

# MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

MBP 186  
AUGUST 2025

## Who will be our Next TCDC Mayor?

### Meet the Candidates Meeting in Matarangi this Month

The 2025 New Zealand local elections are gearing up with election day just two months away and it is your demographic chance to give your local authority and its governance, your personal critique. Right around the peninsula there are candidates now on the hustings who will be asking for your vote and you will be effectively interviewing them for their jobs for the next three years.

Do you want to keep some on? Do you want to let some go? Or do you want fresh blood infused into the political animal that is the Thames Coromandel District Council.

If you are voting this year and unfortunately only 30% of eligible voters in recent council elections are doing so, you will need to do your due diligence on those who are standing.

So mark your calendars for two Sunday meet the candidate meetings that will be held in Matarangi this month. The venue for the two meetings will be at The Dunes Club house and the MC for both events will be former TCDC Councillor Tony Fox.

The meeting will give local residents of the Northern Mercury Bay the opportunity to see, hear and question what the next Mayor and Councillors will have to say about why they are running and what they are going to do when they get there.

The first meeting will be held on Sunday 17th August, 4pm-6pm at the Dunes for the five Mayoral candidates who declared that they will stand as of last week. Those candidates are Len Salt, Patrick Kerr, Peter Revell, Steve Lawrence Hart and Denise Messiter. If there are any further nominations prior to the meeting that were registered before the closing date of August 1st they will be invited as well.

The second meet the candidates meeting will be held a week later on Sunday 24th August, 4pm-6pm to meet those standing for Council and the Mercury Bay Community Board. The organiser behind the two meet the candidate meetings is Trudi Hayde.

Trudi felt that too many locals are unsure who to vote for, therefore, she decided

to try and get those standing this year to two meetings in Matarangi during August would give locals a better opportunity to make an informed decision.

For the last month Trudi off her own bat, has been organising the venue, coordinating with the candidates, roping in others who can support the two meet the candidate events.

"We have a permanent resident base in the Northern Mercury Bay of around 2500 from Te Rerenga through to Wharekaho, including Whangapoua, Matarangi, Opito and Kuaotunu. This area supports many businesses, careers, retirees and working families. Not many of those are going to be able to go to Whitianga to the usual meet the candidates meetings," said Trudi.

"We, the ratepayers, deserve to know how our rates will be spent and what the priorities will be during the next three years. My response in asking the Mayoral candidates to come here was immediate and positive. Those chosen by us, will be giving three years of their time and energy to make responsible decisions on our behalf."

Trudi says we really need to know who are those who wish to be our next Mayor, Mercury Bay Councillors and Community Board representatives and take the time to help us keep this piece of paradise in sound health and vote.

Trudi says she is pleased with the support she has had for far from the Matarangi Resident and Ratepayers Association as well as the Dunes who offered the venue. Having the meetings on a late Sunday afternoon with a start time of 4pm she believes will be good for turnout and hopes that as many people as possible come along and find out about the policies of those standing for election.

To find out more about the Mayoral Candidates we have on Page 5 a brief biographical statement about each of them, so as to give you an insight of their backgrounds and policies they are hoping to enact as Mayor.

*Featured: The Matarangi Spit with the Whangapoua Bar and Harbour (July 2025) courtesy of Shane Simpson of SpySky Aerial Photography - All Rights Reserved. \*Please note: Do not use the above image as a navigational reference for crossing the bar.*



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## CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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

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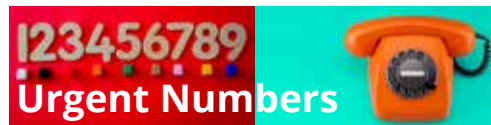
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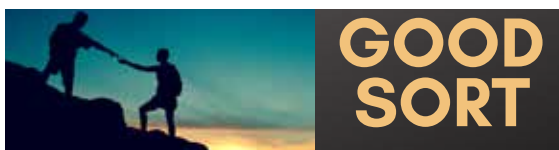
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In the MBP of July 2015 we reported on John Booker of Kuaotunu becoming a World Champ. John was first in the World Bath Tub Racing Championships held in British Columbia. For those wondering what on earth a bath tub racer is; it's exactly as it is described. Old bath tubs are converted into motorized racing boats and can achieve speeds of over 25 knots.

We also reported on Paul Shaw on his new role as Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer with the Thames Valley Rural Fire Authority. Paul was at the time the Deputy Chief of the Matarangi Fire Force and later on he became Principal Rural Fire Officer for New Zealand.

Paula Williams gave our readers an annual report of the 2014-2015 Project Kiwi Trust and their work over the last 12 months. During the nesting season the Trust delivered 19 eggs and two chicks to Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua. One egg was dead on arrival and one chick died at point of hatch. 16 kiwi have been released and three juvenile kiwi remain at Kiwi Encounter working towards the 850 gram release weight. In the trapping year ending 31 May, the Trust had 368 traps serviced, baited and open catching 5 weasels, 37 stoats and 10 cats.



Bronwyn Ririnui has been nominated by the A Taste of Matarangi organising committee as our Good Sort for this month.

Bronwyn has been at the helm since it first started in 2013 managing 10 successful ATOM events which has raised \$150,000 for local charities.

Bringing the vision for a festival with her from the Chatham Islands, where she was involved in running a similar event, Bronwyn quickly got enthusiastic and community minded locals on board.

The rest they say is history.

Thank you Bronwyn for what you have done.

The good people of our community thank you and salute you.

If you have a nomination for Good Sort of the Month in the MBP please send an email to Liam at contact@matarangibeachpaper.com



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## Creation of a Matarangi Business Association Explored

Local businessperson Simone Parr has been exploring the idea of getting a Matarangi Business Association started in the community.

"My thoughts behind this was that we could drive as much local/tourist dollars into our community as possible by all supporting our community fundraisers and events in a co-ordinated manner," said Simone.

"So just like the Summer Festival where everyone gets together but

making a calendar of events and working towards these."

Simone who is currently the coordinator of the annual Summer Festival sees that a business association would bring numerous benefits for the growing number of small businesses that are now in the community, as Matarangi has grown rapidly over the last few years.

I have talked to a few people already, and they sounded keen seeing it as

a way that local business operators, whether home based or with premises, can connect with each other, co-ordinate events, advocate local business needs and promote Matarangi collaboratively.

If you are in business here in Matarangi including running a small part-time venture from home and are interested in joining a Matarangi Business Association please reach out to Simone by phone or text on 027 657 2980.

## Winter hasn't slowed the Kuaotunu Garden Group!



In June, we held our AGM—a relaxed and enjoyable morning to catch up, reflect on the year that's been, and throw around ideas for the year ahead. There were plenty of laughs, some great suggestions for next year's calendar, and of course, a delicious lunch to top it all off.

July has been full steam ahead as planning kicks into gear for the Coromandel Peninsula Garden Groups Combined Day, which we're thrilled to be hosting this October. This much-loved event brings together clubs from across the Peninsula for a fun-filled day of garden tours, inspiring guest speakers, raffles, delicious food, and plenty of chatter.

Our committee is hard at work behind the scenes making it all happen, and we're getting excited! We're expecting around 100 fellow garden lovers to join us in our beautiful little corner of the Coromandel and we can't wait to show them what makes our community so special.

If you're a local business and would like to be involved, whether through sponsorship or donations, we'd love to hear from you.

Pop us an email at [kuaotunugardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:kuaotunugardenclub@gmail.com). Watch this space—there's plenty more blooming soon!



Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade can no longer be utilised for Boat Rescue!

In 2002 the Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force, MVRFF bought a 4.5m inflatable RIB rescue boat. This boat has been used for many water rescues, including flipped boats on the bar, retrievals of various natures and search & rescue.

The crews on this boat are keen fisherman within the brigade and have a sound local knowledge of the ever changing

bar conditions. Some also have varying degrees of expertise including Surf Life Saving, Skipper's tickets and NZ Navy experience.

They have helped many locals save the day and has been a huge asset to our local community. We have been widely supported by other emergency services and are typically on the water within 10 to 15 minutes from a call out.

Times have changed. No longer can the above experience be acknowledged. The "entity" of a boat rescue, now needs to be under an independent governing body and not by our FENZ brigade.

We have looked at upskilling our crews to go down the Surf Life Saving channel. We also looked at aligning with NZ coast

guard, but the requirements and time commitment added to our volunteers, who already have a hefty training schedule with the brigade, makes it extremely difficult.

Dare I say it, but are those decision makers, covering themselves to be seen as to been politically correct! It has become a hot potato subject and no one really wants to be holding it.

We are keen to see a way forward and have set up a small working group to work through the bureaucracy.

In between time make safe decisions on and off the water.

Mark Hall, Chief Fire Officer  
Matarangi Volunteer Fire Brigade

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# Who is Standing for Mayor in 2025?

One of these following five people will be our Mayor for the next three years.

## STEVE HART:

Steve Laurence Hart lives with his partner Martina and their four girls on their 13 acre property at Puriri near Thames where he offers workshops on an array of topics. He is an Ecology Architect fusing together Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Systems Ecology and Planning. Mr Hart biography notes that he has previously worked for several city councils at high level, leading teams.

In his working life Steve has worked on Policy, Stormwater, Sewage and Solid Waste and believes he has the know how to save the Council millions.

"I have steered a number of community based NGOs involving myself in many political issues from a community standpoint, instigating and facilitating workshops. I will draw out the abundance of intellect and skill sets from our people of Coromandel through weekly brainstorming, open to all. The people will govern."

It is the second time Steve Hart has stood for the TCDC mayoralty as he previously stood last time in the 2022 local elections. He is no relation to Kuaotunu local Steve Hart.

## PATRICK KERR:

Patrick is a retired businessman and resident of Whangamata having run and owned a number of successful multi-faceted enterprises during his commercial career. For the past 3 years Mr Kerr has chaired Enterprise Whangamata Inc. A key facet of his Mayoralty stand is to cap rates at the CPI and bring back the community empowerment model to get stronger representation and decision making at the community board level.

"I believe the Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) must undergo fundamental changes to become more accessible and accountable to ratepayers. I bring a results-focused, no nonsense approach to governance anchored in financial and business acumen, proven experience and determination. We face significant challenges," said Mr Kerr.

"TCDC is overdue for a reset. Council spending is out of control. Too many decisions are driven by political agendas that do not reflect the real needs of residents and ratepayers. I want to be part of the solution, focusing on revitalising our Council in cost-effective, practical ways, getting back to basics, and ensuring our core services are fit for purpose.

Patrick is committed to cutting wasteful council spending, minimising rates, and tackling the District's ballooning debt. "I am determined to restore financial health to TCDC and revitalise our district that has been languishing under the current leadership."

## DENISE MESSITER:

In 2022 Denise Messiter (OMNZ) is at present she is the Chief Executive of Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki and is based in Thames. A lifelong advocate and leader, Denise brings over 40 years of frontline experience in housing, health, infrastructure and local government.

Denise says her digital-focused campaign aims to reach those who are often left out of local politics such as rangatahi, Māori, takatāpui and rainbow whānau, solo parents, renters and first-time voters.

"I've gained my management experience working in Government agencies and the Not-for-Profit sector in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

As well as bringing a people focus to management and a knack for creative thinking, I also have a proven record in strategic planning, budget and financial management, service planning and monitoring, managing assets and building highly productive teams."

Messiter sees the Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a living commitment and her Mayoralty will emphasize the active protection of the environment and demand transparency, particularly on mining and foreign investment.

## PETER REVELL:

A resident of Thames for over 13 years, living in the Kauaeranga Valley, Peter Revell is the 'make-it-happen guy' behind Kauaeranga Music, in partnership with his wife Keri. He is a grandfather of 16 grandchildren, a member of the Thames Business Association, and is an active church member. After three years on the community board and now a term under his belt as a TCDC councillor for the Thames Ward, Peter believes he has the passion, energy, experience, and skills that our district needs for this role.

Peter retired in 2019 as a Group Manager with the IT firm Fronde Group and was based in Australia. Prior to that he had senior management roles here in New Zealand in the technology sector with Datacom, Novell and Zintel Group. Peter has an M.Sc (Hons) in Mathematics from Auckland University.

"The council I lead will do justice to this district, maintaining its uniqueness, welcoming its visitors, and under-pinning that with affordable, quality services and facilities for all. We must continue to do everything we are able to make the Thames-Coromandel district a great place to live, stay and play."

The past three years as a District Councillor has brought home to Peter the criticality of experienced leadership, integrity, and working purposefully and productively with all elected members and staff for a council to be effective so as to deliver value to all ratepayers.

## LEN SALT:

Current Mayor, Len Salt, has announced a bid for a second term. Len has stated that his first term as Mayor has been both challenging yet rewarding, shaped by dealing with the natural disasters that have hit the Coromandel and on a positive note the major infrastructure projects that are underway.

Before taking on the Mayoralty in 2022, Mr Salt was in the food, timber, and music retail sectors and for many years was involved in voluntary community service. He was the driving force behind the Mercury Bay Resource Recovery Centre (Wahi Tukurua).

Looking ahead to a second term as Mayor Mr Salt's objectives are to establish a more effective system of local representation to give communities a stronger voice in Council decisions, improve engagement between Council and communities, work with our solid waste contractors to shift transfer stations to Council or community-led management and finalise studies into a secure alternative water supply for Whitianga.

Len also wants to explore options for resuming a ferry service to Coromandel and continue his advocacy for long-term investment in the Coromandel roading network. He also wants to ensure that our future water infrastructure investment is strategic, efficient, sustainable, and community-focused and partner with Hauraki Coromandel iwi on economic development and post-settlement initiatives.

*\*The above candidates were those who have publicly declared their intention to run for the Mayoralty as of 24th July 2025.*

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## Spirit of Adventure- Memories Beyond the Horizon

**Matarangi teen Luca Vega in his own words  
tells us about his recent Spirit of Adventure  
sailing experience on the Hauraki Gulf.**



Once I heard about the applications for Spirit of Adventure, I signed up not knowing what to expect. I hoped for fun and long lasting memories from the trip. But wow, I got a whole lot more.

As I got on the ship towards the start of June, anxiety washed over me as I glimpsed at the rocking mast, which stood tall above everything else. It made me realise the extent of this trip and how challenging it may be.

We found our designated bunks and put everything we could fit into our bags into an even smaller crevice. I was lucky to have a top bunk with a window just beside it. When I felt sea sick, I could just look towards shore from the window and feel a little bit better.

We set off, the sun set and we all had some laughs. This trip was off to a great start. Surprisingly, I was enjoying the trip very much. We hadn't even got up to anything fun or exciting yet. But being with your mates on a boat, sailing the high seas, makes all your problems go away.

We awoke early in the morning to the loud sound of someone's voice. It was almost like a sergeant raising their voice like in the movies.

He told us we have five minutes to change into our togs and move onto the deck. We were all tired and fog filled the empty night sky.

We were told it was 6:30am in the morning which made us all feel a little more empathetic for those who were bound to jump in first.

After walking around the boat a couple of times, we jumped into the freezing water one by one. This made us gasp and swim the length of the boat a bit faster.

We were promised a five second shower, and the five second shower rule was taken very seriously.

We changed into many layers before crowding around all the delicious food we would devour for an early breakfast.



The meals on the boat were very good and no one left much on their plates at all.

Jobs and learning to sail filled up most of our days, yet countless activities still kept us busy. We swam with dolphins, jumped off the boat, paddled for hours to try to win a treasure hunt, climbed to the top of the mast, did AMP shows, quizzes, laughed at each other trying to do charades, set up an inflatable 'slide' off the boat and so much more. We were never not occupied.

Everyone on board was so amazing to be around and the atmosphere and staff were so welcoming.

By night time, we were all prepared for our rotations looking after the multi million dollar boat and the lives of 55 people. Night shifts were fun and scary at some points. We had so much to remember and had strict instructions to wake up the staff if anything was slightly off to what it normally is.

The Spirit of Adventure showed me so many things and made me grateful for the little things in life. It was so different and unique, I miss every part about it. It was a trip I would definitely recommend to anyone. It challenges you to do things you wouldn't normally do and it is so much fun.



**Featured: The sailing ship Spirit of New Zealand on which Luca sailed on as part of his Spirit of Adventure experience.**



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# The Story of the HMNZS Rimu and its Sinking off Cuvier Island in 1958

## The Editor's Desk



*The HMNZS Rimu in 1941 following its commissioning into service.*

The Northern Mercury Bay has a fascinating maritime history and one of the more interesting stories I have heard about of late was the sinking of the Royal New Zealand Naval vessel HMNZS Rimu off Cuvier island in August 1958.

The HMNZS Rimu was one of thirteen Castle-class minesweepers commissioned by the Royal New Zealand Navy during World War II and built in Auckland at the Seagar Bros. Ltd shipyard. In fact their engines were built here on the Coromandel at the Thames firm of A&G Price. The 41 metre, 625 tonne small ships were ordered after the New Zealand government, faced an urgent requirement for more minesweepers to operate in coastal waters and chose the Admiralty's Castle-class design because it was simple enough to be built with the country's limited ship construction facilities at the time and Kauri timber, ideal for minesweeper hulls was still plentiful.

These initial stages of the war saw New Zealand's maritime domain under immense threat. The German Navy laid mines to disrupt the movement of shipping in and out of New Zealand ports. Ten mines were laid at the entrance to Lyttelton Harbour, another ten at the entrance of Wellington Harbour, but crucially the German raider Orion, deployed a picket fence of 228 mines right across the Hauraki Gulf on the night of June 14th 1940 from Great Mercury Island through to Bream Head. It was one of these mines that sunk the ocean liner RMS Niagara off the Mokohinau island with its famous cargo 55 bars of bullion and 349 passengers in June of 1940 and a year later sunk the naval ship HMS Puriri off Bream Head.

The Orion along with its sister ship the Komet during this early period of the war, were a significant menace to New Zealand and created huge issues with respect to our travel and trade with the outside world. During their onslaught they sunk the merchant ships Turakina and Holmwood, and attacked another ship the RMS Rangitane off Taranaki which was full of precious food supplies bound for Britain. In the South Pacific they also sunk vessels heading to New Zealand from Nauru containing the all important superphosphate New Zealand farms needed to keep our agriculture sector growing fresh healthy pasture that was to feed Britain.

At the outbreak of WWII New Zealand had really only two ocean going warships the Cruisers HMNZS Achilles and Leander. During 1940 the Leander was conducting convoy escort and the protection of shipping in the Red Sea and the Achilles was out of action being refit at Devonport drydock with a fire-control radar, a recently invented technology. There was a degree of complacency at both the political and societal levels in that the war was in the northern hemisphere and that New Zealand was so far away and that the Royal Navy's Eastern Fleet based in Singapore would protect us and our maritime domain. New Zealanders were thankfully quick to learn the lessons of

real politik. Regardless of whether we had joined in the war or not, subsequent events proved that if we had even decided to stand on the sidelines as a non combatant nation, attempts would still have been made by the Axis powers to isolate the country from supplying the Allies as we were - "the food basket of democracy." Hence the rapid construction of locally built naval ships like the Rimu once the scare of the German Navy prowling our coastlines and trade approaches was recognised. 19th Century maritime theorist Alfred Thayer Mahan's adage that force is never more operative than when it is known to exist but is not brandished was as true then in 1940 as he wrote it the previous century as it is indeed today.

The Rimu was launched on 9 September 1941, by Mrs. Parry, wife of the Chief of the Naval Staff Commodore W. E. Parry to great fanfare and public interest. The Papakura Army camp band played the National Anthem and the New Zealand Ensign, Union Jack and White Ensign were broken out as the ship, with a huge splash, made contact with the Waitemata harbour for the first time. Once placed in service for the rest of the war the HMNZS Rimu with her crew of 20 officers and sailors under the command of Lt.Cdr Gilfillan served diligently patrolling and minesweeping the Hauraki Gulf from the Bay of Islands through to Tauranga with the 194th Auxiliary Minesweeping Division.

In September 1945, the HMNZS Rimu was paid off and placed into reserve. By that stage the requirement for 20 minesweepers had passed and only three were required in the Post-War Navy. Instead of eventually scrapping the vessel the Navy offered her up to the RNZAF as a target ship. By the late 1950's the RNZAF had joined the jet age and the role of anti-ship military doctrine was passing on from flying boats like the Sunderlands to fast jets. The RNZAF were keen to get into the anti-ship business and develop the necessary skill set so as to acquire in the future air launched anti-ship missiles. A plan was developed by the Air Staff in Wellington to use the hulk of the stricken Rimu as a target to practice this skill set in a real live fire exercise. The Rimu was to be attacked initially by two Sunderland flying boats from No.5 SQN using depth charges, to soften her up and then a flight of four de Havilland Vampire jet fighters from No.14 SQN were then to fire a volley of rockets at the old ship to finish her off.

The Rimu was towed from Auckland by the Naval tugboat Otaki to its final position off Cuvier Island and after a couple of days of unsuitable weather finally the big day arrived. At 0900 hours on Thursday 21st of August 1958 the ship floated ready to make its final sacrifice and duty to the nation and be attacked and sunk in 100 fathoms of northern Mercury Bay waters by the six attacking RNZAF aircraft.

However, it did not go all to plan. Squadron Leader Mal Gunton, flying one of the Sunderland flying boats, was a little too accurate. The plan was for the flying boats to get the depth charges close but not too close as the Air Staff really wanted to see how the Vampires flying fast and low with their new rockets would deal to the old ship. On his first run, Mal Gunton dropped one depth charge near the bows, and another close to amidships. The charge amidships broke the ship's back, and the Rimu unexpectedly sank almost immediately. The four following Vampires were already screaming across the Hauraki Gulf at 500 knots armed to the teeth with their rockets and soon arrived on the scene with nothing left to fire at and no doubt a little miffed that their big chance to blow something big up like a ship did not come to pass.

As for Squadron Leader Mal Gunton his wee mishap with the Rimu did not damage his career prospects for promotion too much. He later became an Air Commodore and retired from the RNZAF in 1978 as the Commander of New Zealand Forces in South East Asia and was awarded the Air Force Cross. He had already had flown Corsair fighters in the Pacific during the war and is still alive today living in Tauranga aged 101. Air Commodore Mal Gunton is one of the few of surviving fighter pilots of WW2, not just in New Zealand but in the world.



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## Rodney Patea 1947-2025

*The Matarangi community were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Rodney Patea on July 21st at his home in Matarangi aged 78. Rod first bought a section in Matarangi in 1984 and for the next 41 years had a huge love of this community and its people. Rod's family have allowed the MBP to reprint his eulogy for those who were not able to attend his memorial service. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends during this time.*

Rodney Patea was born in Mangakino to William and Sophie Patea (nee Salle) on the 7th of March 1947. He grew up with

three siblings, Lorraine, Wayne and Christine. Rodney enjoyed the freedom of the outdoors and often went fishing on the lake in Mangakino. A deep passion that would stay with him throughout his life.

His mother Sophie, saw to it that Rodney along with his brother Wayne, enrolled in technical school where they studied an electrical apprenticeship and stayed in the Maori Boys Hostel in Epsom. This event led to Rodney running an electrical trade business, Civic Electrical.

Throughout his career, he achieved way too many things to mention in an eulogy, but the privilege of working with incredibly skilled tradesmen, many of whom were more than just colleagues, but lifelong family friends.

Rodney married Marie Fitzsimons in Oamaru; together, they had two children Vanessa and Marc Patea. He was the proud grandfather of Keira Maree Patea and an uncle to many nephews and nieces.

With the help of two builders, Paul and Kinross, and through Cyclone Bola, he was able to build the family holiday home in Matarangi. This became a place of many enjoyable holidays and memories with extended family and friends, and became his permanent home.

Rodney was well known for his expertise in fishing, he loved to fish off the rocks, catching large snapper at Whatipu in the Manukau harbour mouth, Spirits Bay and Matarangi. When he wasn't out fishing Rodney enjoyed reading novels. He had a knack for gardening and growing food, loved his golf games, especially at his favourite course The Dunes, and expressed his creativity through his cooking. Through his work and activities Rodney made lifelong friends.

Rodney always greeted people with a smile and was well known for his infectious Billy T James laugh and spontaneous outbursts of singing, making up all the lyrics. His most defining quality was his unconditional generosity, a trait that touched the lives of everyone around him. He gave freely of his time, his skills and his warm spirit.



## Alan Crowcroft: 1939-2025

*The Matarangi community has recently lost another of its early residents with the passing of Alan Crowcroft.*

Alan was the much loved husband to the late Ruby and father to sons Stephen and David and grandsons of Anthony and Michael. Born in the West Yorkshire town of Wakefield, Alan trained as an engineer and married Ruby in 1960. In 1974 the family emigrated to New Zealand, settling in Auckland with Alan taking a job with Alcan Ltd.

Alan and Ruby bought their Matarangi section on Fernhill Rise in 1986 and the Crowcroft family would leave their home in Takanini and drive down every weekend rain, hail or shine

and began building their bach. Alan as an engineer for Alcan Ltd was always immensely proud of the fact he with his family substantially built most of their bach themselves utilising his technical skills and love of creating this with his own hands.

On retirement Alan and Ruby moved down to Matarangi permanently in 1991. The Crowcrofts were by that stage still only one of a dozen or so households living permanently in the village. Alan in an interview with the MBP a few years ago recalled the friendliness and the strong neighbourhood spirit that existed when the village was tiny, and cherished the memories of those quiet restful early years.

"We lived outdoors a lot, down at the beach and going to BBQs to help new arrivals settle in. A group of us started having weekly progressive dinners, which my wife Ruby was the instigator. There would be Pat and Dave Rowe, Bob and Linda Segetin, Ken and Lynne Calendar. We would take turns doing the various courses and rotate around to everyone's houses."

Alan was a regular attendee of the Fire Station on social nights, sharing a beer with mates and catching up with the local banter. He was always up for having a punt on the weekly meat raffle and over the years often won.

"I have never regretted shifting here. Although I have seen the place change for good and for bad, overall it has been phenomenal to live here."

In retirement Alan took great joy in repurposing anything. If something broke he would find a way to turn it to something else useful or just turn it into garden art. Alan also had a great sense of humour and loved a joke of two. His Yorkshire sense of humour he bought with him from his country of birth never left him.

We have a rare chance to see all five naked eye planets this month. Venus continues to dominate the eastern dawn sky but is getting noticeably fainter as it moves away from us. Considerably fainter Jupiter rises about an hour after Venus at the start of the month but progressively catches up with it and actually overtakes it by mid-month. Faint Mercury also makes a low appearance with the best views mid-month just before dawn. It can be found then by drawing a line from Jupiter to Venus and extend it a bit more than twice that distance. We will have a rare chance to observe the Moon pass in front of the bright red giant star Antares in Scorpio on August 31 just before midnight. The process takes about 15 minutes and is interesting to watch in binoculars or a small telescope. There will be one Chinese Tiangong and many International Space Station (ISS) passes to enjoy this month but, as usual, timings may change especially towards the end of the month if they have to be moved to avoid space junk. Always best to check the website heavens-above.com for updated timings.

August 2 – From 6:19am in the SW we have a long bright ISS pass moving beside Venus.

August 3 – There is another early ISS pass from 5:32am high overhead in the south.

August 4 – There is a long low and bright ISS pass in the west from 6:19am ending to the north of bright Venus and Jupiter.

August 5 – There is an ISS pass from 5:32am starting high overhead as it pops out of the Earth's shadow.

August 6 – There is a short Tiangong pass from 5:40am in the north.

August 9 – Full Moon tonight.

August 11 – The bright Moon now lies just above Saturn and from 6:53pm there is an ISS pass in the north. Jupiter is below brighter Venus at dawn.

August 12 – The Moon is now just to the left of Saturn in the evening and from 6:04pm in the north there is a low ISS pass followed by another short one at 7:31pm in the west. Jupiter sits just below brighter Venus at dawn.

August 13 – The Moon has now dropped to sit directly below Saturn and in the dawn sky we will have a lovely view of Jupiter sitting right beside Venus and from 6:52pm there is an ISS pass in the NW.

August 14 – Jupiter now sits just above Venus in the dawn sky while in the evening we have an ISS pass from 6:04pm in the NW another one from 9:39pm also in the NW.

August 15 – Venus and Jupiter look like distant headlights close together at dawn and from 6:53pm in the west we have a bright ISS pass.

August 17 – We have a low ISS pass in the west from 6:51pm.

August 19 – The crescent Moon sits to the left of the two bright planets with faint Mercury much lower down.

August 21 – A thin crescent Moon sits directly below bright Venus at dawn with faint Mercury almost on the horizon to its right.

August 22 – Jupiter, Venus and faint Mercury make a pretty line in the pre-dawn sky.

August 25 – A minute crescent Moon sits well below slightly reddish but faint Mars at dusk.

August 26 – The Moon now lies just below and to the left of Mars at dusk.

August 27 – The Moon has now moved to be directly above Mars at dusk and just below the bright star Spica in Virgo and from 6:48pm in the SW there is a low ISS pass.

August 28 – The crescent Moon now sits high above Mars and just above Spica.

August 29 – We have a low ISS pass in the SW from 6:46pm.

August 30 – From 7:34pm there will be an ISS pass in the west.

August 31 – From 6:35pm in the SW we have a long bright ISS pass while the Moon will run over the red giant star Antares in Scorpio just before midnight. It will reappear on the other side of the Moon about 15 minutes later.



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# Where in the WORLD is the Matarangi Beach Paper?



To celebrate their recent Golden Wedding Anniversary in which we covered in last month's paper, Barry and Sandra Bowen took their children and grandchildren on a fabulous winter holiday in the sun to tropical Samoa.

Here they are with the MBP at the Saletago Sands Resort on the south-east coast of Upou about an hours drive from Faleola International Airport.

The whole family took the chance to do plenty of swimming, sunbathing, relaxing with a book and sightseeing.

According to their daughter Kelly, Barry and Sandra had a wonderful holiday. The highlight for them was to have all the family together in one place as they are spread out across New Zealand and Australia and a chance to visit the famous To Sua Ocean trench swimming hole.



Here is Jolynn Alberts with the MBP in her hometown of Riverton, Wyoming in the United States. Jolynn visited New Zealand for the first time this year from March to June, to stay with her kiwi fiancé Brennan Dollard and his Mum and Sister, Sharon and Cailee Dollard in Matarangi. Upon returning to the states, Jolynn entered Riverton's annual chalk art contest held outside the local library and drew a little homage to New Zealand; a kiwi bird, a silver fern, a frangipani flower and of course the New Zealand flag, and took a picture of herself with the MBP and her chalk work! Jolynn says she loved every second of her time in New Zealand and is now happy to consider Matarangi her second home!



Last month a group of 14 Divas from Matarangi headed to the bright lights of Auckland's night life for a big girls weekend to shop, dine, hang out with international rugby players and attend the Diva Exhibition at the Auckland Museum. They thought it was the perfect occasion to have a photo shoot with the MBP!

## CONGRATULATIONS CORNER



Congratulations to Trace Mulligan who has achieved local golf legend status with his seventh career hole in one in his golf playing career.

Trace who is a stalwart of The Dunes got his latest ace last month whilst holidaying on the Gold Coast with wife Noeleen. We look forward to hearing about his his next ace!



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## THE FISHING REPORT

Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club



Our new fishing season started on 1 July. With winter upon us I am sure that there will be a hardy few heading out to try their luck. We look forward to a great year ahead of us.

Sue Sinclair has resigned from the club as President. We thank Sue for her time on the committee and as President. In the time Sue has been president we have seen some positive changes in the fishing club, especially the upgrade of our website, encouragement and support in the junior fishing area and the ladies Doris Day event. We wish Sue well in her future endeavours.

The Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club Inc. is thrilled to announce our exciting \$500 Average Weight Snapper challenge for the upcoming 2025/2026 season club members. All details can be found on our website and Facebook page. <https://www.mbfcc.co.nz/newsarticle/155388?newsfeedId=2035672>

The Annual Dinner and Privegiving is to be held 23rd August at the Matarangi Fire Station. This is an evening of celebration as we congratulate our Senior and Junior seasonal trophy winners for the 2024/2025 season! Full details are on our website. <https://www.mbfcc.co.nz/newsarticle/155199?newsfeedId=2035672>

Have you downloaded our app on your phone? Go to either the App store (Apple) or Google Play (Android), search Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club and download. If you are a current financial member, you can download your membership card. Handy to have ready when you weigh in your catch.

You can keep up to date with news on our website [www.mbfcc.co.nz](http://www.mbfcc.co.nz) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/matarangiboatandfishingclub>

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

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

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

Tight Lines,  
Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club Inc.

Featured: Junior club member Fletcher Disken last month landed this whopping 14.65kg Kingfish off his dad's boat. Young Fletcher also followed it up a few days later with another fine Kingfish weighing in at 12kg.



## ATOM to be back in 2027

A Taste of Matarangi celebrated 10 events in 2025 and has been a huge success with over \$150,000 donated to community groups over the years!

This year we have seen some changes happening with a number of our wonderful long serving volunteers deciding to take a break from assisting and managing the event, this has left a huge gap in the organising of next year's event.

This happening, along with the need to legally formalise some processes around the running of the event has left the rest of the volunteer committee having to make the decision, after much deliberation, to push pause on 2026.

Please don't be alarmed as we already have a date for 2027 - April 3rd, 2027. Along with the ATOM event the newly formed committee/trust are hoping that there will be scope to hold other events in Matarangi and the surrounding areas for everyone to enjoy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [info@atasteofmatarangi.co.nz](mailto:info@atasteofmatarangi.co.nz)

Thank you for your understanding.

ATOM Committee

## The School Bell

Term Three is now well and truly underway. It will no doubt fly with many activities and events happening such as the School, Northern Peninsula and Thames Valley cross country events, book fair, student learning conferences, Year 5 & 6 camp and the Kapa Haka and STEAM festivals.

Our Board of Trustee elections are also coming up with nominations closing on the 6th August. Board of Trustees elections are held every three years and being on the board allows people from the local community to get involved in the running of their local school. Anyone can be voted on to a board as a parent representative. To qualify, you must be nominated by a parent of a student at the school.

Our wonderful PTA is busy organising our annual Quiz and Curry Night which will be held at the fire station on August 16th. This is always an extremely popular community event and is often a sell out, so get in quickly to purchase your tickets. They are available at Whangapoua Store or by emailing [pta@tererenga.school.nz](mailto:pta@tererenga.school.nz) and paying online.

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

Mary Kedzlie Principal



It was an intimate evening at wine club with the senior wine maker from St Clair's, Kyle Thompson. Those that attended said it was a great night where they learnt a lot and there were loads of interesting questions. It was a great opportunity to hear from Kyle who Senior Judge at the New Zealand Wine Awards and also judges at the New World Wine Awards.

The St Clair Family Estate are viticulture pioneers in Marlborough and were established in 1994. Owned by the Ibbotson family they are renowned for their award winning wines and according to Bob Campbell MW makes the country's and perhaps the world's best Sauvignon Blanc.

Kyle shared six wines from the St Clair range.

Saint Clair NV Dawn Méthode Traditionnelle. A hand crafted, bottle aged and fermented Marlborough Méthode Traditionnelle. Created in celebration of and tribute to Dawn Ibbotson, the matriarch of Saint Clair in honour of her 100th birthday.

Saint Clair Wairau Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2024. This wine, made in very small quantities, has iconic status around the world and is to be believed to be New Zealand's most awarded Sauvignon Blanc.

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 10 Twin Hills Chardonnay 2022. An elegant French barrique fermented Chardonnay with flavours of ripe stonefruit, roasted almond and toasty oak.

Saint Clair Omaka Reserve Pinot Noir 2023, This Pinot Noir is the finest within their range.

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 17 Plateau Block Cabernet Merlot 2021. A densely concentrated wine with flavours of dark fruit, new leather and spice.

Saint Clair Pioneer Block 30 Table Top Cabernet Franc 2021. Named after the table top motocross jump adjacent to the vineyard it also acknowledges the 'table top' at home being the perfect place for this wine.

These wines are available at Puku & Kerre's.

## Citycare Water Awarded Council's Three Waters Contract

Citycare Water has been awarded Council's three waters operations and maintenance contract for a four-year term beginning 1 April 2026, and for a sum of approximately \$60 million.

Citycare Water is a council-controlled organisation (CCO) owned by Christchurch City Council.

The contract covers all operations and maintenance activities involving water, wastewater and stormwater services. The contract has a provision for extending the initial term of four years by two further three-year terms consecutively.

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## The Dunes Golf Club Report



THE DUNES  
MATARANGI

It's been fantastic to see so many juniors out enjoying the course, making the most of their time on the fairways. With the Golf Committee successfully advocating to the The Dunes Management Board for a reduction in the Annual Subscription for Juniors, 12 Years and under starting on October 1st to just \$200 per annum, we hope to see even more young players take up the game.

We're now kicking off our busy tournament season! Registrations are open for our **Blue Ribbon Prostate Cancer Fundraiser Golf Tournament**. It's a 4-person Ambrose, always a fun and competitive day out! Partners are very welcome to join in for the dinner and live music afterward. Partner tickets are \$50 per person.

To enter, please email [golf@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:golf@thedunesmatarangi.com) with: Team Captain's Name, Email Address, Names of all team players & Golf ID numbers.

On the night, we'll also have plenty of exciting live auctions. For the second time running, we'll be auctioning off a **Beachfront Villa Stay at Vomo Island Fiji** for two, valued at \$15000!

To support Blue Ribbon Day 2015 50% of the funds raised will go towards Prostate Cancer NZ, and the other 50% will go towards supporting the club with essential capital requirements and on-going maintenance costs.

Entries are also steadily rolling in for **The Winton PGA Pro Am 2025** which will be held on the 13th & 14th September. The organizing committee is meeting fortnightly, and we can't wait to deliver this fantastic event for you all.

If you want to play in this our flagship annual tournament at the club or receive further information email: [operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com)

### Dates for Your Golfing Diary:

Matarangi Masters: 9th & 10th August

Prostate Cancer Fundraising Golf Tournament: 30th of August

The Winton PGA Pro Am: 13th and 14th September

Club Champs: 4th and 5th of October

Course Coring: 3rd to 7th November

# The Winton PGA Pro Am

## At The Dunes, Matarangi

### 13th & 14th September



To enter email - [operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com)

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

# WINTON



**Entry Fee:** \$200 per person

All entries received and paid before 31st of August will go in the draw to win the prize for 4 players to play at Te Arai Links.

The Dunes' members receive bonus points on their Membership Rewards Card

### Payment Details:

Account Name: Matarangi Golf Course Ltd

Account Number: 02 0108 0500170 00

Particulars: Golf ID /Code: Surname / Ref: Pro Am

Entry will only be confirmed upon confirmation of payment. Entries close on 6th Sept. Email Entry form to [operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:operationsmanager@thedunesmatarangi.com)

### Format of Play:

13th September: Pros and Amateurs: Best 2 stableford scores on each hole.

14th September: Pros only: Best Gross.

### Team Composition:

1 Professional & 3 amateur affiliated golfers.

### Eligibility:

Open to all affiliated amateur golfers with an official handicap.

Maximum Handicap Index for Men: 28 and Women: 34.

### General Information:

Entry fees include green fees, practice round, polo shirt, buffet meal and prizes.

Enter as a team or be matched with someone.

All Pros and Amateur Men will play off blue tees. Women Amateurs will play off red tees.

1 x free practice round on Friday, 12th September between 9.00am - 1pm.

Draw for the Pro will be done on Friday, 12th Sept at the clubhouse - more information to follow.

\$400 to pick your own golf Pro.

Amateurs with a + handicap will be adjusted to zero.

\*Event Terms and Conditions can be requested separately.



### Golf Shop Winter Hours

Monday & Tuesday 9.00am - 1pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am - 3pm

Friday & Saturday 8.30am - 4pm

Sunday 9.00am - 3pm

☎ 07-8665394 ext 1

✉ [golf@thedunesmatarangi.com](mailto:golf@thedunesmatarangi.com)

## BLUE RIBBON PROSTATE CANCER FUNDRAISER

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August

10am shot gun start  
4-person Ambrose

\$100 per person  
(includes green fees, buffet meal, prizes and live music)

\*One payment per team\*  
Matarangi Golf Course Ltd  
02-0108-0500170-00  
Particulars: BLUE / Code: Team Captain's Surname  
Reference: FC's Membership ID #

NON-AFFILIATED PLAYERS PLAY OFF A MAXIMUM HANDICAP:  
MEN'S 28 AND LADIES 34.  
(MINIMUM OF ONE AFFILIATE GOLFER WITH AN OFFICIAL HANDICAP MUST BE IN EACH TEAM)

PARTNERS WELCOME FOR DINNER & LIVE MUSIC \$50

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS: VOMO ISLAND, FIJI





Help from local **Trades and Services**  
**Family Fun Things to do Events**  
 Where to **Shop** The best places to **Eat**  
**Community groups** Getting Married



Find it all in one place!



## Monday

### Ladies' Pilates

Matarangi Fire Station  
9-10 am Christiane 0273 122 584

### Kuaotunu Craft & Social Club

Kuaotunu Hall  
1-4 pm Lia 07 866 2054

### Books & Banter (Book club)

7-9 pm 1st Mon each month Pauline  
dickinsonpauline@gmail.com

### Contract Bridge

St John's Room, 355 Tiki Rd, Coromandel  
Tadek 027 235 6335 or Tadekgawor@gmail.com

## Tuesday

### Croquet

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

### Bridge for Beginners

The Dunes 3-5 pm  
Bronwyn 021 0231 1130

### Menz Shed

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

## Wednesday

### Men on Mats (Men's Pilates)

Matarangi fire station 9-10 am  
Christiane 0273 122 584

### Pickleball – social play

Matai Place Courts 9.30-11.30 am  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Kuaotunu Steiner Playgroup

9am-12pm Phone: 07 866 0094

### Mah Jong

The Dunes 12.30-3 pm  
Sheila 021 185 8567

### Contract bridge

Mercury Bay Bowling Club, Whitianga 1 pm  
Tadek 027 235 6335 or Tadekgawor@gmail.com

### Kuaotunu Garden Group

2nd Weds of the month  
Kuaotunugardenclub@gmail.com

### Ladies Coffee morning

The Dunes, 10 am first Weds of the month

### Kuaotunu Dune Care Group

3rd Weds of the month  
Jenny 021 566 6035

## Thursday

### Pickleball – competitive play

Matai Place Courts 3.30-5.30 pm  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Walking Group

Meet at the Dunes 9.00 am  
Briar 021 361 944

### Craft Group

The Dunes, 12.30 fortnightly  
Lesley 021 280 0780

### Matarangi Dune Restoration Group

Village Green, 9.00 am 1st Thurs of the month  
Kay Airey 0204 120 0975

### Recreational Darts

The Dunes, 6.00 pm every other Thursday  
The Dunes 07 866 5394

## Friday

### Lawn Bowls

The Dunes, 2.15-4.15 pm  
Wayne Davis 027 458 9544

### Croquet

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

## Saturday

### Pickleball for all

Matai Place Courts, 8.30-10.30 am  
Grant 022 383 6351

### Hash House Harriers

3 pm winter and 4 pm summer  
Bronwyn 0210 231 1130

### Brew Crew (Home brewing)

Fire Station Matarangi  
Phil Mosen 027 4761734

## Sunday

### Sunday Market

Matarangi Drive (in front of shops), 10 am-1pm  
Long weekends summer to Labour weekend  
Lesley 021 280 0780

## Golf

Mens 9 Hole: Monday (front 9) and Thursday  
(back 9) at 9.30am.

Ladies 9 Hole: Tuesday (front 9) and Thursday (back  
9) at 9.30am

Mens 18 Hole: Wednesday - 10am

Ladies 18 Hole: Thursday - 10am

Saturday Haggie: 8am -12pm.

## MAY 2025 TIDES

# STARGAZERS

## Astronomy Tours

392 SH25, RD2  
KUAOTUNU

[www.stargazersbb.com](http://www.stargazersbb.com)

PH: 07 866-5343

## AUGUST TIDES 2025

	High	Low	High	Low	High
1	06:00:00	12:10:00	18:15:00		
2	00:26:00	06:44:00	12:58:00	19:04:00	
3	01:11:00	07:31:00	13:51:00	19:56:00	
4	02:01:00	08:22:00	14:47:00	20:52:00	
5	02:54:00	09:18:00	15:45:00	21:50:00	
6	03:51:00	10:15:00	16:41:00	22:46:00	
7	04:47:00	11:09:00	17:32:00	23:38:00	
8	05:41:00	11:59:00	18:19:00		
9		00:27:00	06:31:00	12:45:00	19:04:00
10		01:14:00	07:19:00	13:30:00	19:47:00
11		02:00:00	08:05:00	14:14:00	20:30:00
12		02:44:00	08:50:00	14:58:00	21:14:00
13		03:29:00	09:35:00	15:43:00	21:59:00
14		04:15:00	10:23:00	16:31:00	22:47:00
15		05:02:00	11:12:00	17:21:00	23:36:00
16		05:52:00	12:05:00	18:16:00	
17	00:29:00	06:46:00	13:04:00	19:16:00	
18	01:27:00	07:44:00	14:07:00	20:20:00	
19	02:28:00	08:47:00	15:12:00	21:26:00	
20	03:33:00	09:51:00	16:16:00	22:31:00	
21	04:38:00	10:54:00	17:16:00	23:31:00	
22	05:38:00	11:51:00	18:10:00		
23		00:25:00	06:33:00	12:42:00	18:58:00
24		01:15:00	07:22:00	13:29:00	19:43:00
25		02:00:00	08:07:00	14:12:00	20:26:00
26		02:42:00	08:49:00	14:53:00	21:06:00
27		03:22:00	09:30:00	15:34:00	21:45:00
28		04:01:00	10:09:00	16:14:00	22:24:00
29		04:39:00	10:49:00	16:54:00	23:04:00
30		05:19:00	11:31:00	17:38:00	23:45:00
31	06:00:00	12:17:00	18:25:00		
LINZ					

BB: An adventure, activity, and values based ministry for boys aged 5-15 years old. For info contact: Robyn 020 409 39674 or email: robyn.balfour2@hotmail.com



Proud sponsor of local community groups, clubs and events

[allaboutwhitianga.co.nz](http://allaboutwhitianga.co.nz)

Phone Cathy: 021 396 481





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P. McNeill, 2025 (repeat customer)

"The guys were both really nice. They arrived on time and the move went perfectly. They were efficient and worked hard. It could not have been a better experience (and I have moved house almost 50 times over the years!)"

R. Preston, 2025

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

T. and L. True, 2025

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