

March 2026
Volume 30 Issue 3

Coromandel Town Chronicle

FREE
Community Magazine

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The community magazine for Coromandel Town and surrounds since 1996



Car Fair

SEE PAGE 3



COROMANDEL
TOWN
30 YEARS
CHRONICLE

Cyril's solar clock PG 6



Student Leader trip PG 22



Junior golf PG 27



**Haere mai. Welcome to the
Coromandel Town Chronicle**

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Cover photo: Coromandel Car Fair

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..... Editor's comment

At the end of January I delivered all the town mailbox copies of the February Chronicle, in a single day in extreme heat, which left me exhausted. Fortunately I don't have to do the deliveries every issue!

Waitangi Weekend seemed really busy, compared to a relatively quiet Anniversary weekend a couple of weekends earlier.

I've looked back at some past issues to see what we were talking about. 5 years ago there were many articles mentioning anxiety because of lockdowns, and the mural was painted outside the Information Centre. 10 years ago we were farewelling Barry Brickell – there was a big memorial service in the school hall. See cover of that issue that I've printed on page 18. And 20 years ago the Arts Tour started (see Pete's article on page 24).

Thanks for Delwyn Allely for proof reading this March issue for me.

Debbie

..... Letters

Coromandel Car Fair

Hi. As a visitor from Melbourne, Australia, it was great to chance upon the Coromandel Car Fair on Sunday 1 February. Good country music band playing which got a few ladies happily line dancing. Nice display of classic, vintage cars and trucks. Thanks to owners who chatted with me, this car fanatic.

Cheerio

Vivian Chung

Vivian's photos of the Car Fair are printed below.



Email letters and opinion pieces to the *Coromandel Town Chronicle* corochronicle@gmail.com. Contributions should be kept short, and should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit them for clarity and space.



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Coromandel Car Fair a success

The sun turned it on for the Coromandel Car Fair 2026 on 1 February.

About 700 people made their way to Coromandel Rugby Grounds to view more than 100 cars, motorbikes, and trucks on display. Vehicles from Auckland, Bay of Plenty and the wider Waikato joined our local cars, trucks and bikes on the day, which was a scorcher.

Many came prepared, with beach umbrellas and camping chairs, parking up next to their cars and enjoying picnics.

Others cooled themselves with ice creams and waffles. The sausage sizzle and mussel and corn fritters on offer were also popular, selling out early.

More than \$2,000 was raised through barbeque sales and gate entry donations. All proceeds go to the Coromandel RSA Welfare Fund. Due to the nature of the fund, often recipients are not publicised. However, last year's Car Fair proceeds went towards our Coromandel Youth Sailing Club's purchase of a chase vessel.

The sailing club joined the event, showcasing their purchase while also fundraising for their club. The Bits and Pieces band and local line dancers helped create a fun atmosphere for anyone who wasn't preoccupied with the range of vehicles on show.



This year's event saw the introduction of spot prizes, made possible through the generosity of local businesses who donated vouchers or car-related prizes to the day.

The change of location (from previous years further down Tiki Road) to the rugby grounds was well received, with feedback from people pleased they were able to walk to the event after enjoying lunch in town.

Plans are now in play for next year's event.



Car Club

By Bruce Finan



COROMANDEL CAR CLUB

Brilliant day at Coromandel's "Car Fair" a very hot day indeed, blessed with the weather on the day we had a massive turnout, so bring it on for 2027.

Many thanks to all those who made the day so good. Let's look forward to a big return next year, in town at the Rugby Grounds.

This year we have some changes, now we have two slots at The Club – the first and third Wednesdays for our "Happy Hour" from 4pm.

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Come to our free classroom-based refresher – it’s less than an hour for every decade you have held your licence! We guarantee it’s engaging and fun!

The course gives strategies to assist us to keep ourselves and others safer on the roads.

Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop for senior road users. The workshop aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase the knowledge of other transport options available to help senior road users remain safely mobile.

Thursday 19 March at the Matarangi Fire Station.

9.15am for a 9.30am start.

Morning tea provided.

Bookings essential as first in first served. Email info@achc.org.nz. Ph 07 868 9790.

These courses are delivered in partnership with and with support from NZTA (Waka Kotahi).



Coromandel Contract Bridge Club

By Susan Swan

In February we had our AGM. New officers were elected and our Constitution approved.

It was really nice to be playing Bridge together again. It was a fun night.

At this stage we have no set programme, so each night we draw for partners.

We meet on Monday nights at 7pm, at the Coromandel Ambulance rooms. Table money is \$2 and our sub is \$20.

If you are interested in joining, we now have a procedure we go through for new members, according to our constitution. So if you are interested, please contact Jackie at 021 061 6876 or Susan at 021 116 1346

Mahamudra Centre

Mahamudra Centre welcomes the Coromandel Community to a season of healing and insight

Nestled in the hills above Colville, the Mahamudra Centre continues to open its doors to the Coromandel community with a diverse programme of retreats and teachings designed for both long-time practitioners and those completely new to meditation.

As many people seek ways to manage stress, strengthen wellbeing, and find deeper meaning in uncertain times, Mahamudra’s upcoming season offers practical tools for healing, clarity, and connection – all within a peaceful natural setting close to home.

Throughout the coming months, Venerable Tony will be leading several retreats suitable for newcomers as well as experienced meditators.

From **13-15 March**, the White Tara Retreat: Healing, Longevity & Inner Renewal focuses on gentle practices traditionally associated with healing and restoring vitality. Participants are guided through meditation and reflection that support emotional balance, resilience, and inner calm – qualities many are looking to cultivate in today’s fast-paced world.

From **2-6 April** (Easter Weekend), the Chenrezig Retreat: Transforming the Mind with the Eight Verses explores how compassion can become a practical strength in daily life. Drawing on time-tested contemplative teachings, this retreat offers accessible methods for working with difficult emotions and relationship challenges.

Venerable Tony will also offer a public talk on **Sunday 29 March** 1-3pm titled Love and Attachment: Finding Fulfilment in the Heart, exploring how healthy love can flourish without grasping, and how greater awareness supports genuine connection. This session is especially accessible for those new to Buddhist ideas.

In addition, Mahamudra offers its ongoing study programme Discovering Buddhism – Module 5: Death & Rebirth, beginning **11 March**. This course explores impermanence and life’s deeper questions in a grounded and practical way, with guided meditations and discussion. The programme is open to anyone curious about Buddhist philosophy and its relevance to everyday life.

May brings two special opportunities with internationally respected teachers.

On **Saturday 9 to Sunday 10 May**, Geshe Thubten Sherab will teach on the Twelve Links of Dependent Origination, one of the Buddha’s most practical explanations of how stress and dissatisfaction arise – and how they can gradually cease. Known for his warm and accessible teaching style, he presents profound material in clear, everyday language. This visit is particularly special, as he has shared his intention to enter extended private retreat beginning in 2027.

Then from **Friday 22 to Sunday 24 May**, Venerable Losang Gendun will guide Mahāmudrā: Resting in the Nature of Mind, offering participants an opportunity to step out of busyness and explore the simplicity and clarity of awareness itself, supported by Mahamudra’s tranquil surroundings.

Following the January storms, Mahamudra remains accessible and extends heartfelt thanks to the Colville community for its ongoing support. The centre warmly welcomes locals who may be curious to visit, attend a talk, or simply explore what is on offer.

For full details and bookings, visit: www.mahamudra.org.nz



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Animal Rescue Thames

By Alice and John Parris

Firstly, thank mews to those who have donated cat food for the rescue cats in our care. This right now is their saving grace as we are now running with an almost zero bank balance. Sadly a sign of the times.

We have a wonderful caregiver who comes each day to care for humans and has become Mascara's new best friend to the extent that a week on holiday meant Mascara wouldn't let her out of sight – almost turning herself inside out to get cuddles and pats from her – so she has a new friend. Mascara was once a feral, hated strangers and hates strange visitors, but not our care giver. This for us says we can trust in her totally, which we do.

Linncoln and Cinders got a room makeover with all new bedding and are being totally spoilt rotten by our friend who does the outdoor units and has grand conversations with them morning and night. Even our rogue chook is talked to and patted, so it's a crazy world, but our felines are fed and cared for here.

Despite how we are, we carry on, they are in a unit with special privileges and outside during day. We will continue to look after them for the rest of their furry lives here.

Wanted: cat food – tinned, salmon, sachets, sardines, pet milk, kitten biscuits; also cat toys. Any financial blessings Thames Animal Rescue Team 06 0457 0095150 01 with reference of where you would like us to spend the blessing.

Meow furr now.

Any enquiries to Thames Animal rescue 07 868 2907 afternoons best



Fundraiser film night for Coromandel Bike Park

Adventure lovers are invited to an evening of high-octane local storytelling, "Are You Trying to Kill Us?" – a special ARC film night fundraiser for the Coromandel Bike Park.

The programme features a selection of ARC adventure films including the ARC Adventure Race, The Moehau Man, K2, and The Kauri Run – celebrating endurance, landscape, and a healthy dose of Kiwi grit.

Tuesday 31 March, 6.30-8.30pm at Coromandel Citizens' Hall, 455 Kapanga Road, Coromandel. Koha entry.

Come along, support the Bike Park, and enjoy an entertaining evening of epic adventures on the big screen.

Please email andy@arcevents.co.nz if you are coming so we can plan seat numbers



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Coromandel-Colville Business Association

Honouring a vision: Cyril Strongman's solar clock for Coromandel

The Coromandel community has long been built on the vision, skill and generosity of its people. One such person was Cyril Strongman – a remarkable gentleman who, at the age of 95, gifted our town something truly special: a handcrafted solar clock.

Cyril started designing his solar clock in his 20's. He began crafting the clock himself in his 50's, finally finishing in 2010, combining precision, patience and a "not to be rushed" attitude! Solar clocks rely not on batteries or mechanics, but on the steady movement of the sun across the sky. In many ways, it is a fitting symbol for Coromandel: grounded, enduring, and connecting to the Coromandel-Colville Ward.

Cyril's dream was to see his clock standing proudly in the heart of Coromandel Township – a feature piece that locals and visitors alike could enjoy. He gifted the clock to the Coromandel-Colville Business Association with that vision in mind. Sadly, Cyril has since passed away, but his wish remains very much alive.

Plans are now underway to erect the solar clock in the Samuel James Reserve, right in the centre of town, with the help from the Coromandel-Colville Community Board. To ensure it stands the test of time, the clock will require a purpose-built protective frame that is weatherproof, insect-proof and bird-proof. The existing glass will be replaced with toughened safety glass, and the structure will be mounted securely on a pole set into a concrete foundation.

While Cyril thoughtfully left a small donation to assist with the future maintenance of the clock, funds are still needed to cover fabrication and installation costs. This is not simply about placing an object in a reserve – it is about honouring a local craftsman's legacy and adding a unique point of interest to our township.

The solar clock will serve as more than a timepiece. It will be a conversation starter, an educational feature for children learning about the movement of the earth and sun, and a quiet place to pause and reflect. In an age dominated by digital devices and instant timekeeping, there is something grounding about looking to the sun and shadow to mark the day.

Cyril Strongman's clock represents craftsmanship, generosity and connection to place. By bringing his vision to life in Samuel James Reserve, we are not only installing a clock – we are preserving a story and celebrating a life well lived.

The Coromandel-Colville Business Association has started a bank account for this project, and we invite the community to support the installation and share in making Cyril's dream a reality. It is a



wonderful opportunity for Coromandel to come together and ensure that, for years to come, the sun will continue to mark time over a legacy that truly belongs to us all.

Bank account details are: Coromandel-Colville Business Association Incorporated, 38-9025-0028166-02. Please leave your name as a reference.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be a review of the Auckland-Coromandel ferry service.

The review into the future of the Auckland-Coromandel ferry service will be undertaken in March with the trial Explore service scheduled to continue until April. The review will be hosted by the CCBA at its monthly networking meeting on **Wednesday 25 March** at the Combined Clubs, Woollams Avenue, commencing at 5pm. In tandem with Explore Group and the CCBA, the Thames-Coromandel District Council and Destination Hauraki Coromandel will also be attending. The meeting is open to all businesses and the community.

Jeni Ashman, Chair, 021 636 119; Jo Hobbs, Secretary, 021 026 34206; Patricia Whimp, Treasurer, 0274 985 227

Hot Spot – Coromandel Volunteer Fire Brigade

By Rob Chappell

Callouts since November: car vs pole, person trapped by bike, beach property fire, cardiac arrest, sprinkler alarm, beach fire, cardiac arrest, Motor vehicle crash (MVC) car over bank, MVC car in creek, roadside grass fire, rubbish fire, person trapped, vegetation fire, lift assist ambulance, MVCs, MVC car in drain, grass fire, assist ambulance, roadside rubbish fire, landing zone, LPG fire, lift assist ambulance, landing zone, flood evacuation, roadside vegetation fire.

While enough to keep our team busy, it has been a very quiet summer likely helped by the weather which not only destroyed so many campers holidays but became what has possibly been one of the wettest single periods on the peninsula with significant slips and falling trees to close almost all access to every road. This was only saved by local residents clearing many of the smaller slips and Council acting positively over the same period.

Thank you to all who contributed again to our fundraising with the Keltic Fair this year.

Should you have the time to walk past the Fire Station, you may notice a new building extension. We have added and extended to the left hand bay of the station, the home of the water tanker, creating a permanent home for our crew van. This new building also ties directly to the Social room offering a more useable space for both training and social functions.

This extension has been funded entirely from our fundraising, your donations and Keltic Fair car parking and becomes an additional asset to the community in times of emergency.

Despite the current weather, its drizzling, we could still get an autumn drought so please be vigilant summer isn't over yet. Be safe.

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Museum

By Maureen Kimber



Such a mixed weather forecast for our January/February summer period, but we still have several holiday weekends to enjoy Coromandel Town hospitality, including a visit to the museum.

Our “Stitch in Time” feature will continue until the RSA Anzac Day wonderful remembrance display is repeated, this year featuring the NZ Navy wartime involvement.

The Granite Quarry exhibition has proved to be a crowd pleaser, with very few local people actually knowing a great deal about the important role the quarry played in our area. Although the display has been reduced in size, the information and working model are still featured, together with Lindsay Garmson’s amazing book, and our grateful thanks again to him and Liz Hoskin for the Museum’s opportunity to present this story of our local history.

Another new attraction is to be on offer, celebrating International Women’s Day held on **Sunday 8 March**. As the main subject will be showcasing dedicated women, the display will continue until after the Easter weekend.

Among the many amazing objects that people present to the Museum for custody and/or display, we have just been offered an



Epergne vase

epergne vase. These date back to the 19th century and is an ornate, multi-tiered dining table centrepiece, historically featuring a large central bowl with radiating branches holding smaller dishes. The inscription on the vase just donated to us reads “Presented to Miss Fraser by the Residents of Coromandel on the eve of her marriage Aug 9th 1909”. Her name was Kathleen Elizabeth Fraser, daughter of John Cameron Fraser, a mine manager at Bunkers Hill Mine. Her brother was Sir Colin Fraser, one time pupil of

our Coromandel School of Mines and later a prominent figure in the Australian mining community. What a beautiful piece of memorabilia that we are now proud to have, and the photo (left) shows it in all its glory.

We are thankful that the Museum has remained open all day during January and February, with the help of our volunteers. Due to committee members, including our President, being away in March we will revert to afternoons only from 1pm to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

We will be closed on **Good Friday, 3 April**, but Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday will see us open all day from

10am to 4pm.

Regards and thanks from our committee for all the support you have shown with the innovations at the Museum to ensure the continued interest of the visitors and locals alike.

841 Rings Road, (just a short a walk up from the Top Pub) and we can be contacted at any time by email on coromandelmuseum@gmail.com. Our website www.coromandel-museum.co.nz or on our Facebook page



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Coromandel Garden Circle

By Sheana Goudie

As tradition dictated, we did not have a meeting in January so everyone was full of chat and sharing the events of the holiday season. Dry gardens from some intense heat periods, soggy and wind-swept storm damaged gardens, flower and vegetable failures and successes were all hot topics of discussion.

Jeni thanked those that worked on our Christmas float, that won the Playcentre Choice award, and explained how we would use the items in our basket of goodies we won. Details of an upcoming visit to the Hamilton Gardens were shared.

I am continually amazed at what talented and interesting people we have in our community and this month's speaker Medrina was no exception. She entertained and explained two of the many great stories of her life – one with horses and one of her gold detecting days in the outback of Australia.

Medrina developed a passion for horses when she was young and by age 13 was winning races. Her horse Blueberry Hill went on to become an Australian Champion quarter horse. She also spent time in Alberta, Canada, and participated in Chariot Racing and readied a team of chuck wagon horses for a renowned trainer to race at the Calgary Stampede. She also entertained us with stories and photos of her favourite horse Blueberry, breeding stallions and training adults and children to ride.

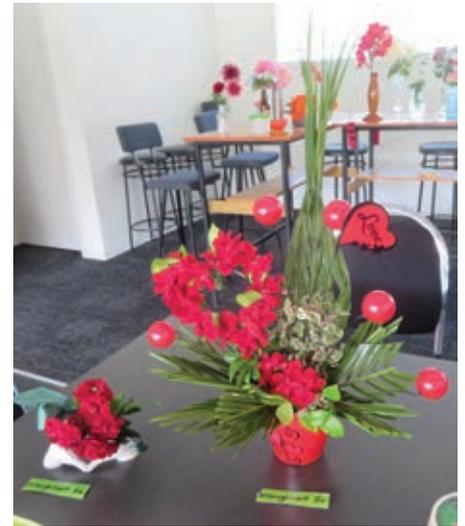
She then talked about her days prospecting and detecting gold in the Australian outback



near Kalgoorlie and Meekatharra and again included photos of their camp, finding a variety of size and rarity of nuggets, working the ground and of her dog Candy who wore a big pink ribbon or glowsticks so she didn't get lost. She loved living in the outback bush and described the daily living conditions, water being the most precious of commodities, the wild life and other dangers. She also passed around a small gadget that detected gold and other metals so we all checked out our jewellery and for some, their hip and knee replacements – it was a great source of amusement! She also surprised us with the information that it is illegal to just go and pan for gold either on public or private land anywhere in New Zealand except with permission from NZPAM (New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals) at a few designated spots in the South Island. All gold is considered a statutory mineral owned by the crown. We learn something new every day.

Our usual monthly competitions took place and the results of the competitions for February, were as follows:

- Single Bloom: 1st Jeni M, 2nd Cindyl D, 3rd Clare W
- Multi Bloom: 1st Judy R, 2nd Marie M / Jill R, 3rd Annette K



- Mini Bloom: 1st Marie M, 2nd Sue O, 3rd Sheana G
- Three of a Kind: 1st Medrina J, 2nd Jill R, 3rd Cindy D
- Arrangement – Hearts and Roses: 1st Sheana G, 2nd Kelera K
- Special – Salad Selection: 1st Sheana G, 2nd Jill R

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 11 March**, 1pm

Venue: Lorraine Lang's on Tiki Road
Start Time: 1pm

Visit to "Over the Fence" and then our usual Meeting and Competitions will be at the Clubrooms.

We love to welcome new members to our monthly meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at The Coromandel Combined Clubrooms at 1pm.
Ph Jeni 021 0227 5341

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Chess Club

By Mike Mann

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Christ Church

From the desk of Father Andy

It's Lent, the great penitential season of reflection and good works leading us to the joy of Easter. I started reflecting recently during a trip with a friend from the UK as we toured the South Island. We had a few meaningful discussions about the important things in life and why there is so much sadness and despair in our world these days. The gospel of Christ gives us more than a few clues as to how things can be better and contain the golden rule ... "do to others as you would have them do to you". There are many other teachings from differing faiths and cultures which reflect the sentiments of the Golden Rule and I'd like to share one from the Buddhist tradition with you this month:

Once upon a time, in a temple nestled in the misty end of a valley, lived a pair of monks. One old and one young.

"What are the differences between Heaven and Hell?" the young monk asked the learned master one day.

"There are no material differences," replied the old monk peacefully.

"None at all?" asked the confused young monk.

"That's right. Both Heaven and Hell look the same. They all have a dining hall with a big hot pot in the centre in which some delicious noodles are boiled, giving off an appetising scent," said the old priest. "The size of the pan and the number of people sitting around the pot are the same in both these two places."

"But oddly, each diner is given a pair of meter-long chopsticks and must use them to eat the noodles. And to eat the noodles, each one must hold the chopsticks properly at their ends, no cheating is allowed," the Zen master went on to describe to our young monk.

"In the case of Hell, people are always malnourished and starving because no matter how hard they try, they fail to get the noodles into their mouths," said the old priest.

"But isn't it the same happens to the people in Heaven?" the young monk questioned.

"No. The people in heaven can eat because they each feed the person sitting opposite them at the table, that's why they are satisfied, full and content. You see, that's the simple difference between Heaven and Hell," explained the old monk.

I don't think I need to say anything more except that our world still holds promise if we look for it.



Coromandel Town Information Centre

By Viv Blackler

March in Coromandel Town. It's the sweet spot where the "summer rush" has packed its bags, leaving us with beautiful afternoons and slightly shorter evenings. The sun is doing its job; the water is still warm enough for a dip and you can now walk into a café/restaurant without a reservation. The snapper are biting, the mussels are at their best and "we live in paradise".

We are "Open for Business"

Despite the odd summer storm, all roads to Coromandel Town are open. Around the peninsula NZTA is still working on those persistent slip repairs and the Stop/Go signs are basically a local mascot at this point. "Nature still likes to remind us who's boss".

We have had a busy month with school back in full swing, we are seeing more mature visitors from other regions and overseas. They are loving our town and what it has to offer, a nice quiet time with fabulous food and relaxing activities.

Pop in and see us for a free town and area map, hiking guides and local advice that you won't find on google; we'd love to see you. Also note, we are now open from 10am to 3pm 7 days a week, reverting back to our winter hours.

Coromandel Town Information Centre has a radio spot on CFM every fortnight where we are given the opportunity to promote our town and any upcoming events so if you have something coming up that we wish advertised to the greater community, please let us know.

Upcoming events in March

The Big Show is on **Wednesday 4 March** at Hauraki House Theatre where they are hosting Prima Facie. It's going to be a fantastic show so hope you have secured your spot, if not please check to see if we have any available tickets.

Corotown Market is on each Saturday 9am-1pm.

Woollams Ave carpark boot sale – first Saturday of each month 9am-12pm.

Keep an eye on our notice board for exhibitions being held at Hauraki House Gallery.

Beach Hop in Whangamata is on **25-29 March** – fingers crossed some of the cars do their annual visit to Coromandel Town.



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Kauri Cones photo sent in by Reihana Robinson

Moehau

by Geoffrey Brebuer

Moehau, sacred to the proud Maori race
Chiet Tama Te Kapua's windy resting place
Or, sleeping winds, given when Te Arawa came
Is known for the meaning of your lilting name.

Mochau, Te Moehau, three thousand feet tall,
Mariners, landsmen, you're famliar to all.
Coromandel's jewel, that keen trampers seek,
Your remote lofty summit, your lover double peak

When you're dark and brooding, it's a portent for rain
Blue, gentle, benign, it's sunny again
Sometimes your proud head is lost in the cloud
Sometimes mist on your shoulders is worn like a shroud.

After heavy rain falls, and the atmosphere's clear
Like magic, a thousand waterfalls appear
To swell the streams, tumbling, down to the shore
Changing their stony creek murmur, to a full throated roar.

The stories, the tales of the Moehau Range
Some funny, some sad, and others so strange
The wild man of Moehau, is it true, or a myth?
And the fairy folk, Patupaiarehe, children of the mist

When the wind is from the southeast, and the air's cool and clean,
Whakaari, White Island, with its volcanoes' steam
Is seen from your summit, and the Waitakeres, far away
Then the Brynderwyns, and Bream Head, up towards Whangarei.

So Moehau, Te Moehau, whether from land or sea
Your friendly blue outline gives comfort to me.
Where e'er I may have been, where ever I may roam
My first glimpse of you tells me I'm nearly home.



This poem was sent in by Pat Williams. The writer of the poem, Geoff, was her brother, and he sadly passed away last year.

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Support from

Exhibit runs from
April 2nd till May 3rd 2026

Photograph courtesy of Andrew Ross

Coromandel Community Patrol

By Alexei McDermott

Strengthening our streets: Coromandel Community Patrol marks new milestone

Change is in the air for local safety as we take a significant step forward in our commitment to a secure and vibrant Coromandel. We are thrilled to share some major updates regarding our local patrol efforts and our growing team of dedicated volunteers.

A new set of wheels

The cornerstone of our latest update is the successful acquisition of a new patrol vehicle. This vital asset was made possible through the incredible kindness of local individuals who generously donated the vehicle to our cause.

We are pleased to confirm that the vehicle is now fully insured and is in the final stages of preparation. It is almost ready to hit the streets to begin its mission of keeping our community safe.

Community support and partnerships

This project has been a true community effort. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Coromandel Lions Club for their significant financial contribution. This donation is being put to excellent use, covering essential start-up requirements including:

- Professional car grooming to ensure the vehicle represents our town with pride.
- Official sign-writing (currently in progress).
- High-visibility volunteer uniforms.
- Technical fit-out of the vehicle and other essential one-off costs.

Furthermore, we have officially onboarded with the Mercury Bay Community Patrol. This partnership allows us to align with regional standards and share expertise, ensuring our local efforts are as effective as possible.

Growing the team

While the vehicle provides the mobility, our people provide the impact. We are currently onboarding five new volunteers to begin running patrols within the town.

These individuals represent the proactive spirit of Coromandel. This initial group is just the starting point, as we have a clear view toward increasing our volunteer numbers in the near future to provide even broader coverage and support.

Our Mission: To provide a watchful eye and a helping hand, ensuring Coromandel remains a safe place for everyone to live, work, and play.

We look forward to seeing our new patrol vehicle in action shortly and thank our donors and the Lions Club for making this vision a reality.



Patchwork in progress

Patchwork & Quilters

By Bev Mayhead

So our first meeting of the year was lovely. Friends reuniting, projects discussed, progress made on last years work... the list goes on.

All-in-all a great get together to start the year off.

This is the first time that we will not have a committee. Instead, we will simply hold an open discussion once a month on one of our meeting days.

Please note that we do not just do patchwork. Our forum is open to any kind of crafty activity that you wish to do. Perhaps you can share your passion with us, so that we can all learn new skills and have yet another project to work on!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 9.30am at St Johns Room, Tiki Road, Coromandel. Contacts: Fiona Neal 027 373 6991, Gail London 027 466 5131





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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



March 2026

New VSL signs target safety

Work begins shortly to install Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs outside local schools as part of efforts to make our communities safer.

VSL signs work by triggering a lower speed limit during busy times outside schools (at the start and end of the school day) then reverting to the road's standard speed limit when there is minimal student activity, such as at nights, weekends and



holidays. Schools also provide flexibility to control speed limits during special school events, in coordination with our Council and our road operation and maintenance contractor.

Most urban schools will have a 30kmh limit during school travel times. Some rural schools may have a 60kmh limit, depending on road context.

Temporary traffic management is expected as the signs are installed.

COROMANDEL - COLVILLE COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

At its last meeting, the Board:

- Supported a request from Coromandel-Colville Business Association to install a town clock handmade by the late Cyril Strongman on the Samuel James Reserve. The request was added to the Board's action schedule.
- Agreed to support a five-year lease renewal for the Coromandel Independent Living Trust at 100 Pound Street, running from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2031.
- Approved a recommendation to grant a Licence to Occupy to build a privately owned access bridge at 720 Hauraki Road. The bridge will not affect public road use and all costs will be covered by the applicant. Council is asked to ensure that the proposed wetland planting is completed.
- Supported starting a formal 'road stopping' process to remove road status from an unformed parcel of road reserve next to 398 Colville Road, Oamaru Bay. The land does not serve any other properties or public areas. All costs will be met by the applicant.
- Received an update on the draft Community Funding policy and upcoming targeted consultation, which will include iwi, previous contestable grant applicants and current grant recipients. Members of the public can also provide feedback before 1 May. Feedback will be reviewed in June/July with a final draft policy for Council adoption expected in October/November.

NEWS IN BRIEF

RATES RELIEF FOR RED-PLACARD PROPERTIES

If your property received a red placard during the recent severe weather event, an automatic remission for some rates (in accordance with our Rates Remission Policy) has been applied for the balance of this rating year.



NEED HELP OR SUPPORT?

If you or someone you know in our district needs support related to the weather event, there are services available to lend a helping hand. Check out tcdc.govt.nz/support



Timely tribute

A special project is underway to install a handcrafted solar clock, built by late resident and craftsman Cyril Strongman in Coromandel Town. Made by Cyril in 2010, it was his long-held wish that the clock be publicly displayed and enjoyed by the community.

The clock was gifted to the Coromandel-Colville Business Association, who have asked Council for support with appropriate consenting to mount it on a new, purpose-built steel pole. Consultation is underway to identify a suitable site within the town centre as a lasting tribute to Cyril and his craftsmanship.

tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltrails

THE NEXT COROMANDEL-COLVILLE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 28 APRIL AT OUR SERVICE CENTRE, 355 KAPANGA RD, COROMANDEL TOWN FROM 9AM. [TDC.C.GOV.TZ/MEETINGS](https://tcdc.govt.nz/meetings)

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Coromandel Lions Club

By Logan Nicholls



Hi everyone, and welcome to our March issue of the Coromandel Town Chronicle. This year's March edition has come around quickly, arriving just four weeks after our previous issue. After a well-earned break, we are refreshed and looking forward to another year of supporting our community in 2026.

Over the Auckland Anniversary weekend in January, we once again held our popular mussel fritter fundraiser. Despite the wet and windy weather, we were thrilled to sell out by 1pm – a fantastic result! As always, we sincerely thank everyone who supports us. Remember, 100% of the funds we raise go directly back into our local community.

On 7 February, we kicked off our Lions New Year with a wonderful BBQ held on a private property. Members enjoyed sausages, steak, fresh salads, and a small dessert, along with great company and conversation. It was a lovely way to reconnect and start the year on a positive note.

Thank you for your continued support of the Coromandel Lions Club and the work we do within our community. We couldn't do it without you.

Kind regards,
Coromandel Lions Club
"Where there's a need, there's a Lion."

Contacts: Sue Hughes (President) – 021 142 1124; Jean Smith (Secretary) – 021 208 7576; Kerry Whittle; (Projects Manager) – 027 474 2850

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Hon Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel



While the start of summer was really promising, the heavy weather event we experienced in late January caused devastation to parts of our region and across other areas of the North Island.

Locals have experienced more than their fair share of weather disruptions over the years, but that doesn't make going through them any easier. Thankfully, we have an incredible group of first responders, emergency management teams, and contractors who worked to keep our communities safe and to open the roads as soon as possible.

That said, it's important to remember that it wasn't the entire Peninsula that was closed and that many roads and businesses remained open. I recognise there is a fine balance in reporting the severity of weather events against communicating impacts in a way that does not create undue angst to people in less dramatically affected areas.

We're now in the recovery phase and the Government has announced several support packages to help people get back on their feet, such as activating the Temporary Accommodation Service, providing additional funding for Mayoral Relief Funds, and reimbursing marae that provided shelter, food and care to people in need.

I've also heard from local businesses that the best thing we can do now as a community is to ensure that people know that the Coromandel is open and ready for visitors to spend time in our region. I'm hopeful that we'll have a great shoulder tourism season, especially with big events like Beach Hop still to come.

In other news, New Zealand is set to go to the polls with the General Election confirmed to take place on **Saturday 7 November**.

No matter what you think of politics or politicians, we are fortunate to live in a functioning democracy. We're one of only a very few nations on the planet that have an unbroken democratic tradition going back more than 150 years.

I'm standing again as the National Party's candidate for the Coromandel Electorate, and I believe the changes we've been making will benefit us as a nation now and into the future. Foremost I will be seeking your Party Vote for National because a strong National Party vote will ensure we anchor the next government and continue to lock in the gains our country has made during the last three years.

We're fixing the basics and building the future.

Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f scottsimpsonmp

Himalaya shop : Colville

Hi Everyone,
The Himalaya shop will not be open every day during March month. We will, however, be open most days. If you are coming to Colville, maybe best to phone or text us first to check if we are open that day.

Our late season hours will be 10a.m. to around 3p.m.
Phone Anette on 021 139 7838, Rob on 021 155 8559,
SHOP 07 8667 224
robnnet@yahoo.com

CILT

Welcome to Te Mana Tangata
Te Mana



Tangata is a day programme that offers a safe, friendly space for people in our community to connect and dive into a variety of fun, hands-on activities. From gardening, pottery, carving, weaving, cooking, to sewing – there’s something new to discover every day. Plus, we love exploring the community with regular trips to beaches, cafés, and other local spots.

Te Mana Tangata is open for people aged 16–64 who hold a current MSD client number and who face a barrier to participation. We’re open Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm, with a fresh cooked lunch for our participants provided each day.

Nau mai, haere mai – come and see if Te Mana Tangata is the right fit for you. Drop by our cottage at 100 Pound Street or email Santana at santana@cilt.org.nz for more information.

Haere rā, Anne!

Last month, we bid farewell to our amazing Anne Mountjoy. Anne has worked for CILT as our Finance Coordinator for close to two years and has been an amazing asset to our team. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her and her family all the best on their new adventure!

Myth: Budgeting is only for people in financial trouble



Fact: Budgeting is a powerful tool for everyone, no matter your financial situation!

You don’t need to be in crisis to benefit from financial mentoring. In fact, many of the people we work with are planning for future goals, looking to reduce spending, navigating changes in income or simply wanting more control over where their money goes.

Our mentors support individuals and whānau from all walks of life including those managing a benefit, working full-time, self-employed, or studying. To book a free, confidential session with one of our mentors or learn more about what we can support you with, contact us on 027 316 4662 or via email at budget@cilt.org.nz.

We need volunteers!

Te Puāwai – our little native nursery – is looking for volunteers to join our team!

By volunteering in our garden, you are not only supporting our nursery, but our māra kai,

which grows fresh produce that goes directly into our pātaka kai and the foodbank to be given to those in need in our community.

If you would like to join our small team, please pop down and see us at Te Pūtahi Whaiora or give us a call on 07 866 8358.

Need a shopping day? Catch a ride to Thames!

Every Thursday morning our community van takes passengers from Coromandel Town to Thames and back in exchange for a koha!

Departs: 9am from 150 Pound Street, Coromandel (pick-ups and drop-offs are available at addresses within Coromandel town)

Returns: 2pm from Pak’nSave Thames

Seats fill fast, so if you would like to book your spot on the van or would like more information, please contact Te Pūtahi Whaiora on (07) 866 8358, or pop in and see us at reception.

4
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Coromandel Town

CONDITIONS APPLY

Coromandel Embroiderers' Guild

By Marilyn Jessen

It was smiles, hugs, and lots of laughter that greeted our members earlier in the month at our first Embroiderers' Guild meeting for the year. So much news to catch up on and finished work to share.

The most exciting news was the announcement of People's Choice Award from our November exhibition. Congratulations to Heather Arthur who entered a beautifully framed, textural scene of trees entitled "West Coast Forest".

We also had a bit of a mystery which we are yet to solve. Pictured below is a yet to be completed embroidery given to one of our members who was told that a Coromandel person had agreed to finish it. The only thing is no one knows who that person is. So if you can help us solve the mystery we'd love to hear from you.

Our show and tell table had some beautiful pieces to share including a landscape by Ann Walmsley depicting an Ambleside scene in the Lakes District. Also a little different was a wooden box with an embroidered centrepiece, and a colourful pair of parrots sure to catch the eye. It just goes to show that embroidery comes

in all shapes and sizes.

Also new for the group are our two new merchant tables: Jude's Threads and Quilters Cottage, both offering threads and embroidery bits and pieces for purchase. This is such an asset for our group with no local stockists of fancy threads and fabrics and well worth a look see.

As always we'd love to welcome new members. If you think you could be interested drop in and check us out. First Wednesday of the month in the Coromandel St John's room 10am-3pm. Or if you would like more information contact Sandy on 021 815 667 or coromandelembroidery1@gmail.com We'd love to see you there



People's Choice Award – "West Coast Forest" by Heather Arthur



Ambleside by Ann Walmsley



Do you recognise this "Mystery" embroidery?

Real Estate Matters

Confused and cautious buyers

What on earth is going on with the real estate market?

Late 2025 the interest rates were low and buyers started to feel it is time to buy. Sellers felt fine, I will be able to sell.

But wait! Everything just fizzed out? What is happening?

Seems we have entered a confusing time of mixed messages. House prices seemed to have plateaued, felt stable. Then banks started changing interest rates – up!

So now what? Do buyers buy? They did feel that pre Christmas, but now the sentiment is "should I wait and see" what if the house prices come down more?

In the mix is of course job security and low immigration, high numbers of people leaving for Australia etc. I do not think at present we have an under supply of property. Listing numbers are climbing in almost all areas of the country, is this making buyers feel "well maybe I should hang off" and see if the market becomes more favourable.

So at present there seems to be plenty of lookers, plenty of enquiry. But mixed with a strong tinge of cautiousness. Buyers are like: "I really like it, seems a good buy, but am I paying too much? How low below the asking should I offer?"

If you are selling, my thoughts would be – are you causing the market to have to stop and look, or just feeling the market out? For the market to move on your property, you must stand out. By price or presentation, or both. Remember once you sell, you become a buyer in a buyers market.

If you are buying, you seem to have a lot of choices, maybe not too much pressure to hurry. So do your research thoroughly. Ensure you have your lawyer check the paperwork. Have trades people check reports or buildings, wiring, plumbing etc. You can be more insistent in this market to have these things up to date, or renegotiate the situation. Have all your questions answered. The market is favouring you at present, so getting value in the buy is much easier than when the market favoured the seller. In this market unconditional cash offers become high value and highly sought after.

Maybe we are seeing a new more price sensitive market becoming the norm. Rather than the old cycle of high prices, crashes and back up to high prices.

Should you wish to discuss these or other real estate matters, contact Glenn Wells - Licensed Agent. Harcourts Coromandel (licensed REAA 2008) glenn.wells@harcourts.co.nz or 0800 735 788

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Tuateawa 126 Waihirere Drive
 Secret Retreat Where The Road Ends - \$715,000



Whangapoua 211 Mangakahia Drive
 Why Just Dream It? - \$1,300,000



Coromandel 295 Lillis Lane
 Sitting Pretty at End of Cul de Sac - \$689,000



Tuateawa 15 Kowhai Place
 Ocean View Retreat in Tuateawa - \$615,000



Coromandel 275 Lillis Lane
 Dancing Stream- \$569,000



Coromandel 20 Puriri Place
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Library News

By Dee Beavan

The library has been busy over the summer with visitors coming in to use the space and many to buy second hand books. On the subject of second hand books, a very big thank you to those who donate books to the library. Donated books sold help the library fundraising and some donated books make it to our catalogue. If anyone has kids books to donate they would be greatly appreciated.

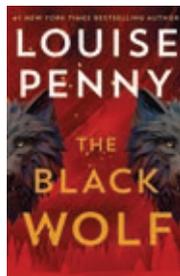
The February carboot sale, supporting our Coromandel Community Library, was very busy. Thank you to all who supported it. The next one will be **Saturday 7 March**. We hope to see you there shopping, or bring your car and sell a few things yourself. It's only \$5 per car to sell your wares and is always a bit of fun.

There will be new volunteers in training over the next month, I know you will make them feel welcome and supported.

Reader review

The Black Wolf by Louise Penny

Louise Penny is a Canadian crime fiction



writer. She has written a series of 20 books, however you can read *The Black Wolf* as a stand alone.

Meet Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of Sûreté du Québec for Montreal, Canada, and his team, as they uncover and try to stop

a domestic terrorist named Black Wolf. He has powerful allies in law enforcement, in industry, in organised crime and in the halls of government.

“War Plan Red” is a plot to provoke war, which reaches its climax as incendiary bombs are prepared to ignite a new wave of wild fires, timed to coincide with weather patterns that will send ash to American cities.

“Black Wolf” and his comrades hope to trigger an American invasion of Canada. This

will cause an environmental catastrophe. Captured in the words: “In a dry and parched land, where there is no water”, Armond Gamache and his team are tested to find out who “Black Wolf” is.

The investigation draws in the apparent peace of his little village of Three Pines. You’ll meet interesting characters of the charming place, who look after one another. Interestingly, Three Pines dates back to the 1700s when it was a place of sanctuary to those loyal to the British Crown. They fled across the border to safety during the American War of Independence.

Louise Penny wrote this book before she knew real life chaos happened in America.

Reviewer: Joan Prairie

Thank you to all the supporters, financial supporters and volunteers, who all keep the Coromandel Community Library going.

The Colville Project

Progress Round-Up

The Colville Project Trust (TCP) has evolved from its initial 2017 feasibility study which both highlighted need and confirmed strong community support. While need and community support remain (a deprivation-index change from 8 to 9, where 1 is the most well-off and 10 is the worst-off; and key services remain operating from rented houses that are not fit-for-purpose), TCP has made strong in-roads in project development.

TCP’s purchase of 35 hectares (2022) permitted progression of targeted planning. An architect was appointed by competition-tender and that initial Wellbeing & Education Centre (WEC) design was put to the community for feedback (2022). Design variations were considered over 2023-2024. A Concept Design Advisory Group comprising industry specialists supported scrutiny against key targets (e.g. prioritising short and long-term economic considerations, functionality, and flexibility), and a “square doughnut” was finalised (2025).

The final design retains a courtyard while enhancing efficiency. It supports multi-purpose use (e.g. health-service provision; education, social and community services/development; and short-term accommodation options for visiting professionals and short-term care). It also retains flexibility to support adaptation to changing community needs over time.

TCP is currently in the final stages of preparation for resource consent. Specialist reports have been undertaken (e.g. geotechnical exploration, stormwater planning, ecological assessments) which have all shaped the project’s development.

TCP has targeted Design and Development Principles prioritising community, environment, heritage, prudent use of resources and enduring positive economic impact. TCP is active in implementing initial ecological goals, including participation in weed and pest management programmes, and riparian restoration.

Currently TCP is awaiting funding notification to progress engagement with Veros in updating and finalising our feasibility and business case.

If you have questions about The Colville Project or would like further information, TCP welcomes you to contact them via email on admin@thecolvilleproject.nz



BLAST FROM THE PAST



10 years ago in the March 2016 issue of the Chronicle we remembered Barry Brickell whose memorial service was in January 2016. Interested in reading it? Find back issues of the Chronicle at www.coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz/html/issues.html



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Coromandel Bowling Club

By Judy Campbell



Judy Haycock & Judy Campbell



Malcolm Stone & Layke McNeil

Unbelievably it's March already and at time of writing, preparation for our very popular Annual Seafood Tournament, held over the weekend of the **7-8 March** is well underway.

This tournament brings over 120 bowlers (plus some partners) into our town and would not be possible without the support of our many local sponsors. To them we say a big thank you.

You are welcome to pop down to the club over the weekend to watch some awesome bowls.

Our Junior Club Champ Pairs and Singles have been played with Layke McNeil and Malcolm Stone winning the Mens Pairs.

Judy Campbell and Judy Haycock played in the pairs together, winning the Women's section.

Layke McNeil & Judy Campbell also won their respective Junior Club Champ Singles.

These four will now go on to represent the Coromandel Bowling Club in the Thames Valley Champ of Champ tournaments being held in May.

Thank you to the Tidewater Motel & Tourist Park for their recent sponsorship of our Open Optional Classic Fours Tournament.

So for March, aside from the Seafood Tournament, we will be playing for the Patrons Cup on **Thursday 12 March** and on **Thursday 26 March**, we have the first of our two Summer Cup Challenges against Mercury Bay.

If you are interested in joining us for a game of bowls either on a Thursday or a Sunday, you will be most welcome.

Our club phone number is 07 866 8813



RSA

By Annette James

March 1st 1916 New Zealand Division formed following Gallipoli Evacuation

After the evacuation of New Zealand troops from Gallipoli in March 1916, they were moved to Moascar, Egypt and divided into three infantry brigades, including a newly formed rifle brigade and artillery units, using both experienced and fresh reinforcements.

They were then transferred to France in April, where they spent three months in a "quiet" sector near Armentieres. In August 1916 they were moved to Somme where they later fought in the battle of Flers-Courcelette.

With Poppy Day coming up in April, please be aware that online donations go to head office in Wellington, not to your local branch of RSA. However, if you donate cash, the money goes into our local Poppy Fund, proceeds of which are given to our returned service men and women that are in need of our assistance.



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Ann's Good News, Naturally

Medicinal minerals, naturally

Every living cell on this planet depends on minerals for proper function. Minerals are essential for:

- Proper composition of body fluids
- Formation of blood and bone
- Maintenance of healthy nerve function and digestion
- Regulation of muscle tone, including the cardiovascular system

Like vitamins, minerals function as coenzymes, enabling the body to perform vital processes such as energy production, growth, and healing. Because all enzyme activity involves minerals, they are essential for the proper utilisation of vitamins, carbohydrates, fats, and proteins.

Your body must maintain proper chemical balance. This depends not only on the level of each mineral, but also on the ratios between minerals. When one mineral is out of balance, others are affected. If left uncorrected, imbalances may contribute to ill health.

Minerals originate in rocks and soil and are absorbed by plants through their roots. They enter the food chain either directly through plant consumption or indirectly through animals that eat plants. We require both sources to obtain adequate amounts for optimal health. While vitamins are vital, minerals form the body's foundational nutrients.

Once the mineral is absorbed, it must be carried by your blood to the cells, then carried across the cell membranes in a form that can be utilized by your cell. Once across the cell membrane, they compete for absorption. E.g. too much zinc can deplete your body of copper; excessive calcium can affect magnesium absorption. So supplemental minerals should always be taken in



balanced amounts. Otherwise, they may not be effective – or can be harmful.

More Good News

Lipomas and abscesses

While certain minerals may promote suppuration (the formation and release of pus), clinical experience shows that combining specific minerals can support the body's natural healing processes.

Cysts, nodes, nodules, spurs, hard lumps, wens, and tumours

Targeted mineral supplementation may support the body in addressing various growths. Through years of clinical experience, many clients have reported positive outcomes when following their treatment programmes and using personalised mineral prescriptions.

Heberden's nodes (hard swellings on finger joints) have, in some cases, softened and reduced over several months when appropriate mineral combinations were used according to individual needs.

Minerals may also support joint health by assisting metabolic balance and connective tissue integrity.

Children's health

Personalised mineral support can be beneficial for children, as minerals are bio-identical to the human cell and readily absorbed.

Mineral balancing may assist with: irritability; mild spectrum behaviours, slow learning; allergies and eczema; infection and

inflammation; congestion; poor appetite; cramps; teeth grinding during sleep; growing pains; constipation.

Certain minerals may also support abdominal tone and overall cellular vitality. **Neurological and musculoskeletal support**

Minerals are key components of connective tissue and may support ligament, cartilage, and tendon health.

Support may be considered for: arthritis; hip joint concerns; spinal curvature; torn ligaments or tendons; chronic inflammatory conditions.

Neurological conditions affecting the brain, nerves, and spinal cord may also benefit from addressing mineral imbalances.

Thyroid function – Elderly female client with false negative results for Thyroid Lab Tests. Symptoms – diminished reflexes, extreme fatigue, weight gain, hair loss and depression. We did more deeper and broader lab tests, and got her on a programme of specific minerals, herbal tonic, homeopathic drops, Bach Flowers, and a gentle inner cleansing and eating regime. She loved her soothing massages.

Magnesium

Experiencing cramps and spasms? Emotional highs and lows?

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Grey Power Coromandel Inc

By Patrica Whimp



Bowling and Sausage Sizzle

The evening of 18 February was warm and sunny for our annual Grey Power Bowling and Sausage Sizzle. It was very pleasing to have 29 current members, and two potential new members attend. Some members had never bowled before and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had great success. Yes, some bowls went here and there, and under the guidance of Jim Dicks the President of the Bowling Club and Cindy Dicks, the members got better at bowling! Thank you, Jim and Cindy, for your time. Also, a shout out to Go Fuels for sponsoring the evening. Thank you also to John Gaffikin-Cowan for attending to the bar.

Before the bowling session, we were privileged to have the TCDC Coromandel-Colville Councillor Rob Ashman speak. A few of the members had not met Rob before, so it was an introduction to his job as our councillor. Rob apologised that the recycling of cardboard and bottles, from the businesses and clubs of our town, has caused the change of recycling. Prior to the changes, an open skip was for the cardboard and open bins for the bottles. Now there is a container with slots for the flatten cardboard and containers for one bottle at a time. Rob is concerned that the Grey Power members and other seniors may hurt (skin on arms) themselves putting the cardboard into the container. The businesses recycle mainly into the pit of non-recycling now. Grey Power members were shocked and surprised at the lack of community consultation for the changes, the cost of the changes and cost to the businesses and clubs.

Another subject touched on, was rate increases. Rob and some of the other new councillors are working behind the scenes, with reducing our rates by having accountability of the council staff and subcontractors.

Raising Cyril Stongman’s solar clock in the town was also briefly discussed. Rob confirmed that he and four other councillors support the clock to be installed in our town.

The Constitution for the Grey Power Coromandel has now been voted on by the members and passed! This can now be sent to the Society Incorporation for their record.

At the Zone meeting the Grey Power Coromandel submission of Health Care for Seniors was passed to the Federation. This will now be discussed at the Federation AGM and voted on. Some of the submission has already been spoken to various ministers, and this submission will assist the Federation board to take it further.

From the committee, we thank the many members that had not attended a Grey Power gathering previously, or not for a long time and look forward to seeing you all again at the next meeting planned for April. Details to be advised.

President - Brian - 027 319 0172, Secretary - Nadine Wishnowsky - 021 062 1142, Membership Secretary - Carol 021 081 66129, Treasurer - Patricia Whimp 0274 985 227, Email: greypowercoro@gmail.com

Mana Retreat Centre

The last of the season’s tomato harvest is lined up on the windowsills of the Mana kitchen like jewels as summer moves into autumn. The Mana Team is busy with a full schedule of retreat offerings. From spiritual song, Qi Gong, herbal medicine, conscious dance and Mana’s Relax & Wellness weekend retreat, there truly is something for everyone this March.



With the seasonal shift and welcoming the Chinese year of the Fire Horse last month, we asked local herbalist Clio Meyer to share wellbeing tools to support body and mind:

A recipe for wellbeing from the wisdom of plants

The year of the Fire Horse can mean fabulous boosts of energy and creativity leading to major transitions and bold decisions, or the feeling of running three miles behind our own galloping lives as changes unfold rapidly. In order to welcome these intense energies with grace, and transition into the energies of autumn, here are a few tips from the green world around us:

- A cup of St John’s wort or houhere blossom tea at the end of a sunny day or after hours on screens, helps us to slow down and rest.
- Make some flower infused honey and take a spoonful as needed (see the Mana newsletter or website for the recipe).
- A cup of chamomile tea is calming, making it the perfect choice at the end of a stressful or sunny day. If you’re using chamomile tea bags, once you’ve made your tea you can press a little bit of chamomile tea on your closed eyes. This soothes tired eyes.
- Use chamomile and/or lavender tea in a footbath. Both induce deeper relaxation.

If you would like to create more herbal medicine, Clio extends an invitation to join her upcoming Herbal Medicine Retreat at Mana: Into the Green Fabric of the World. On **Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 March**, Clio will lead a deep dive into late summer medicine and how to connect with plants.

This month’s Tuesday Community Open Floor Dance dates are **3, 17 and 31 March**. 10-11.45am. Come for a relaxed morning of movement. No experience needed. These classes are a gentle fun way to connect into the people and place of Mana.

Local dancers may like to know that Geordie Jahner Ph.D. and Sacha Paddy are facilitating Point of Balance, an invigorating four-day open floor dance retreat over the Autumn Equinox at Mana on **Friday 20 to Tuesday 24 March**.

We hope to see you soon. Ngā mihi. The Mana Team

www.manaretreat.com, 07 866 8972, be@manaretreat.com, 608 Manaia Road, Coromandel

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UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS

FEB 26-1 MAR	Into Your Heart Retreat with Sacred Earth
MAR 6-8	Relax & Wellness Weekend with the Mana Team
MAR 10-12	Into The Green – A Herbal Medicine Retreat with Clio Meyer
MAR 13-16	Qi Gong Retreat with Hedwig Bakker
MAR 20-24	Point of Balance -Autumn Equinox Dance of Light & Dark
MAR 27-29	Pause / Rest / Renew with Jo Monaghan
APR 3-6	Easter Coming Home to Yourself Retreat
APR 10-15	5 day Silent Meditation Retreat
APR 17-19	April Relax & Wellness Weekend with the Mana Team
BOOKINGS:	www.manaretreat.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Open Floor Community Dance @ Mana 3, 17 & 31 March 10-11:45am

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rangatahi OUR CHILDREN

Coromandel Area School

By Tracey Adams

Student Leaders begin year with inspiring leadership camp

Four of the school's

Year 13 student leaders have returned from a leadership camp at the Hillary Outdoors Centre, energised and united as they prepare to guide the student body through the year ahead. Kendyl, Luca, Jamie and Atutahi – each with their own aspirations and leadership styles – spent two days developing their skills, strengthening relationships, and setting intentions for 2026.

For all four, the camp offered a rare chance to pause before the busy school year and reflect on what leadership truly means.

“It was good to have all of the leaders together as a group,” said Kendyl, whose goals include gaining University Entrance and pursuing physiotherapy. “It brought forward some of the things we know about leadership and allowed us to prioritise our roles as leaders as we head into the school year.”

A key theme that emerged was the power of attitude. Jamie, who is working toward University Entrance while exploring future pathways, reflected on how leaders influence

COROMANDEL AREA SCHOOL



MAESTRA LEADER

the tone of a group. “The impact and importance of having a positive attitude – if you approach something positively, others will join you positively. The same goes for a negative attitude.”

The students also explored different motivations that drive people within a team. “We learned about being individually motivated, task-motivated or team-motivated,” Kendyl explained.

“When you’re working toward a group goal, you need to consider all of these aspects so you’re catering to individual needs, team needs, and still getting the task done.”

For Luca, who hopes to study business management at the University of Waikato, the camp reinforced the value of diversity within leadership. “There are many different forms of leadership. We’re all different in our leadership styles, but if we put it all together and work to our strengths, everything works better than if we just try to get things done ourselves.”

Atutahi, who is passionate about strengthening te ao Māori and nurturing rangatahi leadership, said the camp helped set a strong foundation for the year. “It was good to sit down with our student leaders and get a good foundation of what we want our year to look like. Good to get to know our young leaders better and understand what their intentions are.”

Four Year 11 students and one Year 12 student also attended, giving them a gentle introduction to leadership expectations without



Year 13 Student Leaders (l-r): Luca Phillips, Jamie Waara, Atutahi Tenboom-Williams, Kendyl Short

being “thrown in the deep end.”

The group spoke proudly about the impact they hope to have on the school – being positive role models, organising events, and ensuring student voice is heard at all levels. For some, the desire to lead has been long-held. “I always wanted to be a student leader,” said Kendyl. “I remember being little and having student leaders organise things for us, and I wanted to be like that for others.”

The Hillary Outdoors Centre provided an ideal backdrop for this development. Students praised the high-quality facilities, supportive instructors, and the chance to step outside their comfort zones. “The environment is beautiful, the people were genuinely fun to talk to, and the cabins and communal areas are tino ataahua,” said Atutahi. The group also completed a Level 3 NCEA leadership standard during the camp, earning credits while reflecting on their personal leadership journeys.

With renewed confidence, strengthened bonds, and a clear sense of purpose, the student leaders are ready to guide their peers through a year of growth, connection and school spirit.

The student leaders would like to thank the Coromandel Golf Club for their support and financial contributions to making the camp happen, and also thank the Hillary Centre for supporting the students with a scholarship to ensure the camp was accessible and possible for them to enjoy, attend and benefit from.

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Calling all CAS locals from the 1980s!

A group of enthusiastic former students and teachers have decided it's time for a long-overdue catch-up – and we'd love you to be part of it. The more of us who gather, the better the weekend will be. We will meet on **Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March**.

Friday evening: Registration, drinks, and finger food at the Peppertree.

Saturday: The school will be open for tours, photos, and activities.

Saturday night: Dress to impress for a dinner and music-filled evening.

It's the perfect chance to reconnect, reminisce, and relive a slice of your youth with old friends.

To register, email cas1980sschoolreunion@gmail.com

mahi toi ARTS

Coromandel Community Preschool

By Shivawn Elliott

Spaces available

Kia ora kotou.

We currently have several spaces available on our over two's side, Monday to Thursday 8am-4pm and Friday 8am-3.30pm, so we are welcoming new enrolments. We offer 20 Ministry funded hours for our 3+ year olds, we have Winz subsidies available and we can also assist you in applying for Family Boost (Claim back 40% of your childcare fees).

Please feel free to pop into the centre for a visit, pick up an enrolment pack and see if Coromandel Community Preschool is the right fit for you and your whānau.

February was a great month here for us at Preschool. We welcomed the remainder of our tamariki back, who were enjoying an extended holiday with their school aged siblings and we are looking forward to getting back into the full swing of things!

In February we celebrated birthdays for Rylee and Tangaroa. We farewelled KJ, Haere, Nature & Avianna. We also welcomed Sayla to the centre. Nau mai haere mai Sayla. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your whānau and sharing your learning journey with you.

We will be looking at running another Samosa Fundraiser soon to raise funds for upgrading resources for our over two's, so watch this space!

Check out our latest education review at <http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/coromandel-community-preschool>

The centre operates Monday to Thursday, 8am-4pm and Friday 8am-3.30pm. We are situated at 155 Pottery Lane (behind the Four Square). Please feel free to call in at any time for a visit



Coromandel Youth Group

Coromandel Youth Group is for children aged 5-15yrs, at Hauraki House.

We provide a supervised, fun environment where kids can hang out with friends and participate in a wide variety of free choice activities. Parents just fill out a membership form. Request of a gold coin koha is gratefully received.

After School Times

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3-5pm

Friday Night, 10yrs+, **13 March**, 5.30-7.30pm.

Closed public holidays.

For more information, during open hours, call in, phone 027 217 9206 or contact us at coromandelyouthgroup@gmail.co.nz.

Alongside kind donations received, we are grateful for grants from: Lottery Waikato, Trust Waikato, COGS, D.V.Bryant Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, NZ Community Trust, Star & Garter Hotel's Give a Little Pizza Sundays



PHOTO BY JESS LOVIE

DC Pottery staff with work in the Clay + Ash exhibition, pictured in front of the Phoenix Kiln. Left to right: Matilda Halley, Carolin Hahn, Beth Harris, Callum Trudgeon; front: Alex Moore. Also exhibiting: Sam Ireland

Driving Creek Pottery Doings No. 13

By Matilda Halley

Exhibition Season

Following the success of our first Off the Rails exhibition of DCR staff work in 2025, we've decided to make it an annual event, running for four weeks in the Driving Creek Gallery each Easter.

This year's show opens on **Thursday, 2 April** at 6pm. Join us for drinks and nibbles to celebrate. The exhibition runs until **Sunday 3 May** and is open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 3pm.

Earlier this year, Driving Creek Pottery staff were invited to exhibit in Clay + Ash at ArtsPost in Kirikiriroa. Organised by the woodfiring enthusiasts behind the Woodstoke festival, the exhibition profiles Aotearoa-based potters working with woodfired kilns, showcasing a range of kiln types, firing methods and woodfired pottery. Callum Trudgeon, Carolin Hahn, Alex Moore, Beth Harris and I each submitted pieces fired in the Phoenix woodkiln here at DCR.

Callum and I are also honoured to have been invited to exhibit in this year's Coromandel Easter Exhibition. We've been busy developing new bodies of work for the show, which opens **Saturday 28 March** at Hauraki House.

January was lively in the artists' village, with local and returning residents alongside first-timers, including Bronwyn Blair (Papa Aroha), Tom Henry (USA/Aotearoa), Giulia Scott (Tāmaki), Peter Quin (Te Whanganui-a-Tara), Glenn Benmayor (Kapanga), Grace Uivel (Ōhinehou), Phoebe Ryder (Ōtepoti) and Henry Turner (Germany/Aotearoa). Read more at drivingcreek.nz/journal.

Easter weekend also marks the return of our biannual Pottery Seconds Sale. Each Easter and Labour Weekend we set up a stall outside the ticket office at DCR, with all handcrafted seconds half price. Most have only minor imperfections or glaze variations - a perfect opportunity to stock your kitchen shelves or gift cupboard.

Make a weekend of it and join us at Driving Creek this Easter - celebrate the opening of Off the Rails and pick up a pottery treasure (or two) at the Seconds Sale (see advert pg 11).



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Scan for more info or visit drivingcreek.nz/workshops

mahi toi ARTS continued

Coromandel Art Group

By Lindsay Nicholls

Exhibition all done and dusted for another year.

Sorry to those who had to put up with the noise, vibration, mud and dust and inconvenience to just get through to the gallery – it was out of our control and we thank you for coming anyway.

We had a lot of comments on our display and work which makes us feel we are doing something right.

Congratulations to our winners of the raffle Fiona from Red Beach, Peter from Whangaparoa, and Kim from Levin. Thanks to Rob from Coromandel Fish and Kayak for supporting our raffle.

We had so many overseas tourists, it was great to see the interest in our artwork.

We also have several new potential members joining which is great. Welcome aboard for your art journey.

This will increase our group capacity to full at this stage.



Coromandel Open Studios Arts Tour

By Pete Sephton



The Coromandel

Arts Tour began in 2006 so in October we are celebrating 20 years of welcoming visitors to experience the artistic side of our town. Many things have changed since 2006 but the quality of the artwork has remained consistently excellent. For the first eight or so years visitors paid a small fee for the guide and that was the case for nearly all the art trails at the time. Nowadays the tour is completely free for our visitors. We haven't located a guide for 2006 yet but we do have one for 2008 which shows that there were thirty four artists taking part, six of whom were still in the tour last year although not all have had a continuous presence. In 2008 there were eight painters, ten ceramic artists, four textile artists, as well as carvers, glass workers, printers and wood workers. The area covered stretched from Te Kouma to Waikawau Bay and Tuatēawa.

We are now calling for any new artists who would like to take part this year to please call and register your interest in what we hope to be a stellar year for the tour. Registrations will close on **31 March** so let us know as soon as possible at sephptonpete@gmail.com or paul@reapcreative.co.nz

Pastel Artists Coromandel

By Rosemarie Murphy

Our group has enjoyed their Christmas holidays and are now keen to get back to work at their easels.

We are meeting every Wednesday 9am-12noon at Rose's Studio 860 Tiki Road, Coromandel Town.

On **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March** we will be hosting a pastel

workshop with Maxine Thompson MPANZ as tutor. Maxine is an incredible pastel artist based in New Zealand. She is such a good teacher and we always enjoy our workshops with her. Both beginners and more experienced artists benefit from her knowledge. Contact Rosemarie Murphy rmurph@actrix.co.nz if you are interested.

Rose Deane earned a Merit for her painting "My Morning Guest" in this month's PANZ newsletter competition. Congratulations and well done Rose. The theme was "Camouflage in Nature" and the judge was Master Pastel Artist from New Zealand, now residing in Australia, Nicola Reif.

The judges comments were: "I like the colour pallet and the contrast of the big bird with the flimsy branches – the artist understood the brief. A bit more contrast would help to create some more depth and adding some pops of purple would have helped tie it together further".

Come along and join us on Wednesdays for a cuppa and maybe have a go with some pastels. Rose's Gallery is also open at that time with art for sale at reasonable prices.

Contact Allan Beaver 07 866 8053 or Saskia Riemersma 027 296 1670



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te taiao ENVIRONMENTAL

Forest & Bird

Forest & Bird is pleased to announce our 2026 AGM, and guest speaker, Annemieke Kregting from Kuaotunu Bird Rescue and now Department of Conservation

When: **Sunday 12 April**

Time: 11am AGM, 12pm

Shared Lunch, 1pm Guest Speaker – Annemieke Kregting

Where: St John Rooms, corner Tiki and Whangapoua Road
All welcome!

Come from 11am and catch up on Forest & Bird's past year and schemes and dreams, stay for a shared lunch or come at 1pm to hear about Annemieke's Kuaotunu Bird Rescue experiences and gain knowledge about basic first aid for injured birds.

Kuaotunu Bird Rescue was established in 2005. With extensive experience as a veterinary nurse and training from Holland, Annemieke was well-equipped to help our local birdlife. People soon began delivering many injured, orphaned, or sick birds to her.

Over the years, Kuaotunu Bird Rescue managed an increasing workload, caring for approximately 450 to 500 birds annually. Birds arrived from the northernmost reaches of the Coromandel Peninsula to Whangamata, and included bush, wading, sea, and shore birds, as well as rare species like bittern, kiwi, and albatross. To accommodate this growing demand, the rescue centre upgraded its facilities to include a critical care treatment room, three aviaries, and a native bird isolation unit.

Sadly, due to exhaustion and a lack of privacy, Kuaotunu Bird Rescue was forced to close in 2023 after the enormous task of dealing with the mass of seabird strandings during Cyclone Gabrielle. Annemieke continues to care for endangered species as a wildlife ranger at the Department of Conservation. I'm sure she will share some amazing stories about her bird rescue efforts with us at our AGM.

More poison

By John Veysey

There is an ongoing mystery as to why we, the public, have allowed the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Regional Council to cover the entire peninsula time and again with the all-pervading and merciless poisons 1080 and Brodifacoum.

The damage from these poisons was well-known before any of this poisoning began.

Since the Wildlife Service was dismantled and the wild life poisoning began in 1991 on our Peninsula the wild life has been steadily depleted and the number of "pests" has steadily increased.

So why did the poisoning proceed?

The damage which these poisons do is well documented by DOC's scientists.

The reasons for the steady escalation of our government's poisoning are more obscure, if not somewhat sinister.

The "sales propaganda" has been hugely successful in imparting the belief that these poisons will save our environment and that more poison will save it even better.

This belief has become part of the NZ psyche, a psyche which now allows unlimited poisoning, a psyche unknown elsewhere in the Western World.

As the levels of poison continue to rise in the NZ environment the rest of the Western World looks on to see how much poison can be absorbed by both the environment and by the people who live in it. We live in an experiment and the NZ people have already astonished overseas observers by their easy compliance to government maldirection.



Annemieke Kregting examining a large bittern at DOC

Driving Creek Conservation Park

Herpetology field day at Driving Creek
Driving Creek Conservation Park recently hosted a successful field day for members of the Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand (SRARNZ). The event welcomed 55 attendees, bringing together professional herpetologists from around the country.

At Driving Creek, visitors joined a conservation tour, a zipline or railway tour, and also a shared evening meal. After dark, smaller groups headed out on night surveys to look for nocturnal wildlife with a focus on frogs and lizards. The Coromandel is nationally significant for its herpetofauna, with several species found nowhere else in the world. The night surveys had some great findings, including a Northern striped and Pacific gecko, along with both adult and juvenile Hochstetter's frogs.

The evening was a great opportunity to wrap up a three-day conference in Whitianga and get out in the field. We are extremely grateful to have had these herpetologists visit and share their knowledge.

Check out some of the pictures on the Driving Creek Conservation Park iNaturalist project.

A huge thank-you to Bri, Beran, Charlie, Luke, Aurelia, Katie, Josh, Harriet, Chris for volunteering their own time to help make this event a success. Koha collected from the event will contribute towards intensified predator control efforts in areas of significance for herpetofauna at Driving Creek.



Visitors on the Possum train



The Northern striped gecko that was found

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te taiao ENVIRONMENTAL cont.

MEG

By Steph Parkyn

MEG Pest Attack updates

Did you know that MEG have been protecting a 450ha area of regenerating bush with multiple predator control for over two decades? We started focusing on intensive rat trapping because of their impact on forest and wildlife regeneration, kiwi food supplies and nesting small birds, working with landowners near Tangiaro/Port Charles to create an unfenced forest sanctuary. In the last three years we have intensified our possum control with a network of AT220 traps from NZ Autotraps and this January we clocked our 2000th possum taken out of this area!

It's sometimes hard to track the benefit of all this pest trapping when our creatures come out at night. Recently we leapt at the chance to hold a bio-blitz. We spent two nights with knowledgeable herpetologists – researchers working with reptiles and amphibians – helping us search for geckos and frogs in our MEGa Pest Attack. The highlights were finding moko kākārīki/elegant gecko and



raukawa gecko, but we saw so much more on our nocturnal meanderings. Lots of big wētā, super spider webs, rare ferns, ruru and even a kiwi. A beautiful way to experience the ngahere by slowly strolling and observing with a headlamp and torch. Plenty of pepeketua/Hochstetter frogs were found by the streams and we'll be back in better conditions to search for more kuri peke/Archey's frog too! Huge thanks to Driving Creek Conservation team for organising the explorations with the visiting scientists.

Because our trapping keeps possums and rats to low numbers in the MEGa Pest Attack, we're excited to be able to reintroduce a very special and unusual native plant to our area. Pua o te Reinga (flower of the underworld) or *Dactylanthus taylorii* is a rare native flowering plant that grows on tree roots (like a mushroom). It produces lots of nectar that our native insects and birds and bats feed



Katharina Hecht planting *Dactylanthus* by Peri Mawson



Moko kakariki by Holly Madden

upon. Once widespread, it is now only known in a few places in the country and only two spots on the Coromandel! With the blessing of Craig Solomon, Ngāti Maru, and thanks to Avi Holzapfel from DOC we were able to source seed for reintroduction into our MEGa Pest Attack zone. In December we held a planting day, setting up seed plots that we will monitor over time. Here the plant will be safer from introduced predators, though we will need to wait several years for it to flower!

To hear more, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or become a member email info@meg.org.nz

CLAIM

By Annette Steele

Denniston Plateau

Climate change is here – we have already had more severe weather related states of emergency declared here by mid February 2026 than in the whole of 2025, and indeed in 21 of the past 24 years. To have a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, there can't be any investment in new fossil fuel supply projects. So what could be more stupid than opening a new coal mine? Opening an open cast coal mine, in one of the most unique and ecologically valuable biodiversity hotspots in New Zealand – Denniston Plateau – and fast tracking it in order to evade proper scrutiny, scientific input and excluding the public and other organisations from having a say.

This public conservation land on the west coast is a completely unique, high altitude sandstone pavement plateau, with thin soils and a harsh, cold, wet and windy climate. This brutal climate has kept introduced predator numbers low, enabling the native plants and animals that evolved there to thrive, in a similar way to a pest-free offshore island. But here plants are dwarfed, with tiny bonsai like native trees that only grow to ankle height despite being centuries old. Kiwi, lizards, a unique striped gecko and unique worms thrive in these dwarfed forests alongside endangered powelliphanta giant carnivorous snails. Field surveys repeatedly find previously undiscovered species here – who knows how many more there are to find.



View from Denniston

The coal in Denniston is bituminous coking coal, all of which will be exported for use in steelmaking, which will contribute 50 million tonnes of CO2 to the atmosphere. The company applying for the 25 year licence, Bathurst Resources, is an Australian company with a track record of non-compliance and unauthorised activities in its now closed Canterbury mine. Profits will go offshore. The long term environmental clean up costs, however, fall to the government and therefore the NZ tax payer – it is currently costing us \$3million per year to deal with the pollution and contaminated run off from the neighbouring Stockton mine. This is a “lose lose lose” situation – the planet loses in terms of pollution and climate change, and NZ loses a rare and precious ecosystem as well as millions of dollars of public money in clean up costs.

This is devastatingly wrong on so many levels – please help by signing the online Forest and Bird petition to save Denniston. Type “petition make Denniston scientific reserve” into your web browser, and sign the online form to help save this internationally significant ecosystem from destruction.

And we're pleased to announce that Forest & Bird has appealed Oceana Golds extension to the Waihi mine at Wharekīrauponga which was recently heard and approved under the fast track legislation. We have grave concerns that this underground mine is planning to scoop out the inside of the special area near Whangamata, to get to the gold close to the surface. The dewatering could cause a catastrophic ecosystem collapse.

Free “Coromandel No Mining” bumper stickers available at The Goldmine re-use centre.



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Coromandel Golf Club

By Darryl



Hi everyone and welcome to the March edition.

The golf season is well underway now with a few tournaments in the bag. Of note was the traditional Opening Day tournament (the Bob Riley Trophy) played on 31 January under perfect blue skies and very hot conditions. A great turnout of keen golfers watched esteemed elderly club member Kevin O'Keeffe make the traditional first tee shot of the year (right down the middle, 250 meters), and then we were off and running, officially into the new season. This tournament was played under the 'par' format, one of many different formats that the game can be played under to make it interesting.

The eventual winners, Lynne Fenwick and Ron Brooking, both came in with a score of +5 which means they played five shots better than their handicaps. An outstanding effort from them both especially when you see that the next nearest competitor was five shots behind! Congratulations to you both!

Next big one on 7 February was the annual Surf and Turf tourney. Prizes for best Gross (score that you actually shot), best nett (score that you shot minus your handicap) and best stableford points (worked out per hole and added up at the end) meant that lots



Junior golfers learning the trade!!

of people were in the money! Thanks very much to generous sponsors the Edgar Family (supplied beef and lamb) and the McLean Family. Of course a multitude of volunteers and club officials behind the scenes made the cogs turn smoothly – all your efforts don't go unnoticed.

Results: Mens, best gross, Ross Mudgeway 80, best nett, Bruce Fitzpatrick 66, best stableford, Shaun Hovell 38.

Ladies, best gross, Peg McLean 90, best nett, Janine Kerr 68, best stableford, Sue Arnold 27.

Holes in two were scored by Jeremy Scott, Tony Edgar and Guy Richards. Longest drive senior men – Peter Richardson, longest drive junior men – Geoff Jenkin.

Longest drive ladies – Sue Arnold. Closest to the pin men – Les O'Leary, and closest to the pin ladies – Sue Arnold.

Congratulations to

all winners. Apparently some who didn't play so well did very well in the raffles.

Both the ladies and men have dates coming up for Bay of Plenty, Hauraki and Waikato golf events so good luck to them.

Junior golf lessons have started again as of 8 February. Every Sunday morning from 9am to 10am. It's a great, fun way to introduce your kids to the game. Pretty relaxed time with a few laughs thrown in and even the older kids (20 years+) are welcome to come along and make themselves known, the more the merrier!

Let's hope our run of good weather continues although a bit of overnight rain is always good for our greens.

Until next month, go low...

Contact Darryl 021 240 7778



Coromandel Croquet Club

By Raewyn McKinney

Last month I wrote about the Coromandel Croquet Club's "White Christmas Tournament" which started me wondering about tradition as it was once standard practice for all croquet players to wear white. Apparently, in the 19th century, upper-class lawn tennis and cricket players wore white clothing to minimize visible sweat stains, which were considered improper, and the white reflected sunlight helping to keep players cooler. White clothing also was a signal that the wearer was wealthy enough to avoid dirty work. As croquet was closely associated with lawn tennis, it adopted the same dress code. Now croquet is played all year round, and the dress code has relaxed, though most tournaments require predominantly white clothing. Tennis has also moved away from white clothing, apart from Wimbledon, and cricket players now wear white for test matches only.

If you would like to try croquet, our summer hours are 9.15am on Tuesdays and Fridays.

We provide all the equipment and a period of coaching before you need to commit to joining the club. Casual players are welcome for \$5 per day.

Contact Lyn on 027 466 2661 for more information. The club is situated in Woollams Ave next to the Bowling Club

Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club

We hope everyone has been out enjoying the small pockets of fine weather this summer has given us.

Winners for the January fish of the month was Tim Harper with a 6.50kg snapper, well done Tim.

Shout out to Layke McNeil for consistently weighing in his fish.

Just a reminder to all club members that fish can be weighed in at Fish Dive and Hunt or Salty Towers.

This Month's fish is kingi for adults and sprats for juniors.

We are excited to bring Classy Chicks 2026 to the Rugby club this year on **Friday 20 and Saturday 21 March**.

There is still time to get your entries in, contact us for more info. This year we have a particular focus on sustainability, so we are challenging you with prizes for average and mystery weights.

Let's keep those breeders in the ocean and feel free to share those pics. More spot prizes, let's make this the best and biggest year yet.

Dress up letter is "A". Good luck to all entrants, and please note the change in venue.

As always, tight lines.

Remember to follow us on Facebook for all updates – Coromandel Recreational Fishing Club or Coromandelfishingclub@gmail.com

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BALLET CLASS Silver Swans for Adults. Venue: Coromandel Citizens' Hall, Wednesdays, 10am to 11.15am. \$15. Phone Marilyn Swan 027 336 5263. Royal Academy of Dance - Life Registered Teacher. Silver Swans licensee. Visitors are welcome.

BRICK AND BLOCK LAYER. Laurie Gordge (07) 866 8200, 027 494 9573, buddy10@xtra.co.nz.

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CONTACT C.A.R.E COROMANDEL. Local clinic held every Friday at Coromandel Independent Living Trust between 9am – 3pm. ConTact C.A.R.E can help with Headaches/migraines/concussion, Back and neck pain, Sports injuries, Old unresolved injuries, Chronic and acute pain, Range of movement. To find out more or to book an appointment please contact Elly Smith on 027 311 7505.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GARDENER POSITION AT MANA RETREAT We are looking for a like minded person to join our team to help care for our gardens. The role includes planting, weeding, harvesting, soil care and general maintenance of our vegetable and flower gardens. We are seeking someone who enjoys working with the land, understands seasonal growing and is comfortable working with volunteers. One day a week, contractor role. If this sounds like you, please get in touch at amrit@manaretreat.com.

WANTED

VEHICLES WANTED Dead or Alive. Cars, vans, utes, Trucks. Call 0800 333 398 or text 021 344 449.

WORK WANTED

TREE SERVICE. Dismantling or pruning. Free quotes. Call Jeremy Haszard 027 421 0603.

OTHER

AGE CONCERN Falls Prevention Strength and Balance exercise class for seniors. Coromandel Gym, Pottery Lane Tuesday and Thursday, 10am, \$2. Vickie (07) 866 7894.

PINK DRINKS two hour bi-monthly lesbian and gay social gatherings. For further information phone Jules 027 392 3221

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TE PUĀWAI – CILT's little native nursery – is looking for volunteers to join our team! If you would like to join our small team, please pop down and see us at Te Pūtahi Whaiora or give us a call on 07 866 8358.

Tell us about what volunteers you are after. Advertising in the volunteers section is free of charge – please email your words to corochronicle@gmail.com or call/text Debbie on 021 235 6648.

Coromandel Town weekly and monthly meetings

Every Monday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am
 Coromandel Hikers' Group, Hauraki House, Murray Brown (07) 866 86029am
 Monday Walkers, Woollams Ave car park north end,
 Tracy and Peter Kendall 027 333 47229am
 Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am
 Rummikub at The Club..... 1-4pm
 Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 3-4.30pm
 Coro Superstars, a performing arts group for 6-13-yr-olds, Anglican Hall, contact
 Claire 021 653 650 5pm
 Bridge, St John rooms..... 7pm

Every Tuesday

Coro Walking Group, meet outside The Bizarre, Ruth 027 338 35458.30am
 Croquet Club – Association Croquet, Woollams Ave,
 Lyn 027 466 2661 (winter hours) 9.45-12.15am
 Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$3
 Vickie 027 417 707710am
 Yoga for everyone, Colville Hall, Kate 021 125 315210am
 Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 10.30am-1pm
 Na Ihowa Ahau after-school kids club (term time only),
 Anglican Hall, Anita 027 259 1085 3.15-4.45pm
 Tai Chi, Waikato Events Centre (above the swimming pool),
 Christina 021 113 4768 5-6.15pm

Every Wednesday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am
 Pastel Artists Coromandel, Rose's Studio,
 contact Allan (07) 866 8053 9am-12pm
 Gold Fit at Coro Gym.....9.30am
 Ballet Class For Adults, Coromandel Citizens' Hall, \$15 per class.
 Marilyn 027 336 5263 10-11am
 Coromandel Home-school group, Julene 020 4060 8102 12.30pm
 Kung Fu, Coromandel Hospital5-7pm

Every Thursday

Coro Art Group, Coro Flying Club, Lindsay (07) 866 7799..... 9am-12pm
 Age Concern seniors' exercise class, Coromandel Gym. \$3
 Vickie 027 417 707710am
 Free Guided Meditation, Havalona Pyramid 10-11am
 Movement for Equanimity (MFE), a well-being fascia movement class, contact
 Judy 021 0200 7550 3-4pm
 Line dancing, Anglican Church Hall, Jeni Mudgway 021 022 75341 3-4.30pm
 Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" 4.30pm
 Yin Yoga with Toni, Event Centre, \$10-\$20, limited spaces
 please txt to book a space, Toni 020 4076 1526 5.30pm
 Coromandel Narcotics Anonymous 12 step addiction recovery meeting,
 at 100 Pound St (orange house). Contact Rosie 027 577 7716 6.30-7.30pm
 Free drop-in Dharma talk or video at Mahamudra 7-8.30pm

Every Friday

Step Aerobics at Coro Gym8am
 Community Gardens volunteer day 9am-12pm
 Yoga for everyone, Anglican Hall, Kate 021 125 31529am
 Croquet Club – Golf Croquet, Woollams Ave, Lyn
 027 466 2661 (winter hours)9.45-12.15am
 Chess Club, Weta Cafe, Mike 027 304 92529.30am
 Playcentre, Woollams Ave..... 9.45am-12.15pm
 Coromandel Bowling Club social evening at the Club 3.30-7pm
 Coromandel Flying Club social gathering, all welcome 5.30pm

Every Saturday

Coromandel Homegrown Market, Anglican Church Hall, 1170 Tiki Rd.... 9am-1pm
 RSA Coromandel, RSA Club Rooms Woollams Ave.
 President Gary Pettett 021 061 0852 3.30-7pm

Every Sunday

Anglican Church Service 10am
 Coromandel Tennis Club "club day" 2pm

Monthly

1st Mon – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms,
 Michaela Green 021 0287 1879 9.30am-3.30pm
3rd Mon – Coro Patchwork & Quilters, St John rooms,
 Michaela Green 021 0287 1879 9.30am-3.30pm
2nd Tues – Cancer Support Group, St John rooms
 John Walker 027 482 0435 10am
1st Wed – Coro Embroiderers' Guild, St John rooms,
 Sandy Morris Ph 021 815 667 10am-3pm
1st Wed – Lions dinner meeting (winter time), St John rooms.
 Sue Hughes 021 142 1124 6pm

1st & 3rd Wed – Car Club meeting at Club Rooms, Woollams Ave,
 Bruce 027 249 0878 4pm
2nd Wed – Garden Circle. Jeni Mudgway 021 0227 5341 1pm
3rd Wed – Lions business meeting (winter time), St John rooms.
 Sue Hughes 021 142 1124 6pm
Last Wed – Coromandel-Colville Business Association networking meeting,
 Combined Clubs, Woollams Avenue, everyone welcome (Feb-Nov) 5pm
Last Thurs – Green Drinks at Star & Garter 5pm
3rd Fri – Dances of Universal Peace, The Pyramid,
 Sue 022 159 1571 10.30am
Last Friday – Quiz night at the Club,
 from Friday 26 September until next April 7-9pm
1st & 3rd Sun – Church Service at St Andrew's Church,
 Rings Road 10am

If your meeting has been omitted, please email Debbie at corochronicle@gmail.com with the subject "meeting" or txt/ph 021 235 6648. Please include contact name and phone number.

Advertisers' directory

Company	Page
Ann Kerr-Bell – Natural Medical Centre	20
Boat for sale	10
Cape Civil	26
Coro Gym	12
Coromandel Concrete and Landscape Services	2
Coromandel Marine Farmers' Association	7
Coromandel Plumbing (1986) Ltd	12
Coromandel Taxi	18
Deidre's Laundromat	5
Driving Creek Railway & Potteries	11,23
Dynamic Electrical Ltd	20
Dynamic Tree Care	3
Fairview Thames	20
Fish, Dive, Hunt	16
Four Square Coromandel	15
Frogs Lily Pad Construction	14
Gaia Decorators	2
GD Haulage	16
Guthrie Bowron	22
Harcourts	17
Harmony Roof Painters	4
Hauraki Taxation Service Ltd	25
HD Diggers	24
Himalaya Shop	14
ITM	8
James and Turner	16
James Drainage '97 Ltd	3
Johnston Fencing	23
Llandem Consulting Engineers Ltd	8
Mana	21
Matt Hobbs Plumbing & Drainlaying Ltd	19
Michael Wood Builders Ltd	12
Parr Builders	7
Peninsula Electrical Services Ltd	12
Peninsula Pest Services	27
Purnell Lawyers	21
Revell Architectural Design	10
Richardsons Real Estate	9
Scott Simpson MP	14
Star & Garter	15
TCDC	13,32
Trinity Network	31
Twentymans	6
Waitaia Nursery	8
Whitianga Flooring Xtra	19
Wooden Joinery	24

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
						1 High tide 5:55am (2.7m), 6:22pm (2.6m) Low tide 12:07pm (0.5m)	
2 High tide 6:53am (2.8m), 7:21pm (2.7m) Low tide 1:28am (0.2m), 1:04pm (0.4m)	3 Open Floor Conscious Dance with Lisa at Mana Retreat (see pg 21)	4  Prima Facie at Hauraki House Theatre (see pg 10)	5 High tide 9:19am (2.9m), 9:46pm (2.9m) Low tide 3:01am (0.2m), 3:30pm (0.2m)	6 High tide 10:02am (2.9m), 10:29pm (2.9m) Low tide 3:43am (0.2m), 4:12pm (0.2m)	7 Car boot sale, Woollams Ave carpark 9am-12pm Seafood Tournament at Coromandel Bowling Club (see pg 19)	8 High tide 11:23am (2.7m), 11:47pm (2.7m) Low tide 5:04am (0.4m), 5:30pm (0.5m) International Women's Day	
9 High tide 5:50am (2.4m), 6:04pm (2.4m) Low tide 4:45am (0.5m), 6:09pm (0.4m)	10 Herbal Medicine Retreat starts at Mana (see pg 21)	11  Discovering Buddhism - Module 5: Death & Rebirth starts at Mahamudra Centre (see pg 4)	12 High tide 1:58am (2.4m), 2:10pm (2.3m) Low tide 8:08am (0.8m), 8:24pm (0.7m) Patrons Cup at Coromandel Bowling Club (see pg 19)	13 High tide 2:56am (2.3m), 3:03pm (2.2m) Low tide 9:06am (0.9m), 9:24pm (0.8m) White Tara Retreat: Healing, Longevity & Inner Renewal at Mahamudra Centre (see pg 4)	14 High tide 3:58am (2.3m), 4:03pm (2.2m) Low tide 10:05am (0.9m), 10:28pm (0.8m) Pastel workshop with Maxine Thompson (see pg 24)	15 High tide 4:57am (2.3m), 5:05pm (2.3m) Low tide 11:01am (0.8m), 11:27pm (0.7m) Pastel workshop with Maxine Thompson (see pg 24)	
16 High tide 6:38am (2.6m), 6:57pm (2.5m) Low tide 12:19am (0.6m), 12:43pm (0.6m)	17 Deadline: Coromandel Town Chronicle April Issue Open Floor Conscious Dance with Pippa at Mana Retreat (see pg 21)	18  High tide 7:23am (2.7m), 7:45pm (2.7m) Low tide 1:06am (0.5m), 1:29pm (0.4m)	19 High tide 8:07am (2.8m), 8:31pm (2.8m) Low tide 1:50am (0.3m), 2:15pm (0.3m) Staying Safe Driver Refresher Course in Mataramangi (see pg 4)	20 High tide 8:52am (2.9m), 9:15pm (2.9m) Low tide 2:34am (0.2m), 3pm (0.1m) Classy Chicks Fishing Competition (see pg 27) Point of Balance, an invigorating four-day open floor dance retreat starts at Mana (see pg 21)	21 High tide 9:37am (3.0m), 10pm (3.0m) Low tide 3:18am (0.1m), 3:45pm (0m) Classy Chicks Fishing Competition (see pg 27) Jug making course starts at Driving Creek Railway & Potteries (see ad pg 23)	22 High tide 10:23am (3.0m), 10:46pm (3.0m) Low tide 4:03am (0.1m), 4:31pm (0m) Open Floor Conscious Dance - Just Dance with Lisa at Coro Citizens' Hall, 10.45-12.15, txt 021 7754741	
23 High tide 11:11am (3.0m), 11:34pm (3.0m) Low tide 4:50am (0.2m), 5:18pm (0m)	24 High tide 12:19pm (2.9m) Low tide 5:48am (0.3m), 6:07pm (0.1m)	25  High tide 12:26am (2.9m), 12:54pm (2.8m) Low tide 6:55am (0.4m), 6:59pm (0.2m)	26 High tide 1:22am (2.8m), 1:51pm (2.7m) Low tide 7:35am (0.5m), 7:57pm (0.4m) Summer Cup Challenges against Mercury Bay at Coromandel Bowling Club (see pg 19)	27 High tide 2:24am (2.7m), 2:52pm (2.6m) Low tide 8:41am (0.6m), 9:02pm (0.5m) Hand building course starts at Driving Creek Railway & Potteries (see ad pg 23) Quiz night at The Club Coromandel Area School former students and teachers 1980s reunion (see pg 22)	28 High tide 3:31am (2.6m), 3:58pm (2.5m) Low tide 9:47am (0.6m), 10:11pm (0.5m) Coromandel Easter Exhibition starts (see pg 25) Coromandel Area School former students and teachers 1980s reunion (see pg 22)	29 High tide 4:36am (2.6m), 5:05pm (2.5m) Low tide 10:52am (0.6m), 11:17pm (0.5m) Love and Attachment: Finding Fulfillment in the Heart at Mahamudra Centre (see pg 4)	
30 High tide 5:38am (2.7m), 6:07pm (2.6m) Low tide 11:51am (0.5m)	31 Open Floor Conscious Dance at Mana Retreat (see pg 21) Registration closes for Arts Tour 2026 (see pg 24) "Are You Trying to Kill Us?" - a special ARC film night fundraiser (see pg 5)	COROMANDEL RUBBISH AND RECYCLING TRANSFER STATION Daily 8:30am-5:30pm (summer hours)					30 High tide 6:31am (2.7m), 7:03pm (2.7m) Low tide 12:15am (0.4m), 12:45pm (0.4m)

KEY
● New moon ○ Full moon

Tide times and heights from Land Information NZ and are for Coromandel Harbour.

For Thames tides -15min High and -15min Low.

Rubbish and recycling collection for Coromandel Town (CT), Te Kōhanga (TK), Mania (MN), Coromandel Rural North (RN), and Thames Coast (TC)

Put red lid rubbish bin and food scrap bin out
Put recycling bin (plastic 1, 2 & 5 tins, paper, card, glass recycling bin and food scrap bin out)

Make sure your event gets listed
To get your event listed, email the details to Debbie at corochronicle@gmail.com with the subject "event". Published subject to space availability, with preference to not-for-profit groups.
Regular meetings aren't included here - please see weekly and monthly meetings on page 29.

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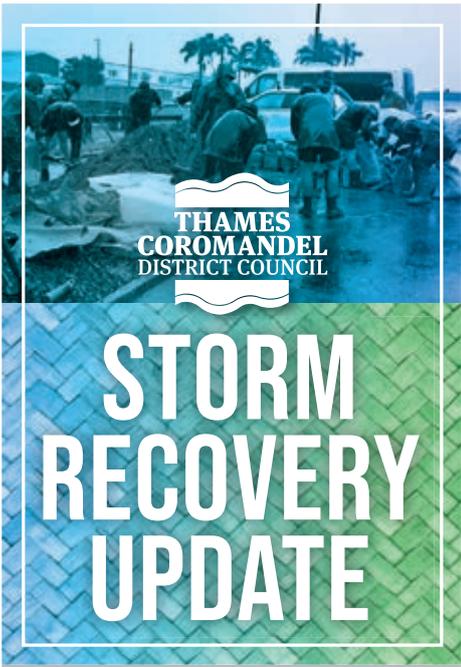
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Building back from the January storm

A couple of weeks after the severe rainstorm hit our district, Mayor Peter Revell declared the Coromandel open and back in business in time for the Waitangi Day long weekend.



The weekend was a great success, pulling in thousands of visitors to supply our hospitality businesses with a much-needed shot in the arm.

Our Council's roading and water services teams, as well as NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and the Department of Conservation, have moved mountains – of slip debris – to reopen roads, get water flowing and reopen tracks and campgrounds.

But the damage to roads, parks, water infrastructure and dozens of properties will take some time to be fully put right. Our recovery programme is mobilising considerable Council resources, our contractors, partner agencies like Waikato Regional Council, NZTA Waka Kotahi, the

Department of Conservation, other government agencies and the Coromandel community.

After the storm, our district was faced with eight weeks of initial clean-up on our roading network including clearing slip debris and contractors carrying out simple repairs on scores of sites. About 40 sites need longer-term work requiring a designed approach, such as earthworks and retaining walls.

Our recovery work encompasses not just the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure but also the physical and emotional wellbeing of our people. We will be liaising with government ministers and officials as much as possible to advocate for central government funding for a long-term roading resilience programme for the district.

For more information on our storm recovery work, go to tcdc.govt.nz/stormrecovery

BUILDING ASSESSMENTS AND PLACARDS

After any weather event or emergency that affects property, our Council's carries out rapid building assessments in the areas affected.



Properties may receive a white, yellow, or red placard indicating whether they are safe to occupy or if access is restricted. Only authorised officials can place, change, or remove placards. Residents should arrange more detailed assessments if needed and can find information at tcdc.govt.nz/placards or by calling 07 868 0200.

LAND INSTABILITY

Our weather can be unpredictable. Heavy rain can cause landslips or flooding. Council has assessed land stability at around 40 locations, with more assessments ongoing. Residents are encouraged to report concerns via the Request for Service (RFS) system. GIS specialists and geotechnical engineers are reviewing all reports to support community safety. For weather and road updates, check MetService, NZTA Journey Planner, and tcdc.govt.nz



Support is here

Financial and welfare assistance: Ministry of Social Development (0800 559 009)



Rural Support Trust: Confidential support for farmers and rural whānau (0800 787 254)

Here to Help U: Food parcels, social services, and financial hardship support (heretohelpu.nz)

1737: Need to Talk? Free counselling by phone or text, 24/7

Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS): For those unable to return home (tas.mbie.govt.nz)

Community and iwi providers: Local marae, Salvation Army, Red Cross, churches, and community hubs

MAYORAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Our Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund is available to anyone in the district financially affected by the January storm.

The fund provides one-off financial support in cases of genuine hardship, including help with clean-up costs, basic needs, uninsured or underinsured losses, and support for small businesses. It is intended as a last-resort option when other assistance has been exhausted.

We are calling for donations to help build the fund so meaningful support can be provided once applications are assessed.

Thanks to all who have donated, especially these significant donors:

- Central government (National Emergency Management Agency) – \$100,000
- IAG (owner of State, AMI and other insurance brands) – \$100,000
- Suncorp (owner of Vero Insurance) – \$50,000

Applications close Friday 6 March 2026.

Find out how to donate or apply: tcdc.govt.nz/MDRF