

April 2020
Edition 121

MATARANGI BEACH PAPER

INCLUDING SIMPSONS, KUAOTUNU, OTAMA, OPITO, RINGS, GREYS AND WHANGAPOUA BEACHES

A Mindful Beach Walk

Dark Sky Sanctuary

ATOM 2020 CANCELLED

We're Going On a Bear Hunt



Strong Support for Community Patrol

Featured: Mark and Shirvani Hall with the vehicle secured for the Matarangi Community Patrol

Over seventy people packed into the Matarangi Fire Station Hall recently to discuss the concept of establishing a Community Patrol. Matarangi like many seaside communities has seen a rise in crime recently and the turnout at the meeting certainly endorsed that Matarangi residents have just had enough.

The meeting was organised by Mark Hall from Beach Realty who along with Bob Segetin have been the driving force to get this underway. Speakers at the meeting included Bill Mclean and Gary Sargeson (Mercury Bay Community Patrol), Sergeant Andrew Morrison (Whitianga Police), Mark Bedford (Matarangi Ratepayers), John Skelton (Matarangi Trust), Stu Arnold (FENZ Matarangi) and Mary Kedzlie (Te Rerenga School).

Bill and Gary from the Mercury Bay Community Patrol explained to the meeting exactly what is the Community Patrol and what it involves. Community patrols are organised by local communities working alongside the police to help build a safer local community. Volunteer patrollers are the extra 'eyes and ears' for the NZ Police. Bill and Gary reiterated that the volunteer role is not onerous and only may involve being rostered on for a few hours a couple of times a month. Patrolling the local area in a community patrol vehicle to deter or identify criminal activity is their main role and any signs of suspicious activity is then reported to the NZ Police. Full training and uniforms are supplied.

The guest speakers attending the meeting were

positive about this proposed initiative. Sergeant Morrison speaking to meeting shared that the Community Patrol is invaluable to the NZ Police in fighting crime and that it has been a great help particularly in the Whitianga area. Mary Kedzlie said she welcomed the idea of a patrol in Matarangi and that it would make it a safer place for our children, especially when they are walking to and from the school bus stop. Stu Arnold from FENZ Matarangi reiterated the importance of volunteers and the important role they play in helping our communities.

The meeting was asked two questions. Firstly, do we want a community patrol in Matarangi and if so do we want to be an independent group or under the guidance of the Mercury Bay Community Patrol? (Cont. on Page 7)

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CONTACTS & DEADLINES

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

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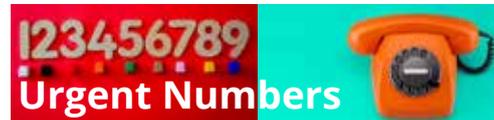
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CONTRIBUTORS

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

Mark Hall; Sharon Clay; David Key; Alastair Brickell; Ian Preece; MRAI; CJ Palmer; Leigh Cunningham; Pete Murphy; Bronwyn Ririnui; Te Rerenga School and Stu Arnold ...because without these contributions and stories, your local paper wouldn't be quite the same. Thank you!



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Our Good Sort this month has to be Mark Hall.

By the end of this summer Mark had had enough of the petty crime around the community and decided to do something about it by leading the push for the creation of a community patrol group.

However Mark has gone one step further by donating a late model Holden 4WD vehicle for the future patrol to use.

Mark, the community appreciates your organisational efforts and generosity.

We salute you.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to this edition of the Matarangi Beach Paper. The world has changed in the last 2 weeks and we are all hunkered down for the duration of this current Covid 19 pandemic. The only plus is that at least we live in the best part of the country!

The next 4-6 weeks will not be business as usual for all of us. Things will be very different from now on. Nevertheless, we will get through this and decisions that attempt to get us back to near normality in our daily lives will always be a counterpoint to the current chaos and uncertainty.

The MBP is still being published online via our website where you can download and share a printable pdf. Please share it widely. Community newspapers like other businesses, for example printers and their suppliers, are closed. Also a good number of our regular advertisers are having to temporarily shut their doors whilst they ride out the Coronavirus storm. Small businesses are the life blood of any community. Without them communities fail. They will be back open soon, and will need your support more than ever!

Use the lockdown to take up a new hobby, learn a language, take daily walks, read ten books, watch the box set of DVDs you got three years ago and haven't had time to see, do those garden chores that have been on the backburner over summer. So stay healthy and safe, hearty and sane, for the weeks ahead. We will all come out of this, roaring to go again full monty into the rest of the year.

OUR COROMANDEL



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

April, 2020

We're here for you

We are all now in the COVID-19 alert level 4. Our lives have changed.

We will continue to have access during this time to the essential services our Council provides.

Of course, our public facilities are closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

But you can rely on our core services continuing, which means there will still be safe drinking water coming out of your taps, your rubbish will be collected and emergency road repairs will take place.

We might be physically isolated from each other, but we are all in this together as a Thames-Coromandel community, and we will get through this season.

Please stay at your permanent place of residence if you do not normally live in the Coromandel. This COVID-19 outbreak and the emergency measures are not the time for a holiday. Our medical capacity here is not as extensive as in the big centres. People touring in campervans who can not return home should check in to a proper campground.

Please look after each other and think about our elderly and those who are medically compromised. Reach out online or through



the phone to support groups if you need help. Be kind.

Our Council will continue to keep you updated daily through this period at tcdc.govt.nz, our Facebook page and our eNewsletters.

Our 24/7 Customer Service line 07 868 0200 remains open if you have any questions or issues to raise, or email us at customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz



Mayor Sandra

- Drinking water, stormwater and wastewater service continues as normal
- Building and resource consent processing continues
- Land Information Memorandum – We are taking applications, but not for urgent processing
- Public toilets – There will only be 22 public toilets open around the district due to decreased demand and to limit the transmission of COVID-19. Toilets that are closed will have closed signs on them and are listed at tcdc.govt.nz/covid-19
- Pools/libraries – closed
- Our District Library members can access over 18,000 e-books and e-audiobooks, which can be borrowed online 24/7 – tcdc.govt.nz/libraries
- Playgrounds and sports facilities – closed
- We offer online payment option for rates, dogs, parking and other infringement notices – tcdc.govt.nz/pay
- The Waikato District Health Board is in the process of establishing Community Based Assessment Centres (CBAC) throughout the Waikato – waikatodhb.health.nz
- Contact the Healthline on 0800 358 5453, for health advice and information.
- See covid19.govt.nz for everything you need to know.



We are here to help businesses who need direction, support and connections to help navigate this period of uncertainty. Visit tcdc.govt.nz/supportlocal for information. You can also call our customer services line on 07 868 0200 and be put through to our economic development team.



Feedback wanted on rates proposal

Our Council's proposal to increase rates by 9.98 per cent and put up some fees and charges for the coming financial year is open to public feedback until 14 April.

A 9.98 per cent increase equals an average per property annual rates increase of \$287.

We don't know the impact of COVID-19 but it's important we have your submission on our proposals so we can factor that into our decision making.

The most significant changes to fees and charges are proposed in the solid waste activity. For example, the cost of our Council's blue, pre-paid rubbish bags could rise from \$2.80 each to \$3.90. And, the Refuse Transfer Station charge for solid waste could increase from \$197 per tonne to \$260.

To give us your feedback and for more information on the proposed 9.98 per cent rates increase and increases to some fees and charges, go to tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2020

Still have questions? Email us at customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz or phone 07 868 0200.

Proposal to increase rates and some fees – find out what it's all about and have your say

Kerbside Collections

From Monday 30 March, Kerbside collections will be every other week on your normal fortnightly recycling day. Put your blue Council rubbish bag in your wheelie bin. Also put in the bin any recycling – glass, paper, tins, plastic – in bags. It doesn't have to be a blue Council bag. Rubbish takes priority over recycling if space in the wheelie bin is limited. Don't leave blue bags or glass in crates on the kerbside, it won't be collected. Check your recycling schedule at



tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

Refuse Transfer Stations are open with their normal operating hours to drop off rubbish in blue Council bags and household recycling only. Changes have been made due to the COVID-19 alert level 4 coming into effect, which mean green waste, scrap metal or other waste that does not fit into an official blue Council rubbish bag will not be accepted. RTSs will be staffed, with strict controls around contact and disposal to keep our communities, staff and contractors safe. Please be kind and treat the workers with respect. Check hours and locations at

tcdc.govt.nz/rtss



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Our school roll is continuing to increase. In the last 12 months there has been a 42% increase in the school roll. This has meant that we have had to re-arrange some learning spaces. What was our school library, is now Room 5. The library has been moved into the back of the school hall and is proving to be an excellent space for the children to spread out and enjoy our wonderful collection of books. A big thank you to Mrs Claire Veevers who was largely responsible for getting the new library space in place so quickly!



Mindfulness, Well-being and 'Being Kind', are a big focus for us this year. Each class is spending time each day on mindful breathing and other mindful activities. In March the whole school spent a Mindful Morning at Opera Point in Whangapoua celebrating our wonderful bush and sea environment in a mindful way. Mindful walks through the bush and along the sea shore; yoga on the beach; focussing on the senses and breathing; and making environmental art works in the sand were some of the many mindful experiences. The children and adults absolutely loved this special outing and it is now planned that it will be a regular event in our school calendar.

We have also established a Kindness Jar. When children are observed showing kindness to others, their names are written on a paper heart and put into a special kindness jar which is proudly on display in the Principal's office. When the jar is full we will have a 'celebrating kindness' day for the whole school to enjoy.

Footnote:

Since the School Bell was written for the April edition, Te Rerenga School has been closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the April School Holidays brought forward by two weeks starting Monday, March 30 concluding on Easter Tuesday, April 14. Alert Level 4 will continue beyond the school holiday period and teachers will be working offsite. Schools will be open for distance learning but not physically open.

I am really proud of my teaching team who have worked tirelessly to get the excellent e-learning programmes happening. We have had fantastic feedback from many of our parents about what has been provided. This pandemic is an unprecedented event, and will continue to challenge us all.

Be kind, keep safe, and look after each other.
Mary Kedzlie

THE MATARANGI BEACH PAPER. MBP

Due to the current Covid 19 outbreak this edition is online only. The next printed and home delivered edition of the MBP will be available the first week in May.

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A Mindful Beach Walk

By Teresa Kedzlie

We are spoilt for choice in the Northern Bay as there are so many stunning beaches to walk on: Wharekaho, Opito, Otama, Kuaotunu, Greys and Rings Beaches, Matarangi, Whangapoua and last but not least New Chum.

One of the reasons we love walking on the beach is that there are so many things that invite us into the present moment: the sound of waves crashing on the shore, the flight of sea gulls, the salty air and the feel of sand between our toes. The beach can be a wonderful place to practice mindfulness.

Mindfulness has been described as “gym for the brain!” It is the act of keeping your mind and attention in the present – on the sights, sounds and smells around you and at the same time giving your mind a rest and a break. There is significant research that confirms its benefits which include reduction in stress, better mental health, greater well-being, increased kindness and compassion, better physical health, increased cognitive performance and enhanced job performance. Our world is in turmoil at present with this deadly pandemic, so mindfulness is a wonderful way to keep oneself centred and calm.

Being at the beach or at home is an opportunity for rest and rejuvenation during this Covid 19 isolation. It is a great time to look after our well being. Re-charging those batteries so that we are equipped to deal with the busy stresses of life once back in the real world will be essential. Do consider trying to spend some of your time during this isolation by keeping your mind ‘fit’ by just simply ‘being’ and taking a mindful beach walk.

Let’s get started. Walk down to the beach and turn off your phone. You really want to immerse yourself in your surroundings. You don’t want to be distracted. Take off your shoes and walk on the beach barefoot. You will want to be physically connected with your surroundings. This will make you feel grounded. By being mindful you will be wanting to use all five senses as you explore your environment and notice all the small details in your surroundings.

Hear

What can you hear? The sound of waves crashing on the shore? Dogs barking? People laughing and talking? The cries of sea birds?

Taste

Can you taste the salt sea air? Can you taste the salt in the water? Sip on your water bottle and notice how cool and fresh the water tastes.

Smell

Can you smell the salty sea air? Can you identify any other smells in the air?

Touch

Can you feel the water wash over your feet? Can you feel the texture of the sand as it massages your feet and toes? Pick up some pebbles. Feel their texture. Are they smooth or soft? Pick up some sand and let it run through your fingers.

See

Gaze out at the horizon. What shades of blue can you see? Can you see any boats out there? Look out at our islands. Maybe you are looking at the Mercs, Cuvier, or the Barrier? Look further out to sea. Look at the horizon. Can you see where the sky ends and the sea begins? See the pattern of the waves. Watch the waves forming, slowly getting bigger and bigger then crashing as they move towards the shore. Look up at the clouds, what pictures can you see in them?

There are numerous things you can focus on as you embark on your mindful stroll. Just remember as you do, keep in touch with your senses as you walk and keep two metres away from others. Remember walk locally. Use your own beach. Don’t travel to others.

Ref: Cracknell, D. (2019), By the Sea: The therapeutic benefits of being in, on and by the water. Octopus Books, UK.

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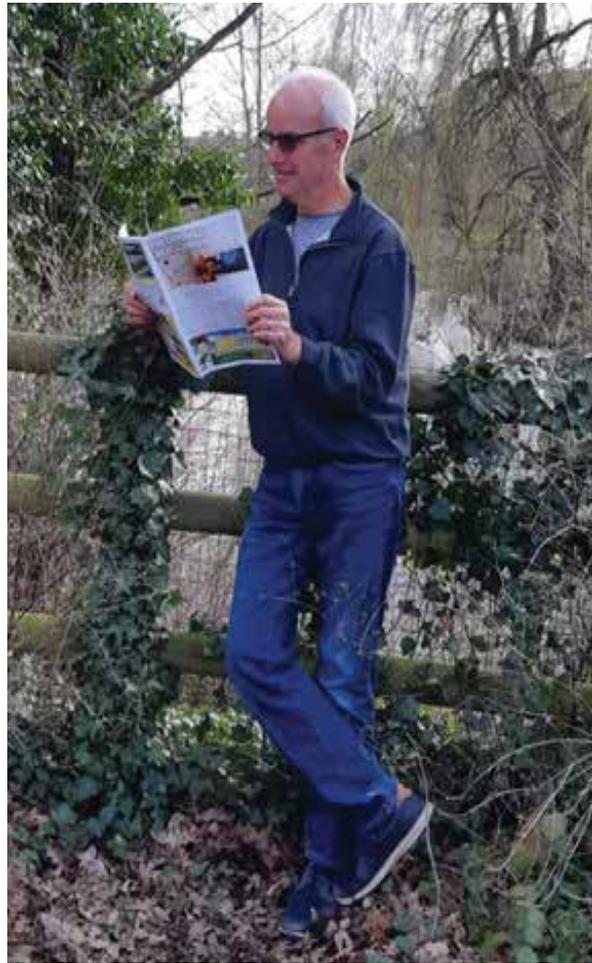
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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE MATARANGI BEACH PAPER?



Rob Eyre-Brook reading the MBP at his home within Fishponds Park, Surbiton, Surrey, England. In February Rob spent a few days in Matarangi catching up with old friends whilst travelling around New Zealand and picked up a copy of the MBP. Rob has lived for 20 years in Fishponds a 18th Century house in 12 acres of grounds once owned by tobacco merchant Sir Frederick Butler. The estate was purchased by Surbiton UDC in 1935 for use as a public park. Rob of course is rightly proud of the fact that he has this little rural haven within greater London. In the early 1990s Rob was an exchange teacher in Auckland and often escaped to the Coromandel with his late wife Belinda.



Community Patrol Meeting

Continued from Page 1

The meeting was unanimous that a community patrol would be formed and that we should work under the guidance of Mercury Bay. The planning for establishing this is now underway and it was agreed that Mark Hall would continue to liaise with the Mercury Bay Patrol in regards to getting this set up.

Mark and Shirvani from Beach Realty have already secured a 2016 Holden Trax as an initial patrol vehicle to get this initiative underway, which will shortly have the appropriate kitted out to CPNZ standards including sign writing. Mark says the vehicle to be used by the patrol is to get the local community patrol up and mobile as soon as possible.

At the meeting people were also asked to give an indication as to whether they would be interested to be part of the local organising committee and also as a volunteer.

“So far 60 people have put their names forward to be involved as volunteers for this initiative that will help to curb the growing problem in the community with respect to break-ins, home invasions, and property damage,” said meeting organiser Mark Hall.

“As a new entity in Matarangi the newly formed committee would like to involve local organisations, trades people and businesses and the genuine good folk of Matarangi to assist,” said Mark Hall.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to be part of the Matarangi Community Patrol, please contact Mark Hall at Beach Realty in Matarangi.

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The Matarangi Fire Report

Another steady month for call outs with three to attend-1 medical, 1 motor bike accident and 1 bonfire on beach. The bonfire on beach was particularly irresponsible as we are still on a total fire ban. As you all know we are on Covid 19 level 4 alert so this means that the Fire Station is closed to all members of the public until further notice.

We have ceased training for this period but please be aware that we are still responding to call outs. For call outs suspected of being covid 19 related procedures are in place to deal with this. We have specialized personal protective equipment for this so do not be surprised if we are wearing overalls, mask and goggles etc when we turn up and ask a series question relating to Covid 19. If it is another type of incident things will proceed as normal.

Because of this situation all events at the Fire Station have been cancelled including the Easter fishing competition and auction and the Anzac Day Parade and Service. The Challenge Cup fishing competition was also cancelled. These are challenging times for all of us so we all need to work together to get through this. I would particularly like to thank all of our volunteers who are happy to continue turning out to call outs to serve and help our community.

Stay safe everyone and remember in an emergency in the first instance dial 111.

All the best Stu Arnold

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PRESS RELEASE: A TASTE OF MATARANGI CANCELLED

The Government is taking action based on global effects of the coronavirus also known as COVID19. As the virus has already hit our shores preventative action is required.

As organisers of this event we have a lot at stake and our first priority is the people and their health & well-being.

Our volunteers, musicians, stallholders, patrons and stakeholders make up this event and we do not wish to the put people who attend or who are working in an environment of close social contact, at risk.

Based on the Government's announcement, the committee wish to announce A Taste of Matarangi festival will be cancelled for this year.

The organisers have spent months preparing for this event and are devastated to make this announcement. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you. All we can do now is tidy up loose ends and look forward to making plans for next year's festival which is to be held on 10th April 2021.

TICKET REFUNDS

The A Taste of Matarangi organising committee have decided to offer a refund for the cancellation of the 2020 festival due to COVID-19.

We feel this is the right thing to do even though tickets are normally non-refundable. The committee are trying to make this process as simple as possible

For online purchases – You will receive an email advising of the refund process

For tickets purchased from Whitianga I-site - please return your tickets to the I-Site for refund

For tickets purchased from Richardsons Real Estate in Matarangi – please return your tickets to Richardsons office directly or by post with the following information detailed on the back of each ticket:

- Name
- Email
- Phone No.
- Bank account No.

Tickets will be refunded by bank transfer only.

If we do not receive your request for a refund by 30th of April, your ticket will be gifted to the event charities. For any further queries please email info@atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

Thank you for your understanding & patience during this process. As you will appreciate it is beyond our control.

Warm regards,

The A Taste of Matarangi Committee

Community Acknowledgment

Our 'A Taste of Matarangi' Committee deserves to be publicly acknowledged. Throughout the year this committee works tirelessly to bring to us this wonderful festival, which raises much needed funds for local charities, such as the Coromandel Westpac Helicopter Trust and Kuaotunu Search and Rescue. As you can imagine the work behind the scenes to put this festival on is huge and this group of volunteers need to be applauded for all the work they do. Recently they had to make the heart breaking decision to cancel the 2020 A Taste of Matarangi due to the Corona Virus. We know how disappointing this was for you but we are now looking forward to a wonderful 2021 festival instead. Bronwyn Ririnui, Kerre Baker, Mary Kedzlie, Maureen Moss, Danielle Threadgold, and Karen Whitehead, thanks for all you do and the countless hours you put in.

COVID 19 FAST FACT: Did you know that according to medical researchers at the Imperial College London the Coronavirus strain Covid 19 is twice as infectious as the flu but ten times more deadly.

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Dark Sky Sanctuary for the Kuaotunu Peninsula



Photo Credit: Ian Preece of
Seascape Photography

Protecting our dark skies and reducing light pollution has long been an important issue for many local residents in the Mercury Bay North. Our exceptionally dark night sky is regarded as an unspoilt treasure and an asset that we must protect and promote.

Six months ago Opito Residents and Ratepayers Association led by Chris Severne worked with Sue Edens to get the TCDC to eliminate the usage of street lighting at the Opito Sands subdivision. That became the catalyst for the Kuaotunu Dark Sky Initiative to get underway by the Kuaotunu and Opito Residents and Ratepayers Associations joining together in order to try and protect what we have.

They have now begun the process of gaining formal protection for this important part of our natural environment. Preliminary approaches to the Mercury Bay Community Board have been encouraging so the KRRA and ORRA are hopeful that council will support this venture. This will hopefully result in the Kuaotunu Peninsula gaining recognition as a "Dark Sky Sanctuary" accredited by the International Dark Sky Association based in Tuscon, Arizona. This is the same designation that Great Barrier Island and Stewart Island have recently attained.

KRRA member Alastair Brickell who operates his own observatory from his property in Kuaotunu, has had a long history of advocating for dark sky protection around the Coromandel Peninsula. His readings from Opito, Otama, Kuaotunu, the Stargazers Observatory and Whangapoua, have shown that our local skies are even darker skies than those required for the IDA's highest category of reserve, and approach those at the sites of many major professional and government observatories located around the world.

ORRA chair Chris Severne believes that night sky viewing on the Kuaotunu peninsula is one of the more wonderful things you can do on the Coromandel. "One of the great features people love about the Coromandel is the view of the magnificent night sky. I have seen visitors from Europe and the States spellbound by our night sky at Opito. Lets see if we can make this happen."

Kuaotunu based professional photographer Ian Preece who runs astro-photography courses was supportative of the move to gain IDA status and the protection of our world class night sky environment.

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THE WINE CLUB REPORT

Reported by Leigh Cunningham

A selection of mainly French wines from Maison Vauron wine merchants was presented to about 25 wine enthusiasts on Thursday 19th March at Puk and Kerre's liquor store - a smaller than usual turnout but a very select gathering indeed.

As the Maison Vauron representatives were not present, John Hackett, bon vivant and French speaker, was prevailed upon to MC the tastings. "Monsieur Jacques" was a great success and kept us all amused and informed.

Most of the wines were from France:- Cotes de Provence Rose - complex fruit flavours, great with fish and tomato based foods, Bourgogne Pinot Noir - a great quaffing wine, good colour, cherry flavours, a clear light red, and an excellent buy.

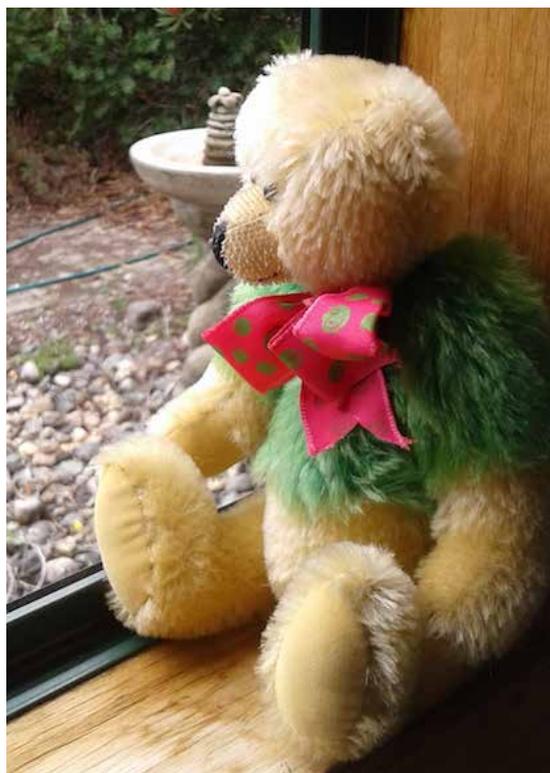
Two wines from Chateau Haut (CH) - a Bordeaux, earthy and young, and a Villefranc Sauterne Graves, a delicious dense and unctuous dessert 'sticky'. The New Zealand wine featured was from Clos Henri in Marlborough - an oakaged Sauvignon Blanc. Very good drinking.

Cheese and crackers were offered throughout the evening to help cleanse the palate between such diverse tastes, and, as usual, the evening concluded with tasty BBQ pork roast with buns and apple sauce, cooked by Steve Threadgold.

All in all, an enjoyable evening, the last wine club meeting for some time I guess. These delicious French wines can be purchased from Puk and Kerre's Liquor Store once the lockdown is over.

We're Going On a Bear Hunt

*We're going on a bear hunt.
We're going to catch a big one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not scared.*



These are the opening lines of the children's classic written by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury which takes a family on an adventure through wilderness and into a bear cave to find a bear. It is the inspiration behind what has become a teddy bear phenomenon to keep children entertained during the nationwide lockdown due to the Covid-19 and has been highly visible in Matarangi.

The 'We're Not Scared - NZ Bear Hunt' was started in New Zealand by Debby Hoffman and was launched on Facebook on March 22nd. It is believed that they originally started in the United States and since then, these bear hunts have gone global. The bears are part of what can be described as a creative scavenger hunt for children with households putting teddy bears in their windows or in other visible places so children, while on walks with their families, can see how many they can spot, all while staying 2 metres away and keeping within the rules for alert level 4.

The 'big kids' of Matarangi have certainly embraced this, hunting out their own favourite soft toy to put on display. The whole idea is to bring people together even while socially isolated putting smiles on children's faces at the same time. People who wish to participate in the bear hunt are asked to register their location. We're Not Scared - NZ Bear Hunt has developed a map so you can get some clues on where to look and map your bear to help other bear hunters: <https://bit.ly/3agRVA7>

So do hunt out those treasured Paddington, Pooh or Santa bears. It is a really simple way to keep our little ones active and families entertained while at the same time bringing some happiness and joy.

Photo: Margaret Stevens

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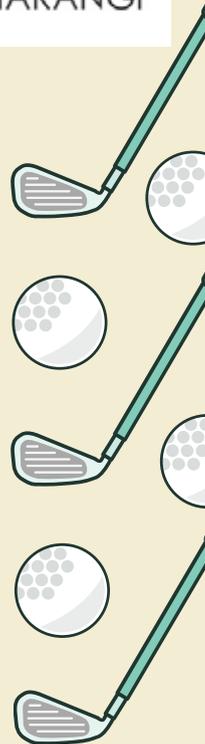
GOLF CLUB • MATARANGI

When life gets back to normal it will be a great time to join the Dunes Golf Club at Matarangi

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Junior Member	\$250

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- If you would like to play casual golf the Proshop is open 7 days.
- Green fees are \$50 for 18 holes and \$30 for 9 holes.
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See our web site thedunes.co.nz for more details or contact the Proshop T: 07-866 5394, E: Proshop@thedunesmatarangi.com



With this pandemic turning our world upside down how nice it is to see and hear all the positive vibes going on around our golf club and the community in general. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the many people behind the scenes who rescued the golf course and who are now setting things in place to put it on a path of recovery. It is pleasing to see our membership numbers growing and locals and visitors alike enjoying our course and wining and dining in the restaurant. We now have a restocked Pro shop, new golf carts, some extra equipment for our greenkeepers, new dining chairs in our restaurant to name just a few things. Alongside all this the clubrooms are being tidied up, the bowling green has been spruced up and there is plenty of work being done on the course to get it back to an excellent playing standard. So on a positive note it's all happening folks!!

Committee

Some members may not be aware that a formal Golf Club Committee has been formed comprising of 9 local residents/members with Bev Gwyn as the Convenor and will meet on a monthly basis.

Golf Course Maintenance

Head Greens Superintendent, Raymond Fanning, has been working hard with his staff to get the course back into shape after one of the driest summers on record. He has recently done some treatment on a few of the fairways and approaches in order to try and promote regrowth. Please observe the ropes and any GUR areas and don't take your carts or trundlers into them. Raymond will be looking at coring all the greens in early May subject to the weather. We now have a good number of volunteers who have kindly put their hand up to give up their time to help out with various jobs that are constantly required on our course. Over the last few weeks we have been out with our weed eaters and scrubcutters to cut down the overgrown grasses and weeds in the creek that runs down the righthand side of the 6th Fairway. We have also been out with our handsaws and loppers to cut away all the low hanging branches of the smaller trees around the course. We still have several more to do which we will tackle in a few weeks time. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please give me your details(name and mobile number) and I will put you on the list. My mobile is : 0272719376 Chris (CJ)

Pennants

The Dunes is being represented in the Eastern Division of the Waikato Veterans Pennants Competition and although we slid down the table a couple of spots after our last round at Tairua we still have a very good chance of getting into the Play-Offs (the top 2 teams go through). The round held at our club on March 2nd was very successful (over 80 players attended) and we had a lot of good feedback as to how the day was run and quality of the food provided on the day. The only concern is that the last round may not be played and the competition cancelled owing to the current health issues going on. The Waikato Golf Association will make that call but all the players and clubs involved have made it known that we all wish to continue in order to complete the competition.

The two Have-A-Go days have proved very popular with 20+ people attending to learn the basics of how to hit that little white pill and our thanks go to all the club members who volunteered their time to give instructions. From these 2 days 8 new members decided to join our club.

Upcoming Events

The Jack Daniels Ambrose Tournament was to be held on Sat 2nd May but unfortunately, in this present climate, a decision has been made to postpone it for a future date.

Happy golfing everyone and stay safe and healthy.

Disclosure: This report was written before the Covid 19 level 4 status was implemented.

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Beauden Plays the Dunes



All Blacks superstar Beauden Barrett last month played a round of golf on the Dunes course with some old friends. The word about how good our local course is at the moment is getting out. Let's hope that Beauden brings down a few of his Auckland Blue's teammates over this winter for a round or two.

Provision to Take Care of Families



Adrian, Julie and Amba Catran of Twentymans Funeral Directors

Funeral Directors and the related services they provide including cremations, are now listed as one of the Essential Services that are able to operate 24/7 within a clear set of guidelines.

Every funeral home must now have new policies in place limiting the number of people we can allow onto the premises to make arrangements for burial or cremation of a loved one. For example, under the new Level 4 status, we are unable to host gatherings of any kind. Quite simply these are a high risk environment. This sadly means that no memorial service can be conducted at this time until the Government lifts the ban.

"We are still able to transport the deceased from private dwellings or rest homes to our funeral home here in Thames. The family can then choose either a burial or cremation with most people currently opting for cremation as a safe, simple and natural choice. In all instances, the memorial service or ceremony will need to be postponed until after the Government lifts the ban on gatherings," says Adrian Catran of Twentymans.

"We now have clear set of guidelines and documents on our website so that people can stay in the safety and comfort of their own homes and complete the necessary paper work; and we have a dedicated team of funeral directors available to talk to by phone at any time."

The funeral industry as a whole are working tirelessly to help grieving families through this extremely difficult period and endeavouring, subject to staffing, to keep their funeral homes operating 7 days a week while ensuring that staff, customers and community are kept safe and ensuring loved ones continue to be handled with dignity and respect so families may have at least partial closure.

"During times like these, we need to ensure that we continue to provide the right level of help and support to those families who may have experienced a death, have someone in a care home or palliative care who is close to dying, that we are here to provide caring, dignified, timely and safe care of their loved one. We must be very conscious of the fact that NZ is in 'lock down' and this is probably a first time experience for many when it comes to death under these circumstances," says Mr Catran.

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PESTIE CORNER

With Sharon Clay of Peninsula Pests

Who would have thought a month ago we all would be self-isolating in lockdown for 4 weeks but here we are, in the middle of our first week? The sky hasn't fallen in and look – we still have toilet paper!! So instead of doing a piece on a specific pest I thought I'd give you some practical tips on keeping those pests away. So here goes –

Ants / Pantry Moths /Weevils

Place packet foodstuffs in sealed plastic or glass containers – if they can't smell it, they won't look for it or breed in it.

Clean your toaster for bread crumbs and wipe under your jug/kettle stand – ants hide under the stand for heat.

Take the covers off your power points and check for ants – they love the heat generated by power sockets.

A large infestation in power sockets has been known to cause fires.

Pot plants are a great nesting place for ants whether on your benchtop, on your deck or gardens. Check for them regularly.

Wipe down the inside of your cupboards regularly and especially your cutlery drawers for crumbs

Cockroaches / Rodents

Keep all rubbish in closed sealed bins. Do not leave your blue rubbish bags outside on your decks or by the garage wall. You are attracting every pest to come to your home in droves.

Clean your pet's water and food bowls regularly – old food attracts ants, cockroaches and flies. Now that I've given you some new projects to while away your time with, please don't hesitate to call us if you do have any issues over this trying time. As we are an essential service, we are able to continue some services so don't hesitate to call us.

From the both of us, take care, stay healthy and be kind to each other.

THE FISHING REPORT

Matarangi Boat & Fishing Club



Well, it has really hit the fan!!!!!! As previously published, we have had to postpone the Doris Day Ladies Competition and the Challenge Cup. We will work out new dates when the world settles down and the weather warms up a bit.

Beware that boat ramps are closed by the council so there is no fishing for a month. Imagine how big they will be by then. I went out over the weekend when Doris Day was cancelled and had a very successful days fishing. There were some big Trevally caught along with some respectable snapper.

Please respect the restrictions on boating, fishing and bubble isolation so that we can all get back out enjoying our lives. Stay safe.

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

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APRIL 2020 Report by Alastair Brickell of Stargazer Astronomy Tours

The Dance of the Planets continues in the early morning sky this month but we will lose faint Mercury by the end of April as it gradually approaches the Sun from our point of view so is eventually lost in its glare before sunrise.

The dawn sky has three bright planets close together moving gently past each other. Massive Jupiter is by far the brightest with both giant Saturn and slightly reddish Mars having a similar but much reduced brightness. By the end of the month the Earth will have moved a bit further in its 12 month orbit around the Sun so that these planets will be visible by very late evening around 2am.

Venus continues to dominate the twilight western sky and reaches its brightest phase this month. Viewers with a clear western horizon will be able to watch it pass through the Pleiades (Matariki) during the first week of April. This brilliant virtual twin of the Earth will be 250 times brighter than all Matariki's stars which will make them a bit difficult to see.

Elon Musk's SpaceX launched another batch of 60 Starlink satellites mid-March and these are now visible in the sky. Initially they were bunched up very close together and appeared as a string of pearls slowly crossing the evening sky all along the same path. They have now spread out considerably and are quite faint. However any satellites spotted all following the same track probably belong to his network or constellation of which there are now almost 400. There may be another launch this month so watch for an impressive string of light in the dusk sky probably moving from NW to SE.

April 1 – The early morning sky has slightly reddish Mars just to the right of Saturn with bright Jupiter above.

April 3 – Venus sits just on the left end of the Pleiades.

April 4 – Venus is now at the top of the Pleiades as it quickly orbits around the Sun.

April 8 – Full Moon tonight...see if you can spot the rabbit in the Moon!

April 15 – The Moon sits directly above Jupiter in the dawn sky with Saturn and Mars below.

April 16 – The Moon is now just below and to the right of Saturn.

April 17 – The Moon has moved to be just below slightly reddish Mars in the dawn sky with Saturn and bright Jupiter above.

April 21 – A thin crescent Moon sits just above very faint Mercury in the pre-dawn sky. The International Space Station (ISS) passes overhead at 7:05pm in the NW sky.

April 22 – An even thinner Moon lies just to the right of faint Mercury very low in the pre-dawn sky. The ISS makes two passes tonight starting at 6:19pm in the NW and then briefly again after completing one orbit of the Earth at 7:56pm very low in the east before disappearing as it passes into the Earth's shadow.

April 28 – Venus will be at its brightest for several months tonight in the western twilight sky with the crescent Moon above and to the right.--

RINGS BEACH PREDATOR AND PESTS PROGRESS

The Rings Beach Wetland Group has noted a record number of predator catches over 2019 consistent with those of other pest control teams as it was a mast year for many native trees. The local team recorded 579 rats, 748 mice, 25 stoats/weasels, 187 possums and 5 feral cats. There is an expectation that the numbers of rats, mice and stoats (2.5 times higher than the previous year) to be significantly less this year with a reduction of food (seeds).

This year will be the third year of large-scale pine felling and the changes in the views and landscapes after the past two years of felling are expected to be dramatic. The walking tracks were extensively used over the summer months and there are many regular walkers throughout the year. The kauri dieback hygiene stations on the walk needed to have constant replenishment, with everyone mindful of protecting both the self-introduced and planted kauri throughout the reserve.

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Due to the current Covid 19 outbreak all local events, meetings and group activity listings are postponed until further notice. The Matarangi Beach Paper will resume the publication of public notices advertising local meetings, events and group activities when the current emergency conditions are relaxed. In the meantime stay safe, happy and healthy.

PUZZLE CORNER

with David Key

Inspector Locke's Coded Calculation Puzzle

Inspector Locke of the backyard has raided the premises of a suspect company. He has found some coded calculations and needs your help to decode them. In each case the numbers have been swapped for letters with the same letter always representing the same number and no number being represented by more than one letter.

He knows that this calculation is a long multiplication and explained to his team how it worked, using this example.

1	2	3	4	
		5	6	
7	3	0	4	
6	1	5	0	0
6	8	8	0	4

The number to be multiplied
The multiplier
Result of multiplying by rightmost number of the multiplier
Result of multiplying next number of the multiplier
Addition of the two multiplications above and the answer to the calculation

One of the coded calculations he has found is below - can you work out the numbers

	A	B	C	D	E
			F	G	H
F	A	G	B	E	E
I	B	E	B	E	E
A	B	C	D	E	E
G	G	G	F	D	E

We have supplied a grid to help

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
0									
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

MARCH SUDOKU SOLUTION:

P	V	L	W	R	E	T	A
S	E	T	L	P	A	W	V
W	R	A	T	V	S	L	P
A	L	E	P	T	R	S	W
V	P	S	E	W	L	R	T
T	W	R	A	S	V	E	L
R	A	P	S	L	W	V	E
L	T	V	R	E	P	A	S
E	S	W	V	A	T	P	R

Relevant phrase - Please Save Water

Directory

- All Terrain Bobcat 866-0505
- Bayleys Real Estate 866-0098
- Beach Realty 866-5566
- Bedpost 866-2444
- Bridal Stylist 022 3188151
- Coffee Lala 866-5373
- Coromandel Garage 866 8736
- Chops Landscape 021 2578582
- Dave's Firewood 021842140
- Doors 2000 865-8135
- Doug Russell Plumbing 866-2175
- Dynamic Electrical 027 2714803
- Exterior Cleaning 0272976514
- Fitz Furniture 021 1740721
- Flooring Xtra 866-2836
- Garador 0800374000
- Gateway Glass 8667-1248
- G & J Electrical 866-0350
- Good As Gold Painters 022 0648932
- Good Energy 021 242 3394
- Gt Lawnmowing 867-1094
- Guthrie Bowron 866-0035
- Handyman Matarangi 021 773547
- Haatha Yoga 021 3933299
- Holistic Health 021 1584774
- Kregting Electrical 869-5695
- Leanne Haliwell 027 4588626
- Land & Volt 021 0600685
- Lawn Mowing Guy 021 0752724
- Logic Av 021 781971
- Lukes Kitchen 866-4480
- Maree Taylor Celebrant 867-1174
- Mastercraft Kitchens 866-4111
- Matarangi Drainage 866-5432
- Matarangi Monitoring 021 02356631
- Matarangi Plumbing 027 4712247
- Matarangi Storage 866-5156
- Matarangi Four Square 866-5391
- Mercury Bay Garden Centre 866-2412
- NZ Move It 027 2566009
- NZ Rangehood Inst. 0800 080224
- Pacific Coast Marine 866-0551
- Peninsula Pest Services 027 7788836
- Peter Teklenburg Builders 027 4521297
- Pipers Café & Catering 866-0774
- Puku & Kerre's Liquor Store 866-5957
- Ray White 027 3481700/ 020 40637380
- Richardsons Real Estate 866-0322
- Stargazers Tours 866-5343
- Storage At Waterview 866-5693
- Surveying Services 0800 268 632
- The Bike Man 866-0745
- Tricky Trees 021 240 9909
- Twentymans Funerals 8686003
- Waitaia Nursery 869-5910
- Whangapoua Builders 021 632929
- Whitianga Marine 867-1182

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April 2020 TIDES WHITIANGA

	High	Low	High	Low	High
3	3:05	9:06	15:26	21:31	
4	4:04	10:06	16:28	22:32	
5	4:04	10:06	16:31	22:33	
6	5:02	11:06	17:32	23:33	
7	5:59	12:04	18:31		
8		0:29	6:54	13:00	19:26
9		1:24	7:48	13:54	20:20
10		2:17	8:42	14:46	21:13
11		3:10	9:34	15:37	22:05
12		4:03	10:26	16:28	22:57
13		4:56	11:18	17:19	23:50
14		5:50	12:10	18:12	
15	0:44	6:46	13:04	19:06	
16	1:39	7:43	13:59	20:03	
17	2:35	8:40	14:56	21:02	
18	3:30	9:37	15:53	22:00	
19	4:23	10:31	16:48	22:54	
20	5:13	11:21	17:39	23:43	
21	5:59	12:07	18:25		
22		0:27	6:43	12:49	19:08
23		1:07	7:24	13:28	19:48
24		1:45	8:03	14:05	20:27
25		2:22	8:42	14:42	21:05
26		3:00	9:21	15:20	21:44
27		3:40	10:01	15:59	22:25
28		4:22	10:43	16:40	23:09
29		5:07	11:27	17:25	23:56
30		5:56	12:16	18:15	

LINZ

STARGAZERS

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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!

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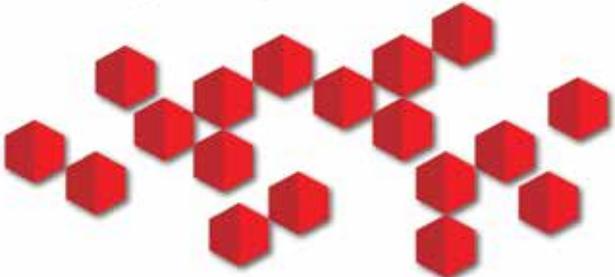




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