past few weeks planning and preparing for their 2020 classroom programmes and undertaking

3 days of professional development on topics such as 'Understanding Behaviour Responding Safely' [UBRS], Mindfulness and attending the local Community of Learning [COL] day at Tairua School where we had the privilege of listening to a number of speakers including Dr Lucy Hone a leading expert in wellbeing and resilience. We welcome Mrs Jenna James to our teaching staff.

Whangapoua Builders have been incredibly busy over the holidays building our wonderful new deck area. This multi-purpose space will be an extension of the classrooms and with its amphitheatre design is perfect for outside gatherings, our performing arts programmes and learning through play, discovery and inquiry. Rueben Veevers and his team have also replaced cladding at the top of the hall.

Our inquiry for this term is the sea and the bush and we are so lucky that we have this beautiful natural environment right on our doorstep. It is my wish that we fully utilise and protect these amazing outdoor classrooms incorporating our 2020 focus on wellbeing and mindfulness. The opportunities for such rich learning experiences at Te Rerenga School, whether it is exploring the wonders of the bush or being in, on and by the water, are endless. I look forward to reporting to the MBP on how we get on!

Mary Kedzlie

Acting Principal

Te Rerenga School

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MATARANGI BOAT & FISHING CLUB



The weather seems to be pretty settled at the moment, but the winds have been picking up late morning. Most people seem to be catching a feed, but it can be pretty patchy. One day fishos are reporting good catches in 20 metres of water and then the next day nothing, but fish are being caught at 50 metres. It is a case of moving around, but beware of the increasing wind late morning. The water temperature has settled down at around 19 – 20 degrees inshore so the fishing should take off. Be aware there are 2 commercial long line boats working the puddle in the 30 – 50 metre region. The warmer sea temp has also brought in a few sharks, which decimate your snapper rigs.

The remnants of the cyclone that brought havoc to Fiji and Tonga has brought in some pretty hefty swells which will churn up the sea bed. This should help bring the snapper in closer. Be careful and don't venture out while these swells are about. The Whangapoua bar is a very dangerous place to be in these conditions, so please wait until it is settled before heading out.

It is with sorrow that I have to report that Trevan Smith passed away on Sunday 19th January. Trevan was an integral member of our society and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Carol and the family. Trevan was our honorary Auditor for as long as I can remember.

We have two competition's coming up. On the 14th March there is the Challenge Cup between the Matarangi Fire Station and the Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club and on the 21st March there is the Doris Day Ladies Competition. Keep these dates free, Information will be supplied next month.

Be aware that the bar doesn't have a major channel at the moment. Also be aware that the sand has drifted well into the harbour. Updated photos of the bar, courtesy of Mark and Shirvani at MATARANGI REALTY, can be viewed at Matarangi Realty, Matarangi 4 Square, the Fire Station and at the boat ramp notice board. If anyone requires information regarding how to read the bar, evaluating the break and how to cross the bar safely, please contact me and we will endeavour to take you out and explain any queries.

DONT TAKE RISKS, IF IN DOUBT, DONT CROSS THE BAR. WEARING A CORRECT FITTING LIFE JACKET IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT WHEN CROSSING A BAR.

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!

Peter Murphy, President
0212690058

MATARANGI FIRE REPORT

After a fairly quiet Winter and Autumn, December and January have been very busy for our volunteers. Over that period we had 23 calls to deal with including 8 medicals, 9 boat or coastguard assist incidents, 2 large vegetation fires, 1 whale stranding, 1 helicopter landing zone, 1 children trapped in a vehicle, 1 car fire and 1 police assist.

It was particularly busy over Christmas and New Year when I was away overseas when we had 10 call outs in 7 days. Both Bob Segetin and myself are very proud of the effort and commitment put in from our team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob for looking after things so well in my absence. A couple of incidents in particular caused a huge amount of work for our volunteers with the whale stranding and vegetation fire at Colville coming to mind. A great effort from all of our team to bring both of these incidents to a successful conclusion. A big thank you to Mark Hall for the whale stranding and Bob for organizing the response to the Colville fire.

I am pleased to report that things have been much less hectic at the Fire Station for our club members on Friday nights as Omaras and Pipers bar have been open. We fully support both of these venues and wish them well in the future.

The next big event for the Fire Station will be our annual Easter fishing competition and auction held on April 11th. Details to follow as we look forward to this ever popular event.

You cannot but notice how very dry it is at the moment with no relief in sight so the Total Fire Ban is still in place. Please be very careful around any dry vegetation or grass areas as machinery or friction could easily cause ignition and fire. Fireworks are another one that could cause a fire so please do not light any at this time.

Lastly you want to know anything about fire permits visit checkitsalright.nz or call 0800 658 628.

Stay safe everyone, Stu Arnold



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STEVE JOHNSON: MR. BLOKART

Steve Johnston has owned a bach in Matarangi for over 20 years and simply loves the place. As the owner of Buyrite Appliances and Buyrite Sportz for the last 33 years, last year he sold off the appliance arm of the business so he could take a step back and spend more time at Matarangi indulging in water and beach sports.

“There is always something to do regardless of the weather. Obviously, Blokartering if it is windy. Surfing if the surf is up. If it is sunny golf or lying on the beach, everything else weather wise enjoying just doing nothing,” says Steve.

Steve is part of a new trend which technology allows formerly desk bound city dwellers to re-invent their lifestyles and worklife to either split their time between the city and the beach, or even like what Steve is working on combine his love of Matarangi with his love of business.

Steve still owns Buyrite Sportz, selling and renting Blokarts and Stand Up paddle boards and spare parts for both. “They are great family activities, right across the age groups. I enjoy going out with my grand daughter with BloKarts or a paddle,” says Steve. “If you have never tried Blokartering or Stand up paddle boarding give me a phone call (0274939003). I can also arrange fishing and scenic trips with the Sealegs boat, go straight off the beach at Matarangi or Whangapoua with no bar to worry about.

Though he has sold Buyrite Appliances, Steve is still tied up on the product sales side of the business. “If you’re after new appliances I can give you a quote on all major brands, including our own imported brands,” says Steve. “My old firm have all the best prices and great service having been in the business now for over 33 years. I can arrange delivery direct to Matarangi.”

Above: Steve Johnson with his granddaughter enjoy BloKarting together on Matarangi Beach.



If you have passed through Kuaotunu recently you may have noticed the stunning new mural featured on the Blackjack Reserve toilet block. TCDC recently refurbished this toilet, installed two new outdoor showers and willingly agreed that the local community could adorn the main wall with a mural that reflected the spirit of Kuaotunu.

Rebekah Pearson, an artist working in paint and ceramics based in Tuatēawa was the easy choice to bring this project to life and after absorbing the many ideas that came forward, began work. Reflecting their pristine beach, surf, dark skies and flora and fauna, this image clearly demonstrates why locals are so passionate about “keeping Kuaotunu, Kuaotunu”. This work was fully funded by the Community through the Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association (KRRRA).

Pictured along with Rebekah are some of the locals who provided creative input - Alastair Brickell, Marguerite Muellers and Roimata Taimana.”

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STARGAZERS SIGHTS

This month sees the return of Mercury in the evening sky as it continues to move away from behind the Sun. It is very much lower in the western twilight sky than Venus, which is unmistakable with its brilliance. Venus is easy to spot as the "evening star" in the west. However, Mercury climbs ever higher through the month as it moves in its 3 month long orbit around our star. It will be furthest from the Sun and thus highest in the sky on February 18 and that week will be the best time to view it although it will still be closely hugging the horizon. Like Mercury, Venus is moving further away from the Sun from our point of view so rises higher in the sky every night this month and is much easier to locate. Viewed through even a small telescope it shows changing phases like the Moon. Three other planets, Saturn Jupiter and Mars continue to light up the eastern predawn sky for early risers.

Watch for the new Starlink satellites in the sky too... they appear like a chain of stars moving across the early evening sky on some nights. They all closely follow each other and are easiest to see just after they have been launched in batches of 60. There are plans to eventually launch over 90,000 of them so unfortunately our view of the night sky is going to change forever!

- February 7 The bright Moon lies just above the twin stars Castor and Pollux, which are the heads of the twins in the constellation Gemini in the evening.
- February 9 A full Moon lies right in the middle of the "question mark" that makes up the constellation Leo in the evening sky. The bright star Regulus sits just above the Moon tonight.
- February 18 The early morning sky has the Moon lying above and to the left of faint Mars with Jupiter and Saturn all in a line below.
- February 19 The Moon has now moved to be just below faint Mars with Jupiter and Saturn further down in the pre-dawn sky.
- February 20 A crescent Moon lies very close to Jupiter with Mars above and Saturn below, all in a line.
- February 21 The Moon now sits just below Saturn with Jupiter and then Mars above and to the left in the pre-dawn sky.
- February 26 A thin crescent Moon lies just below and to the left of brilliant Venus in the west after the Sun sets.
- February 27 The Moon now lies just to the left of brilliant Venus as the Sun sets.
- February 28 Venus now lies below and to the left of the crescent Moon around sunset.



WHERE IN THE WORLD

Stuart Barnaby and Lynda Scott went to see the Saturn V moon rockets at both Kennedy Space Centre in Florida and the Johnson Space Centre in Houston taking their MBP with them for the journey. The moon rocket in Houston is the only fully complete Saturn V left after the Apollo program was cancelled. When in Houston they went on a Level 9 VIP tour Mission Control Centre a rare opportunity as not many people get access to that area. Lynda says the Saturn V is simply enormous and you can't appreciate the actual size in a photo. To give you an idea of its size and power imagine the weight and length mass of an Anzac Class frigate boosted to a speed of 40000 kph to escape the earth's velocity.



- ¼ cup Pimms No.1
- 1 or 2 lemon slices
- 1 or 2 cucumber slices
- 6 Mint leaves
- Two parts lemonade,
one part gingerale
or three parts Lemon
and Paeroa
- Ice

Add all the ingredients to a tall glass filled with ice and stir to combine.

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Mavis had 4 bags of plums and Fred had a bag of apples. Between them they had 32 fruit.

Billy had 2 bags of cherries and 2 bags of plums, which meant he had a total of 52 fruit.

Rachel had 1 bag of cherries and 2 bags of Apples so she had 36 fruit.

Assuming that the same number of each fruit is always packed in a bag can you work out how many apples, plums and cherries are packed in a bag?

JANUARY Sudoku Solution - Coromandel

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L	E	A	M	C	O	R	D	N
D	A	C	L	M	R	E	N	O
O	L	R	N	A	E	M	C	D
E	M	N	C	O	D	L	A	R
A	R	E	D	N	L	C	O	M
M	D	L	O	E	C	N	R	A
N	C	O	A	R	M	D	L	E

Pestie Corner

With Sharon Clay of Peninsula Pests

As I look out across the harbour to the Coromandel ranges I see large tracts of extremely dry, brown land. Despite a little bit of rain (moisture) this week, we've had no substantial rain since before Christmas and we are now in a drought. This may be great news for the sun lovers but its bad news for our native birdlife, lizards and skinks.

This past year was a "Mega Mast" year where a large number of our native trees and plants flowered and fruited all at the same time causing the local populations of rodent and mustelids to explode. Unfortunately, with the "Mast" now over and the current drought conditions, this means that these predators now have no ready food source and they have turned to our native birdlife. Incidents of sightings of stoats in particular and rats seen in the daytime, has risen.

One client was horrified to find out that there are stoats but they have been here since the 1870's when they were brought into the country with ferrets and weasels to keep down the rabbit populations. Stoats by far are the worst predator of the three.

Stoats, like rats, are very intelligent, adaptable creatures. They live in any habitat where they can find prey and can be found anywhere from beaches to remote high country, at any altitude up to and beyond the tree-line, in any kind of forest - exotic or native, in scrub, dunes, tussock, and farm

pastures and are known to live near human settlements.

They are agile climbers, hunt any time day or night, can swim a reasonable distance and have been known to use floating debris to move along waterways. Their only reason to live is to eat and reproduce and are relentless hunters and have been implicated in the extinction of a number of bird species in the South Island and all of our birds, especially ground nesting birds are at high risk.

Trapping is a highly effective way of targeting the population. To be effective, control must be carried out intensively and be ongoing. The best time to catch mustelids is during the period from mid-summer to autumn when they are most active. Tunnel traps are the best but don't expect instant results as they are smart predators and it will take time for them to use the trap. Traplines with traps set every 200 meters on "runways" using eggs, chicken, freshly caught rabbit, fishy cat food or paste attractant will entice them in.



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The last 3 editions plus BEACH magazine

"Have a Go" Golf Day!



The Dunes Golf Club
9th of Feb @9.30 am
Ph: Simon (07)866 5394

Can you please leave your name with Simon so that we can have a rough estimate of numbers.

If you have a 7 iron or Putter bring them along, but there will also be some available for those that don't. Balls will be provided.

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Local Events Guide

allaboutwhitianga.co.nz

Visit the *All About Whitianga* mega-website for the latest event information from Whangapoua to Hot Water Beach

FREE... Classified adverts are FREE for the public.

Email details to: contact@matarangibeachpaper.com | Deadline is the last Friday of the month.

Regular Events

MONDAYS

Men on Mats (Pilates for Blokes) @ 8-9am. Ph Christiane, 0273122584

Matarangi Ladies Pilates @ 9-10am. Ph: Christiane, 0273122584

Kuaotunu Craft & Social Club 1-4pm Ph Lia 866 2054

Kuaotunu Library 1-4pm Ph. Maxine 027 293 0369

Mens 9 Hole Golfers tee off 10.30a.m. @ The Dunes Contract Bridge: 7pm St John's rooms, Tiki Rd, Coro. Town. Info ph Colin: 866 5428

Yoga: 7am Vinyasa @ Kuaotunu Hall. Ph: 021 08 100 125

Ladies "Allsorts Exercise" Class beginning June 10th at the fire station 10.15 - till 11.15 (after Ladies Pilates) - duration 1hr. Phone Christiane 0273122584

Books and Banter Club. First Monday of the month - 7 to 9 pm. Bring a book you have enjoyed to share and swap. Coffee and tea and BYO wine. Phone Cora on 0212226707 if you wish to attend and for venue details. Numbers are limited!

Kuaotunu Library. Open 24/7 when you become a member. Contact Maxine: 07 866 4341 or 027 293 0369.

TUESDAYS

Men's Coffee Morning (1st Tues of every Month - 7th March). 10am @ Pipers Café.

Ladies Golf 9 and 18 golfers Tee off at 10am @ The Dunes

Matarangi Craft Group. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 7-9pm. Meet at the Matarangi Fire Station. Contact: Lesley 07 866 0788.

KAMAG meeting 5:30pm, every 2nd Tuesday of the month @ Kuaotunu Hall. All welcome.

Hatha Yoga 10 - 11.30 am

WEDNESDAYS

Kuaotunu Steiner Play Group. 9:30-11:30am Ph: Ina 866 2841

Men's Golf. Tee off 10am. Meet @ The Dunes just before tee off.

Women's Coffee Morning (1st Wed of every month). 10am @ Pipers Café. All welcome!

YOGA: 7am Vinyasa @ Kuaotunu Hall. Ph: 021 08 100 125

THURSDAYS

Ladies 18 Hole Golfers tee off 9.30 a.m. @ The Dunes

Mens 9 Hole Golfers tee off @10.30 a.m. @ The Dunes

Ladies Golf 9 and 18 golfers Tee off at 10am @ The Dunes

Ladies Keep Fit 9-10am @ Matarangi Fire Station. All Welcome Phone Barbara 866 2687

Matarangi Craft Group meets every Thursday at 10:30am @ the Matarangi Fire Station. Info: Linda Segetin at 866 5653

Kuaotunu Steiner Playgroup - the contact to Kindergarten 07 8660094 and the time from 9 am to 11:30 am.

TUES, THURS & SAT

Rings Beach Wetland Volunteer days. 8.30-12.30 Ph: 866 5338

SATURDAYS

Hatha Yoga 3rd Age. 9-10.30am (For over 60 yr olds and/or for people with limited mobility)

SUNDAYS

Matarangi Markets start Labour Weekend.

Upcoming Events

LEADFOOT FESTIVAL

Sat 08 Feb 2020 - Sun 09 Feb 2020
Leadfoot Ranch, Hahei

MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

Sat 07 Mar 2020 - Sun 08 Mar 2020
@ Tairua to Kuaotunu

A TASTE OF MATARANGI

Sat 04 Apr 2020
Village Green, Matarangi

Classifieds / Notices

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FEBRUARY 2020 TIDES: WHITIANGA					
	High	Low	High	Low	High
6	5:09	11:04	17:23	23:33	
7	6:05	12:01	18:21		
8		0:28	7:00	12:57	19:18
9		1:22	7:53	13:52	20:14
10		2:15	8:45	14:45	21:08
11		3:06	9:36	15:38	22:01
12		3:57	10:27	16:30	22:53
13		4:49	11:19	17:22	23:45
14		5:41	12:10	18:14	
15	0:38	6:34	13:02	19:06	
16	1:32	7:29	13:55	20:00	
17	2:29	8:26	14:49	20:56	
18	3:28	9:26	15:46	21:55	
19	4:28	10:26	16:44	22:55	
20	5:27	11:26	17:43	23:53	
21	6:24	12:23	18:40		
22		0:48	7:16	13:17	19:32
23		1:38	8:04	14:05	20:21
24		2:24	8:48	14:50	21:05
25		3:05	9:29	15:32	21:46
26		3:44	10:09	16:10	22:25
27		4:22	10:47	16:48	23:03
28		4:58	11:24	17:24	23:40
29		5:36	12:02	18:02	
1	0:20	6:15	12:41	18:41	
2	1:02	6:58	13:22	19:24	
3	1:47	7:44	14:07	20:11	
4	2:38	8:36	14:57	21:03	
5	3:34	9:32	15:52	22:00	

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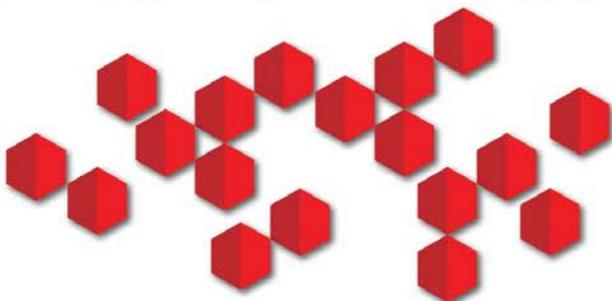


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