

# Pāpāmoa Post

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## *Celebrating NZ's choicest suburb*

Story page 3 - 5



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

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# Anzac Day dawn service

*We will remember them*



The annual Pāpāmoa Memorial Dawn Service will again be held this Anzac Day, Friday 25 April, at the memorial at the Stella Place beach carpark.

Buddy Mikaere, chair of Pāpāmoa War Memorial Community Trust, says the event has continued to grow every year since the first service was held in 2019 after the completion of the community-funded memorial.

The Mount Maunganui dawn service is almost at capacity each year, says Buddy, so the addition of a Pāpāmoa service was much needed.

"It gives the opportunity for people in Pāpāmoa, which is a growing suburb of Tauranga, to have their own service," says Buddy.

"Our focus is also to involve the young people of Pāpāmoa, so that Anzac Day has a future because the young people have an understanding of what it's all about."

Pāpāmoa College and Scouts are both involved in this year's service.

The community feels a sense of ownership due to the combined effort to establish the memorial, says Buddy.

The Pāpāmoa event is usually attended by 20-30 veterans.

The event will run in a similar format to previous years, with representatives attending from the British and Australian High Commissions, the Turkish community, and local iwi.

PAKn'SAVE Pāpāmoa has sponsored a post-service breakfast gathering for local veterans. ■



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## From the editor's desk

Pāpāmoa's community spirit was never stronger than in 2018 when, collectively, we came together to raise \$25,000 for our own community-funded war memorial.

Since then, every year there has been a huge turn-out from young and old at services to commemorate Anzac Day and remember our veterans.

It's exactly this kind of spirit that makes Pāpāmoa a wonderful place to live, and why it's no surprise to residents that our home was voted New Zealand's "choicest suburb".

It was lovely to see the community celebrating in different ways. On the cover of

this issue, local MP Tom Rutherford and some of the team from New World The Sands show off some of the 2000 free cupcakes shared alongside 1000 free coffees.

A huge congratulations to the team from Pāpāmoa Unlimited and Ngā Pōtiki iwi for winning a special community award for the Matariki lights event. This fantastic event is another example of local people contributing to making Pāpāmoa an awesome place to live.

On that note, consider this another reminder to submit your feedback to Tauranga City Council on its annual plan. It's our chance as a community to ask for money and resources to be poured into Pāpāmoa,

whether that's extending the beachside shared pathway, improving Domain Road, or something else. ■ Ellen Irvine

## Butterworth best in class

Pāpāmoa's Butterworth Crescent has been celebrated as one of the best neighbourhoods in Tauranga.

Community support organisation Good Neighbour ran a competition to celebrate Neighbours Month in March.

Butterworth Crescent stood out for its annual community garage sale, Halloween celebrations, sharing of homegrown pro-

duce, get-togethers, and looking out for one another.

The neighbourhood made the finals along with Forrester Drive in Welcome Bay, Leander Street in Mount Maunganui, Myres Street in Ōtūmoetai, and Carlton Street in Bellevue.

The winning street had not yet been announced at the time of print. ■





This sign was created to celebrate the win and includes logos from some of the community's sports clubs.

Celebrations have continued after Pāpāmoa was named New Zealand's "choicest suburb" in a Trade Me Property poll. A party at the surf club, free cupcakes and coffees at The Sands, and a slot on breakfast television have all been part of the festivities. Pāpāmoa won with 42 per cent of the 136,000 votes cast, beating finalists Morrinsville in Waikato and Southshore in Christchurch. Trade Me says Pāpāmoa truly offers the best of both worlds, "with a small-scale urban vibe, vibrant coffee culture, abundant amenities, and natural beauty".

Bay of Plenty MP Tom Rutherford, who lives in Pāpāmoa East, says the recognition confirms what locals have known for years – Pāpāmoa really is the choicest suburb in New Zealand. "As a proud Pāpāmoa resident myself, I'm delighted but not surprised by this result. Our community offers the perfect balance of coastal lifestyle with urban convenience – beautiful beaches, the Pāpāmoa Hills, excellent schools, and great amenities," says Tom. There are new residents arriving all the time from around New Zealand and overseas, he says. "I regularly meet people who have relo-

cated here from across New Zealand, including from Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, and the South Island, as well as from Australia, South Africa, India, the Philippines and other parts of the world. They consistently cite our amazing lifestyle, strong sense of community, and great schools as key reasons for choosing Pāpāmoa." But Tom acknowledges that growth brings challenges. "As a local, I experience the traffic congestion along Pāpāmoa Beach Road and Domain Road, and we need to ensure healthcare services keep pace with our growing population. "The upcoming Pāpāmoa East Interchange

opening next year will help address some of these infrastructure needs, while developments like the recently opened first stage of The Sands Town Centre are creating exciting new amenities for our community. The \$10.5 million New World and surrounding businesses represent just the beginning of what will become a vibrant hub for Pāpāmoa residents." To ensure Pāpāmoa continues to maintain its New Zealand's choicest suburb status, Tom says he's committed to working with local and central government to ensure infrastructure development keeps up with growth. ■

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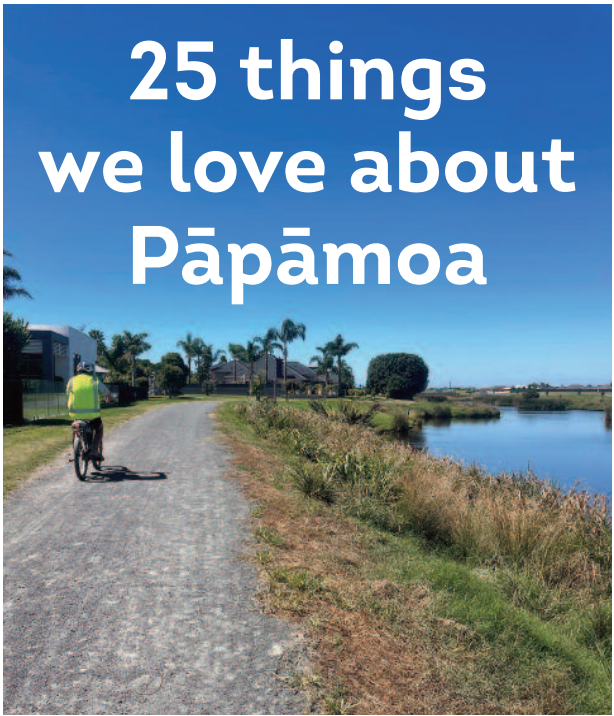
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In honour of Pāpāmoa being named New Zealand's choicest suburb, we've compiled our favourite things about living here. The little things and the big things that make this place special and contribute to our easy-living lifestyle. We'd love to hear your additions – reach out to us via email or social media.

- 1 The abundant fruit and vege stalls lining Pāpāmoa Beach Road.
- 2 The 'waterways' – Te Ara ō Wairākei trail – providing a picturesque place to walk or bike ride just metres from most people's homes.
- 3 Wonderful schools, all of which are great options for our kids.
- 4 Great array of op-shops – Waipuna Hospice, Salvation Army, The Dovecote, SPCA, St Pauls, and Heavenly Gifts.
- 5 A strong community of sports clubs – football, rugby, netball, tennis, rugby league, surf club, and more; there is also martial arts and a wide array of dance studios.
- 6 Our Sunday markets – the Pāpāmoa Community Market at Te Manawa ō Pāpāmoa School, and the twice-monthly Lions Market at Gordon Spratt Reserve.
- 7 Our award-winning annual Matariki lights festival is the best in the Bay and maybe even the country.
- 8 Love that our local businesses come together to put on a traditional Santa parade for the kids.
- 9 Pāpāmoa Library -such a light, bright and airy space, with helpful and lovely staff.
- 10 Yummy food trucks and coffee carts lining Pāpāmoa Beach Road and other spots.
- 11 The Mr G murals dotted around Pāpāmoa – Pony Club, Pāpāmoa Primary School, Golden Sands Drive, the library, to name a few.
- 12 The Christmassy pōhutukawa that paint our streets red every December.



Te Ara ō Wairākei trail, beautiful sunsets and days at the beach, and vibrant markets all contribute to the Pāpāmoa lifestyle.



- 13 So much fruit ice cream in summer.
- 14 Berry farms for the freshest berries ever.
- 15 The Pāpāmoa Hills – stunning views, and easy to get a park every single time. And Summerhill Farm for something different and for the mountain bike fans among us.
- 16 Pāpāmoa Plaza – such a great community mall meeting all our local daily and weekly shopping needs, without having to go too far and with easy parking.
- 17 An increasing number of appealing restaurants and cafes, with too many to pick a favourite.
- 18 Relaxed summer nights eating outdoors at Dinner in the Domain or Pāpāmoa Community Market's Twilight Market.
- 19 Xanadu Books – arguably one of the country's best second-hand bookstores.
- 20 Innovative small businesses providing services and experiences for our community. Like virtual reality leaders The Cave, wellness warriors The Sauna Project, and Zen Float Spa, to name a few.
- 21 Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club – the amazing people and volunteers keeping us safe, as well as the stunning building which offers a gorgeous venue for functions.
- 22 Community organisations full of kind people giving back to others – like Pāpāmoa Rotary Club and Pāpāmoa Lions Club.
- 23 Fantastic community facilities at Gordon Spratt Reserve, Pāpāmoa Community Centre, and Pāpāmoa Sports and Recreation Centre.
- And lastly, the obvious ones:
- 24 The beach.
- 25 THE PEOPLE and the sense of community.



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Sarah

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# Reason to celebrate, says Bluehaven Group

When people vote for your suburb as the ‘choicest’ in the country, there is certainly reason to celebrate. That was the feeling the team at Bluehaven Group had when the news was announced that Pāpāmoa had won the choicest suburb in New Zealand for 2025.

“Of course, the first shoutout belongs to those who voted,” says Bluehaven CEO Nathan York.

“By our calculations, Pāpāmoa received over 50,000 votes, which is more than the total population of Pāpāmoa. This shows that we are as much loved by our community as those who visit or holiday here. And what’s not to love – we have everything we need in abundance including the amazing beach, numerous connected walkways and cycleways, a host of amenities, a range of housing to suit every lifestyle, and wonderful shopping and dining experiences including Excelsa and The Sands.”

To demonstrate Bluehaven’s delight, on the weekend following the announcement, they provided 2000 free cupcakes and 1000 free coffees at The Sands.

“A big thanks to local MP Tom Rutherford who undertook the ‘taste-test’, and to New World The Sands store owner Mark and his bakery team who were given only two days’ notice to turn around that many cupcakes, and to the baristas at Knead and Pablo, who were run off their feet over the weekend. All these businesses are locally owned and operated, making the win extra special for them as well,” says Nathan.

We asked Nathan what does the award mean for the team at Bluehaven Group.

On reflection, he says that as Pāpāmoa East’s primary developers, the award gives them reassurance and an ongoing commitment to their overall master plan which incorporates the development of the billion dollar town centre at The Sands, and the continued staged release of housing to suit all lifestyles.

“When we first started development in Pāpāmoa East, there were large farming blocks which required vision and planning to see how they could be progressively developed



The Sands Pāpāmoa Beach, located at 255 The Boulevard.

in a way to create vibrant communities. One of our primary goals has been to develop Pāpāmoa in a way that supported those who wanted to call this place home,” he said.

In terms of what’s next for Bluehaven, there are lots of moving parts. Of course, there is the next stage in The Sands development which will be anchored by Mitre 10 MEGA who plan on bringing their ‘store of the future’ concept to Pāpāmoa in 2026. Alongside this, Stage 3 is almost fully tenanted and when that occurs, announcements will be made on who’s coming to the region, and construction will get underway with an anticipated opening also set for 2026.

Bluehaven is also actively promoting their new Emerald

Shores Lifestyle Village, which is located just 450 metres from the beach and less than five minutes from The Sands. This Village is designed for those 55 and over, with a range of two-bedroom single-garage homes to choose from starting at just \$550,000.

“For those looking for a premium location, coastal architecture and proximity to all that Pāpāmoa East has to offer, then it’s hard to go past this value-for-money opportunity,” says Nathan. For more information, you can google “Emerald Shores Lifestyle Village” or contact Tony Heywood from Golden Homes on [tony.heywood@goldenhomes.co.nz](mailto:tony.heywood@goldenhomes.co.nz) or 027 232 3022. ■

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# Tauranga, we want to hear from you soon

Tauranga City Council wants to talk to you about two important topics: the budget for 2025/26 and the future of water services delivery.

Consultation on the Annual Plan and Local Water Done Well began on 28 March and the Mayor and Councillors will be out and about at upcoming events in your neighbourhood to listen to your feedback.

Mayor Mahé Drysdale says council's financial situation has changed since last year.

"We're focused on making sure we get value for money for every dollar spent, and we've been working hard to draft a budget through the Annual Plan that limits average rates rises to 12 per cent, or less.

"It's important that we find the right balance between what's needed to deliver important projects for the city, and what we can afford."

The Mayor and Councillors also want to hear what you think about their plans to deliver water services.

"We're consulting on three options as part of Local Water Done Well: keeping our existing services within Council, or establishing a council-controlled organisation that solely focuses on water – either on our own or with partner councils," explains Mahé.

"No matter what, you'll keep receiving great services, but we want to hear what matters to our community before we make this decision.

"Your input on both these important topics will help shape the city of tomorrow, so come and chat with us in April."

To find out when the Mayor or Councillors will be in your neighbourhood, or for more information on the draft Annual Plan and Local Water Done Well, head online to [letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz](https://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz)



Consultation on the Annual Plan 2025/26 and Local Water Done Well began on 28 March. Head online to [letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz](https://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz) for more information. PHOTO: KIWI DRONEOGRAPHY

# Tauranga, we want to hear from you.



## Our Mayor and Councillors would like your feedback on two important topics:

- ➔ The budget for 2025/26
- ➔ The future of water services delivery

Your input today on both these important topics will help shape the city of tomorrow.

**Come chat in-person at an event in April.**

For event information and more on the **Annual Plan** and **Local Water Done Well**, head online to:

➔ [letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz](https://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz)



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# Junior surf athletes shine at Oceans Festival

Pāpāmoa's 51-strong junior surf team won more gold medals than any other club and had the most podium finishes overall at the 2025 Oceans Festival of Junior Surf Lifesaving.

The event was held over four days at Mount Maunganui, with more than 700 juniors aged 10-14 competing.

Pāpāmoa Junior Surf Coach Jack Bullock says the team showed incredible skill and heart, and the result reflected their hard work, passion, and perseverance.

"It's about learning, growing, and giving their best every time, and they really did that at Oceans '25.

"The competition was fierce, but our athletes stepped up, dominating the flag pits with four wins and multiple podium finishes. Their grit and determination were on full display in run-swim-run, board races, and board rescue events, giving it everything they had."

Jack says every team member had huge moments to be proud of, whether it was standing on the podium, making the quarters, semis, or finals, or simply giving it their all along-side friends.

"This season has been one to remember. Watching



Pāpāmoa's Oceans '25 squad of 51 athletes. PHOTO: KATE MAGILL

these kids develop and seeing how much support we have from our community - it's what makes the difference. We can't wait to build on this success in the seasons ahead."

The club is grateful to Jack and fellow coach Jake Cowdrey for their work throughout the season, as well as the volun-

teers who helped ensure the event ran smoothly - officials, water safety crews, work crews, age group managers, and parent supporters.

The club has several sponsors who make it all possible: Mitre 10 Pāpāmoa, PAKnSAVE Pāpāmoa, CMT Excavations Ltd, EVES Realty Bay of Plenty, and Body In Motion Health. ■



Coach Jack Bullock with the team: PHOTO: KATE MAGILL



Alex Odmunsen in action at Oceans '25. PHOTO: JAMIE TROUGHTON/ DSCRIBE MEDIA SERVICES



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# The gelato maestro

Growing up on Italy's Adriatic coast, Daniele Di Giandomenico adored the luscious iced desserts served throughout his home town.

His gelato dreams were fueled by a schoolboy job in a beachfront ice cream shop – a gelateria – alongside Roseto's train station. The journey back to those frozen treats of his youth has carried Daniele across several continents and over more than four decades.

"I wanted to do it much earlier," the Pāpāmoa resident says of his decision to leave an information technology career and launch artisan Italian-style ice cream business Cuore di Gelato. "My passion has definitely been gelato-making most of my life."

However, life had other ideas for Daniele. He studied computer programming before moving to London, then following a Kiwi back to the Bay of Plenty. The couple had

settled in Tauranga when their son was born with a brain injury and cerebral palsy. Two daughters followed and, while their dad continued to make gelato for the three children at home, it was clear Daniele needed to stick with his day job.

"Our son was in a wheelchair and had to take priority. But later, when the kids were older, my daughters were telling me I should be doing gelato. They said they were grown and it was time to do something for myself. It made me cry, hearing that from them."

Daniele remarried in 2017 and his second wife, Jennifer, was equally insistent the time had come for gelato.

"She totally 100 percent supported me. She's from England and she sold her property there to help me get the business over the line."

After plenty of research, he ordered specialist machinery from Italy, along with an



Daniele Di Giandomenico, pictured with wife Jennifer, loves bringing his passion for gelato to Pāpāmoa.

Italian-made vintage-style "Ferrari of gelato carts" designed to look like those pushed by vendors almost a century ago. In Auckland he honed his craft with the help of a Carpi-giani Gelato University ambassador. And there were two trips to Italy, to study under the tutelage of local legends.

"I'm so lucky to call Francesco Dioletta my maestro, my mentor. He's on another level from anything I've ever experienced."

Daniele learned the importance of air – "it's crucial, that's what gives creaminess and softness while you're churning" – and of using high quality, natural ingredients.

"From day one I made the conscious decision to make natural gelato. No colourants, no preservatives or powders. And of course the quality of dairy is so good here."

Eggs are free range and the blueberries and avocados, raspberries and strawberries generally hail from local farms. All flavours are gluten free and he makes a dairy-free

range, too.

The Cuore di Gelato cart is wheeled out at the region's markets and festivals, as well as at private events such as weddings. Daniele's kids Alessio, Ilaria and Lucia help out at busy events, as does Jennifer.

In March, Daniele teamed up with his Italian friend Simone Saglia to host a lunch for the food-based Flavours of Plenty Festival. He is keen to see more food and cultural festivals in the region, as happens in his home town.

In Pāpāmoa, the Di Giandomenicos live just 200m from the beach.

"What we love is the really strong community spirit here. You feel it. It's a bit like Italy, where you can go next door to borrow lemons or eggs. For me it's not a surprise it was judged the nicest suburb in New Zealand."

Find Cuore di Gelato products from Fresh Choice Pāpāmoa and Bin Inn Pāpāmoa. ■



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# Why progressive lenses no longer cover all bases

By Blur Eyecare

As a spectacle wearer of a particular age, you may have been repeatedly told that progressive lenses are the answer to all of your visual needs. And until the advent of touch screen phones, tablets and wide screen VDUs, alongside the increase in digital usage, this may very well have been the case. However... it is certainly not the case now!

These days, many are working on wider screens, and often multiple screens side-by-side. Unfortunately progressive lenses are not overly forgiving for these work stations. They were simply not designed for this and whilst technology has greatly improved their usability, they still have their limitations. They are great for your usual day-to-day tasks outside of the office, however they are not the perfect solution if your workday is predominantly computer based.

This is why one size does not fit all, and simply put, one pair of spectacles no longer covers all bases. Here at Blur Eyecare we offer a wide range of corrective solutions tailored to give you the best visual outcome for your lifestyle. While we recommend progressive lenses for many of our customers, we also often recommend a supplement pair of spectacles specifically set up for their work-station. This helps mitigate visual strain and allows a seamless transition from working



on VDUs to reading off smaller digital devices and fine print documents. These customised occupational lenses make those long days in the office that little bit easier. Just think, you wouldn't buy one pair of shoes for all of your lifestyle needs, so why should you make do with one pair of spectacles?

If this sounds like something you could benefit from, call in to our locally-owned Papamoa practice and chat to our knowledgeable team about how we can tailor your eyewear for you. Alternatively you can visit our website [www.blureyecare.co.nz](http://www.blureyecare.co.nz), or call us on (07) 282 7129. ■

# The upside of downsizing

By Rachel Cole of Harcourts

Downsizing to a smaller home is an alluring option for couples whose children have flown the nest. It is the perfect time to simplify your life and unlock disposable income. Bouncing off the walls of a large family home, with all the cleaning and maintenance it demands, can seem an expensive, time-consuming and pointless exercise.

Before you make any decision to downsize, be clear on the lifestyle you desire. If you are not ready, or have no desire for retirement village living, then scaling down to an apartment, townhouse or smaller home can give you back quality time and fewer headaches.

A successful downsize requires focus on the normal key elements of property buying, or you'll fail to maximise the full value of your home and set yourself up for the lifestyle you desire.

As your local agent, I'd be happy to help you understand what your existing home might be worth, and provide some insights on recent sales of apartments, townhouses and smaller homes in our area. This will help you make an informed assessment of the quality of the home you wish to buy.

Seek out a financial planner to make sure that downsizing will give you the desired lifestyle gains. Ask your adviser about any associated costs of ownership (for apart-



Rachel Cole.

ments or retirement villages) and how they will have an impact on living expenses.

You'll need to reduce the amount of "stuff" in your life. Storage in a smaller home is limited, and external storage providers will be another hit on your cash-flow so you'll need to be ruthless.

For many, downsizing is liberating, unlocking money tied up in the equity of a large home and providing greater flexibility around how you wish to live your life.

Call me on 0800 RACH 4 U to discuss how I can help you. ■

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# New retirement village underway



A new retirement village on Simpson Road will include 114 homes.

Construction has begun on a new retirement village in Pāpāmoa that will include 114 homes and a clubhouse. It is the eighth village for Tauranga-based Karaka Pines, which also has villages in Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, Rotorua and Tauranga.

Spokesperson Stuart Cheeseman, GM operations and sales, says development at the Pāpāmoa village, accessed from 84 Simpson Road, is underway and the first residents are expected to move in this September.

The business chose Pāpāmoa for its next village due to its expanding population and proximity to the beach, says Stuart.

"Pāpāmoa is a very popular destination for people to retire. People like to retire by the beach."

Houses will vary in size, starting from a two-bedroom / two-bathroom home, through to three-bedroom homes with two bathrooms and a double garage. Stand-alone houses and duplexes will be part of the village.

The village is for over-65s who are living independently; no care facility will be on site. Karaka Pines uses a model where residents rather than the village operator benefit from any capital gains.

An office is now open on-site offering an opportunity to visit, see the plans, and ask questions, says Stuart. ■

# New technology silences fire siren

New efficient technology is the reason the Pāpāmoa Volunteer Fire Brigade has retired its siren.

The brigade previously used the siren as the primary way of alerting its firefighters to turnout. It has now opted to instead rely mainly on Fire and Emergency New Zealand's other methods of alerting brigade members - via pager and through the Availability and Messaging System (AMS) app.

The siren will still be available 24/7 as a backup option in case the other methods of

alerting the brigade fail. Each Tuesday at 6.55pm it will be tested with just one blast before the brigade's training night to ensure it is working and available.

Pāpāmoa Chief Fire Officer Arron King says the brigade will always be ready to respond.

"We want to reassure the community that although they will no longer hear our siren other than once on a Tuesday, the Pāpāmoa brigade will continue to be there to protect and serve," he says.

"We are always looking for new volunteers

as well so if you are in the area and thinking about giving back to your community, get in touch with us or pop in to one of our Tuesday training nights from 7pm onwards."

The brigade responds to an average of 210 callouts per year, so the community is used to hearing the siren on a regular basis.

Fire and Emergency Bay of Plenty Group Manager William Pike says the change can be both positive and negative for nearby residents.

"Hearing the siren go off can give comfort

to people that the brigade is active and will respond when their community needs them.

"But we also acknowledge that when it goes off in the middle of the night, or multiple times through the day, it can cause disruption for people.

"The brigade has decided that the alternative methods we have are sufficient to ensure the brigade turns out to incidents in its usual timely manner." In 2021, the siren was silenced at night due to one complaint from a local resident. ■

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# Matariki event wins accolade

Pāpāmoa's Matariki event has won the community event award at the Western Bay Community Awards for the second year in a row.

Around 40,000 people attended Light Up the Waterway - Mānawatia a Matariki last year, enjoying a magical display of lights and cultural storytelling.

The event is run by Pāpāmoa Unlimited, a committee of business owners and retailers whose purpose is to promote Pāpāmoa as a destination for locals and tourists.

Organiser Julia Manktelow worked with local iwi Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore Trust to weave tales of our whenua into the trail. As well as the stunning lights, the event promoted storytelling and legends, including the Māori legend of the three whales - Kopukairoa, Mangatawa, and Hikurangi.

Julia says the Pāpāmoa community is fortunate to have "incredible people" who dedicate their time to create events to make people smile.

The community awards citation describes the event as "a vibrant, community-driven celebration". The category recognises a community-led event that excelled in its planning and delivery and also made a positive impact on the community by creating memorable experiences and strengthening communal ties.

Julia says she is "beyond stoked", with the win, and the event wouldn't be possible without the support of the community.

"A huge thank you to Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore Trust for walking this journey with us and helping bring the stories of our whenua to life."

Julia also acknowledged the sponsors, volunteers, performers, and local residents for supporting the event.

"This recognition belongs to everyone who helped make this event a success including our welcoming stormwater residents and those who continue to support us year on year. Pāpāmoa, you are amazing." ■



## Stay safe in the water

Each patrol finished for the season on 30 March and Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club is reminding swimmers to take caution.

While the water might still be warm, the ocean can be dangerous and unpredictable at this time of year. Without lifeguards on duty to direct you to the safest swimming areas, it's important to be extra cautious, the club says.

### Find the safest place to swim

Before heading to the beach, check [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz) for up-to-date information on water conditions, hazards, and whether swimming is safe.

### Know how to float

If you don't know how to float, don't go into the water. Just being able to float when you are in the water can 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 before you head to

the beach - being able to float is a key skill when learning to swim.

### 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. It's better to be safe than sorry. Too many people get into trouble in the water because they overestimate their abilities and underestimate the conditions.

### 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, call 111 and ask for police. If you're in the water and in trouble yourself, signal for help. ■

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# Bumper summer at Pāpāmoa Hills

More than 97,000 people visited the Pāpāmoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park over the summer, a 41 per cent increase from the previous year.

Hayden Schick, land management officer at Bay of Plenty Regional Council, says it's been great to see people enjoying the beloved 'Pāp Hills' in a respectful way.

"We are pleased to see visitors respecting the park by following the signs and sticking to the marked tracks. This helps ensure that Pāpāmoa Hills remains accessible and protected for all to enjoy now and in the future."

The park has seen an increase in visitor numbers since it opened a series of upgrades in November 2023 – with 126 per cent more visitors in the first year since the upgrade.

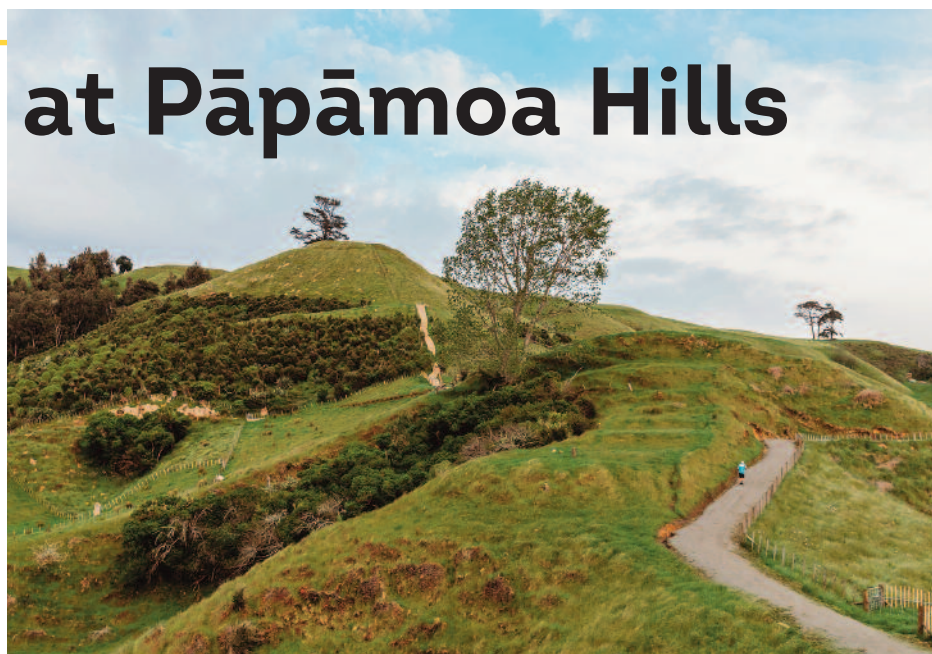
The changes were designed to improve the user experience, including a new entrance and carpark at Poplar Lane, interpretation and wayfinding signs, and toilets and additional tracks.

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council owns the regional park on behalf of the community, and developed the improvements in partnership with Te Uepū, which includes representatives from Waitaha, Ngā Pōtiki, Ngāti Pūkenga and Ngāti Hē, and Regional Council.

Hayden says the upgrades have made it easier for people to explore the park with a variety of tracks to suit different interests, including those wanting to learn more about the area's rich cultural history.

"We're delighted to see so many people enjoying the upgraded Pāpāmoa Hills experience, using some of the lesser-known tracks and engaging with the cultural stories of our area through the interpretation panels."

Pāpāmoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park is home to 1630 individual archaeological features, including tuku (terraces), papatahi (platforms), pits, middens and defensive earthworks, such as maioro. ■



## Padel tournament in Pāpāmoa

Pāpāmoa's new Padel Club will host the first leg of New Zealand's first national padel tournament series this April.

The event will be held at The Padel Club, located on Turiwhato Street off Te Okuroa Drive, from April 11-13.

Padel enthusiasts, competitive players, and newcomers to the sport will come together for a weekend of matchups. With men's and women's divisions across A and B grades, the tournament is designed to welcome players of all levels while contributing to the Padel NZ national ranking system.

"Padel is one of the world's fastest-growing sports, and we're thrilled to be launching

New Zealand's first national tour," says Victoria Markula, President of Padel New Zealand. "This event is an incredible opportunity for players to compete, connect with the padel community, and be part of the sport's growth in New Zealand."

Players will compete for prizes, national ranking points, and the chance to establish themselves in the growing New Zealand padel scene. The three-day tournament will feature social warm up games on Friday, and community engagement activities.

Register online at [events.humanitix.com/padel-new-zealand-tour-2025-registration](https://events.humanitix.com/padel-new-zealand-tour-2025-registration). ■

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# Pāpāmoa Food Hub update

By Pāpāmoa Food Hub founder  
Bruce Banks

Demand for food support is not slowing down in Pāpāmoa. The demand is such that we must work within our capacity, both financially and in terms of our volunteer work force.

Pāpāmoa Food Hub is run almost entirely by volunteers and relies on local financial support. The Food Hub does not receive any government funding, but does apply to funders such as gaming trusts and the like, with some success.

Working within our capacity means that we cannot service everyone who applies for food support, with our main priority being helping families.

Applications for food support can be made via our website. Applicants need to supply all the information requested to be considered, and we need to know all the information

regarding each member of the household. Name, date of birth, and gender.

Before applying, please read the conditions at the top of the form.

It pays to be honest and accurate with the household information, as providing false, misleading or incomplete information can lead to the application being delayed or declined. Honesty is the best policy.

Working families can also be eligible for support. Life can throw a curve-ball to anyone at any time, so if your family hits a rough patch, you can apply. I keep reiterating this point but sadly the vast majority of working families or self-employed do not apply for help. There is no need to feel shame or embarrassment. We have all been in "struggle street" at some point of our lives.



To apply for food support just go to the website: [papfoodhub.org.nz](http://papfoodhub.org.nz).

## PAK'nSAVE donation bin update

Customers are being very generous, and we are getting great support, so thank you if you are popping a donation in the bin when shopping in-store. Just a reminder that the donation bin is only for non-perishable items purchased from PAK'nSAVE on the day. Some kind-hearted people have had the best intentions and decided to collect expired items from the back of their pantry and take them in-store when they next shopped. Expired items past the best before date are unsuitable to go out in our food parcels and just have to be thrown away.

Our other donation drop-off points are Property Brokers at the Plaza and MP Tom

Rutherford's office on the corner of Domain Road and Topaz Drive.

Items we are running low on this month are: toothpaste, soap, deodorants, shampoo, nursery and sanitary items. The Food Hub has loads of dried pasta so is not needing donations of these items for a while yet.

Pāpāmoa Food Hub is so excited to bring you our new website: [papfoodhub.org.nz](http://papfoodhub.org.nz). To find out who we are and what we are trying to achieve, take a look. Whether you want to donate, volunteer or apply for help, it is all there at your fingertips.

What's next for the Food Hub?

We have started initial planning to bring free cooking classes to Pāpāmoa families who could do with a little help in preparing healthy, nutritious and low-cost meals for the family. This would be a great opportunity for a parent and teen/pre-teen child to learn together, but more on that soon. ■

## Tauranga City Councillor for Pāpāmoa Ward Steve Morris Pāpāmoa on the move

Last year, I asked our local MP, Tom Rutherford, for his help with NZTA to allow earlier opening of the Pāpāmoa East Interchange (PEI) on and off-ramps. This would ease pressure on Domain and Tara Roads. I also asked Mayor Mahe Drysdale to raise this with the Minister of Transport, which he did personally, and I am pleased to report that this collaborative approach has started to pay off. NZTA is now on board, all we need is the support of contractor HEB to make it happen.

Another issue is NZTA's proposal to toll the PEI. Pāpāmoa ratepayers already pay for the interchange through a targeted rate, building fees, and taxes. The crown coffers will benefit anyway when Pāpāmoa East residents use the interchange to head east along the Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL). The crown recently built a \$166 million bridge to open up development in Hamilton and completed the Hamilton bypass - both more expensive than our TEL and PEI and both without tolls! So I've reached out to Tom again to see if he

can ask NZTA to level the playing field for Pāpāmoa.

In a further bid for fairness, I'm proud to announce that my council colleagues agreed unanimously to review the extra rate imposed on Pāpāmoa for the PEI - a rate that no other Tauranga transport project attracts. We're one city and Pāpāmoa residents pay for transport projects in the west, so the city as a whole should pay for our interchange. The same week, I was also delighted to accept Trade Me Property's "NZ's Choicest

Suburb" award on behalf of Pāpāmoa. Thank you to all the residents that voted and the hard work of Julia Manktelow from Pāpāmoa Unlimited who championed the cause.

As mentioned last month, I need your help to champion the extension of our Pāpāmoa Beach Road shared pathway and upgrades to our roads including Domain Rd. From 28 March till 28 April we're consulting on Council's annual budget. Make your voice heard at: [letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz/annualplan](http://letstalk.tauranga.govt.nz/annualplan). ■



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# MP for Bay of Plenty Tom Rutherford

## Life-changing medicines now accessible for Bay of Plenty patients

From April 1, patients in the Bay of Plenty and across New Zealand will have funded access to medicines for five additional health conditions, including several cancer treatments. This development represents a significant victory for patients and their families who have been advocating for these life-changing treatments.

I've spoken with many constituents who have shared heartbreaking stories about loved ones who could have benefited from these treatments. The newly funded medicines include

treatments for clear cell kidney cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, and certain types of non-small cell lung cancer, as well as an important medicine for antibiotic-resistant infections.

These treatments can significantly improve quality of life and survival rates, and I'm pleased future patients won't face the same barriers to accessing vital medicines.

As a local who has grown up in this community, I understand how important accessible healthcare is for our families. When someone we love falls ill, we want them to have the best

possible care without having to travel far from home or face financial hardship.

The funding decision comes as part of the Government's \$604 million investment in new cancer medicines, aimed at bringing New Zealand's cancer care closer to world standards. This represents a tangible step toward fulfilling our promise to deliver better healthcare for New Zealanders.

Our Government has made cancer care one of its five key health targets, recognising the importance of both treatment and early detec-

tion through screening programmes. Every day, approximately 71 New Zealanders are diagnosed with cancer, making accessible treatment options crucial.

As "a local, just like you", I remain committed to advocating for improved healthcare services in our community and ensuring Bay of Plenty residents have access to the best possible treatments. This announcement represents another milestone in building a health system that works for everyone, regardless of where they live. ■

## Neighbourhood Support

By Bruce Banks, Pāpāmoa Neighbourhood Support coordinator

Well, here we are at the start of autumn already. The summer months have just flown by. Winter sports have already started and daylight saving finishes in the first week of April.

Pāpāmoa property crime has been reasonably low in recent months, but as expected with the influx of visitors coming to our little piece of paradise, we experienced the usual increase over the peak summer period.

If you are a Neighbourhood Support member you will be receiving our fortnightly crime report from Police via our newsletter emailed every second Friday. If you are not a member and would like to receive our communications, just send me an email and we will join up your household: nspapamoa@wbopns.org.nz

There are almost 6000 member households already in our database, but I would like that to

increase so we have the vast majority of Pāpāmoa residents kept informed on what is going on in our community.

Pāpāmoa East is a prime target and if anyone has a couple of hours to spare a week, I could do with some help canvassing streets that have low membership numbers, and getting them onboard ASAP. I need to create a team of around six people to complete this task so please get in touch if you would like to help make Pāpāmoa the safest and most caring place to live.

My moan of the month is unlocked cars being broken into and items stolen. Opportunist thieves sometimes roam the streets at night and try door handles to see if they have been left unlocked, and far too many have. The thieves are mostly just after cash and cards, which are usually used before the victim wakes in the morning. Other items like purses, wallets, phones and laptops are also on the hit list as

electronics are easily turned into fast cash.

A few years ago, I was involved in a controlled operation to see just how casual our community is about locking vehicles in a public place. At a local carpark we tried the door handles of parked vehicles and found a staggering 22 per cent were unlocked. I hope that this number would be far lower today. It should be zero.

A few weeks ago I received footage of three youths captured on home CCTV trying door handles of a resident's vehicles at 11.30pm. Luckily both vehicles were locked and the would-be thieves continued down the road further, probably trying more vehicles on the off-chance they were not locked. Did they get lucky or not?

It's human nature that we might come home on a hot day and leave the car windows down and unlocked, but we do need to have a trigger to remind us to check that our cars are locked



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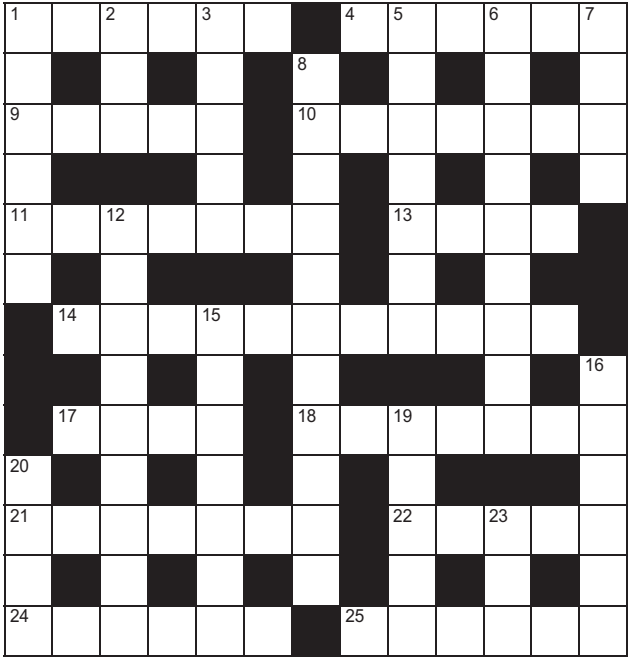


QUIZ

- 1. What is the only fruit with seeds on the outside?
- 2. Which 1980s song begins with the lyrics "Tumble out of bed and I stumble to the kitchen"?
- 3. What is the southernmost capital city in the world?
- 4. In what year was the first iPhone released?
- 5. Which New Zealand town is known for its annual celebration of all things steampunk?
- 6. What was the name of the first dog sent into space?
- 7. What is the highest-grossing movie of all time (not adjusted for inflation)?
- 8. In which sport can you score a "turkey"?
- 9. What board game features locations such as Mayfair and Park Lane?
- 10. What is the name of the iconic rotating restaurant at the top of Auckland's Sky Tower?
- 11. Which actor voiced both Darth Vader and Mufasa?
- 12. In which decade was the first McDonald's restaurant opened?
- 13. What is the name of the New Zealand ice cream brand known for its signature "hokey pokey" flavor?
- 14. What does the "ZIP" in ZIP code stand for?
- 15. What was the first feature-length animated film ever released?
- 16. Which country has the most vending machines per capita?
- 17. In which book series would you find the character Professor Minerva McGonagall?
- 18. In technology, what does the abbreviation "USB" stand for?
- 19. In which New Zealand city would you find Baldwin Street, one of the steepest streets in the world?
- 20. What is the name of the horse that won New Zealand its first-ever Melbourne Cup in 1976?
- 21. Which famous landmark was gifted to the United States by France in 1886?
- 22. What is the national animal of Scotland?
- 23. Which two colors are found on the Swedish flag?
- 24. In which year did the Titanic sink?
- 25. What does the company LEGO's name come from?
- 26. What famous New Zealander once worked as a beekeeper before becoming world-famous?
- 27. Which video game franchise features a character named Link?
- 28. Who played Jack Dawson in Titanic?
- 29. What is the name of New Zealand's largest lake?
- 30. What is the capital city of Canada?
- 31. What is the collective noun for a group of owls?
- 32. Which European country is home to the original Oktoberfest?
- 33. What is the name of the villain in The Little Mermaid?
- 34. What is the real first name of Elton John?
- 35. In which decade was the World Wide Web (WWW) invented?
- 36. Which Shakespeare play features the characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
- 37. In which city would you find the famous Spanish Steps?
- 38. What is the only number that is spelled with its letters in alphabetical order?
- 39. What is the Māori name for New Zealand's tallest mountain?
- 40. Who directed The Lord of the Rings trilogy?

- ANSWERS
- 1. Strawberry
  - 2. 9 to 5 by Dolly Parton
  - 3. Wellington, New Zealand
  - 4. 2007
  - 5. Oamaru
  - 6. Laika
  - 7. Avatar (2009)
  - 8. Bowling
  - 9. Monopoly
  - 10. Orbit 360° Dining
  - 11. James Earl Jones
  - 12. 1940s (1940)
  - 13. Tip Top
  - 14. Zone Improvement Plan
  - 15. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)
  - 16. Japan
  - 17. Harry Potter
  - 18. Universal Serial Bus
  - 19. Dune
  - 20. Van der Hum
  - 21. The Statue of Liberty
  - 22. The Unicorn
  - 23. Blue and yellow
  - 24. 1912
  - 25. It's a combination of the Danish words "leg god," meaning "play well."
  - 26. Sir Edmund Hillary
  - 27. The Legend of Zelda
  - 28. Leonardo DiCaprio
  - 29. Lake Taupo
  - 30. Ottawa
  - 31. A parliament
  - 32. Germany
  - 33. Ursula
  - 34. Reginald Kenneth Dwight
  - 35. 1980s (1989)
  - 36. Hamlet
  - 37. Rome
  - 38. Forty
  - 39. Aoraki / Mount Cook
  - 40. Peter Jackson

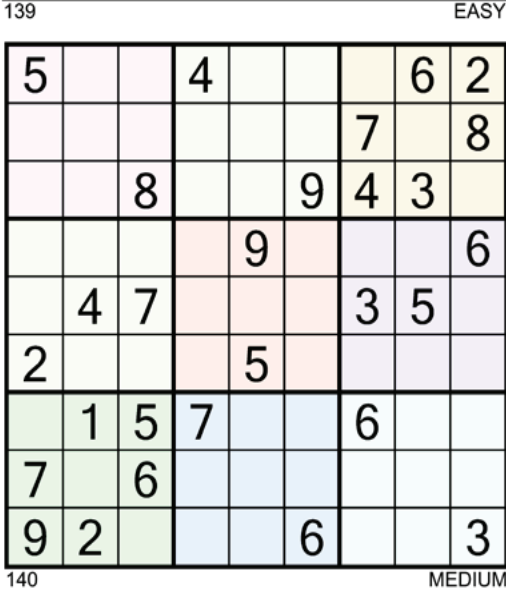
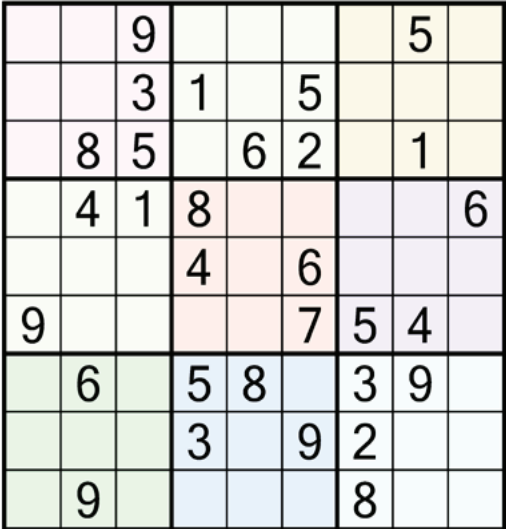
Quick crossword



- Across**
- 1. Act as go-between (6)
  - 9. Become visible (6)
  - 10. Sift (5)
  - 11. Irritated (7)
  - 12. Adult male chicken (7)
  - 13. Depend (4)
  - 14. Available in store, stock item (3-3-5)
  - 17. Fine, soft hair (4)
  - 18. Deluge (7)
  - 21. Raise to a higher position (7)
  - 22. Visual recording (5)
  - 24. To separate grains by flailing (6)
  - 25. Lacking skill for a task (6)
- Down**
- 1. Sheen (6)
  - 2. Winning serve (3)
  - 3. Mix of rain and snow (5)
  - 5. Sovereign (7)
  - 6. Regal colour (5,4)
  - 7. Whirlpool (4)
  - 8. Friend who can't be relied on (4,7)
  - 12. Feeling unwell (3-6)
  - 15. Flimsy (7)
  - 16. Caress (6)
  - 19. Large black bird (5)
  - 20. Minor quarrel (4)
  - 23. Give a nickname (3)

Sudoku

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



Kids' corner

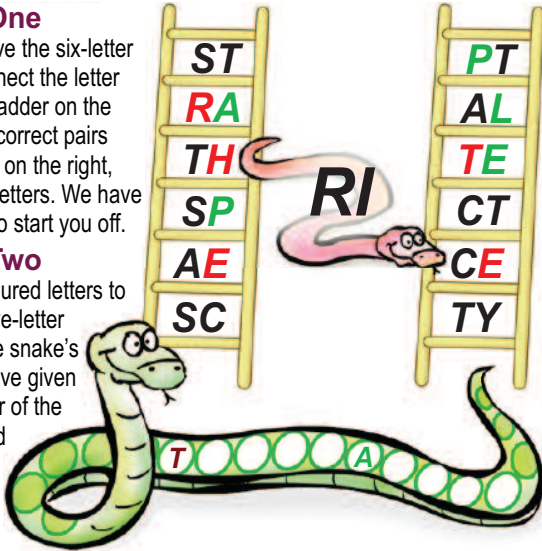
Snakes and Ladders

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

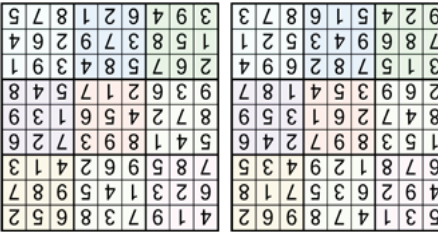
Crossword

- Across:** 1. Liaise, 4. Emerge, 9. Sieve, 10. Annoyed, 11. Rooster, 13. Rely, 14. Off-the-shelf, 17. Down, 18. Torrent, 21. Promote, 22. Video, 24. Thresh, 25. Unable.
- Down:** 1. Lustre, 2. Ace, 3. Sleet, 5. Monarch, 6. Royal blue, 7. Eddy, 8. Fair weather, 12. Off-colour, 15. Tenuous, 16. Stroke, 19. Raven, 20. Spat, 23. Dub.

Snakes and Ladders

- Puzzle 1**
- STRICT, RARITY, THRICE, SPRITE, AERIAL, SCRIPT, THREE, APPLE.

Sudoku





# Pāpāmoa six years ago: what's changed?



The first issue of Pāpāmoa Post from April 2019.

This April Pāpāmoa Post celebrates six years of sharing news about our beachside suburb.

Looking back at the stories in the first issue, it's testament to just how quickly Pāpāmoa has grown and developed. At the same time, the more things change, the more they stay the same: many concerns aired in that first issue remain today.

Here is what was happening in Pāpāmoa in April 2019.

#### What's changed:

- We were eagerly awaiting the extension of Te Okuroa Drive from Livingstone Drive to Stevenson Drive; now a well-established route.
- Development plans were announced for a new part of Golden Sands located off Te Okuroa Drive in the Union Drive area – six years later, this area has hundreds of houses.
- Pāpāmoa Surf Life Saving Club still had its old clubhouse, and was fundraising hard to get the new building project over the line.

The new building opened in 2021 and is a treasured community space.

- In April 2019, house prices were up 3 per cent to a median value of \$688,000. Today, houses in Pāpāmoa Beach have a median price of \$968,800.
- Summerset announced a new village in Pāpāmoa on Manawa Road. Construction began in 2019, and this village is now home to hundreds of residents.

#### What's stayed the same:

- The Pāpāmoa East Interchange was a hot topic and Pāpāmoa ward councillor Steve Morris said it was crucial that construction begin in 2021. Six years later, the interchange can't come soon enough. While it is scheduled to open in the second half of 2026, Steve and MP Tom Rutherford are campaigning for the entry/exit ramps to open earlier.
- After-hours medical care was an issue. We ran a story about a petition signed by 2500 people for a 24-hour medical centre. This continues to be a burning issue with local

residents. In 2024 Emergency Consult in Palm Springs filled a gap, but the clinic closed in under a year as it was not viable.

- The community was preparing for the first Anzac Day at our community-funded memorial. Services have been well attended in the years since, and 2025 will be no exception.
- Police urged Pāpāmoa residents to lock their cars to avoid being targeted by opportunistic thieves. In 2025 this is still a regular plea from police as people continue to leave their cars unlocked and wallets on display.
- An upgrade of Domain Rd was underway. Six years later, our ward councillor Steve Morris is trying to get further improvements to the road over the line in the council's annual plan.

What will life in Pāpāmoa look like in another six years? 2031 sounds like a long time away, but time flies and we look forward to reporting on another six years of positive change and development in Pāpāmoa Post. ■

## Post services popular at Paper Plus

Pāpāmoa's NZ Post has been based at Paper Plus in Pāpāmoa Plaza for six months now, but some people are still discovering it.

Hayley Butler of Paper Plus says there has been a fantastic response from the community since they took over post services in September, with some customers only now realising what is available.

"We have lots of really good feedback from the community; we have got lots of new regu-

lars who come in," says Hayley. "Everyone is happy to have it here."

Pāpāmoa had been without a "post office" since the unforeseen closure of the previous post shop at the Plaza in March 2024.

At Paper Plus full postal services are available including bill payment, car registration, road user charge payments, mail redirection, Kiwi access cards, and international and domestic postage. ■



Hayley Butler, Kerry Butler and Neville Butler at Paper Plus Pāpāmoa.

## Grey Power news

In March Grey Power members attended a Fred Hollows Foundation lecture, courtesy of Ocean Shores Retirement Village. On Friday 11 April at 1pm Grey Power will hold its AGM at Pāpāmoa Library and Community Centre, followed by a talk by Pāpāmoa Community Constable Adrian Oldham. All welcome. \$5 door charge. Queries: please phone Jonathan on 07 572 2091. ■

# Pāpāmoa Post

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NEWS

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