

# Pāpāmoa Post

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FREE



## Summertime in Pāpāmoa

Holiday info inside

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# CHRISTMAS IS SORTED!

## OPEN 7 DAYS



MONDAY 23RD DEC.....	8:30AM - 5:00PM
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE.....</b>	<b>9:00AM - 2:00PM</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY.....</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>BOXING DAY.....</b>	<b>10:00AM - 4:00PM</b>
FRIDAY 27TH DEC.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
SATURDAY 28TH DEC.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
SUNDAY 29TH DEC.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
MONDAY 30TH DEC.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
<b>NEW YEARS EVE.....</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>NEW YEARS DAY.....</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
THURSDAY 2ND JAN.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
FRIDAY 3RD JAN.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
SATURDAY 4TH JAN.....	9:00AM - 4:00PM
SUNDAY 5TH JAN.....	10:00AM - 4:00PM

## NEWS & ADVERTISING

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## WE WANT YOUR LETTERS!

We welcome letters to the editor for publication.

Email [ellen@papamoapost.co.nz](mailto:ellen@papamoapost.co.nz).

Letters should not exceed 200 words, and may be edited, abridged, or rejected at the Editor's discretion.

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# A superhero Christmas



Some of the fun at a previous Pāpāmoa Santa Parade.

It's a superhero Christmas in Pāpāmoa this year as the Pak'N Save Pāpāmoa Santa Parade returns with a heroic twist.

The 10th anniversary parade organised by Pāpāmoa Unlimited will take place on Sunday 8 December, starting at Dickson Road by Alexander Place at 10.30am, and weaving its way to Pāpāmoa Plaza via Domain Road. Santa will arrive at the Plaza at 12.30pm.

The parade will include floats by local businesses, schools, clubs, community groups, and not-for-profit organisations, with both vehicle floats and walking floats – all spreading Christmas joy with a superhero theme.

Organiser Julia Manktelow says the parade, which typically attracts more than 20,000 people, is a chance for organisations to give back to the community that has supported them during the year.

It is Tauranga City's only parade, says Julia (Te Puke had its parade in November), and a pleasure to give back to "the tamariki and locals who need a smile at this time of year".

"It's a great way to connect and enjoy the smiles that line the streets," says Julia.

There will be prizes for the best overall float and the best float in the education, not-for-profit, and commercial categories. Be safe by keeping children off the road, and do not cross the roads along the parade trail.

See the Pāpāmoa Unlimited Facebook page for updates. ■

## Merry Christmas!

From Team KellyO

Whether you are staying at home or travelling this Christmas season, TEAM KELLYO wish you all the best and trust you will have fun times and create great memories with your loved ones.

If you are thinking that 2025 may be the year to make your next move, we would love to help. To find out what your property might be worth in today's market, give us a call and let's have a chat!

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## From the editor's desk



The Christmas issue is our favourite to create here at Pāpāmoa Post. There is plenty of festive cheer in our community, and free entertainment to enjoy this summer, no matter your budget. Christmas lights, beach time, bike rides, markets, and a free New Year's Eve celebration all feature in this issue.

During the holiday break it's great to get some extra time to enjoy local activities. Such as tackling these stairs at the Pāpāmoa Hills Regional Park (pictured), and enjoying a well-earned ice cream at Black Stump Berries afterwards.

If you are doing it tough this Christmas, you can reach out to Pāpāmoa Food Hub via their website [papfoodhub.org.nz](http://papfoodhub.org.nz) (make sure you supply all information requested so they can consider your application without delay).

And if you're in a fortunate position and would like to give back to the community, consider supporting the food hub. Cash donations can be gifted via their bank account (Pāpāmoa Food Hub Charitable Trust, 01 0475 0270717 00) or donate food and other basic items at EVES Pāpāmoa Plaza. As it's a registered charity, monetary donations are eligible for a tax credit.

Thank you to everyone for your support of Pāpāmoa Post in 2024. It has been a pleasure to write about this beautiful place we call home. Meri Kirihimete, and I wish you all the best for 2025.

Pāpāmoa Post will be back in the new year with the February issue.

■ Ellen Irvine

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# Light trail: the gift of Christmas joy

He's a self-confessed reformed Grinch, but now Joel McNickle is one of the kind-hearted people who keep the spirit of Christmas alive in Pāpāmoa.

Each December, Joel and his wife Lynley's Blake Boulevard home is festooned with hundreds of Christmas lights, and has even won a Christmas Light Trail competition.

It all started seven years ago, when they moved to Blake Boulevard and saw a neighbour's home spectacularly lit up.

"The kids loved it, and we thought we could do something like that," says Joel, who collected some lights to put up the following year.

"Now this will be our sixth year of putting the lights out. We started small and kept adding each year. We literally just started with a few lights around the eaves of the house, the icicles. Then each year we buy a little bit more."

This year the new decorations include a sign saying 'Merry Christmas Pāpāmoa', a hand-crafted Grinch sign more than two metres in height, and a Nativity scene.

But Joel wasn't always a huge Christmas lover. "I've been the Grinch for a long time, but I've softened a bit with kids," says the dad of three children aged 9, 7, and 3.

The whole family now enjoys the holiday magic and spreading the Christmas joy through their elaborate displays.

"I love seeing all the people [who come to view the lit-up house], it's cool to see. The kids love it."

One Christmas Eve, he stood on his driveway behind a crowd of people who had come to enjoy his light display.

"It was cool seeing people's reactions, without them knowing that was my house."

Now in his sixth year of hanging the lights, Joel says



The McNickle family.

he has the system down-pat and can get it done in a day – usually the last weekend of November.

"It takes about a day, it's a good solid Saturday to get everything up. It's literally ready to go, I've got a plan, and I can smash it out in a day. I've got a big shed; they are slowly taking over that."

For Joel it's all about making people happy, and a way he can spread joy at Christmastime.

"It's easy, its nothing too crazy, once they are up, they are up, and they are all on timers."

Check out Joel and his neighbours' lights on Blake Boulevard. ■



This year's lights at the McNickles' Blake Boulevard home.

# Beach LAW PAPA MOA

# Merry Christmas!

Wishing you a safe and happy summer

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# Recharge your own batteries for the new year

In the hectic lead-up to Christmas it's easy to neglect our own wellness and self-care routines – fortunately Pāpāmoa has some beautiful ways to unwind and recharge. See what's on offer in your own backyard!

## Do

Rake Healing is a unique activity to calm your mind. Led by local sand artist Kenrick Smith, these workshops use bamboo sticks and rakes to draw giant geometrical patterns on the beach. The repetitive actions allow your brain to switch off and just be mindful of that moment.

Surf lessons are a great form of physical and mental exercise. Book your next lesson with Hakanini Surf School and learn a cool new skill for summer and revel in the frothing ocean waves.

Retail therapy never goes amiss. Pāpāmoa Plaza and Fashion Island are the perfect place to treat yourself to some new summer outfits that will boost your mood. Filling your bellies with hand-picked berries is another lovely treat and way to spend time outdoors. Visit Black Stump Berries, Iona Boysenberry Orchard or Bell Road Berries.



Mindful sand art by Rake Healing.

## Walk

A simple walk on the beach does wonders for your soul, and is often the reason we love living in Pāpāmoa. You'll be amazed at how much better you feel after a stroll in the sand. The Pāpāmoa Reserve walkway (Te Ara o Wairākei) is another jewel in our backyard that's just waiting to be explored. This meandering network of wetlands and ponds is a great place to walk or cycle at any time of day. If you're craving more of a challenge, head straight up Pāpāmoa Hills. Spend time at the top gazing at the view and appreciating how lucky we are to live here.

## Eat



Enjoy a treat from Black Stump Berries (top) or Pearl Kitchen.

One of life's great pleasures is eating fabulous food, and Pāpāmoa is blessed with outstanding eateries that you can indulge in over the summer holidays. Gather and Pearl Kitchen are great places to get your caffeine fix and a delicious bite to eat. Papa Mo's and Lantern provide a lively

atmosphere if you're heading out for dinner. And if you haven't tried Knead The Sands yet, visit this gourmet bakery for delectable pastries and baked goods in Pāpāmoa's newest town centre development.

## Relax



The Sauna Project.

Indulge in a little 'me time' with some relaxing activities or gentle exercise classes. Zen Float Spa is the chance to let everyday stress melt away as you float effortlessly in warm Epsom salt water. The Sauna Project at Pāpāmoa Beach Domain will leave you with a sense of peace and calm unlike anything you've experienced before. Alternate between the 85°C sauna and a cold ocean dip. Or try booking a yoga session at Mahana Yoga or a Pilates class at Reform Fitness. Moving your muscles and focusing on your breath will help you feel both soothed and strong.

## Markets

Who doesn't love a good outdoor market? Soak up the atmosphere, browse beautiful home-made products and devour some gourmet street food at Pāpāmoa Farmers Market, Dinner in the Domain or Little Big Markets. Spending time wandering around market stalls and seeing what catches your eye will distract you from the busyness of everyday life and provide a much-needed escape to improve your mental wellbeing.

For more ideas on what to see and do in the Bay of Plenty visit bayofplentynz.com. ■



📍 Pāpāmoa Hills Regional Park



# Feeling festive! Christmas diary dates

If you're wondering where to get in the Christmas spirit this December, we've got you covered.

**Visit Santa at Pāpāmoa Plaza.** Santa is landing in Pāpāmoa. The man in red is at Pāpāmoa Plaza from 10am to 4pm until Christmas Eve. You can even get a cute photo with your furry friends – pet photos are available by appointment.

**Pāpāmoa Community Christmas Market.** Sunday 15 December, 8.30-1pm. Soak up the Christmas spirit and buy some unique handmade gifts

from local artisans. Entertainment will include Santa's Grotto where kids can meet Santa, as well as enjoy children's Christmas crafts, live music, and Christmas carols. Stock up on fresh Christmas produce and enjoy festive food truck fare.

**Pāpāmoa Santa Parade.** Sunday 8 December, see story on page 2 for details.

**Tauranga Christmas in the Park.** Saturday 7 December, Soper Reserve, Mount Maunganui, 10am to 4pm. Gold coin or donation entry, all donated to local charities and families. The event

includes a main stage with live music and performances, Santa, a photo booth, street food, Christmas markets, backyard games, free fun football, face painting, and free pottery, sewing and weaving workshops.

**Whānau Fun on the Waterfront.** Saturday 14 December, 10am-12pm, Tauranga city centre waterfront. Facepainting, free sausage sizzle, colouring stations, letters to Santa, and a visit from Santa. Enjoy the new waterfront playground.

**Epic Te Puke Christmas Night Market.** Friday 6 December, 5.30-7.30pm, Te Puke Memorial Hall. An evening of fun, family-friendly entertainment, shopping, and food.

**Visit Christmas Magic Makers.** 134 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke. Open 11am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday until December 21, and 10am to 6pm on December 22 and 23. This magical store is guaranteed to get even the biggest Grinch in the Christmas spirit. Walk through the magical interactive and enchanting snow cave. ■



## Christmas lights



The community spirit of Pāpāmoa is on full display every Christmas, when many families put on an impressive display of Christmas lights for everyone to enjoy. Pack the kids in the car and do a loop of the best lights. Pictured are some from previous years. Wairākei Avenue, Sandhurst Drive and Blake Boulevard are usually hot spots.



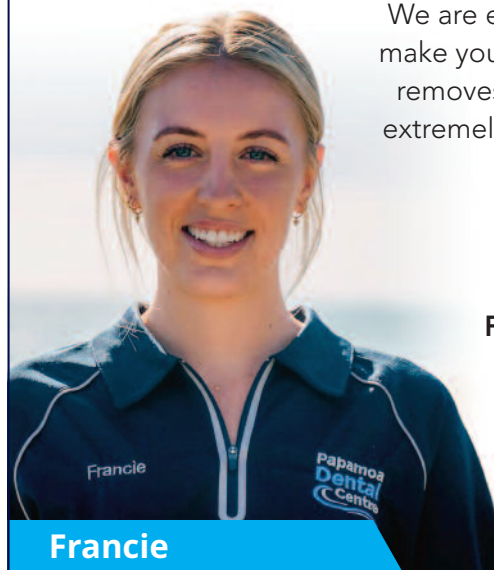
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Francie



Sarah

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# Epic beachside trails to ride this summer



Cyclists have never had it better along the coastal strip, with new pathways in both Pāpāmoa and Mount Maunganui to enjoy this summer.

E-bike enthusiast Dan Wallace, who owns Electrify Mount Maunganui and e-bike brand Vallkree, says the three-kilometre path along the Marine Parade coastal reserve is a cyclist's dream.

A project many years in the making that opened last summer, the pathway is wide enough to safely accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, users of wheelchairs and mobility devices, skaters, and scooter riders. Located between Hopukiore (Mount Drury Reserve)

and Oceanbeach Road, it's designed to enhance access to the beach while protecting the adjoining sand dunes and natural vegetation.

"A lot of local people still haven't been on it; it's phenomenal," says Dan, who encourages locals to explore their own backyard this summer. "It's absolutely stunning."

To facilitate locals and visitors to get amongst it, Dan rents out e-bikes from the Electrify premises at 301 Maunganui Road. Grab a bike from Coastal Riders or Vallkree for an hour, a day, or a whole week, and soak up the scenery and the atmosphere.

"We are offering the Vallkree rentals

specifically to enjoy the coastal path, you can chuck two people on the back and check it out. Within an hour or two you get to Tay Street, and can have a coffee and enjoy the view, and just have an awesome day out," says Dan.

"It's good to remind people that there are other ways to get around. This is an awesome way for cyclists to experience this area, and we really hope to see both locals and visitors take advantage of it over summer."

In Pāpāmoa, e-cyclists have also been enjoying the shared pathway along the Pāpāmoa Coastal Reserve, which opened last year

with an aim to make cycling and walking safer. The Te Ara ō Wairākei trail, running almost the length of Pāpāmoa, and the Pāpāmoa to Maketū shared walkway and cycleway, are also a joy for bikers.

"Pāpāmoa is great for e-bikes and cycling," says Dan. "These paths provide such an awesome opportunity to get out on your e-bike and enjoy the local environment."

"Electric bikes are getting people back on bikes in large numbers – it's awesome to see people who haven't ridden for years, now enjoying the growing number of recreational cycling opportunities that New Zealand offers." ■

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# FAQ #78: Will wearing glasses weaken my eyes?

By Blur Eyecare

We get this question a lot: "Will wearing glasses make my eyes weaker?"

The answer is no! Let's clear up the myth – glasses don't weaken your eyes, they help them.

How do glasses work? Well, refractive errors occur when your eye can't focus light correctly on the retina, causing blurry vision. The common types are:

**Myopia** (near-sightedness): Difficulty seeing distant objects

**Hyperopia** (far-sightedness): Difficulty seeing close objects

**Astigmatism**: Blurry vision at all distances due to an irregular cornea or lens

**Presbyopia**: Age-related difficulty focusing on close objects

Spectacle lenses correct these refractive errors by bending light rays to focus correctly on your retina, providing clear vision. They do not weaken your vision, they enhance it. Without glasses, your eyes work harder to focus, leading to headaches and fatigue. We want to reduce strain and keep your eyes comfortable. Wearing glasses that are customised especially for you, is the best way to do so. And let's not forget the young ones! Uncorrected vision in children can lead to serious issues like learning difficulties or even permanent



vision loss. Glasses help ensure their eyes develop properly.

Some common concerns we hear are, "my new glasses feel too strong" and, "I feel too dependent on my glasses" or, "my prescription keeps changing. Are my eyes getting weaker?"

It's important to remember, it can take a few weeks for your eyes and brain to adjust to a new prescription. Wear your glasses regularly, and if issues persist, let us know! And not to worry, glasses don't cause dependency. Once you're used to seeing clearly, your uncorrected vision might seem worse in comparison, but that's just because you're appreciating the clarity your glasses are providing! Natural aging and associated changes to the eye's anatomy will mean that most people will require changes to their prescription over time. This progression is normal and expected, and would happen regardless of whether you wear your glasses, or not.

Get in touch with the team at Blur Eyecare for an up-to-date eye exam. Call us on 07 578 1513, or book online at [www.blureyecare.co.nz](http://www.blureyecare.co.nz). We're here to help you see, and look your best! ■



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# Summer, when the market feels the heat

By Rachel Cole of Harcourts

Traditionally summertime is a time for sun and fun, but it is also a time when people get excited to make life changes, and that includes moving house. At Harcourts, we often get busy when the country goes on holiday, and this is because summer is often heralded as one of the hottest times to list and sell your property and can often achieve very strong results for those who choose to list at this time.

Here are three reasons why you should consider selling over summer:

**More buyers as well as serious buyers are engaging in the market.** Summer is a great time to sell as it is an easy and convenient time for buyers to get out and about to visit open homes.

**The Harcourts network works for you.** My national network of knowledgeable and experienced sales consultants also want to achieve the best results for you, so we work year round (even in high summer) to ensure we meet and exceed your expectations when it comes to selling your home in a timely manner.

**Your home looks better in the sun.** We all look better in the sun and so does your home. With the sunlight pouring in the windows and the ability to leave your windows and doors open, you can really lever-



Rachel Cole.

age the weather when selling through the summer months. By creating the feeling of additional space as the outdoors and indoors connect and the increased light pours in through windows and doors, you can also make open homes a much more pleasurable experience than at any other time of year.

If you're thinking of selling and want to deal with the expert in your area, contact me on 0800 RACH 4 U to help you achieve the greatest results this summer. ■

## What's Your Property Worth?



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# Rachel Cole

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# Be safe at the beach this summer

Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club is gearing up for a hot summer as visitors and locals head to the beach during the busiest time of the year.

According to NIWA, there's a 50 per cent chance the Bay of Plenty will see above-average temperatures this summer, and lifeguards are expecting more people hitting the beach and the water.

In addition to the main patrol at the surf club at Pāpāmoa Domain, a second patrol will operate at Taylor Reserve in Pāpāmoa East from 21 December until 2 February, daily between 10am and 6pm.

The club has 140 volunteer lifeguards this summer, who will be supported by paid lifeguards from the Eastern Region patrolling on

weekdays in the peak season and at the Pāpāmoa East tower.

To check hours and find your nearest patrolled beach – no matter where you are in New Zealand over summer – see the website safeswim.org.nz. Always swim between the flags.

The Pāpāmoa lifeguards want everyone to enjoy the ocean safely and with peace of mind, and remind the public that water conditions remain unpredictable.

Here are some key safety tips to keep in mind and share with your friends and whānau:

### Know how to float

If you don't know how to float, don't go into the water. Just being able to float can



Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club has 140 volunteer lifeguards this season. Pictured are Oliver and Georgia (above), and Niamh and Sophie (left). PHOTOS: JAMIE TROUGHTON / DESCRIBE MEDIA SERVICES.



increase your chance of survival. Floating allows you to calm yourself and keep your airways out of the water. It is also the first thing to do if you get caught in a rip. If you don't know how to float well, practice or get some lessons in a pool.

### If in doubt, stay out

Waves can be bigger than they look, dangerous rip currents are hard to spot, and weather conditions can be unpredictable. If you feel uncomfortable about getting into the water, stay out.

### Take care of others

Always keep children within arm's reach

in or near the water. Waves can move quickly and unexpectedly and can knock kids off their feet and sweep them away. Everyone has different levels of ability, so watch out for your mates too.

### Know how to get help

If someone in the water is in trouble and surf lifeguards are on patrol, let them know. If you can't see any surf lifeguards, call 111 and ask for police. Police have a direct line to surf lifeguards and others who can help. If you're in the water and in trouble yourself, raise your arm to signal for help. ■

**Merry Christmas**

from the team at  
**Papamoa Plumbing and Gas**

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customers, it has been a pleasure  
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# After-hours clinic closed

A lack of funding is behind the closure of the Consult365 Accident & Medical Walk-In Clinic on Palm Springs Boulevard, leaving the community's nearest alternative urgent care clinic at 19 Second Ave, Tauranga.

In a statement on 8 November, the clinic shared that it would be closed from that day.

"It has been our pleasure to serve the community of Pāpāmoa. This clinic trialled a new model of care (with nurses onsite and emergency medicine doctors via telehealth). While this hybrid model of care was innovative and, in terms of service provision, a success – it was ultimately unsustainable without additional funding."

When the clinic first opened on 30 January, its hours were 8am to midnight, with the intention of soon opening 24 hours.

But by June, the clinic had reduced its hours to 9am to 9pm, seven days a week, before announcing the complete closure five months later.

The announcement was met with empathy on social media from people who had overwhelmingly positive experiences with the services, and were disappointed to lose it from the community.

Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford says the closure is

a devastating loss for the Pāpāmoa community, which had come to rely on the clinic's after-hours and emergency care services.

In a letter to Minister of Health Dr Shane Reti, Tom outlined the impact of the closure, including additional pressure on Tauranga Hospital's emergency department, greater demand on existing primary healthcare providers, longer travel times for residents needing urgent care, and reduced availability of after-hours medical services.

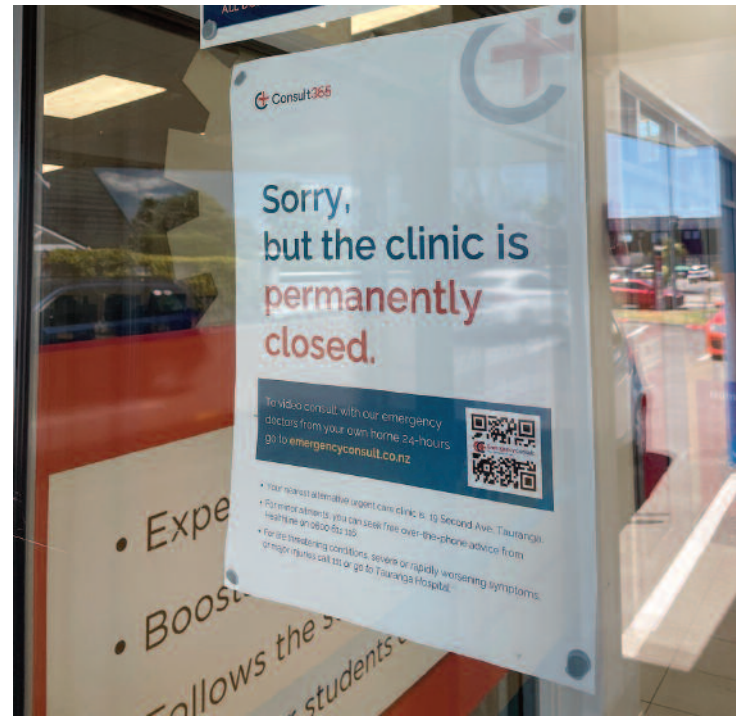
The letter raised the issue of options for supporting after-hours care, potential funding approaches for urgent services in high-growth areas, and ways to support innovative healthcare delivery models.

"For a community of Pāpāmoa's size and continued growth trajectory, having access to local after-hours healthcare is not just desirable – it is essential for the wellbeing of our residents," says Tom.

The nearest alternative urgent care clinic is now 19 Second Ave, Tauranga.

For minor ailments, you can seek free over-the-phone advice from Healthline on 0800 611 116.

For life threatening conditions, severe or rapidly worsening symptoms, or major injuries call 111 or go to Tauranga Hospital. ■



# Ring in the New Year at Gordon Spratt

A public fireworks display to celebrate the New Year will be held at the family-friendly time of 9.30pm at Pāpāmoa's free community celebration.

The New Year's Eve event will this year be held in a different section of Gordon Spratt Reserve than it usually is, due to maintenance

within the reserve. The new location is next to Pāpāmoa College, near the tsunami vertical evacuation structure. There will be clearly marked signs to the new site, which is 350m away from the usual spot.

Live music, roving entertainment, food trucks, and activities for the kids will all be

part of the alcohol-free event from 6pm to 9.30pm.

Bring a picnic blanket or something to sit on, and either bring your own kai or choose from a variety of food truck options.

Parking is available on site but is limited. Tauranga City Council encourages people to

ride-share, bus, walk, or bike to the celebration.

The event is alcohol and smoke-free. Temporary and permanent liquor bans are in place in and around Gordon Spratt Reserve.

For more information see the Tauranga City Council website. ■

# World-class tennis arrives in Pāpāmoa

The courts and clubhouse are pristine, the catering is in place, and Pāpāmoa Tennis Club is ready to host some of the best up and coming players from around the world this December.

It's all part of the World Tennis Tour, as the EVES Open will be held at the club from 16-22 December.

Pāpāmoa Tennis Club secretary Gillian Blanchard says a huge amount of work has gone into preparing for the event, and the club will be making sure the players are looked after on and off the court.

"The players love the friendly, relaxed vibe of the club and enjoy meeting all the volunteers that help out during tournament week."

It's the third year the club has hosted the event, which is a huge opportunity for tennis lovers in Pāpāmoa. The event has grown in popularity each year, with both spectators and players, says Gillian.

"The spectators love it; it's free to come down to the club and watch the action. The

atmosphere is chilled, welcoming and very unique – it's rare to get so close to world class tennis for free, and in our own backyard.

"Families and friends love gathering on the 'grassy bank' to soak up the sun, watch the tennis and enjoy the club. It's the perfect way to relax and spend a day in the run up to Christmas."

Competitors will be playing for official ATP and WTA world ranking points and a share of the \$70,000 prize pool. Professional players from more than 20 countries will take on the best in Kiwi tennis, with the aim of climbing the ladder in the professional tennis circuit.

The tournament comes at a time when tennis is thriving in Pāpāmoa. The club's recent Love Tennis event, welcoming the community to the courts to 'have a go' at tennis, attracted a record number of attendees.

"Tennis is growing in popularity within our community and hosting events like Love Tennis and the EVES Open is the perfect way to showcase everything Pāpāmoa Tennis



Gareth Archer of Tennis New Zealand, Sam Watherston and Paula Milner of EVES Pāpāmoa sales, and Gerald Greig of Pāpāmoa Tennis Club.

Club has to offer," says Gillian.

"I love coming to watch this standard of tennis. It's so exciting and I'm always hopeful to get some tips to improve my own game. It's amazing that this is a free event for the

whole community to enjoy and the relaxed and friendly feel of the club makes it a great way to spend the day."

More information is available at [www.tennis.kiwi/evesopen](http://www.tennis.kiwi/evesopen). ■

## Pāpāmoa shines in community award nominations



A Chris Taylor Photography capture of the Pāpāmoa Matariki event.

Pāpāmoa's popular Matariki event has been named a finalist in the 2025 Western Bay Community Awards for the second consecutive year.

Pāpāmoa Light Up the Waterways – Te Ara o Wairākei Matariki is a finalist in the community event category.

Also nominated is the Friends of Summerhill group for the sustainable future award, for its pest control project removing hundreds of pests including rats, stoats,

ferrets, weasels and possums.

Senior Chef Tauranga, which teaches senior citizens to cook and has a Pāpāmoa venue, is nominated in the diversity and inclusion category.

Julia Manktelow of Pāpāmoa Unlimited, which organises the Matariki event, says she is honoured by the nomination.

"This journey wouldn't be the same without the wonderful partnership between Pāpāmoa Town Centre and Ngā Pōtiki ā

Tamapahore Trust which has only deepened with each year. Together, we've created a space to celebrate community, culture, and connection in the place we call home."

The Western Bay Community Awards celebrates inspiring individuals, groups, and organisations making a meaningful impact across the community.

The winners for each category will be announced at an awards ceremony on 20 March. ■





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**When:** From 11am daily 16-22 December 2024

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## New development marks milestone for Pāpāmoa East

A 20-year journey came to fruition when stage one of the new Pāpāmoa East The Sands Town Centre opened last month.

The New World supermarket drew large crowds on its first day of opening alongside other tenants Anytime Fitness, Pablo, Knead Bakery, Ali Baba's House, Pizza Hut, Hello Sushi, and Glo Laser & Aesthetics.

The \$1 billion development has created more than 150 new jobs for the region. Around 500 contractors worked on the first stage.

The supermarket spans 3100 square meters and employs around 100 local staff.

Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford says the opening is just the beginning of what promises to be a vibrant community hub. It is a significant and game-changing milestone in Pāpāmoa East's development, he says.

"When stages two and three are completed in 2026, The Sands will feature an impressive range of facilities including health services, community spaces, hospitality venues, and government services."

The development, which will ultimately cover 230,000 square meters (equivalent to 50 rugby fields), demonstrates strong confidence in the region's future growth and prosperity, says Tom.

"[The stage one] opening represents a transformative moment for Pāpāmoa East and the wider Bay of Plenty region.

"With 115,000 people living within 20 minutes of The Sands, and that number expected to grow by 25 per cent over the

next decade, this development couldn't come at a better time.

"I'm particularly excited about the employment opportunities this creates for our local community. The Sands Town Centre isn't just about retail – it's about building a thriving heart for Pāpāmoa East and ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace with our growing population."

Tauranga Mayor Mahe Drysdale said at the opening that the first stage of The Sands Town Centre is an "incredibly exciting milestone" for Pāpāmoa East, Tauranga and the wider region.

"It's bringing job opportunities, supporting economic growth, and bringing new amenities to the area," says Mahe, who notes the population of Tauranga has more than doubled since 1996 and now has a younger demographic. Developments like this will benefit future residents, he says.

The site and businesses were blessed by local iwi at an early morning opening ceremony, where Bluehaven Group chief executive Nathan York spoke of the two-decade plan to get to this point.

Bluehaven bought the land in 2004 and has since delivered 2500 homes.

The Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2009 and Covid presented challenges, while roading development of the Tauranga Eastern Link and Pāpāmoa East Interchange continued to forge forward.

"It's been quite a journey," says Nathan. "20 years later now we open the first stage."



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# Summertime policing

By Sergeant Jason Perry  
OIC at Pāpāmoa Police Station

There are some lessons that have been learned over the years leading into the summer holiday break and Christmas. Same things happen every year. Alcohol will play a big part in the disorder and Family Harm reports we will attend. People will drive after drinking too much. Parties will get out of hand and kids won't tell their parents the full story about what happened when they get into trouble.

Pāpāmoa is a holiday destination as well as home to those of us who live permanently here. A couple of things come up every year. There is a debate over where the 'nudist' beach is in Pāpāmoa. In short, there is no nudist beach. Things have moved on. Pāpāmoa has grown and the beach is very busy with families and locals. The police receive several complaints each year of people exposing themselves. Each one is dealt with on its merits. Some are deliberate and some are not. Vehicles on the beach and other beach goers are often in conflict as well. There are rules around when and where vehicles can be on the beach. These are available on the council website. Generally, you cannot just drive your 4X4 ute along the beach. Check out the regulations before you get an infringement notice.

We attend far more Family Harm disputes than any other type of call for service, especially during December and summer. While alcohol is often in the mix, there are all sorts of reasons why things get out of hand. Financial pressure, work pressure, family commitments; small arguments can escalate quickly when people are under stress. If you have

child custody agreements, then my advice is to get things sorted early, and made clear, before the Christmas and holiday period start. If you get angry, take time out. The last thing you want is to spend Christmas in the Police cells – there is no TV and the coffee is rubbish.

Every year some low life will follow a courier van and steal packages left at doorways. We have had a couple of reports about this happening already. Sometimes parcels are delivered, and the recipient is not aware that it's even been stolen for some time. You need to be vigilant and please report anything suspicious. Watch out for Marketplace scams and be extra vigilant around suspicious phone calls, texts or messages. Don't ruin your Christmas due to being scammed. Never hand over passwords or account details to someone.

E-bikes are still hot property being stolen. Some of these bikes are worth more than your family's second car. Make sure your bikes are secured with a good chain or similar, and consider an AirTag or other tracking device to place on your bike. We had two \$10,000 e-bikes stolen from the Pāpāmoa Domain in November. Fortunately, the thieves were captured on CCTV, and one is well known to Police. He is a recidivist offender and is about to enjoy that rubbish coffee for Christmas while sitting in a cell somewhere.

After all this negative sounding stuff, I can say that the Pāpāmoa team is looking forward to what the Summer Policing will bring. There is always some new and interesting situation popping up amongst the same old stories! ■

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## Tauranga City Councillor for Pāpāmoia Ward *Steve Morris* Scrutinising Council projects

There are a number of projects undertaken by Commissioners that are facing scrutiny now that the newly elected Council has decided to refocus on transparency.

Council is looking hard at plans for a new aquatic centre at Memorial Park. The Commission decided to embark on the \$124 million spend before leaving office. Since then, savings have been found to reduce that budget to \$105 million, but at that level, it is still unaffordable for Tauranga ratepayers in a cost-of-living crisis and considering our lack of debt headroom that we must have to help our city recover in the event of a natural disaster.

Council is still keen to build an aquatic facility at Memorial Park, given the strong community support in a recent survey, but we need to look at other design options to get better value-for-money and to look at a future pool needed in Pāpāmoia East.

I'd like to give you the opportunity to share your views or offer my assistance with any issues you have at my next "Local Councillor Catchup" on Tuesday 17 December, from 11am to 1pm, at the Pāpāmoia Library & Community Centre (Patiki Room). Please contact me to book a time: steve.morris@tauranga.govt.nz or on 021 0900 1817.



Pāpāmoia Ward Councillor Steve Morris

## Enjoy the summer markets

Summer is a great time to get out and enjoy wandering our local markets, picking up a bite to eat and supporting local growers and artisans. Choose from one of the following, or try them all:

**Pāpāmoia Community Market.** Weekly on Sunday mornings at Te Manawa ō Pāpāmoia School, 8.30am to 1pm.



**Pāpāmoia Twilight Market.** Every Friday night from 5pm-9pm at Te Manawa ō Pāpāmoia School. Food trucks, a movie, stalls and fairy lights.

**Pāpāmoia Lions Market.** Held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at Gordon Spratt Reserve from 8am to midday. The summer dates are December 8 and 15, and



January 12 and 26.

**The Little Big Markets Pāpāmoia.** Saturday 21 December, 4 January, and 19 January at Pāpāmoia Pony Club, 10am to 2pm.

**Dinner in the Domain.** Food truck market, every Thursday night in summer, Pāpāmoia Pony Club, from 5pm - 9pm. ■



Some of the action at The Little Big Markets and Dinner in the Domain.

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# MP for Bay of Plenty Tom Rutherford

## The year that was - 2024

As 2024 winds down, it's a great time to look back at everything we've been through together as a country, electorate, and community.

Being your Bay of Plenty MP, I've tried to get out and about as much as possible, meeting constituents, local groups, schools, and businesses while also making sure our voice is heard in Parliament. As a local myself, I get what it's like living here - the good and the challenging bits - which is why I've made meeting with as many of you as possible my top priority.

To make it easier to catch up, I've been getting out of the office and into the community. The monthly Pāpāmoa Community Markets have been fantastic - I've loved setting up my stall and chatting with everyone who stops by. The conversations and feedback have been great, and I'll be back there from February 2025.

Our coffee catch-ups at cafes across the Bay have worked really well too. These casual chats have led to some important issues being raised, which we've been able to follow up on. I've also started holding clinics at our retirement villages, making it easier for residents to have their say without having to travel to my electorate office.

As someone who used to be a volunteer firefighter, I have a real soft spot for our community groups. I've tried to get to as many local events as I can to support these amazing organisations. I've met some incredible people along the way and



made plenty of new friends.

We're lucky to have such a diverse business scene in the Bay of Plenty - from small family-owned operations to big companies. Visiting these businesses has really shown me just how much our region is growing and thriving.

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me this past year - whether you stopped by for a coffee chat, caught up with me at the markets, or shared your thoughts and concerns. Your support means so much and helps me be a better voice for our community. Here's wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for 2025! ■

# Pāpāmoa Food Hub update

By the Pāpāmoa Food Hub team

By the time you read this the 2024 Emergency Services Food Drive has already been and gone. Hopefully everyone knew what all the sirens were about as the 18 collection teams weaved through the streets of Pāpāmoa on the evening of 26 November.

This year more than 200 volunteers helped on the food drive and we were hoping to set another record for the amount of donations collected. In 2023 we collected 65 trailer loads of donated food items and that kept Pāpāmoa Food Hub shelves stocked for most of this year.

In the next days and weeks after the food drive, another group of volunteers were tasked with sorting and boxing the donations into categories and getting it all packed away in the hub.

A big thank you to the community for your generosity in both donating goods and time, making this amazing community event the success it was.

A massive thank you also goes out to our platinum partner, PAK'nSAVE Pāpāmoa. Owner Rob McGregor is a fantastic supporter of Pāpāmoa Food Hub, and you may have noticed that recently the donation bin at the front of the store has rebranded to have customer donations destined for Pāpāmoa Food Hub. This move enhances our partnership and ensures that those donations stay here and help the Pāpāmoa community. Thanks Rob and the team.

There has been much publicity of late about how food banks are struggling to stay afloat, with some even facing closure and this is a real problem due to less funding available from traditional sources.



Pāpāmoa Food Hub is very lucky to be almost entirely run by volunteers, meaning we are able to keep our costs to a minimum, but we still need to fund the cost of our

premises and operating expenses. Pāpāmoa Food Hub runs on the smell of an oily rag, but with support from our community we hope to be around for a long time to keep supporting those in our community struggling to put food on the table.

These people come from all walks of life. Some employed, some not. Some own their own home, and some do not. There are many reasons why people sometimes hit a bump in the road and need a bit of short-term help. What we are finding is that a lot of people are reluctant to apply for help because they think there is someone worse off than them. That is very commendable, but when you need help, you need help and should not be too embarrassed to reach out.

The team at the Food Hub would like to thank everyone who has helped us in some way during 2024 and wish you all a safe and festive holiday season.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all. ■ See page 2 for details on how to get help or donate.

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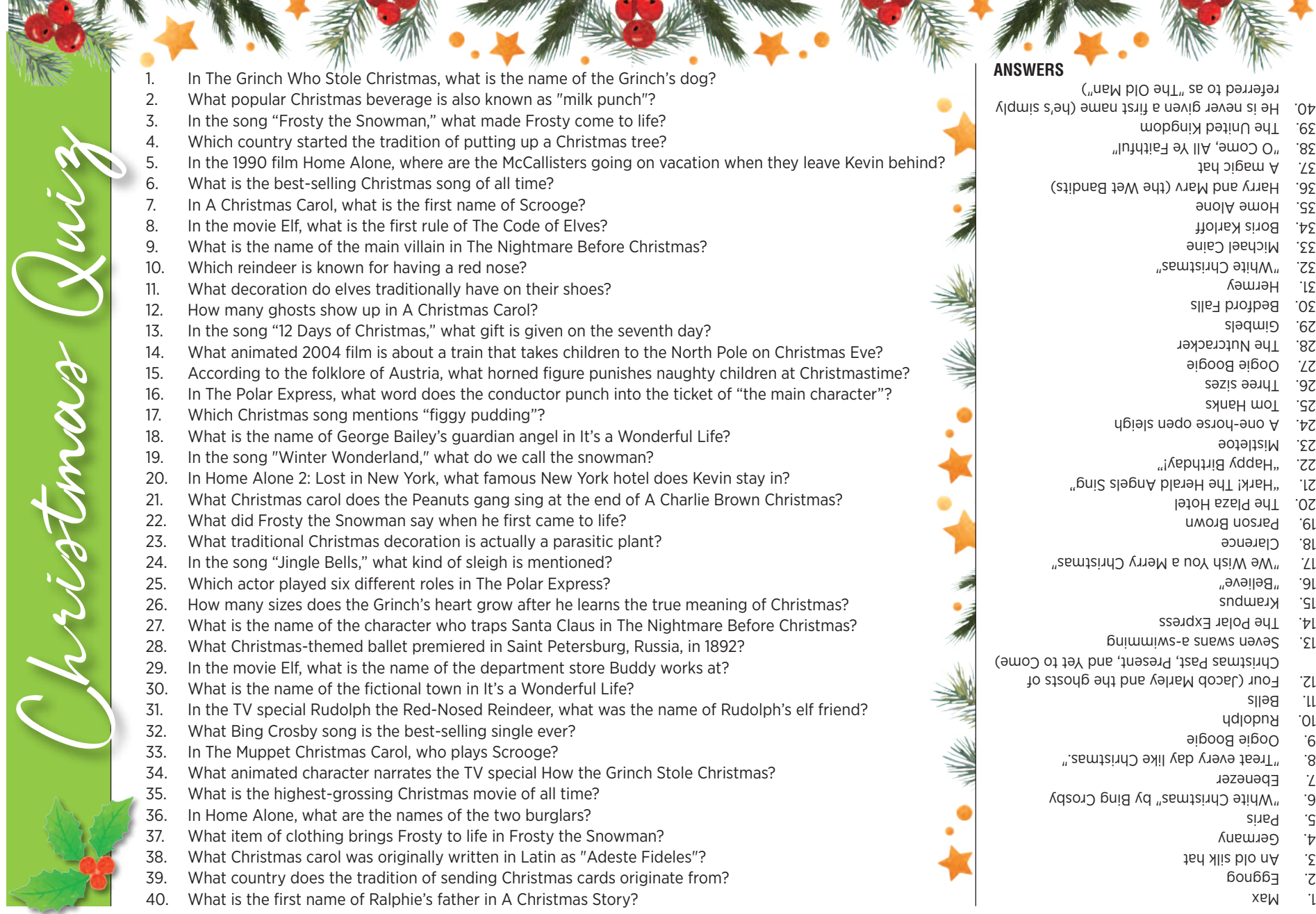
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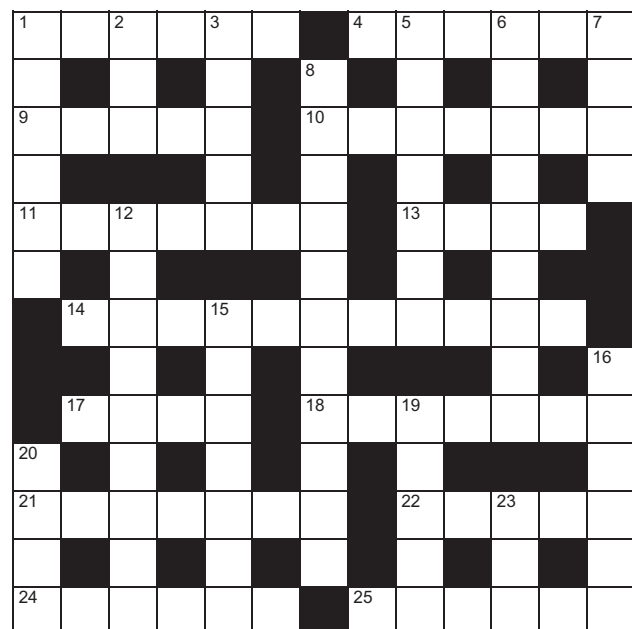
# Christmas Quiz

- In The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, what is the name of the Grinch's dog?
- What popular Christmas beverage is also known as "milk punch"?
- In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life?
- Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- In the 1990 film Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
- What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
- In A Christmas Carol, what is the first name of Scrooge?
- In the movie Elf, what is the first rule of The Code of Elves?
- What is the name of the main villain in The Nightmare Before Christmas?
- Which reindeer is known for having a red nose?
- What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
- How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
- In the song "12 Days of Christmas," what gift is given on the seventh day?
- What animated 2004 film is about a train that takes children to the North Pole on Christmas Eve?
- According to the folklore of Austria, what horned figure punishes naughty children at Christmastime?
- In The Polar Express, what word does the conductor punch into the ticket of "the main character"?
- Which Christmas song mentions "figgy pudding"?
- What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in It's a Wonderful Life?
- In the song "Winter Wonderland," what do we call the snowman?
- In Home Alone 2: Lost in New York, what famous New York hotel does Kevin stay in?
- What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of A Charlie Brown Christmas?
- What did Frosty the Snowman say when he first came to life?
- What traditional Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?
- In the song "Jingle Bells," what kind of sleigh is mentioned?
- Which actor played six different roles in The Polar Express?
- How many sizes does the Grinch's heart grow after he learns the true meaning of Christmas?
- What is the name of the character who traps Santa Claus in The Nightmare Before Christmas?
- What Christmas-themed ballet premiered in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in 1892?
- In the movie Elf, what is the name of the department store Buddy works at?
- What is the name of the fictional town in It's a Wonderful Life?
- In the TV special Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, what was the name of Rudolph's elf friend?
- What Bing Crosby song is the best-selling single ever?
- In The Muppet Christmas Carol, who plays Scrooge?
- What animated character narrates the TV special How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
- What is the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?
- In Home Alone, what are the names of the two burglars?
- What item of clothing brings Frosty to life in Frosty the Snowman?
- What Christmas carol was originally written in Latin as "Adeste Fideles"?
- What country does the tradition of sending Christmas cards originate from?
- What is the first name of Ralphie's father in A Christmas Story?

## ANSWERS

- Max
- Eggnog
- An old silk hat
- Germany
- Paris
- "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby
- Ebenezer
- "Treat every day like Christmas"
- Oogie Boogie
- Rudolph
- Bells
- Four (Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come)
- Seven swans-a-swimming
- The Polar Express
- Krampus
- "Believe"
- "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
- Clarence
- Parson Brown
- The Plaza Hotel
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- "Happy Birthday!"
- Mistletoe
- A one-horse open sleigh
- Tom Hanks
- Three sizes
- Oogie Boogie
- The Nutcracker
- Gimbels
- Bedford Falls
- Hermey
- "White Christmas"
- Michael Caine
- Boris Karloff
- Home Alone
- Harry and Marv (the Wet Bandits)
- A magic hat
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
- The United Kingdom
- He is never given a first name (he's simply referred to as "The Old Man")
- 40.

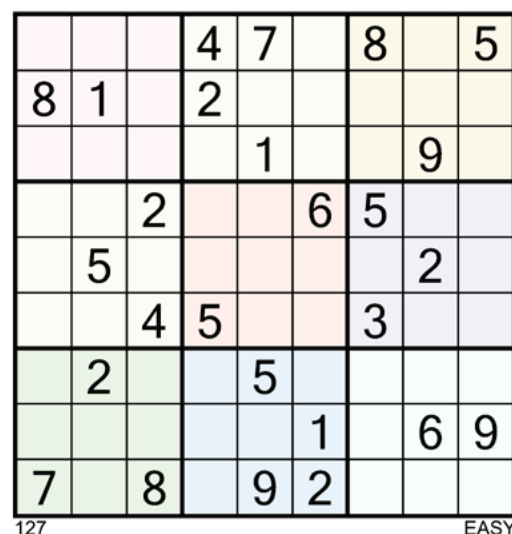
## Quick crossword



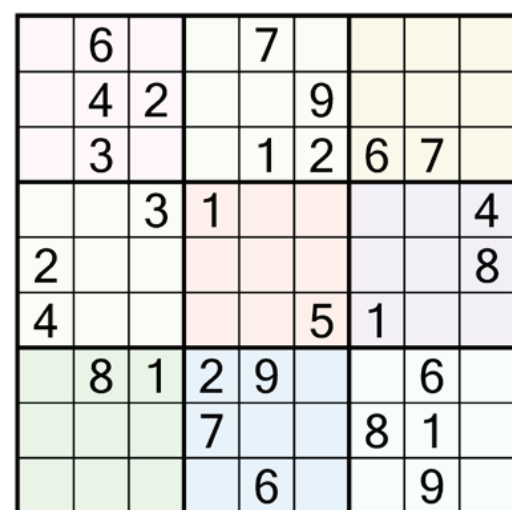
- Across**
- Lithe (6)
  - Buddy (6)
  - System of beliefs (5)
  - Core (7)
  - Stand for speaker's notes (7)
  - Swimwear (4)
  - Complex (11)
  - Equipment (4)
  - Encroach (7)
  - Delicate (7)
  - Anxiety or dread (5)
  - Narcotic cigarette (6)
  - A seasoning (6)
- Down**
- Nurse (6)
  - Flan (3)
  - Shelf (5)
  - Unsalted cheese (7)
  - Enduringly fresh or youthful (9)
  - Fine, dry powder (4)
  - Acting freely (11)
  - Work together (9)
  - Swine-like (7)
  - Chain (6)
  - Carpenter's tool (5)
  - Distant (4)
  - Space (3)

## Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.



127 EASY



128 MEDIUM

## Kids' corner

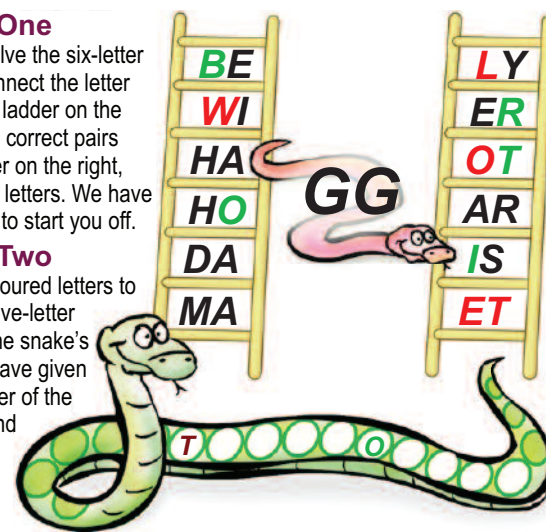
### Snakes and Ladders

#### Puzzle One

Can you solve the six-letter words? Connect the letter pairs in the ladder on the left with the correct pairs in the ladder on the right, with middle letters. We have solved one to start you off.

#### Puzzle Two

Use the coloured letters to make two five-letter words on the snake's back. We have given the first letter of the red word and the green word.



## Solutions

### Crossword

**Across:** 1. Supple, 4. Friend, 9. Creed, 10. Nucleus, 11. Lectern, 13. Togs, 14. Complicated, 17. Gear, 18. Impinge, 21. Fragile, 22. Angst, 24. Reeper, 25. Pepper.  
**Down:** 1. Suckle, 2. Pie, 3. Ledge, 5. Ricotta, 6. Evergreen, 7. Dust, 8. Uninhibited, 12. Cooperate, 15. Porcine, 16. Fetter, 19. Plane, 20. Afar, 23. Gap.

### Snakes and Ladders

**Puzzle 1**  
BEGGAR, WIGGLY, HAGGIS, HOGGET, DAGGER, MAGGOT, TOWEL, ORBIT.

### Sudoku

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

# Countdown is on for interchange



As we head into 2025, local residents will finally be able to say that the Pāpāmoa East Interchange opens “next year”.

And a group of school children from Golden Sands School and Suzanne Aubert Catholic School got a behind-the-scenes look at the construction site, with the chance to walk on one of the newly asphalted ramps that will open in mid-2026.

They learned about what goes into making the plans for roads and bridges, the design phase, and bringing the plans to life.

The project is in its third and final stage of construction. This phase includes the abutments and interchange, on and off ramps, the connection to The Sands Avenue between the bridge and the new intersection at Te Okuroa Drive, and all waters infrastructure.

Pāpāmoa Ward Councillor Steve Morris says he knows how eagerly residents have been waiting.

“The interchange represents more than

just a road; it’s a vital connection that will help the daily commute for the thousands of residents of Pāpāmoa East.

“It will reduce travel times to Rotorua and Whakatāne, bringing these destinations closer than ever. Whether for work, leisure, or family visits, the improved accessibility is a win for everyone.”

Chris Barton, Tauranga City Council’s Senior Project Manager, says it’s an important piece of the transport puzzle.

“Over the past few years, Pāpāmoa East has grown, which has increased pressure on the transport network including Tara Road and Domain Road interchange as the main connection to State Highway 2.

“The new interchange, when it’s completed in mid-2026, will provide residents in the area with an alternative route to keep people connected, and support continued development of this growing suburb.”

It will enable faster travel between neighbourhoods in Pāpāmoa East and Tauranga City Centre, Mount Maunganui and other destinations for people choosing to travel by car.

“It’s just a few minutes to the Rangiuru Business Estate, which will naturally evolve into the industrial suburb of Pāpāmoa. This means more local jobs close to home for our community,” says Steve. ■



Children from Golden Sands School and Suzanne Aubert Catholic School enjoyed a visit to the interchange construction site.

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