

PARADISE COAST

Whangamatā

ISSUE 131 - 6 DECEMBER, 2024

NEWS

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PLEASE TAKE ONE!

The Whangamata Boardriders held their Thursday afternoon gathering of youngsters learning to surf on a brilliant day, with the sun out and some perfect little waves rolling in. Parents and grandparents were lining the shore and helping in the water, encouraging the keen and exuberant 70 odd future groms. What a wonderful sight!

For more photos go to our Whangamata News Facebook page.

Photos - Mark James, Whangamata News



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EDITORIAL & MEDIA SALES:
JENNIE BLACK - 021 0232 1661

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It's not just about stormwater

Stormwater progress with council shows us spots don't change. Why should we be surprised? It seems council has its own version of our Significance and engagement policy which is 'if it's significant don't disclose it because it's embarrassing'. The less council disclose the less we know why our rates are being wasted.

Harsh words maybe. If council believes this is unfair or untrue be open and transparent with us and show the reasoning behind decisions that affect us and our rates. Since our last article we have learnt staff continue making decisions in staff workshops contrary to the Ombudsman's Open for Business publication. If decisions turn out good, why the secrecy? If decisions turn out bad responsibility won't stick?

There is only one conclusion, that is council does not want us examining the reasons behind decisions in case they backfire. Just like the Williamson Wetland. In that decision council claimed we must listen to the experts, but it turned out the only expert report was for a Dry basin. Despite this staff are still trying to validate their wetland decision. Why?

Council's FAUS PAX for the week. We received another information request. Council claim they followed how Tauranga City Council released its flood letters. What we have discovered, unlike TCDC, Tauranga City Council adopted a 'no secrets policy' 8 years ago.

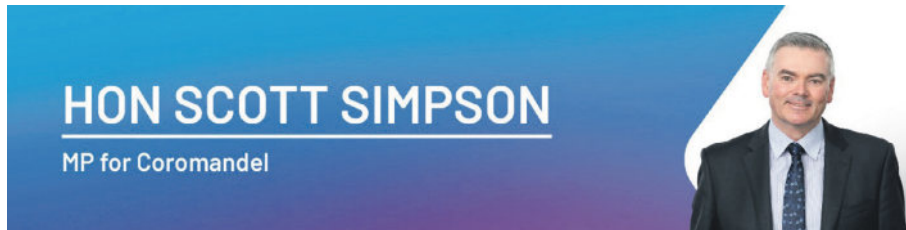
They scrubbed out marginal surface flooding and only sent letters after survey work and determining floor levels to flood levels.

About 10% of Tauranga owners received bad news or a good newsletter. There was no 'blanket' letter.

Again, we call on council to recall the flood letters and use the modelling for the right purpose. At least follow the NIWA and the Ministry for the Environment best practice guide for modelling.

Homeowners will have more to say and so do we. Come along prepared, to our public meeting Sunday 15 December, 1pm at the Whanga Club lounge. Council and councillors are invited to answer questions. See www.whangamataratepayers.org.nz stormwater tab and Facebook page for additional information.

- Rob Boston, WRA Chair



Walking Track Reopened at Cathedral Cove

A few weeks ago, Conservation Minister Tama Potaka opened consultation on proposals to modernise how we manage the conservation system in New Zealand.

The reopening of the walking track at Cathedral Cove comes just in time for summer, says National MP for Coromandel Scott Simpson.

"Reinstating walking access to Cathedral Cove has been a priority for our community and I was pleased to attend the reopening of the track with Conservation Minister Tama Potaka, iwi representatives, local councillors and members of the community."

"While myself and the community have been frustrated that it's taken close to two years to get Cathedral Cove fully reopened, I want to thank


DOC and their team for getting the track open in time for summer."

"Local businesses will be relieved that the track has reopened. Now they can get back to what they do best, welcoming visitors to our region and ensuring they have the best experience possible."

"Cathedral Cove is a significant drawcard for our region and I'm sure people will be flocking back to enjoy this natural wonder."

"Being able to walk to Cathedral Cove is just another reason why the Coromandel is the place to be this summer. My message to everyone, far and wide, is that the Coromandel Peninsula is open and ready to explore."

- Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



WHANGAMATA
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Sunday 15 December 1.00pm Whangamata Club (main lounge)

Stormwater and Flooding Report

With update and comment on TCDC 2025/26 Annual Plan, Local Government Elections 2025 and the next step into the 3 Waters saga

We encourage residents and ratepayers to attend this meeting.

The main topic, a review of and the current situation with stormwater and flooding and councils' decision to issue 3500 letters to Whangamata property owners.

See www.whangamataratepayers.org.nz stormwater tab and Facebook page for additional information.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
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Designer for *Whangamatā News* & the *Repco Beach Hop 24* programme

Whangamatā Tides 2024

| DECEMBER 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|----|-----------|------------|----|----------|------------|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| ☾ New Moon: 1 st & 31 st ● Full Moon: 15 th | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date | High tide | Height (m) | | High tide | Height (m) | | Low tide | Height (m) | | Sun rise | Sun set | |
| | | AM | PM | | AM | PM | | AM | PM | | | |
| 6 Fri | 11:34 | 1.8 | | 23:46 | 1.7 | | 5:05 | 0.3 | 17:40 | 0.4 | 05:47 | 20:26 |
| 7 Sat | | | | 12:21 | 1.8 | | 5:51 | 0.3 | 18:29 | 0.4 | 05:47 | 20:27 |
| 8 Sun | 0:35 | 1.7 | | 13:10 | 1.8 | | 6:40 | 0.3 | 19:20 | 0.4 | 05:47 | 20:27 |
| 9 Mon | 1:28 | 1.7 | | 14:02 | 1.8 | | 7:32 | 0.4 | 20:14 | 0.3 | 05:47 | 20:28 |
| 10 Tue | 2:25 | 1.7 | | 14:56 | 1.8 | | 8:29 | 0.4 | 21:10 | 0.3 | 05:47 | 20:29 |
| 11 Wed | 3:26 | 1.7 | | 15:52 | 1.8 | | 9:29 | 0.4 | 22:07 | 0.3 | 05:47 | 20:30 |
| 12 Thu | 4:29 | 1.7 | | 16:50 | 1.8 | | 10:31 | 0.4 | 23:06 | 0.2 | 05:47 | 20:31 |
| 13 Fri | 5:32 | 1.8 | | 17:48 | 1.9 | | 11:33 | 0.4 | | | 05:47 | 20:31 |
| 14 Sat | 6:32 | 1.9 | | 18:46 | 1.9 | | 0:04 | 0.2 | 12:33 | 0.4 | 05:47 | 20:32 |
| 15 Sun | 7:29 | 1.9 | | 19:43 | 1.9 | | 1:01 | 0.2 | 13:31 | 0.3 | 05:48 | 20:33 |
| 16 Mon | 8:23 | 1.9 | | 20:38 | 1.9 | | 1:55 | 0.1 | 14:26 | 0.3 | 05:48 | 20:33 |
| 17 Tue | 9:15 | 2.0 | | 21:31 | 1.8 | | 2:46 | 0.1 | 15:20 | 0.3 | 05:48 | 20:34 |
| 18 Wed | 10:04 | 2.0 | | 22:21 | 1.8 | | 3:36 | 0.2 | 16:11 | 0.3 | 05:49 | 20:35 |
| 19 Thu | 10:52 | 1.9 | | 23:10 | 1.8 | | 4:24 | 0.2 | 17:01 | 0.3 | 05:49 | 20:35 |
| 20 Fri | 11:39 | 1.9 | | | | | 5:10 | 0.3 | 17:49 | 0.4 | 05:49 | 20:36 |
| 21 Sat | 11:57 | 1.7 | | 12:25 | 1.8 | | 5:56 | 0.3 | 18:36 | 0.4 | 05:50 | 20:36 |
| 22 Sun | 0:44 | 1.7 | | 13:09 | 1.8 | | 6:42 | 0.4 | 19:22 | 0.5 | 05:50 | 20:37 |
| 23 Mon | 1:31 | 1.6 | | 13:54 | 1.7 | | 7:29 | 0.5 | 20:09 | 0.5 | 05:51 | 20:37 |



Pool reopening

With the reopening of the pool after what has been a major refurbishment, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many volunteers, businesses, contractors and individuals who have contributed to the project.

In 1991 the community came together to build the pool, this refurbishment has been a continuation of that community effort.

As with any refurb or new build there are always regrets and what-ifs. The pool committee has few regrets over the refurbishment process but does greatly regret the time taken to complete the work and the disruption it has caused to our regular patrons especially our younger recreational and competitive users who have lost significant fun/training and conditioning time.

Like all construction/renovation projects more money would have helped, having said that, each of us can be immensely proud of what we have achieved.

Our vision that "every child in the local environs has the opportunity to

learn to swim" continues to drive us onward.

The completion of this refurbishment will see the re-continuation of our journey to construct a purpose built indoor heated Learn to Swim/Therapeutic Pool and replace the aging water heating solar panels with modern PV solar panels to produce electricity.

It would be remiss not to thank the people, organisations and businesses that have assisted with this refurbishment, in particular TCDC, Councillors, Community Board and Area Manager Eileen Hopping who have been unstinting in their support of the pool.

This is an opportunity to thank publicly past and present members of the Whangamata Community Swimming Pool management committee for their vision, enthusiasm, determination, hard work, goodwill and humour.

We look forward to a golden summer, with familiar happy faces returning to enjoy all the positive aspects our community pool has to offer.

Rob Boston
CHAIR, WHANGAMATA COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Nuclear Fears

"Anything nuclear and New Zealand just don't go together." So says Paul Beck (NZ Herald 28/11/24).

The question of whether it was appropriate to establish a nuclear waste facility on a site without notifying neighbouring property owners is valid. However, for Beck to suggest that we should shun anything nuclear is simply folly.

Nuclear technology plays a significant role in modern medicine including some cancer treatments and in providing scans for diagnosing a raft of medical conditions. The development of this technology in recent

decades has saved many lives and has delivered quality of life to countless patients which would not have been possible otherwise.

Current research in nuclear technology is also providing solutions to future electricity needs as demands for more capacity grows worldwide.

Some will agree that "anything nuclear" should be avoided at all costs. So are we to bury our heads in the sand and deny ourselves the considerable advantages of technological progress or shall we get over our irrational paranoia of all things nuclear?

George Williams
WHANGAMATA

We welcome your letters, articles, photos, news tips and advertising enquiries

We ask that letters and articles be no more than 250 words, although exceptions can be made. Photos should be high resolution and in focus. Include your name and where you're from, no noms de plumes.

For editorial or photographic matters, phone Jennie on 021 0232 1661 or email WhangamataNews@gmail.com

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| 185/65/15..... | \$149.90 | 175/65/15..... | \$119 |
| 195/65/15..... | \$149.90 | 185/60/15..... | \$129.90 |
| 205/55/16..... | \$169.90 | 185/65/15..... | \$129.90 |
| 205/60/16..... | \$189.90 | 195/65/15..... | \$129.90 |
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| | | Goodride SL399 | |
| | | 265/50/20..... | \$279.90 |

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TCDC update on stormwater project

Council is aware that some residents have questions and concerns regarding the flood risk tags recorded on LIMs (Land Information Memorandum).

Our Council is obligated as part of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to include information which identifies each special feature or characteristic of the land concerned including potential inundation that is known to the local authority in the LIM. The 2023 Amendments to this Act, which come into effect 1 July 2025, include providing easy to understand information about natural hazards and impacts of climate change in the LIM.

We have mapped local flood risk using computer-based modelling to show the potential likely extent of flooding in a 100-year Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI). This model was developed by professionally qualified experts and peer reviewed to ensure fitness for purpose. It incorporates information on local ground conditions, including soakage rate and tide level. The model used digital ground level information (LiDAR) from 2013, which was the best available at the time. Local ground levels may have changed slightly since 2013. Council plans to update the model on a regular basis, to incorporate any



ground level changes and new development.

The flood mapping produced from the model is based on the most conservative scenario - the 1% AEP event including climate change. This represents both the current and future risks under the worst-case scenario. For clarity, a 100-year flood event is not one that will only occur once every 100 years, but one that has a 1-in-100 probability of occurring in any given year.

Flood modelling and mapping is essential to understand where we need to invest in public infrastructure. This modelling has supported the development of the \$9M Whangamatā Stormwater Improvements capital programme

under Council's 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan (LTP). The work programme is staged over six years and includes flood mitigation solutions to be implemented throughout Whangamatā town.

While Council obtained expert independent professional advice on this project, it also sought feedback from local community groups including the Whangamatā Ratepayers Association (WRA) to develop the proposed flood mitigation works. Council appreciates this local community feedback.

If property owners have specific concerns around their LIM and flood risk, they can contact our Council via Customer Services, provide relevant supporting information and ask for a review. We welcome receiving more information about individual properties to help us have the best available information.

More information on the project is on the TCDC website: www.tcdc.govt.nz/whangamatastormwater

Contributed by Mo Imtiaz, TCDC Infrastructure Group Manager

Please Note: Whangamatā News gives the Right of Reply to all parties contributing to large community issues.

Whangamatā Post Shop has moved

As a community we are very lucky to keep this community service.

Yes it is change, so we all need to be patient. They will take your letters over the counter at Casement Road and of course all the usual services for Christmas post. The Receiver Post Boxes will remain where they are on Port Road (that is a NZ Post decision).

So now there are three ways to post, at the boxes outside Whangamatā New World, Casement Road NZ Post over the counter and the remaining ones at Port Road.

While you are there, enjoy the Gallery and all the lovely gift ideas, it is a wonderful new space.

NOW located at 101 Casement Rd (opp. Whangamatā Sports Bar) NEW HOURS 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

- Jennie Black



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19th Dec | Christmas Disco | 5 - 7pm | \$5 per child
20-21st Dec | Christmas Tree Forest and Santa Grotto | 5 - 7pm (Gold coin donation)

New fire fighters join brigade



Milarn Monk (left) and Vorn Einam.

Our brigade has had two new fire fighters complete their recruits course recently. This strengthens the team and improves response numbers.

Vorn Einam is employed by Coromandel Homes and Milarn Monk employed by Hansen Builders

We acknowledge these businesses allowing members to take leave to attend courses along with all the employers of our firefighters. Work places are disrupted and night time calls can impact the following day's performance.

Calls have been reduced so far this

year which is encouraging, but the dry weather and wind is of concern.

Please take precautions and follow all requirements.

Several people have commented how quiet night time calls have been. We have silenced our

siren during the night to reduce disturbance to residents.

This doesn't change in any way how we respond and operate compared to day time incidents.

- CFO Nigel Airey, Whangamata Fire and Emergency



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- * Six 60
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- * Herbs
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- * D D Smash
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Join us for the Lunch en Blanc

The event started as Le Diner en Blanc in Paris, France in 1988. Francois Pasquier invited friends to an outdoor dinner at the Bois de Boulogne, he asked everyone to dress in white so they could easily find each other, white is also a symbol of unity.

The idea was simple, to gather friends and friends of friends for a night of good conversation, food and wine in an iconic setting. The event begins with each guest having a ceremonial twirl of a white napkin.

The event location has been kept

a secret until the day. Guests bring their own picnic, beverages and table decorations, and like the beach leave only behind the grass upon which the tables and chairs have been.

The event has grown to take place annually in more than 120 cities around the world and last year Pauanui had an amazing event and it's now here in Whangamata.

Enterprise Whangamata are proud to donate the profits to Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club.



Saturday, 15 February, 12-4pm.
Secret location - announced on the day!
Numbers are strictly limited. \$40 per person.
Bring your own picnic lunch & beverages.
Scan the QR code to register.

Giving hearts



Whangamatā News caught up with Barbara Collett and Sue Green last week, who have continued their heartfelt work again this year with the Whangamata Club.

Barbara tells us that the pair have knitted more than 70 hearts, for all of us who want to remember our loved ones this Christmas.

The idea has a special twist, because when you purchase a

knitted heart for only \$5 all the proceeds will go to much needed equipment at Moana House.

Moana House residents will also come to see the tree, enjoy a cuppa and a scone, so the bucket for donations is on the bar at the Whangamata Club for donations up to 20th December.

'Choose your heart and give back to a very needy cause.'

- Jennie Black



You can enter more than once!

Why be fearful of Friday 13th? We've got it covered...

BOLD NOT BLACK

Shopping Promotion

Support our local businesses in Whangamatā between **Friday, 15 November** and **Friday, 13 December, 2024** and you could **win cash!**

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Recognising outstanding contributions

Last week, *Whangamatā News* was delighted to see two very special gentlemen receive the 2024 Community Service Awards.

Chairperson of the Whangamata Community Board, Dave Ryan, welcomed the attentive attendees "we are here not just to acknowledge the incredible work done by these dedicated people, but to honour the spirit of service, compassion and selflessness that is at the heart of everything they do. I have had the privilege of seeing first hand the impact that acts of kindness and dedication can have on the lives of others".

Graeme Webb and Rob Boston were congratulated for their outstanding support and being selected for the 2024 awards.

Graeme's background was a lengthy life of giving, he said "I'm honoured to receive this recognition. My family and I have been visiting Whangamatā since the 1930's, and my wife and I retired here 34 years ago. I've been fortunate enough to work alongside many dedicated volunteers who share a passion for making Whangamatā an even better place."

Graeme was nominated for his Volunteer work with Harbour and Beach Estuary Care, Town Beautification Group and Hall Community Patrol. And incredibly, also involved with Creative NZ

Community Arts Council, Historic Places Trustee, Ratepayers & Residents Ass and the Memorial Hall Committee.

Rob Boston said "I'm really honoured and overwhelmed about this award, when my wife and I arrived here, fairly recently in 2018. Since then I love being really involved with the Menzshed, the community pool is another passionate thing that I just love being involved with, and helping Aisne with the Theatre Society, building sets and a new set of challenges, and it all grew from there, such wonderful people in the drama society. The Whangamata Ratepayers Association role I have, can be difficult, but it is so crucial, we have to keep working it to get the benefits we want in our town, it's great to be involved with all of the things that are challenging, because you get so much pleasure out of it".

Rob's background is as Volunteer for the Memorial Hall, President of Whangamata Menzshed, President of Whangamata Ratepayers Assoc., Chairman of the Whangamata Community Pool and Whangamata Theatre Society involvement with small and large productions.

We thank you, gentlemen, working tirelessly behind the scenes, often without recognition, to make our community a better place.

- Jennie Black, *Whangamatā News*



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Bayleys Paradise Coast Golf Classic - great success

The 2024 Bayleys Paradise Coast Golf Classic was held over 3 days from Friday 29 November to Sunday 1 December at the Tairua Golf & Country Club, The Lakes Resort Pauanui and the final at Whangamata Golf Club.

Patrick Kerr, chairman of Enterprise Whangamata, your local business association commented; "It was a great success with a full field of 120 players with several players waitlisted. We can't always guarantee the weather but our golfers from all over the North Island and beyond braved challenging conditions from a very hot day on Friday followed by a couple of wet ones. We would like to thank our principal sponsors Bayleys Real Estate Coromandel and the Thames Coromandel District Council for their support and encouragement.

We also wish to acknowledge our



wonderful local businesses who provided an exciting line up of prizes. The grand prize, an all-inclusive trip to one of the Top Ten golf courses in the world, Te Arai Links, valued at \$3,700 and chosen at random from all registered players, was won by a lucky local!

A big thank you must go to all the golf course personnel who presented the three golf courses in superb playing conditions. As always the Tairua Golf & Country Club 'tea ladies' produced a stunning morning tea!

Enterprise Whangamata has

several annual events in 2025 all to encourage visitors in the off and shoulder seasons to come and enjoy our piece of Paradise.

We look forward to 2025 and have received many expressions of interest in playing in next year's tournament."

The Committee of EW are absolutely delighted to acknowledge and thank all our wonderful sponsors who made this tournament possible and a great success.

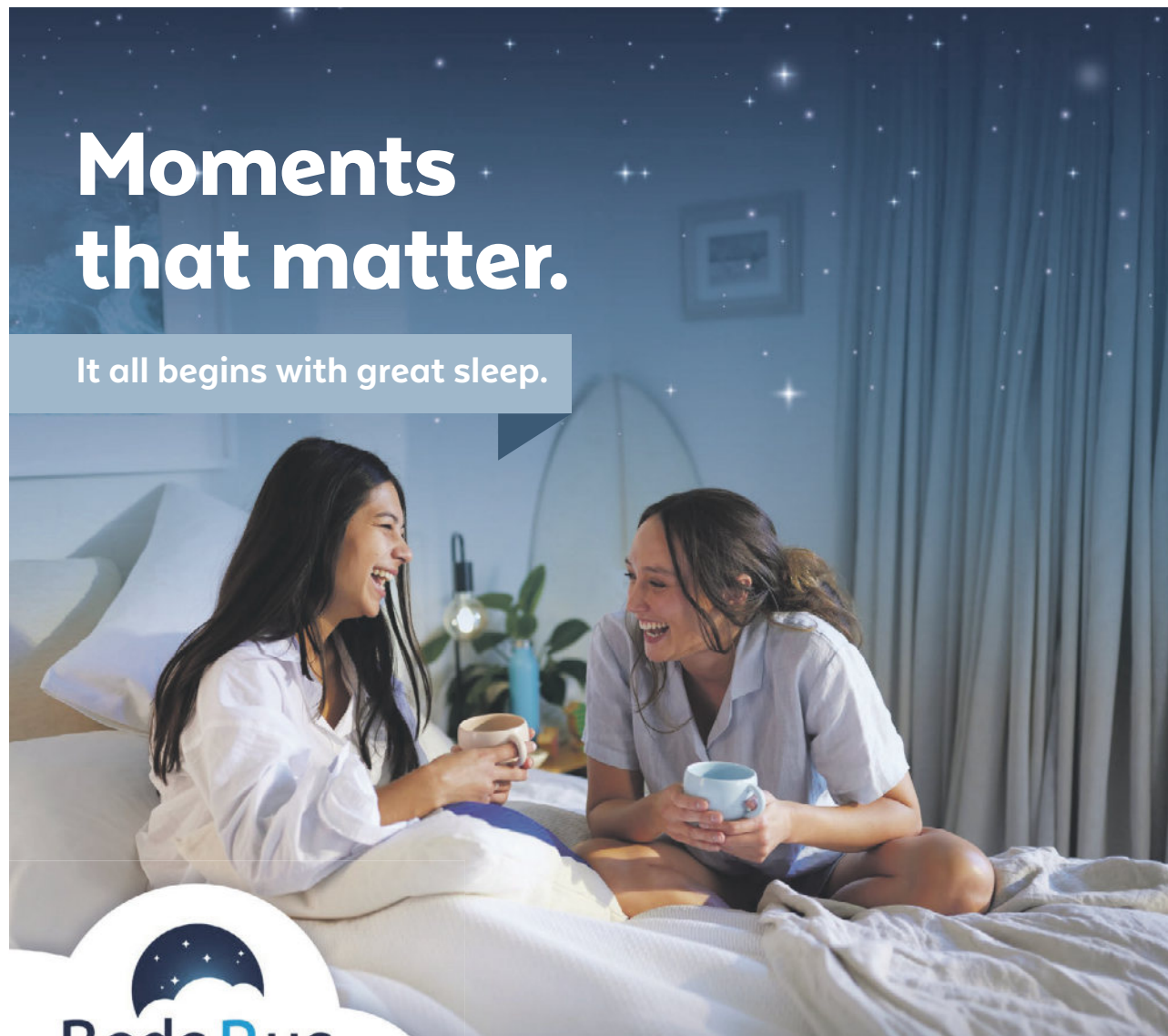
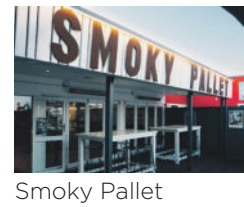
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Coromandel BJJ shines on the international stage



In October, three members of Coromandel BJJ under the GF Team NZ umbrella packed their rashguards and travelled to Melbourne, Australia, to compete in the prestigious Pan Pacific Jiu-Jitsu Tournament. Representing our local community with pride were the father-son duo Aaron and Danny Wills, alongside their coach and black belt, Jeremy Janny.

This was a milestone moment for 13-year old Danny, as he stepped onto the mats for his first international competition. After clinching multiple national titles in gi and no-gi events, Danny's dedication to training—up to five times a week at both the Whangamatā club and its sister location in Cambridge—was put to the ultimate test.

The Pan Pacific tournament attracts hundreds of skilled fighters from across Australasia, creating a fiercely competitive environment. Despite the high stakes, the Coromandel team delivered extraordinary performances, returning home with an impressive medal haul: one gold, one silver, and one bronze.

Their achievements are a testament to their discipline, determination, and the strength of our local jiu-jitsu community. Whether it's a teenager experiencing his first international challenge or seasoned competitors



Jeremy Janny and Danny.

like Jeremy and Aaron leading by example, Coromandel BJJ proves that dedication can lead to great results.

Congratulations to the team for putting Whangamatā on the jiu-jitsu map!



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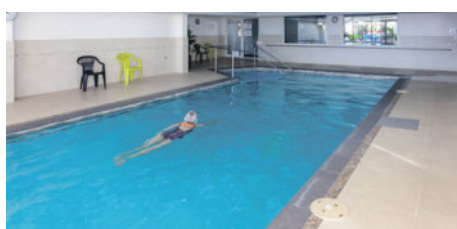
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It was roses all the way



The Whangamata Garden Club finished its year on a high note with such beautiful exhibits from members.

It has certainly been a time where blooms have flourished. The day featured the usual monthly exhibits, the annual rose show, the spud growing competition and of course competing for the best Spring Fling hat.

The hall was a kaleidoscope of colour such was the calibre of the exhibits.

The emerging winners were:

- Rose show-best in show was Marilyn Fowlie.
- Spud growing- total single weight was Jennifer Lawton with Doanne Trembath winning the overall total weight.
- Dianne also won the Floral art section with a very pretty Christmas arrangement.

The club looks forward to another successful year in 2025 and welcoming new members.

Have a happy Christmas everyone!

- Jan Collins



Waihi A & P Show lambs, kids, calves and delight

Whangamatā News had the best day attending the Waihi Annual A&P Show, their 84th in 50 years.

The stalls were buzzing, a hungry crowd snacking, children in awe of it all. Hearing the bagpipes playing and the hush around the equestrian course, and the bleating of kid goats was what rural areas like Waihi does best.

My favourite event was the Valais Black Nose Sheep. We met Gus who was 3-years-old and, yes, he could play soccer. His mate Barnaby

and Rupert at 1-year-old. They could weave through poles like farm dogs and stand on stalls for the crowd and I can tell you they are big! Trained by specialists from Aongatete, they were so popular with children chanting their names.

We loved it all, a warm day with a hive of activity with Horse dressage, calf judging, wee goats taking home ribbons, cups and trophies for all.

- Jennie Black, Whangamatā News
Photos by Mark James



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SHOW ROOM OPEN SATURDAYS

Foodbank fills the stocks again



The Whangamata Real Estate annual Food bank appeal held last Sunday was again a huge success. It's a credit to all those involved and incredibly the event is in its 21st year.

Murray Cleland, Principal of Whangamata Real Estate told Whangamata News " our company couldn't do it without the help from the Fire Brigade, Police, Onemana Rural Fire, St John Ambulance and the Surf Club. Personally, I'd like to thank the staff of Whangamata Real Estate, who every year have turned up and walked the streets of Whangamatā, it takes a lot of organisation, a huge job ".

It goes to show the ethic of this company team and the volunteerism of all those who assist annually. We asked Jess Morrison from the Eastern Community Services Trust, who stores the food for needy families for her take on the day.

Jess told us "the day went well without a hitch, thanks to our amazing volunteers. We are overwhelmed by the generosity and contributions from our fantastic community. Our foodbank is jammed packed! Also special thanks to Bunnings for feeding the crew".

It's testimony to our wonderful community to take care of our own every Christmas, making a special time for needy families.

- Jennie Black

Dune clean up for youngsters

Whangamatā Area School students have been helping to keep our town clean.

A group of our year 3-4 children combed Te Titoki Reserve and the dunes surrounding the Ocean Sports Club for rubbish. They were amazed with what they found. One group discovered and removed pieces of a broken picnic bench which had nails sticking out of it.

The students are part of the Te Kura Tūhura programme (The School of Exploration and Discovery) which runs throughout the year. Each Friday, a group explore local areas such as the Estuary, Williamson Park and Opoutere Forest.

The programme provides opportunities for students to build resilience, creativity, curiosity, communication, collaboration and kaitiakitanga (guardianship of the environment).

Throughout the programme, children regularly find rubbish and the group were keen to have a



clean up day to give back to the community.

Whangamatā Ocean Sports club provided hot chips and cold drinks

for the children to say thank you for their hard work.

Whangamatā Marina also supported the clean up by providing gloves,

rubbish bags and taking the huge pile of trash and disposing of it.

What a wonderful community effort!



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Killer Boobs play calling for talent!



'Heaven Help Us' in performance.

Many in town will have attended the Tim Hambleton play 'Heaven Help Us' directed by Therese Dixon earlier this year. The community loved this comedy and so the Society is producing another of Tim's plays, called *Killer Boobs*. This time Aisne Edwards will be directing it with an intended six performances from 4 to 12 April. Rehearsals will begin late January.

The play is a light-hearted and informative comedy about a breast cancer support group. The women meet once a month in a community hall. The eclectic group of women discover a potentially lifesaving, but very expensive drug is not being funded by government. The support group try everything they can, whether above board or not, to convince the officious Pharmac CEO of the need to pay for access to this drug.

Coromandel Players produced this

play recently and said the Community loved it and felt it was not only topical but very informative, shedding light about how people cope with this cancer.

Auditions for this play are to be held on Thursday 12 December from 5.30 to 7.30pm and on Sunday 15 December from 2 to 4pm. They will be held at Cornerstone at 101 Ocean Road. The cast includes 5 women ranging from late twenties to sixties and one man about 50.

If interested in auditioning or assisting in any way with the production, please contact **Aisne Edwards on 027 524 7633 or aisne@xtra.co.nz** Copies of the script are available to read and audition pieces for various parts will be selected for actors to prepare. Audition times will be given to those interested.

Please contact Aisne (pronounced Ain) by phone, text or email.

Calling all artists

...to register for the **Harcourts Challenge!** Entries close on **12 January**, so get those creative ideas humming. Go to www.artscollective.co.nz for **Harcourts Challenge entry forms and details including our new Creative Writing Category.**

The Creative Writing; Short Story and Poetry Prize is an exciting new component of the Harcourts Art Challenge held on 24 to 26 January in Whangamatā. The winning prize is proudly donated by the Whangamatā Club Inc.

Visit www.artscollective.co.nz for entry forms. Check the Arts Collective Facebook and Instagram pages for updates. Become an Arts Collective member today!

The Annual Christmas Parade is coming up so let's support our local community organisations and businesses who work really hard all year to make this a fun

day for families. The Christmas markets will have many artisans selling their creations so let's buy local for that special gift.

The Whangamatā Information Centre has a list of all artists details and studios, so if you are looking for your favourite artist or a particular piece of art, please call in at the Info Centre.

If you haven't tried rug-making or tufting, this could be your chance to make a very special present or an art piece for your home. Leah Creaven is a local Arts Collective member offering small 1-Day workshops for those interested in trying this creative technique. Go to www.leachcreaventextiles.com/events to register your interest with Leah.



Arts Collective Whangamatā PRESENTS

HARCOURTS CHALLENGE & BIG ARTS DAY OUT

24TH - 26TH JAN 2025

Whangamatā Memorial Hall

Visit our website: www.artscollective.co.nz

Harcourts Challenge

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24th Jan
5pm - 8pm

Big Arts Day Out

25th & 26th Jan
10 - 4pm

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Shoot-outs are brutal



Every year about this time the golf club runs their annual shoot out comps. 19 of the best male and females compete to stop what can be a very sudden and brutal exit. Two golfers are eliminated each hole and then one. Finally, when they stride up the 18th along with the spectators, there's just two remaining. The competition is handicap driven so a bloke who looks finished might have a shot

up his sleeve and he's still in it. Sausages, beer and banter are the order of the day and it's a fun way to end the golfing year. In this year's field it got down to the thin man versus the...big man. Won in an exciting putt playoff by John Jordan with Waz runner-up on the 18 John Jordan, Shoot out Champ 2024 back row-blue top. Wazza, Runner up front row. Titleist Cap.

- Shaun Fay

Tairua Spring Fling

The Spring Fling on Saturday, November 30th, was a celebration of community spirit that shone brightly, despite the drizzle! The weather might have been damp, but the energy was anything but. Over 70 stallholders came together to create a vibrant hub of artistry, craftsmanship, and local flavour, turning the day into an unforgettable showcase of Tairua's charm - and all set on the picturesque Pepe Reserve.

Activities rolled on with unstoppable enthusiasm—sandcastle competitions, tug-of-war battles, and a captivating historic photographic display of Tairua's past. Even the rain added a fun twist, transforming the historic tour of Tairua into a splashy adventure. The Tairua School kapa haka performance brought warmth to the crowd, while CFM's live broadcast kept the excitement buzzing.

Adapting to the weather, jandal throwing gave way to gumboot throwing—perfect for the muddy conditions—alongside three-legged races that brought laughter galore. The highlight? The Wearable Jandal Fashion winner, Irina Overend, showcasing creativity that truly stole the show.

The festival was also a heartwarming tribute to Tairua's amazing volunteers. The Tairua Fire Brigade's legendary mussel burgers were on sale, along with presence from St John and Tairua Surf Rescue, reminding everyone of the incredible community spirit that defines the town.

Rain-soaked? Yes. Fun-filled? Absolutely! The Spring Fling proved that not even the wettest weather can dampen Tairua's festive spirit.

- Peter Hunt, Chair, Tairua Business Association

9-Hole Ladies' Golf Supreme Shootout winner



Jeff Price of Jennian Homes Whangamata, sponsor of the Titoki 9-Hole Ladies' Shootout, presents the winning prizes to Adele Henderson (right) and Heather Dansby-Scott.

Congratulations to Adele Henderson for winning both the Williamson and Titoki courses 9 Hole ladies Golf Shootout competitions 2024. And felicitations to runner-up Heather Dansby-Scott who battled it out

to the final 9th green at Titoki. A big shout out and well done to all competitors in the Titoki Shootout kindly sponsored by Jennian Homes. Great golfing by all players.

Sports results

WHANGAMATA RSA 500 CARD CLUB

20 November: The winner on the day was Lloyd May. Peter Ryan won the chocolate bar. The Raffle was won by Visitors from Wellington.

27 November: The winner on the day was Donna Lourie. Carla Rix won the chocolate bar.

Snow Harris won the raffle.

TABLE TENNIS

28 November: Played at the Whangamata Club. Wayne Broome was 1st with 9 points, Roger Wolfe was 2nd with 8 points and Denise Wallace was 3rd with 7 points.

Some great rallies and close games.

MAH JONG

29 November: We had 55 players. It was the last standard Friday until next year. Next week is our Christmas hands and lunch. Looking forward to this.

The winners were:
1st with 57 pts Gael Butler
2nd with 49 pts Irene Burns
3rd with 48 pts Rosemary Forsyth
Our lucky number today was 16 and was won by Sandra Whitmore.

TWILIGHT CROQUET

25 November: It was a cooler night but Twilight was in full swing.

Results were:
Dare Devils v Rumlbers (4-11, 10-6),
Bridge Buddies v Rebus (9-13, 5-10),
Patrollers v Bits and Pieces (7-7, 7-9)
Cornerstone v Quizzers (9-10, 8-10).

Once again we had 3 chocolate fish winners: Ross S, Cushla and Daphne. Lovely to see such happy people!

The WRE Community Pool is now open!

Following an extensive refurbishment which has the facility looking fabulous, the Whangamatā Real Estate Community Pool is back and open to all members of our community.

On 26 November, sponsors, contractors, stakeholders and staff alike gathered for the official reopening of the Whangamatā Real Estate Community Pool. Whangamatā Area School Principal Alistair Luke opened and facilitated the event, welcoming over 50 people to the complex.

Bruce Scott detailed how the Whangamatā Community teamed up in the late 80s and early 90s to make the Community Pool a reality; this entailed a variety of fundraising activities, including the building of two houses, events and the support of generous local tradespeople.

Councillor and Deputy Mayor Terry Walker shone a light on the huge drive that had come from key members of the Whangamatā Community Pool Committee to bring the refurbishment to life, and the support the initiative received from the Community Board and Council.

Before cutting the ribbon and



declaring the pool officially open to the public, Community Pool Committee Chair Rob Boston thanked in detail the many people who had contributed to this moment, in particular the many contractors and donors. Rob has tirelessly driven the refurbishment project since it was first mooted in 2018, and this has been recognised with a Community Board Service Award this week. Rob has invested thousands of hours hands-on in the detail of this major project, ably supported by the dedicated Rod Leversedge and Graeme Smith and a committee of an additional 8 members.

A keen ocean swimmer himself, Rob is the driving force behind the Committee's vision to ensure that all local children have the opportunity to develop genuine water competency and build a passion for water-based activities.

The reopening has been celebrated with festivities on Saturday, 30 November, with free entry to all for the day, along with a barbecue and the inflatable, to thank the community for their patience over this closure.

If you visited at the end of last summer, it wouldn't have taken

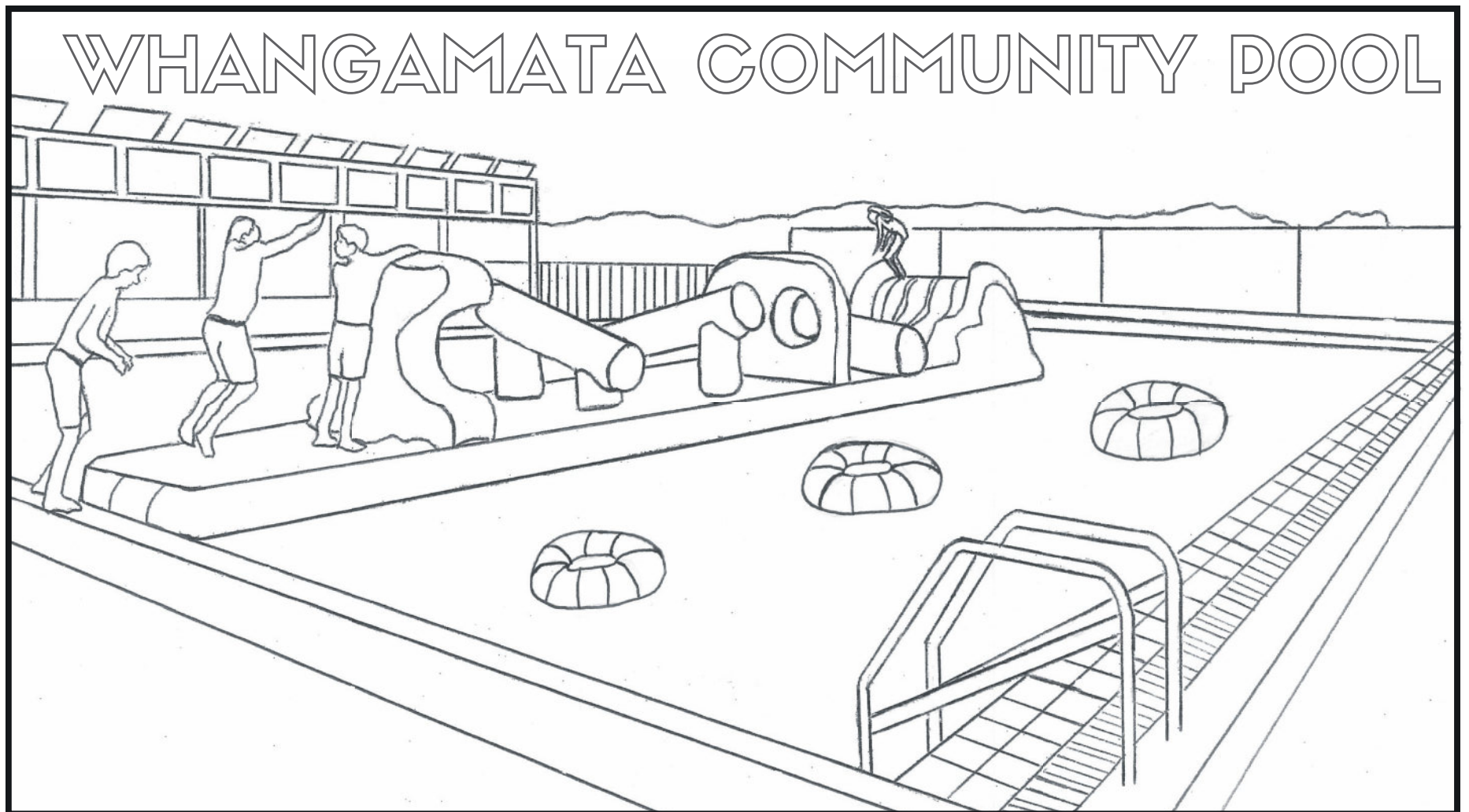
you long to see that the pool was ripe for a refresh. This extensive refurbishment will stand us in good stead for the coming decade.

A huge thank you to all involved in this huge undertaking.

It is from here that Monique, Marcia, Taylor and team take over for the summer! The water is back up to 27°, and we look forward to welcoming you back very soon!

For opening hours and details on AquaAerobics and Intensive Swim Sessions over summer, see www.whangapool.co.nz or facebook.com/WhangamataCommunityPool.

Colouring competition




WHANGAMATĀ COMMUNITY
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Name: Age:.....
Parent/ Guardian Telephone: Email:

Whangamatā Community Pool is giving you the chance to win a children's 10 free swim concession card. There will be 1 winner for each age group. Age groups: 6 and under, 7 and 8 years, 9-12 years. To be in to win, simply colour in the scene above and drop into the box at the pool. Entries must be in by December 8th. The winners will be notified by phone Monday 9th December. Good luck and have fun!

Competition is open to ages up to and including 12, 1 entry per person, the judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Please check here if you do not wish for your email address to be added to the pool email data base

whangapool.co.nz



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THANK YOU

to our community for donating to Foodbank

Despite the wet weather we still had a strong foodbank collection and were able to stock our local foodbank. A BIG shoutout to our emergency services and crew, and volunteer runners. A great effort!

You can also drop off any items at our Whangamata Real Estate Ocean Road office. Help us stock our local food bank prior to Christmas!

WHANGAMATA CHRISTMAS PARADE & FAIR



Friday 13 December
5.30pm – 8pm

Join us on Port Road for the parade.

Get those creative imaginations buzzing and register a float, you still have time.

Collect a registration form from our office at 328 Ocean Road, Whanga Books or the Information Centre.

But the fun doesn't end there. After the Parade keep the excitement going at Williamson Park, with entertainment, games, delicious food, markets and activities for the whole family.

So, mark your calendars and joins us for some fun.

Whanga RSA indoor bowls

On 19 November, we held the Barbara Watson Memorial Bowls tournament.

This is our annual triples ham tournament where the winning teams each receive a ham as a prize. We had 10 teams competing and played 5 games of 7 ends each game.

There were some very close games contested and some good bowls played by all teams.

The results were very close with 2 teams having the same number of wins with the outright winner being decided on count back on the number of ends won.

RESULTS

Winners: Alex Steel, Pat McCarthy and Laraine Osborne with 4 wins, 21 ends and 40 points.

Runners-Up: Ellen McSkimming, Hazel Johnstone and Barbara Mathieson with 4 wins, 18 ends and 37 Points.

Third Place: John Hares, Bronwen Sonntag and Brenda Smith with 3 wins, 18 ends and 36 points. The lucky number draw for a ham was won by Bronwen Sonntag. Draws for lucky Skip - Jenny Harpur, Two - Paulene Rollo, Lead - Mary Cleland.

Raffle winners: 1st Barbara Mathieson, 2nd Brian Wyatt.



Bridge Club life member



Diny Fokke life member with Sheryll Hill.

Recognising her over 25 years of membership with the Whangamata Bridge Club, President Sheryll Hill was delighted to present Diny Fokke with a large bouquet of flowers when announcing Diny's Life Membership. Sheryll outlined how Diny, and husband Gerrit, both then running the Captain's

Table, initially lent a willing hand to the Club despite other business pressures, and since then has filled a variety of roles, including being responsible for coordinating Directors for around 1,000 playing sessions. Absolutely unanimous applause.

- Ross Stewart

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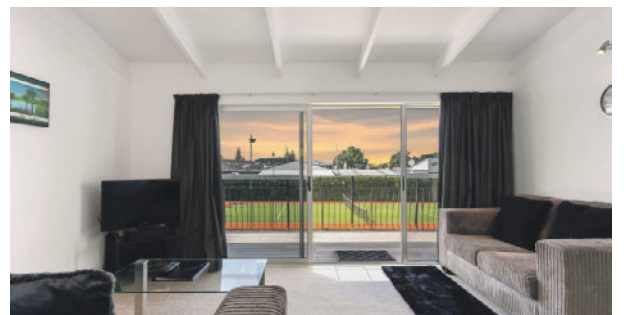
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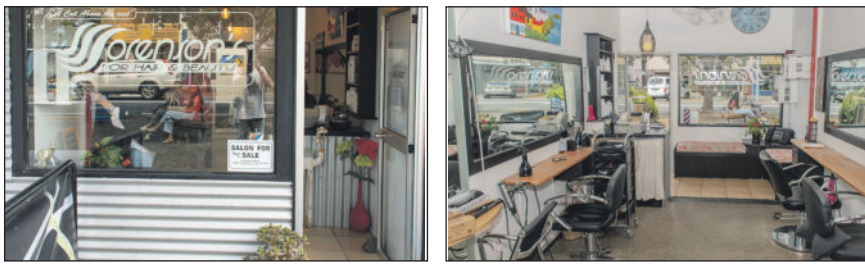
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SITUATIONS VACANT

HART & LOWE BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

We are seeking an experienced legal executive to add to our busy, friendly team in Whangamata.

This is a full-time position, to start in April 2025. It is a varied and dynamic role, in which you will be primarily responsible for supporting the team in the areas of conveyancing, property, trusts and estates and private client matters.

Your duties will include:

- Managing and progressing files;
- Drafting and reviewing legal documents and correspondence;
- Providing high-quality administrative support, ensuring all documentation is accurate and compliant;
- Communicating effectively with clients, internal teams, and other professionals;
- Assisting the partners with more complex legal matters as required.

Key Requirements:

- Minimum 3-4 years' experience as a legal executive, with exposure to conveyancing, property, trusts, estates and private client work;
- Proven ability to run files independently, managing your caseload with minimal supervision;
- Experience working with Landonline;
- Strong attention to detail and exceptional organisational skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Experience with legal research and drafting documentation;
- Computer literacy with competencies in MS Office Suite and Outlook, and reasonable typing proficiency.

The successful candidate will also be well presented, have a motivated and positive attitude, with the ability to work well under pressure. We are looking for someone who is confident and proactive, demonstrates initiative, brings innovation and thinks outside the box, is a team player, and isn't afraid to tackle complex legal challenges head-on.

Benefits:

- Flexible and supportive work environment;
- Opportunity for long-term career progression;
- A friendly and collaborative team;
- A healthy work-life balance.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in a thriving legal practice, where your expertise will be highly valued. With the beach, cafes and restaurants just a short stroll away, in a region known as the Paradise Coast, this is a vibrant and exceptional place to work.

If you're looking for a challenging and rewarding role we would love to hear from you. Please submit your CV and covering letter to the Partners at applications@outlook.co.nz

Applications close 5pm, Monday 10 February 2025.

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Annual General Meeting

Whangamatā Community Marae Trust

Monday 9th December, 5pm
Whangamatā Rugby Club

Followed by kai and an update on the Community Marae Project. Nau mai, haere mai koutou.

HOLIDAY HOME

RECENTLY AVAILABLE IN JANUARY from 4 January. Newish holiday house set above Whangamatā Harbour with gorgeous views. 4 double bedrooms plus sofa bed. Private, quiet and exclusive, within easy walk of shops, cafés, restaurants, beach, fishing and all facilities. All day sun on decks but can choose the one that is shady at the time you wish to use it. Some bikes and golf sets available for your use.

The house has two levels, with the main kitchen, living room, two bedrooms and bathroom on the main entry level all opening onto a wrap around deck. Additional open plan kitchen/living room, two bedrooms and bathroom downstairs opening onto paved terrace and level lawn area. All have access to the waterside reserve. Decks with BBQ, tables and chairs, sun loungers and umbrellas. See the sunrise and watch it go down.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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We are seeking an enthusiastic, proficient receptionist / legal secretary to add to our busy, friendly team in Whangamata.

This is a full-time position, requiring a minimum of three years' administrative / secretarial experience.

The responsibilities and duties include:

- Typing legal documents;
- Trust accounting (training will be provided);
- Liaising with other professional organisations and agents; and
- General office duties.

The successful candidate will be well presented, have a motivated and positive attitude, with the ability to work well under pressure. You must be computer literate with good typing proficiency, competent with MS Office Suite, and Outlook, and have excellent attention to detail. A willingness and ability to learn new systems, and process information is paramount to your success.

We are a small yet dynamic team, with a focus on our clients and our professional duties.

If you would like to be a part of our team and can fulfil the duties required, please submit your CV and covering letter to the Partners at applications@outlook.co.nz

Applications close 5pm, Wednesday 15 January 2025, however applications will be reviewed as received, and for stand out applications, interviews may commence prior to closing date.

Applications close 5pm, Wednesday 15 January 2025.

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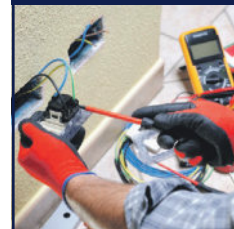
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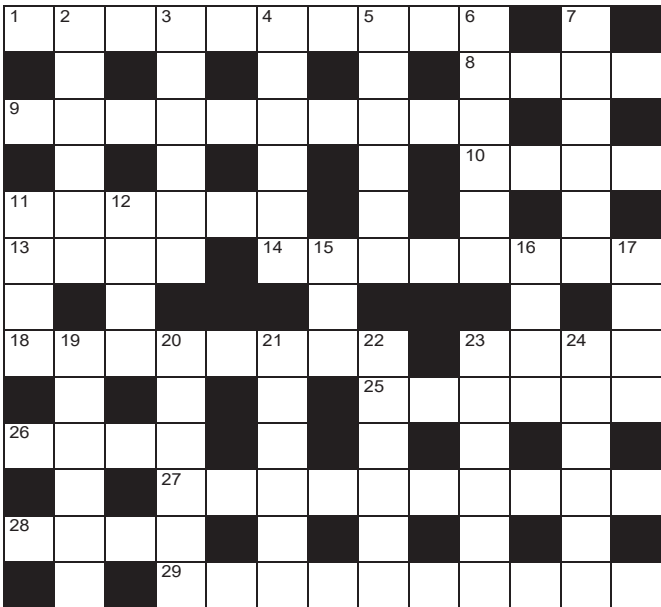
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QUICK CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Essential (10)
 - Utterance to clear the throat (4)
 - Submerged (5,5)
 - Deadened (4)
 - Award (6)
 - Outburst (4)
 - Soak completely (8)
 - Ready (8)
 - Mid month (4)
 - Become less dense (6)
 - Endure (4)
 - Cake dusting (5,5)
 - Indifferent (2-2)
 - Occasionally (3,3,4)
- Down**
- Repeated slogan (6)
 - Excused from liability (6)
 - Eternally (6)
 - Complete (6)
 - Money maker (6)
 - Recluse (6)
 - Snare (4)
 - Formerly (4)
 - Hole in one (3)
 - Assistant (4)
 - Simple (4)
 - Logic (6)
 - Magical drink (6)
 - Formal assessment (6)
 - Intimidating woman (inf) (6)
 - Burst in (6)
 - Erase surface mark (6)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 |

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 7. Wind up, 8. Annals, 9. Pore, 10. Carlocks, 11. Touring, 13. Mistl, 15. Stall, 20. Beaten up, 21. Togs, 22. Joyous, 23. Larder.

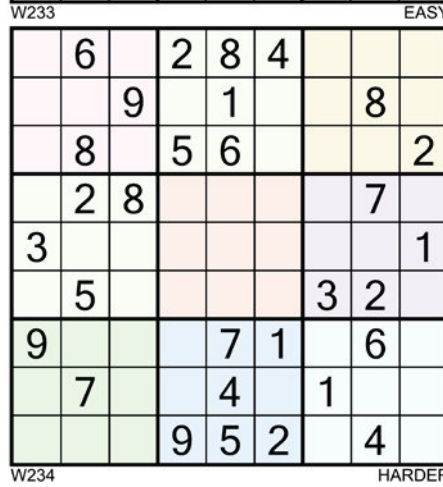
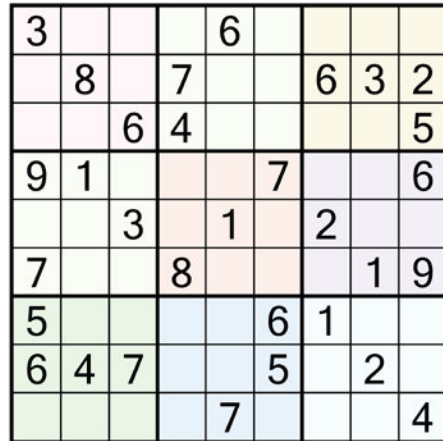
DOWN: 1. Gigojo, 2. Adze, 3. Appoint, 4dn & 17ac. Dairy farmers, 5. Unionism, 6. Blokes, 7. Hermit, 11. Trap, 12. Once, 15. Ace, 16. Aide, 17. Easy, 19. Reason, 20. Pott, 21. Review, 22. Dragon, 23. Irrupt, 24. Efface.

DECODER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | C | S | Y | U | V | N | O | L | E | | | |
| B | A | V | G | M | D | O | W | K | H | R | F | X |
| 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

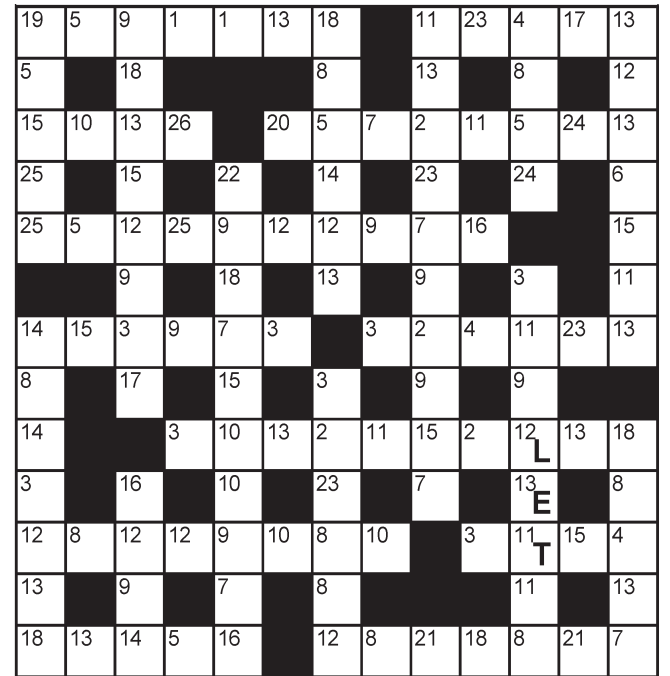
SUDOKU

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9



DECODER

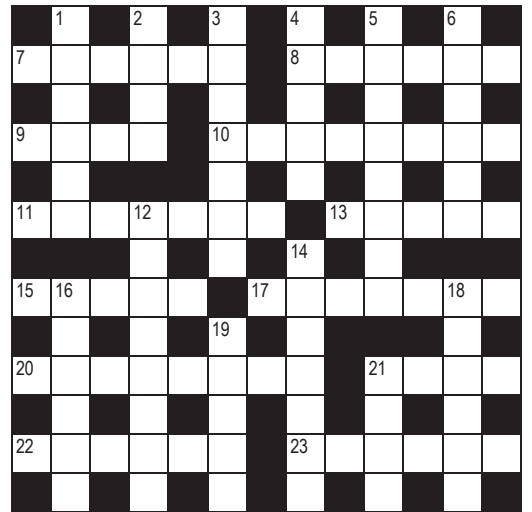
Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | T | L | E | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- Across**
- Finish and get the clock going (4,2)
 - Annette, Albert and old Bob get some history books (6)
 - Study a very small opening closely (4)
 - It takes two to have a row usually (8)
 - Routing a trip you are going on (7)
 - Found in the centre, bridging the pyramid staircase (5)
 - Delay building the horse pen (5)
 - See 4 Down
 - Got a hiding for not being first out of bed (6,2)
 - Coasting, Cain went off for swimming clothes (4)
 - Elated and admits he will enjoy ousting the idiot (6)
 - Food store found in a car by the sound of it (6)
- Down**
- Tess left the baffled geologists with an escort (6)
 - Part of arrowhead zestfully created by this tool (4)
 - Nominate someone to go in a certain direction we hear (7)
 - 4dn & 17ac. Farmyard's ire comes from these blokes maybe (5,7)
 - Artless ruminations of loyalty to southern federation (8)
 - The fellows found with Pablo Keswick (6)
 - An Oriental uncle? (8)
 - Might the person from Warsaw dance around it? (7)



- Italian city returns to tower limits with earthquake (6)
- Was the hair teased or just unkempt? (6)
- The anxiety of a gangster (5)
- I left the fruit back on the lawn (4)

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