

# COROMIND

**From Coro With Love  
Preserving Mother Earth  
Getting Your Message Across  
#Nofilterneeded**

Audio Version



February 2023

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## Editorial

Kia ora

Get ready for an exciting journey with the second issue of Coromind magazine. This edition is filled with stunning images, artwork and illustrations captured and created by talented artists from the Coromandel and beyond - a visual feast.

The articles were written by a diverse group of authors of different ages and backgrounds, each bringing their unique voice to pertinent topics.

While some may argue that working alone allows for faster progress, we believe in the power of collaboration. We open our hearts to new talented individuals eager to share their thoughts and perspectives, and we thrive in the creative energy of a diverse team. Collaboration is at the core of our approach, and it is what makes our work truly special.

Coromind is a free magazine with a mighty website where you can find all our articles plus exclusive video content. We also have an audio version available. Accessibility matters!

Scan the QR code on the cover of the mag to access our online content or go straight to coromind.nz in your browser.

Now, sit back, relax and enjoy Coromind!

Peace,

The Coromind Team



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Want your work in our magazine? We love your contributions, please send them to the same email address above.

We can't guarantee to print them all, but we love to know what's important to you.

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**Art Director/Web** – Taylor O.G

**Production/Marketing** – Leonardo Magri

**Layout/Design** - Sam Jury-Zimmerman, Taylor O.G

**Office Administrator** – Leonardo Magri

**Illustrator** – Lucas Rocha

**Cover** – Hannah Coleman-Smith

**Contributors** – Anna Mikkelsen, Anusha Bhana, Bees Cox, Brent Dry, Chloe Potae, Dave Burton, Deli Connell, Fabian Roberts, Francesca Dowling, Isaiah Johnston, Jani Lee, Kaspur Franke, Paul Lee, Pete 'The Flying Kiwi' May, Petra Campbell, Ron Morgan, Ross Liggins, Thomas Everth

**Proofing** – Helen Oliver

Readers' contributions of letters and articles are welcome. Publication of these is at the discretion of the editorial team and may be edited. Contributions will only be considered for the publication with the author's full name, residential address, and contact number. Opinions expressed in Coromind magazine are not necessarily those of the publishers.

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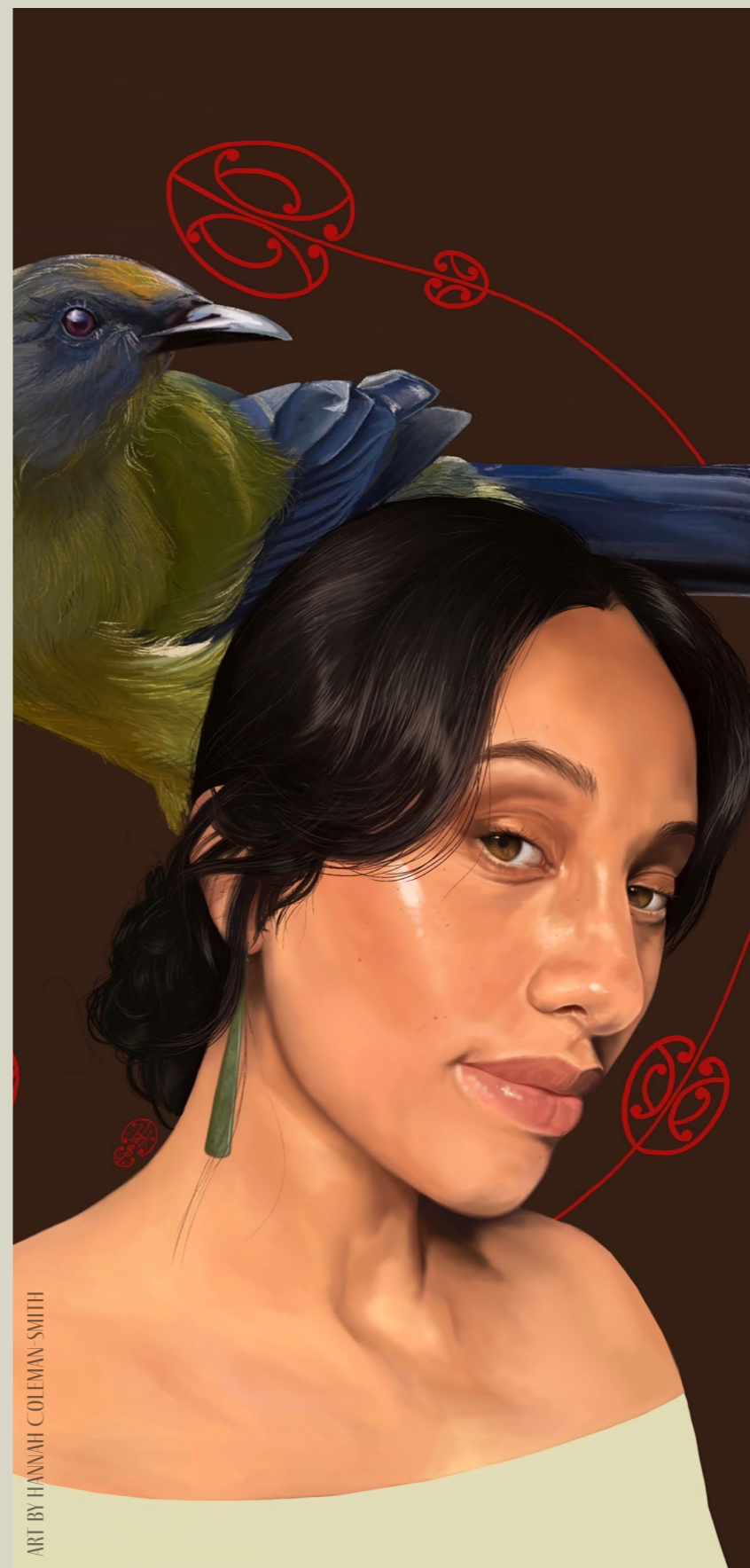
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ART BY HANNAH COLEMAN-SMITH

# HANNAH COLEMAN-SMITH



My name is Hannah Coleman-Smith. I have been creating since I was a little kid, and I have always been drawn to creating art depicting women, especially in nature. Art is important to me because it is one of the first forms of human expression and protestation. I make art because I want a person to feel at home in it and to feel seen. To be able to feel beautiful or to feel as though their cultural identity and hardships have been acknowledged.

My style is semi-realism portraiture. I love painting (and pretty much only paint) women. I also include animals and plants in my work. It's really important to me to paint women, more specifically women of colour. Most of my work to date has been of Māori/Pacific Islander women. This is because I want to highlight not only the beauty of these women but confront and bring to light the societal issues that they face due to colonisation.

Women, historically, have always struggled to feel seen. I feel like it's part of my responsibility as an artist to help them be noticed. In my creative process, I am drawn to painting and expressing emotion. I am inspired by people like Robyn Kahukiwa, Miriama Grace-Smith, Mr G Hoete, and even people like Hone Tūwhare and Witi Ihimaera.

I am currently painting from my childhood home in Auckland, in my brother's old room we turned into a studio. I use acrylics and also paint digitally, and I am hoping to start using oils soon.



- Words by Hannah Coleman-Smith



# Getting Your Message Across

Ever find yourself in a situation where you know something needs to be said or done about a situation, but you're not quite sure how to talk about it or engage others in helping to make some improvements? You might want them to understand your concerns and you're wondering how to arrange your thoughts so that your listeners will get your message quickly and want to be part of working out a solution.

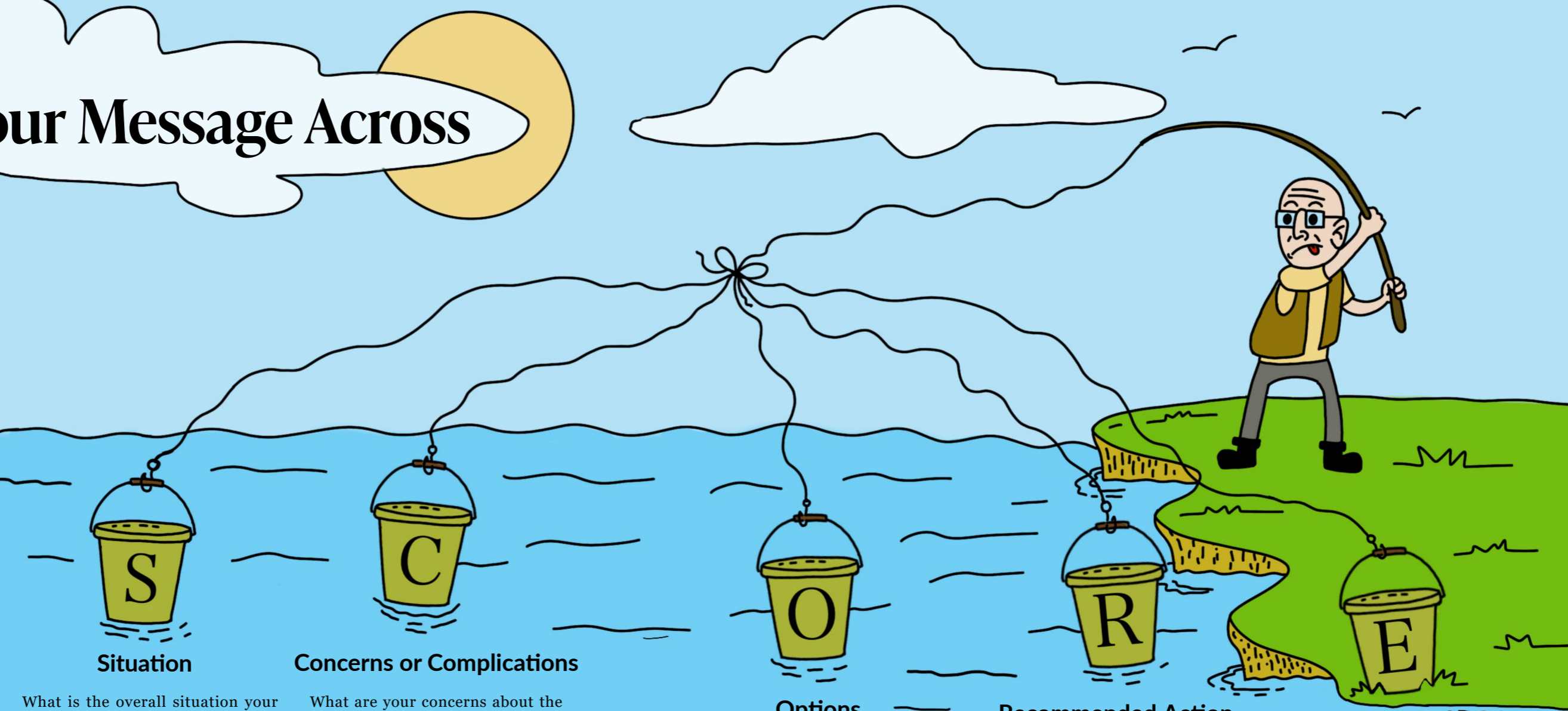
Before you start planning what to say, think about the outcome you're trying to achieve – understanding, action, a change of behaviour or maybe just feeling that you've been heard.

Then take some time to organise your information into a logical pattern by using the SCORE formula. This will help you to clarify your thoughts and, more importantly, will allow your listeners to understand your message and get the main points of it quickly and easily.

The SCORE formula gives you a general structure that you can use for most types of communication: solving problems, explaining concerns, writing a business case or proposal or just plain talking to someone about something that's an issue for you.

The letters of SCORE stand for:

- S – Situation
- C – Concerns or Complications
- O – Options
- R – Recommended Action
- E – Ending



## Situation

What is the overall situation your communication is centred on? To clarify your thoughts in this area, ask yourself questions like:

- What has led to you needing to have this communication?
- What is the background to the current events?
- What has happened so far?
- What is actually going on for you or others?
- Why is it important to let your listeners know?

## Concerns or Complications

What are your concerns about the situation? Here you can ask yourself questions such as:

- What are the complications here?
- What consequences or difficulties is this situation causing?
- What issues or challenges are arising?
- What will happen if nothing is done to address them?
- How are you feeling about the situation?

## Options

What options, actions or information could lead to the resolution of the issue, or address your concerns? You might do this on your own, or you could involve others and seek their ideas. This is the 'ideas gathering' part of the process: collect all the ideas you can think of, from the obvious to the crazy! Questions that can help you here are:

- What options are there for your listeners or you?
- What steps could be taken to resolve the issue?
- What further information might be needed?
- What ideas do others have that could be useful?
- What is the option that no-one has mentioned yet?
- How might you or others benefit from these options?

## Recommended Action

Now you can evaluate the ideas and talk through the benefits and drawbacks of them. You might have some preferences yourself, but while it's important to state them, if you are working with others it's also important to pause and let them contribute their thoughts before making any decisions. Some useful questions to help you agree on a useful recommendation are:

- What are the pro's and con's of the various options
- Which options do you recommend and why?
- Which options do your listeners recommend and why?
- Who will need to do what and when will they need to do it?

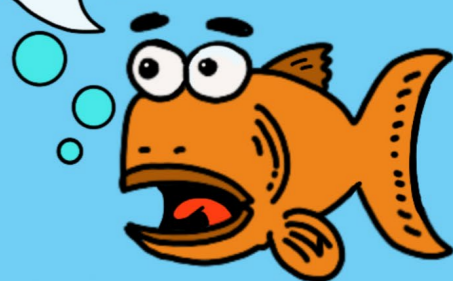
## Ending

Finally, bring your conclusions together and agree on the next steps with others who've been involved. Be clear about who will do what and thank others for their contribution.

- Words by Dave Burton  
daveb@potential.co.nz

Art by Lucas Rocha

So, next time you're facing a challenge, try the SCORE approach to finding a good solution. It works!



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# Should you invest in an electric car?

With advancements in technology and increasing awareness of the importance of reducing our environmental impact, electric cars are a smart choice for Kiwis looking to reduce their carbon footprint and save money on fuel costs.

Air pollution is not a problem for EVs as they do not produce emissions while operating. By switching to an electric car, New Zealanders contribute to a cleaner environment for all.

Many governments worldwide offer financial incentives for electric cars, which can further reduce the cost of ownership. EVs can be cheaper to operate than traditional gasoline or diesel cars because they require less maintenance and have lower fuel costs. In New Zealand, the government provides a grant of up to \$8,000 to help purchase an EV.

It's becoming more accessible than ever to travel long distances without worrying about running out of power now that a growing number of charging stations are popping up around the country. Many of these are fast charging, meaning you can recharge your car in minutes rather than hours.

In addition, many car manufacturers are now releasing electric cars with a range of over 300 km on a single charge, which is more than enough for most daily commutes and road trips!

And remember, electric motors have fewer moving parts and do not require fuel filters, oil changes or new spark plugs.

Switching to an EV is an excellent initiative to provide a better environment for future generations. They are becoming more convenient and practical than ever!



## On Birds, Trees and Fish

*What have birds, trees and fish in common, one may wonder? It turns out a lot. And here is why.*

When humans arrived in Aotearoa, they found a fantastic ecosystem that had evolved over millions of years into a wonderland of subtropical coastal rainforests, hosting thousand-year-old trees, millions of birds, many of them seabirds, and an abundant and productive coastal ocean full of a vibrant network of species. The productivity of the ecosystem must have been spectacular. Early Māori settlers and the European colonialists describe the nightly bird chatter in the forest as deafening. Today only a shadow of this life remains, and remnants of this ecosystem are constrained to remote pest-free islands, such as Rangiauria in the Chatham Islands group. Parts of the story of how our land was robbed of this abundance are generally known. Still, the interlinking pathways and dependencies between trees, birds and fish are not widely appreciated. Yet the severing of these links since colonial settlers arrived greatly amplified the rapid decline of the ecosystems around us. So, what are these links, and how important are they?

Ecology studies whole ecosystems and highlights the interdependencies between their constituent species and habitat features. NZ's coastal landscape ecology featured strong links between the trees, birds and the sea. Millions of shore-nesting seabirds, foraging for food in the abundant coastal marine life, would bring tons of essential soil nutrients ashore that provided sustenance for soil microbiology and nutrients for the coastal rainforest. Seabird burrows aerated the ground and

added to the health of the soil ecology. In return, the forest floor provided soft ground for seabird burrows and protection for the nests and the young from the elements. Further, nutrient-rich runoff from the land would feed into the productivity of ocean life. And a healthy balance between school fish and predators in the ocean would result in large fish boils with readily available food for the birds.

During the colonial settlement by Europeans in Aotearoa, these links were broken. The introduction of mammalian pests such as rats, stoats and cats decimated Aotearoa's bird life and reduced their nesting success rates to below-minimum levels to sustain their populations. The felling and burning of the coastal forests in pursuit of wood and for the clearing of land for ruminant grazing destroyed large swathes of the forest habitat. The rapid intensification of fishing removed more than three-quarters of the biomass of many coastal fish species, thereby robbing the remaining seabirds of much of their food source. Rapid global warming of ocean surface waters has further reduced the viability of coastal marine ecosystems by driving fish into colder, deeper waters and thereby out of the reach of birds foraging near the surface. Often juvenile seabirds are unable to find food for survival, and adults need to venture far further from the shore to find food, reducing their ability to feed their chicks and exhausting their energy.

Meanwhile, human land use has converted the run-off of rainwater from

the land (previously a flow of healthy forest nutrients) into a toxic bacteria-laden brew of farm animal waste, chemical fertilisers, clays and silt, and pollution from other human activities. Today's river flows cause the expansion of oxygen-depleted marine dead zones in the coastal oceans. In a spiral of consequences, the entire ecosystem is in decline.

As a consequence of these compounding factors, the bird population has dropped to a fraction of what it once was, and the nesting success of many species is below the minimum recruitment levels required to sustain what is left of their population. Kauri dieback disease is killing the remnants of our kauri forests. Some scientists point to the nutrient depletion in our soils, particularly the lack of phosphorus minerals once abundantly delivered in bird droppings, as a contributing factor. Caring for our ecosystem means adopting a holistic approach. The ecosystem impacts of the disruption of the web of life are always greater than the damage done to one of its parts. Likewise, conservation efforts have much larger paybacks across the system too. The COP15 conference on biodiversity in Montreal concluded with the agreement to protect 30% of our ecosystems from human exploitation by 2030. I hope we can work together to achieve this ambitious goal before it is too late and overcome the yoke of entrenched entitlement thinking that keeps society hostage to destructive practices of the past.

*- Words by Thomas Everth*

*Art by Lucas Rocha*







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## Coromandel's Altbays Show Makes a Splash on the International Stage



Fabian Roberts, Andrew Lee and Leo Magri

### Whitianga Podcast Garners Worldwide Attention, Highlighting the Power of Independent Local Media

Chef Andrew Lee, a veteran of the hospitality industry with over 35 years of experience, recently made a controversial statement on the podcast Altbays Show, produced in Coromandel. During his appearance, Lee declared that "the problem with Australia is that there are

too many Australians", and went on to claim that Australians are lazy workers. He stated that if given the opportunity, he would fill his kitchen with staff from New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina.

A clip from the show featuring Lee's remarks quickly went viral on TikTok, garnering over 200,000 views. This led to a heated debate and widespread media coverage, with articles about the podcast appearing in news outlets around the world such as the Daily Mail UK, the NZ Herald, NY Breaking, Newshub NZ, and news.com.au, among others.

Opinions on the matter were mixed. Many commentators pointed out that the hospitality industry, in particular, has a history of low pay and poor working conditions, which can make it difficult for employers to attract and retain workers. Some argued that this is a more pressing issue than the supposed laziness of Australians or any other nationality.

The international attention brought to the Altbays Show, and its hosts, Leo

Magri and Fabian Roberts, was seen as a positive development for the independent Coromandel media outlet, despite the polemic statement. The laid-back conversation format of the show is a key factor in its popularity. Independent media can make an impact in today's world!

The Altbays Show live streamed episode number 150 in January. The platform brings people from different backgrounds to have honest conversations and the future is promising. "We have fun producing these shows. More people in Aotearoa, New Zealand and around the world find out about us every day and the feedback we receive is gratifying. We are currently working on fantastic new projects, so watch this space" says Leo Magri, Altbays Show host.



Scan the QR Code here to watch Andrew Lee's episode and all the other great shows on the Altbays Youtube Channel.

[WWW.ALTBAYS.NZ](http://WWW.ALTBAYS.NZ)

## #Nofilterneeded

Mirror Mirror on the wall...in this digital age, who is the fairest of them all?

We've been looking in the mirror a lot lately – that is, the mirror of our devices. Why wouldn't you, when you can zoom up as close as possible to your face to critically pick yourself apart? I hear it's great for your self-esteem! Especially when all the tools to smooth, shrink and sharpen your way to perfection are just at your fingertips twenty-four seven, always there, always available – a constant reminder of our perceived 'flaws'.

Our world, where terms such as 'Snapchat Dysmorphia' coexist alongside plastic surgeons being in high demand to chisel away at our natural beauty in favour of mimicking the 'Natural Beauty' filter, seems just as unreal as the filters themselves. Accompanying the highly sought-after 'Natural Beauty' filter are other popular ones such as 'Clear Skin' and the subtly named 'Pretty Face' filter, amongst many others, which offer users an instantly made-up, blemish-free version of themselves to share with the world online.

It all may seem initially innocuous, I mean what's the harm in a little confidence boost after all? However, filters can insidiously reinforce Western beauty standards, and encourage some to resort to drastic measures in order to conform with their features in real life. These typically consist of ethnic ambiguity, flawless skin, slenderness, big eyes, full lips, small nose, perfectly contoured curves or muscles and

an overwhelming hyperfocus on eurocentric features. It's no surprise then, that the rise of face filters and editing apps has been correlated with a surge in cosmetic surgeries. Research on the link between social media and self-esteem finds users of image-heavy social media platforms, like Instagram, are more likely to consider going under the knife, while 55% of plastic surgeons in 2018 reported their patients' surgeries were motivated by a desire to look better in selfies according to American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS).

Beauty may be subjective, and yet society continues to promote stringent, unattainable ideals that can cause a catalyst of harm, especially for the younger generation – the biggest consumers of beauty filters. Is this a healthy message we want to be participating in? Promoting toxic beauty ideologies to children, adolescents and young adults for them to internalise being deemed undesirable in society's eyes – to then regurgitate this mentality out into the world as well. A toxic cycle ensues and no one wins. According to Dove's 'Self Esteem Project' latest findings, 52% of girls use filters every day and 80% have used an app to change their appearance before the age of 13. Along with these statistics, 77% of the girls that took part in Dove's latest study reported trying to change or hide at least one part of their body before posting a photo of themselves and

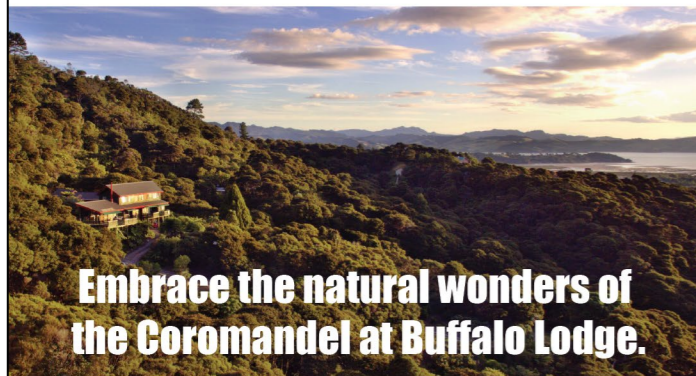
50% believed they didn't look good enough without photo editing. These shocking figures suggest that the increasing effect of filters and digital distortion amongst girls and young women is creating low confidence and self-worth.

As an adult, it is easier to resist the effects of social media filters due to having a more solid sense of self and identity. Whereas children, teens and young adults are much more vulnerable to the consequences for their self-esteem of actively using filters and photo editing apps, as they measure themselves up against these unattainable beauty standards and then perceive their real selves as inadequate in comparison.

What if we were to embrace the freckles scattered across our faces where the sun has kissed our skin? Or the stretch marks that tell a story of the transitions and growth our incredible bodies are capable of? What about looking at loved ones' faces and imagining them without their little quirks and their unique qualities that make them them? Their wide noses and wonky smile, their crow's feet and laugh lines. Imagine us without our qualities that they love about us. Why whitewash and hide these aspects that are truly beautiful? Maybe it's time to kiss goodbye toxic beauty filters and take an unfiltered hard look in the mirror and get a reality check as beauty stares back at us.

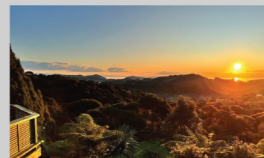
- Words By Francesca Dowling

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# Deli Connell Rants

Call it out ... or compliment

It seems to be the knee-jerk reaction nowadays, boosted by the accessibility of social media, to go from zero to agitated in less than 5 seconds.

In the old days, criticism and insults had a deal more creativity and, dare I say, class. You also had to have the intestinal fortitude to face up to the object of your ire, deliver your missive and risk a slap in the face with a gauntlet at best ... pistols at dawn at worst.

**"... a most notable coward, an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker, the owner of no one good quality ..."**

*All's Well That Ends Well (Act III, Scene VI)*

**"I'll beat thee, but I should infect my hands."**

*Timon of Athens (Act IV, Scene III)*

**"You scullion! You rampallian! You fustilarian! I'll tickle your catastrophe!"**

*Henry IV Part 2 (Act II, Scene I)*

Ahhh, we have much to thank Shakespeare for.

But best we save our greatest insults for a situation truly worthy of the effort.

A quick scan of social media over recent weeks (I know, why do I do it to myself?) gleaned such indignities as paying \$6 for a cup of coffee, a prize jerk getting angry about the lack of pies in the local bakery and an angry recipient of a ticket from the local constabulary ... technically deserved.

One post stood out however, the bullying of a staff member by a superior, in front of customers. Now here's a reason to get annoyed. The shame is that most of us are too nervous to call out the kind of behaviour that deserves to be called out.

**"... thou sodden-witted lord! Thou hast no more brain than I have in mine elbows ..."**

*Troilus and Cressida (Act II, Scene I)*

Bullying takes many forms but usually comes down to power or size ... or a perceived power or status. The boss and the employee, superior and inferior ... big and small.

**"I'm smart, you're dumb, I'm big, you're little, I'm right, you're wrong! And there's nothing you can do about it!"**  
from *Matilda* by Roald Dahl.

Let me ask you this ... is bullying okay if you're wealthy? Has Donald Trump gotten to be the A-grade idiot he is because no-one has told him "No"?

Hmm ... ponder these.

**X spends quite a bit at a local bar on a regular basis, so the owner turns a blind eye to his inappropriate touching of, and language towards, young female staff.**

**X splashes a bit of money around the community, donates to a few sports clubs, but bullies and intimidates their staff members until they leave.**

**When did the amount of cash you have give you the right to be a bully? Do you know someone like this? Have you witnessed this sort of behaviour and said nothing?**

**"Oh, I know what he/she's like, but he/she puts a lot of money into the community."**

**"Oh, I've heard he's an a\*#hole but he's never done anything to me personally."**

**Let me be clear, if we stand back and ignore these kinds of behaviours, then we are complicit.**



Can we be brave, in the actual moment, and call out this behaviour? Step up and intervene? Read the pedigree of the perpetrator?

We need to. We need to put on our brave pants and call it out for what it is. Social media be damned. See it? Act!

Our mental health stats are poor, suicide rates high, bullying tacitly acceptable.

## Call it out!

And compliment the good folks out there making the world a better place. Those fantastic front of house staff, baristas and shop assistants ... the marvellous NZ Post couriers! Look for the good and tell them to their face!

**"I do love nothing in the world so well as you."** — Much Ado About Nothing (Act IV, Scene I)

Thanks, William. 🍷❤️

Call it out ... and give a shout out to those that deserve it.

My new mantra for 2023.

- Words by Deli Connell

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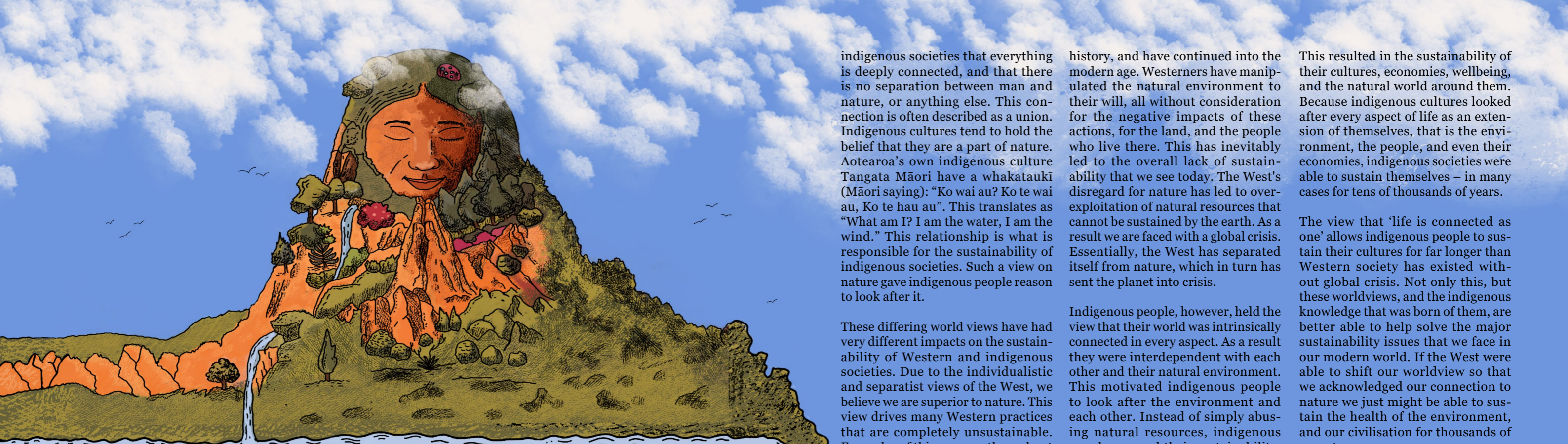
I love you  
Oh blessed child!  
From sea... to sea - - - to sea...  
Suspended  
With bulletproof backpacks  
And knapsacks  
And metal detectors erected  
Born Free!  
Protected  
By Law and Decree  
Anointed-Amended  
...Run child! Now! Hurry!  
Go Wildly with God and with Glory  
Through sifted lifted lands  
Enriched by poverty  
Built by "shiftless" grifted hands  
To a welfare eternity  
You my child must know  
But never worry  
For I love you!  
Beyond All... Others  
For You...  
I shower the missiles on air  
and mines on land  
And the footprints  
That roam foreign sands  
For You...  
The Eagle bird sings  
"Oh say can't you see  
how much I love thee?"  
-With steel and limbs that tear  
And clothes that march and wear  
With gases and masks and  
Clouds that grow and glow  
Like magic in darkness  
...For You  
I turn the night to days  
I Love You  
In so many ways...  
With chemicals that stabilize  
and pesticides and herbicides  
There are so many -sides to  
My love for you  
From Out and from Home  
With cables and webs  
and screens that blind us  
-That mind us  
These are the ties  
That scream and bind US  
24 hours  
I love you...  
Kneel now with me my child  
Kneel  
on plastic pews  
Pray with me  
Pray...Prey...Pray..  
Pray  
That you may  
One day have  
A blessed child too...  
What terror my love for you  
**Kaspur Franke**

## Summer Daze

Leftover Christmas displays still line the street,  
the fairy lights filling the warm night with a sense of joy.  
We fall asleep to the sound of laughter and loud music echoing through the neighbourhood.  
Ice creams and cold drinks are used as a feeble attempt to cool down,  
the sweet smell of sunscreen and insect repellent wrap me in a comfortable sense of nostalgia.  
A constant scent of barbeque fills the air at golden hour, bringing a warm smile to my face.  
Each day we revel in the carefree feeling of nothing on our mind but choosing the right playlist,  
spending each spare second in the ocean, the lake, the river...splashing.  
Sand scorches our bare feet as we drop our towels and race into the cool relief of the water.  
Family and friends are the lore of the land, they ebb and flow like the tide, in and out of the house, swapping over the leisurely duty of house guests every few days.  
An overwhelming sense of love can be felt as we chat under the veranda,  
or giggle as we put sunscreen on each other's backs before lying in the sun.  
The lackadaisical summer days waste away as we relish in the beautiful feeling of being on holiday.

**Anna Mikkelsen**





# Preserving Mother Earth

Petra Campbell explores the role of worldviews in environmental sustainability

Now more than ever sustainability, or the lack thereof, is an issue at the forefront of many of our minds. It is the issue that plagues the modern world as it affects every living being on our planet from us humans down to the plankton in our oceans. As humans, we have recently come to realise that the responsibility of the health of life on earth now relies on us and our sustainability. In the modern world, we overexploit and overproduce resources in order to grow our economy and thrive as a society. However, there are people in the world who have kept their cultures thriving for hundreds if not thousands of years without needing to do this, thus protecting their environment. These people are the indigenous people of our planet. Indigenous societies such as Māori, Australian First Nations People, Native Americans, and many more, have achieved such great sustainability for thousands of years. It is important to note that the many different indigenous societies have many different worldviews. When I refer to the indigenous worldview, I will be discussing a combination of several indigenous societies and the common grounds of their worldviews.

Indigenous people can be described as any group of people who lived in a location for a long period of time uninfluenced by other cultures, which allowed them to develop their own unique culture and worldviews.

I have come to understand that one of the reasons for the incredible sustainability of indigenous cultures, and the unfortunate lack of sustainability in ours, is the way each of us sees the world, or our worldviews.

In the West, centuries of influence from religion, philosophies and several ancient and modern societies have impacted our worldview. Generally the Western values are those based in Christian values as well as some values of ancient Greek and Roman societies. Many Western values are based in Christianity, such as individualism and our views on the sanctity of human life. Even more so, our views have been impacted by philosophers throughout history. The West's relationship to nature has been strongly influenced by ancient Greek philosophers. They believed in a natural hierarchy for everything that exists, from the gods down to the

soil in the ground. Most philosophers believed that man was the superior species, as they had politics, and intellect. Along with this sense of superiority was the separation between man and other living beings, or man and 'beast'. It was Aristotle who said that there were "two kinds of living beings, the human race and a second one [...] the beasts". Throughout the years this belief has evolved, and has seemed to carry on into the West's modern beliefs as Westerners tend to think that men are quite separate and different from the natural world. This is quite defining of the Western world view.

Indigenous peoples' worldviews on the other hand are quite different. They were historically directly influenced by their natural environment and their ancestors as they had no outside cultural influences. This also meant that indigenous societies were completely dependent on, or more accurately interdependent with, their natural environment. Because of indigenous societies' interdependability with nature, they also have a deep connection with it. It is a key worldview shared by many

indigenous societies that everything is deeply connected, and that there is no separation between man and nature, or anything else. This connection is often described as a union. Indigenous cultures tend to hold the belief that they are a part of nature. Aotearoa's own indigenous culture Tangata Māori have a whakataukī (Māori saying): "Ko wai au? Ko te wai au, Ko te hau au". This translates as "What am I? I am the water, I am the wind." This relationship is what is responsible for the sustainability of indigenous societies. Such a view on nature gave indigenous people reason to look after it.

These differing world views have had very different impacts on the sustainability of Western and indigenous societies. Due to the individualistic and separatist views of the West, we believe we are superior to nature. This view drives many Western practices that are completely unsustainable. Examples of this are seen throughout

history, and have continued into the modern age. Westerners have manipulated the natural environment to their will, all without consideration for the negative impacts of these actions, for the land, and the people who live there. This has inevitably led to the overall lack of sustainability that we see today. The West's disregard for nature has led to over-exploitation of natural resources that cannot be sustained by the earth. As a result we are faced with a global crisis. Essentially, the West has separated itself from nature, which in turn has sent the planet into crisis.

Indigenous people, however, held the view that their world was intrinsically connected in every aspect. As a result they were interdependent with each other and their natural environment. This motivated indigenous people to look after the environment and each other. Instead of simply abusing natural resources, indigenous people ensured their sustainability.

This resulted in the sustainability of their cultures, economies, wellbeing, and the natural world around them. Because indigenous cultures looked after every aspect of life as an extension of themselves, that is the environment, the people, and even their economies, indigenous societies were able to sustain themselves – in many cases for tens of thousands of years.

The view that 'life is connected as one' allows indigenous people to sustain their cultures for far longer than Western society has existed without global crisis. Not only this, but these worldviews, and the indigenous knowledge that was born of them, are better able to help solve the major sustainability issues that we face in our modern world. If the West were able to shift our worldview so that we acknowledged our connection to nature we just might be able to sustain the health of the environment, and our civilisation for thousands of years to come.

- Words by Petra Campbell  
Art by Lucas Rocha




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Isaiah Johnston

I started skating when I was really young because my parents skated, but I never learnt any tricks. When the new Whitianga Skatepark was built two years ago, I started learning tricks and taking them to the bigger obstacles. It was there that I really began to love skateboarding. Having a good space for skating has helped me and many others to learn a new hobby or grow a passion.



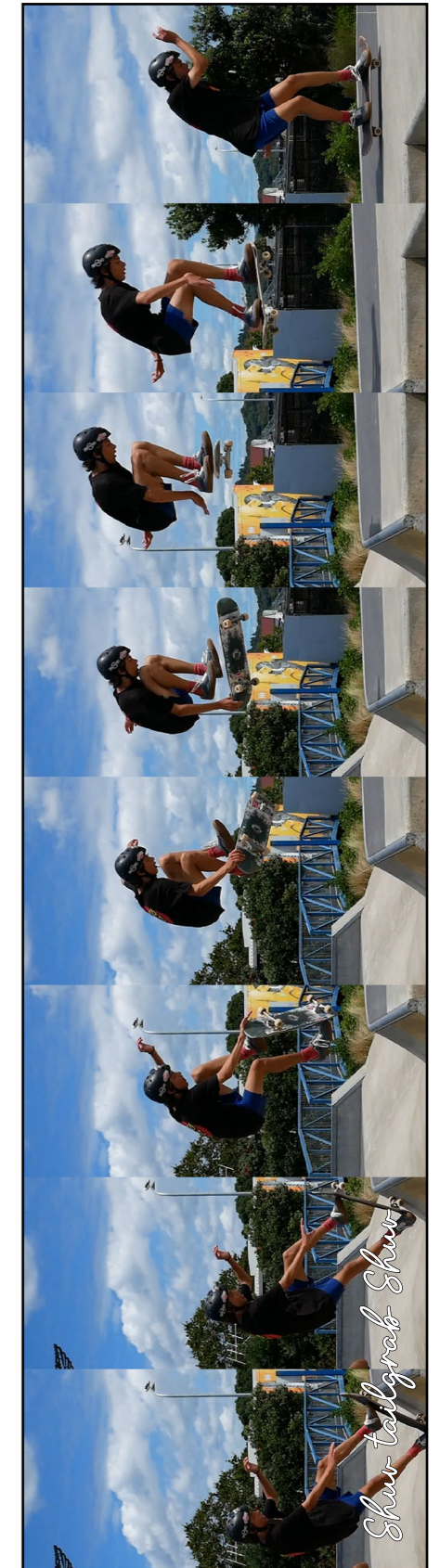
Having skater parents has also helped. They have taken me to many other skateparks. I have had the opportunity to skate in three other countries, including Pizze Park in Australia, the biggest skatepark in the southern hemisphere, and the biggest skatepark in Canada.

Skateboarding is also a great way to be creative because everyone has their own style and tricks.

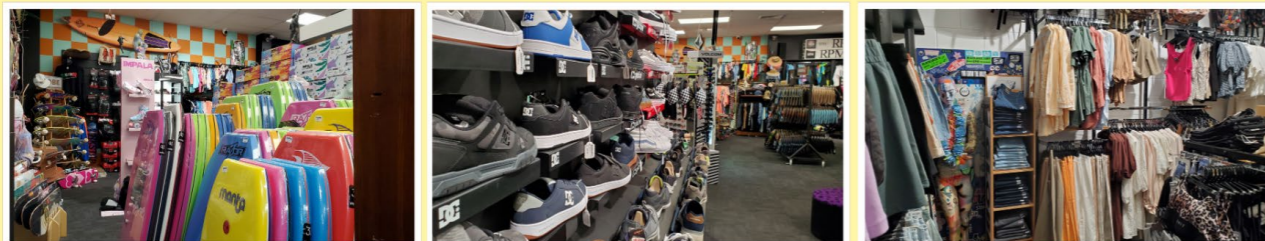
This trick is called Shuv Tailgrab Shuv, and it is a great example of creativity because I have never seen anyone else trying it. The Shuv Tailgrab Shuv is one of my most recent tricks. I would give it a 6/10 difficulty, mainly because of its uniqueness and the fact that first, the board spins a 180 under your feet, then you grab the board, and then spin it the other 180. I find the trick a little bit challenging, but that adds to the fun!



Skateboarding is a great hobby to get into because you get active and meet new people. It can be quite scary in the beginning, but once you get over the fear, it is one of the most enjoyable action sports out there.



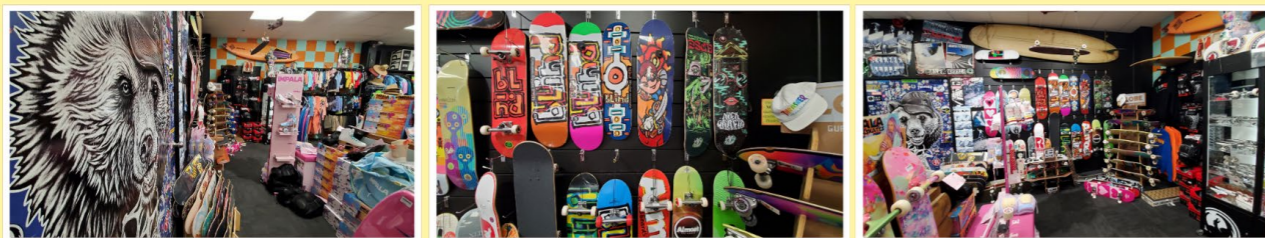
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## Ross Liggins is back with more anecdotes and insights

### The changing art of education – Part 2

Despite having a myriad mixed feelings about education, I eventually became a high school teacher of accounting, economics, and any other subject they didn't have a teacher for. I remember spending nights at my maths teacher colleague Bill's house learning the year 11 maths for the next day's lesson and going to class hoping like hell the bright students wouldn't ask me questions I couldn't answer. Parent teacher nights were interesting, with some parents blaming me for their little Johnny's bad exam results. In very polite language I would tell them that their little darling was in fact a lazy little sod, or words to that effect. One frustrated father, who was a friend of the principal, threatened to try to get me fired over his son's poor exam results. I heard later that he was going through a marriage break-up at the time and probably needed a punching bag. The principal apologised to me for his friend's behaviour.

Unlike during my own high school days, we weren't allowed to physically abuse, or emotionally abuse our students in any way. This to my mind was a fine principle, but I must admit that sometimes I felt like administering a slow and painful death to some of them. Because of this, you had to be quite creative in devising strategies for classroom management. When a disruptive student failed to respond to my cleverly designed in-class rules, there was always afternoon detention which would finish only when the offender had finished a two-page treatise on 'Why I offended and how I could avoid such behaviour in the future'. This sometimes proved to be a very valuable learning experience for me. One girl wrote that she had witnessed her father beating her mother that morning and the police had arrived at their house. I didn't feel good at all about the punishment I had inflicted, but it taught me to be more careful and more understanding about

the trials that some of my students were faced with and that we teachers had no knowledge of.

One day it was announced that the new board of governors had decided that the school was to have a uniform. Well, you can imagine the uproar from parents who had moved from the city to the small island where the school was located, in order to be free from the restrictions of big-city schools and to lead a more laid-back lifestyle; not to mention the families who had been islanders for generations. The school was split, as were the staff, with some members agreeing with the uniform policy while others balked at the concept and the idea of spending valuable teaching time policing boys' hoodies and the length of girls' skirts and whether they were wearing jewellery. This divisiveness went on until a group of us teachers came up with the obvious solution. Those students whose parents wanted a uniform could wear one and those

whose parents were opposed could wear mufti with a few restrictions attached. A nice compromise we thought, and that's what actually happened. Of course, now the teachers were expected to police both a uniform and a mufti dress code, a part of our job that many of us turned a blind eye to. There were lots of justifications put forward for having school uniforms. I am sure you have already heard them. But for me uniforms are useful for police, firefighters, some medical professionals, sports teams, the armed forces and a few other groups. They have little educational value for either students or teachers. But hey, that's just my thinking. So if you like to wear a uniform by all means ... Some people even find them sexy; in fact I remember a very attractive nurse in uniform I once met ... oh, but that's another story.

My next teaching jobs were at English language schools in Japan, Auckland and here in Whitianga, where I taught at Coromandel Outdoor Language Centre for almost 25 years. The school motto was 'Learning by doing' and we employed very communicative methods of teaching, rather than sitting doing endless English grammar exercises. We were generally happy to police a strict policy of 'English only' while at school. This was a useful learning tool, given that the students were often from 10 or more different countries and needed a common language to speak to avoid the formation of separate nationality groups. It was more difficult for some, especially for those who had no English or whose only words were "yes" and "no". "Hi, where are you from?" - "Yes" (and a smile). "What's your name?" - "Yes".

One such student was an elderly Japanese who, after coming back 5 times in consecutive years, never progressed past class 1. He loved

being with young people and didn't really mind his lack of fast progress. Others however soaked up language like a sponge. One Japanese boy started from scratch and became fluent in English and Swiss German (after marrying a Swiss girl), in a very short time. Students gave a speech on their graduation day. I will always remember one boy who began his speech "It's a beautiful f...ing day. I had a f...ing good time here." He continued in the same way using the 'f' word until the school director cut his speech short, by which time all the teachers were cringing and wondering where he had learnt to speak like that. 'Learning by doing' – perhaps he had taken our motto a little too much to heart! I am glad the 'c' word didn't get a mention.

Part of the 'learning by doing' program included afternoon activities where students participated in indoor and outdoor leisure pursuits, like tennis, fishing, kayaking, pottery and many others. I was fortunate enough to be the surfing teacher and every afternoon took mainly Asian and European young people to beaches from Sailors Grave in the south to Whangapoua in the north. It was a dream job except on cold grey winter days, when I had to get into a wet wetsuit and pretend to be enthusiastic running down the beach into the freezing onshore waves. However, most of the time the students (and I) had a ball, and not only did they learn the essential life skill of surfing, but they also picked up a few other minor skills like learning to speak the English language.

Another exciting part of my job was attending English language marketing conferences to promote our school. One such conference was held in Saudi Arabia during the years the Saudi government was sending its young, almost exclusively male,

graduates overseas to study English. I, along with 17 other members of our party from English schools all over NZ, was driven through heavily fortified barricades to the NZ embassy where the event was to take place. On arrival we hurried to the bar for our first beer in Saudi Arabia. The sale of alcohol is forbidden in that country. Interestingly, many of the Saudi language school agents also rushed to the bar for a drink, knowing that technically they were on NZ soil so the Saudi rules didn't apply. They were fortunate there were no religious police around.

Apparently however, there were Saudi religious police in NZ during those years, keeping a secret eye on their student countrymen and occasionally women. In the school where I worked in Auckland, female students had to be accompanied by a male family member, and sometimes required a female teacher and an all-female class. I remember one young woman though, who enrolled for a month-long course in my class. She was about 19 or 20 and wore jeans, T shirts, had no head covering and wasn't accompanied by a male family member. After a week in class, she disappeared and we never saw her again. There were whispers that she had been spotted by the Saudi authorities and sent back home. Makes you wonder if there are any undercover spies in our own schools and universities keeping an eye out for possible dissidents or those with extreme views.

To be continued ...

- Words by Ross Liggins  
Art by Lucas Rocha

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# Born & Raised Brent Dry

## What is the achievement you are most proud of?

The life that I have created, not just one single thing. I feel like I've done a lot of fun things in my time, but all of these have led me to be able to follow two of my passions, working with dogs on a daily basis, and also training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu where I am a state champion and silver medallist from the National Championships. My wife and I support each other in everything we do, so that is something I'm also very proud of.

## Have you been back to Coromandel recently? What were your impressions?

I was back home in May last year. Whitianga still has the same feel to me, it's just a little more grown-up. I see the relationships that my parents have created in town which are lovely. I saw people just popping past to have tea, coffee or beer and friends going out of their way to help others. This to me is what Whitianga has always been: people being there for others, supporting others and keeping the social side of things going. It is something that big cities will never be able to replicate.

## Where have you been living since you left?

After leaving Whitianga, I became an apprentice chef and lived in both Wellington and Hamilton, often getting back to see friends and family in Whitianga before moving to Australia in 1996. I moved around Queensland and Papua New Guinea for a few years before settling in Melbourne and have been here since 2007.

## What have you been doing since school?

Since leaving school I have had a couple of careers. I was a chef for around 18 years, running restaurants and hotels in some beautiful parts of the world – including islands off the Queensland Coast, Noosa and Papua New Guinea. After moving to Melbourne, I followed another passion of mine and studied dog behaviour and psychology. This government-accredited course is where I met my amazing wife and



we started our business, The K9 Company, from there. We currently run group classes, do private in-home consults, run workshops and seminars in both Australia and New Zealand and have travelled to the USA for conferences and workshops. We are known around Australia for the work we have done and have also been awarded Australia's Best Dog Trainers on two occasions.

## Brent Dry takes a trip down memory lane

### What are your family links with Mercury Bay?

My family Bill, Jayne and Bryce Skinner moved to Whitianga in 1988/89 and took over the Dairy that was on Monk Street. My parents still live in town having had varied jobs after selling the dairy including bus driving, running the hotel and others. My brother Bryce also lived in Whitianga for a few years before joining the army and eventually moving back to Auckland.

### What are your fondest memories of Mercury Bay?

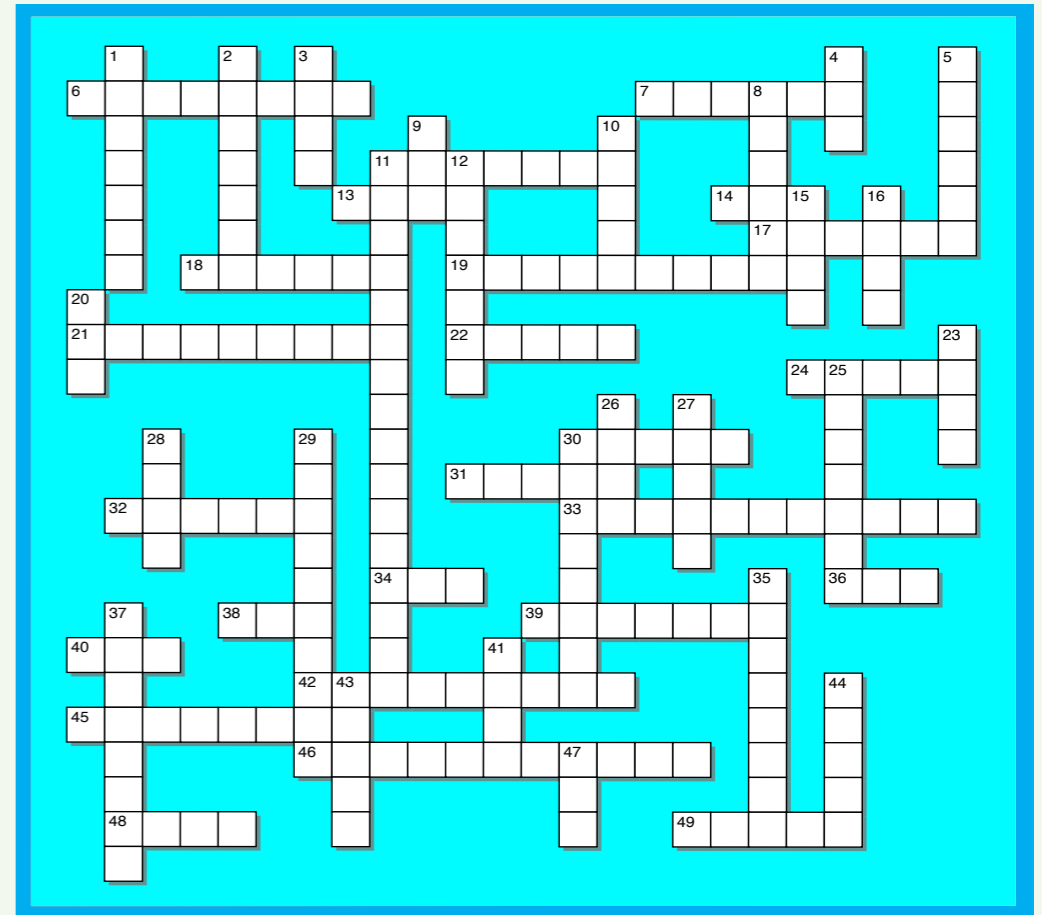
For me, the area itself holds memories. The land, the views, the beach, the school. I remember all of these fondly; however, the people that I met during that time would stand out. I very rarely think of anyone from my South Auckland school days but I often think of random people from The Bay. I remember playing rugby against Shawnigan Lake when they toured and playing under lights for the first time at the rugby club. I remember the first party I went to, the people who came in and welcomed us to town and getting to the age of responsibility and freedom. I don't think there could be a better place for that.



## Cross Your Mind

### Across

6. Modern day fad, or – reddish/yellow spice that dates back nearly 4000 years to India. Fun fact – a seedless plant, entirely cultivated by hand for all these years
7. Commonly known as the most popular drink in the world (outside of boring old water)
11. Assert something or pronounce emphatically
13. Man vs Wild star \_\_\_Grylls
14. The common name for species of the genus Ficus, and for their fruit
17. Top hit by NZ band Fourmyula in 1969
18. The Once-ler's creation
19. The first 'C' from TCDC
21. Batman villain played by Uma Thurman (6,3)
22. Bert's friend from Sesame Street
24. All the animal life in a particular region or period
30. Richard Attenborough's brother
31. Term for when you perform famous songs by another artist
32. Young people apply these to images in order to make themselves look and feel better. Sadly, some grownups do too ...
33. 1970s Venice, California saw a new trend emerge with youths using these as recreational transportation
34. The letters that precede our local sunken Buffalo
36. A style of Jamaican dance music combining elements of Caribbean calypso and mento with American jazz and rhythm and blues
38. To encourage or incite action
39. Nickname of the 1967 performer of 'What A Wonderful World'
40. Pōtae
42. Plants which have foliage that remains green and functional through more than one growing season
45. Joni Mitchel sang about how 'they paved \_\_\_ and put up a parking lot, Ooh bop bop bop.'



46. Manatū Mō Te Taiao is New Zealand's Ministry for the \_\_\_
48. A furnace or oven for firing pottery
49. Māori word for an earth oven

### Down

1. Gin's main botanical
2. Main language spoken in Germany (not the english word!)
3. Cook marshmallows over this
4. The opposite of No
5. This activity is an example of one
8. Between 1845-1852, Ireland suffered from the potato \_\_\_
9. Hot drink made with leaves
10. Spiderman's parasitic-alien enemy

11. Poisonous plant with attractive round purple/red berries
12. IPL, BBL, PSL, Super Smash and CPL are examples of leagues for which sport?
15. Strong wind
16. The Magic Dragon
20. Small, hot and bubbly pool
23. Tainui, Te Arawa, Mātaatua, Kurahaupō, Tokomaru, Aotea and Tākitimu were the first Māori \_\_\_ to arrive in New Zealand
25. Aotearoa New Zealand's greatest Youtube podcast/ videocast channel based in Whitianga – Live from 7pm (Page 11)
26. Tree trunk exoskeleton
27. Pair of things you need when taking something out of the oven
28. The fibre obtained from

- the husk of a coconut, used as a medium for cultivating plants
29. Language spoken in Brazil
30. Describes a bare landscape where few plants are growing
35. Death, Famine, War, and Conquest are \_\_\_
37. Traditional plant used by Māori to weave fishing nets
41. Pasta shaped like grains of rice
43. Flytrap – first name
44. Coniferous NZ native that can grow over 50m tall with a massive girth up to 16m
47. Awful Jason Statham film from 2018 about a giant shark

Answers on page 26.

Created by Fabian Roberts

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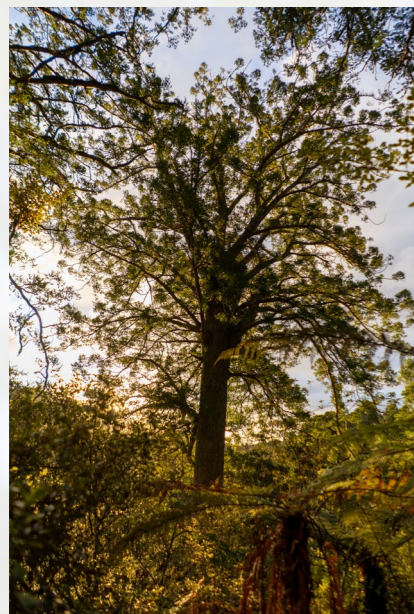




# They Came for the Kauri

The mighty kauri (*Agathis australis*) is one of the largest and longest-lived tree species in the world, with some trees living for over 1000 years.

1- Aerial photograph of Kauaeranga Valley



Here in Te Whanganui o Hei Mercury Bay, kauri was first 'discovered' by Lieutenant James Cook in 1769. However, it wasn't the tree he spotted, it was the kauri gum floating in amongst the mangroves in the Whitianga River. He presumed that the gum was from the mangroves.

It was from Marion de Fresne, a Frenchman, that Europe learned of the mighty kauri. He sailed into the Bay of Islands in May 1772 and with the help of local iwi felled trees for masts. Unfortunately, these timbers never made it to their destination, the crew abandoning them within a half a mile of the shore.

The Royal Navy were on the lookout for straight trees from which they could obtain great topmasts for their larger ships, a height of 74 - 84 feet, with a diameter of 21 - 23 inches.

The largest recorded kauri grew at the head of the Taruru Creek in Thames – recorded at 88 feet in circumference.

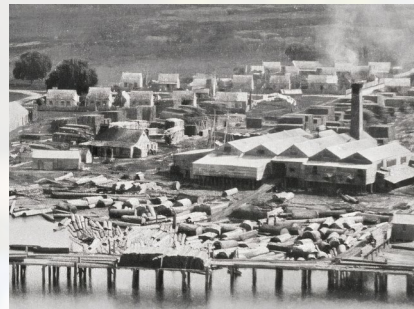
The second largest, measured officially in 1840 (by British Admiralty timber purveyor from the HMS *Buffalo*, Thomas Laslett), was in the Ounuora

(later named Mill Creek) valley and was known as 'Father of the Forest' or 'Father of the Kauri'.

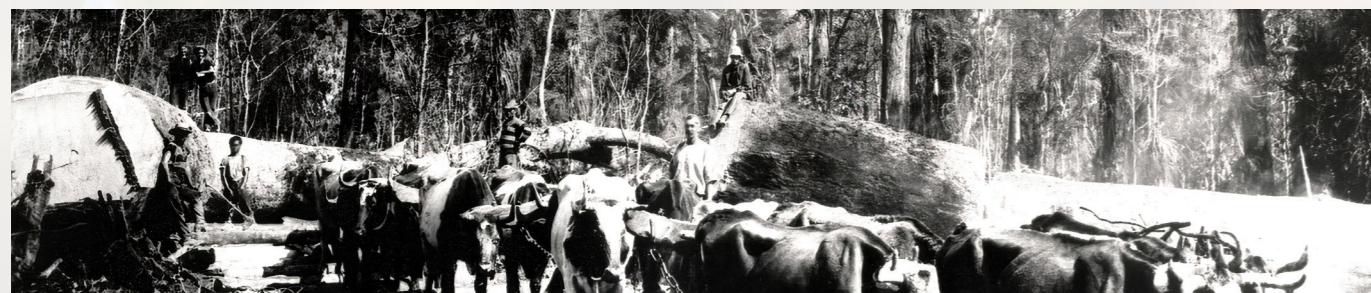
Captain Ranulph Dacre sent a crew to Mangonui in the north to procure masts, but discovered the trees were too short. In 1831 they sailed into Te Whanganui o Hei Mercury Bay on the schooner *Darling*. Seeing an area that appeared to have the trees needed, on behalf of Dacre the crew purchased the block and began a settlement of houses and stores. The first timber shipment however was destroyed by fire along with the buildings.

Gordon Davis Brown met Captain Dacre in Sydney and travelled to Aotearoa New Zealand in 1829 and worked for him in the Firth of Thames. In 1832 he travelled to Mahurangi and was to procure one hundred spars. He departed Mahurangi in 1834, after some discord with the crew of the HMS *Buffalo* regarding ownership of trees.

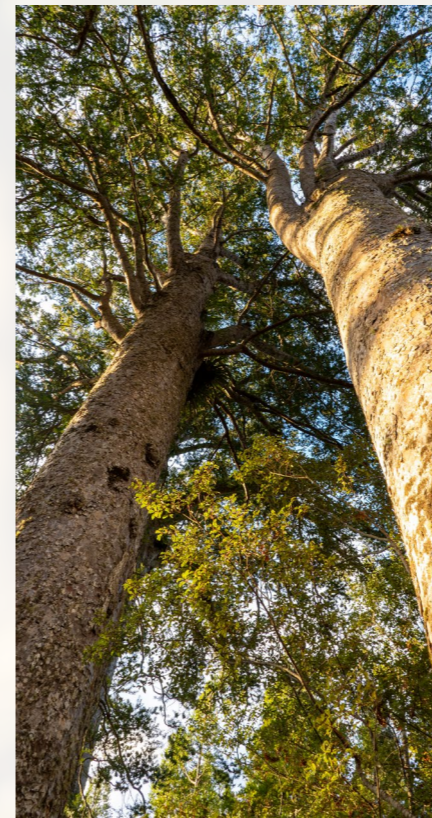
During 1836 - 1837, Brown established himself on the east, or highest side of the harbour, in Whitianga and with the aid of local Māori, squared blocks of stone to build a wharf, many of which were six feet long, four feet



2-Mercury Bay Timber Coy's mill 1884-1885. Tower on waterfront connecting telegraph wire



3-Bullock team and bushman.



wide, and two feet thick. This was so well constructed it is still in use today, some 187 years later, for a ferry service. In fact, this wharf is possibly the first wharf built of hewn stone in Australasia.

Towards the end of the 1850s, vessels carrying kauri back to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland from Tairua, Te Whanganui o Hei Mercury Bay and Kennedy Bay, had increased considerably. In the mid-19th century, kauri was being exported all over the world and was used to rebuild San Francisco after the devastating earthquake and fire of 1906.



5 - Kauri Timber Company mill boom with Whitianga Rock in background. - Early 1900's.

## The main milling era began in the 1860s.

Another 'first' in Australasia for Gordon Brown was the construction of a water-driven sawmill in the Ounuora valley. This earned the area the name of Mill Creek.

Each milling operation was named according to the area worked. There were roughly eleven timber mills in the area, with Mill Creek holding the record for 300,000 feet of timber milled in four weeks by David Hamilton and Robert Middlemas with crosscut saws.

The second kauri timber mill was erected at Ferry Landing in 1862 by Thomas Peacock, William Meikle and Benjamin Gilmour, directors of the newly formed Mercury Bay Timber Company. The Whitianga township grew up around it, with stone-built houses, stores and even the first school for Mercury Bay.

However, by 1881 the mill and the township were outgrowing the space; it was decided to shift the mill to the west side of the river where the current Whitianga town is sited today. The mill was literally barged across the river and once in its new home, operated on 20 acres of land, mostly over the area where the Mercury Bay Museum now sits.

In 1888, the Kauri Timber Company took over the mill and expanded the mill site again. In 1909, the Leyland Timber Company took possession of



4- Felling a kauri

the mill and all the timber associated with it. The mill was in operation until 1922, when large-scale kauri sawmilling ceased in the area.

In 1924, after almost 60 years of milling, the last timber was hauled out of Wharekaho Simpsons Beach and the No Gum mill areas.

It is estimated that 500 million feet of timber was exported out of Te Whanganui o Hei Mercury Bay. Between 1870 and 1930, 200 million super feet of kauri timber was removed from the Kauaeranga Valley alone. Other areas were exploited but the Kauaeranga supplied the richest pickings.

The Mercury Bay Museum has an amazing exhibition telling the story of this giant of the forest and the industry that helped grow towns and cities all over the world.

- Words by Beccs Cox – Mercury Bay Museum Manager

Black and White photographs 1 to 5: Courtesy of Mercury Bay Museum

Colored photographs - Courtesy of Pete May



## He Waka Eke Noa (We're all in this boat together) and every paddle needed!

### Local musicians Paul and Jani Lee share how music intertwines with their environmental advocacy.

I've always tried to take song/lyric writing as a serious responsibility with a conscientious intention to make change for the good. When I shifted to Kirehe Point, Te Whitianga-o-Kupe wahapū (estuary) in 1976, the mining issue immediately confronted me. As a singer-songwriter-performer, it felt right to commit to supporting the anti-mining struggle. Initially, our band Tribractions with Phil Toms' 'Gold Song' performed at two of the Nam-bassa Festivals, flying the Coromandel anti-mining flag. Twenty years later, my family band, Coroblues, always featured original anti-mining songs. Into this century, as Soul Sax Plus, Jani and I have always included original praise songs to native birds and trees and pleas to preserve and protect the environment against mining.

'No to the Mine' is a song specifically written against mining.

'When they've taken all the gold  
And they've left a big hole  
We'll say "Whatever happened to the  
hills that used to be there?"  
They've been taken away  
Made into tailings dust.  
It was the soul of the land  
Our sacred trust  
Do you care?  
WE care!  
We say No To The Mine'

Quote from 'No to the Mine' – Green Rebellion 1993

Looking out of our house at the head of the Whitianga harbour, where we have lived for many years, it is easy to see why most of our songs are about the beautiful scenery and native birds and trees. The harbour shines and glistens, ripples and moves with the tides, mysterious and wild in stormy weather.

It's a recreational sanctuary for canoeists and other small craft. There are fish to be caught in the estuary – kahawai, snapper, yellowtail, parore, mullet and flounder.

Clean water is crucial for the estuary. Run-off from farms carries nitrogen from chemical fertilisers, and general sedimentation from forestry is a major issue. We sing about clean water for everyone, for the fish and the birds. Whitianga harbour contains one of the biggest mangrove areas in the country and also nurtures significant surrounding wetlands.

The opportunity to live here and take on kaitiaki (guardianship) has allowed us to start regenerating native trees on a burnt-over bush block. Our song 'Kauri 2000' champions the ongoing efforts of this community kauri tree-planting project.

Meanwhile, tūi fly through the branches of flowering pohutukawa trees, singing loudly, and the korimako joins in with its beautiful, loud bell-like tones. The pīwakawaka flit

around, displaying their pretty, fan-like tails, shining cuckoos whistle and call happily. The finches can be heard and seen; yellow-heads shyly fly among the branches, and quail graze the long grass seed heads on the front lawn – not shy, usually in small groups, and very pretty with their geometric brown, black and white feather patterns. They call each other to make sure all is well. In the distance, the pheasants call, and overhead the Caspian terns (taranui), harrier hawks (kāhu) and white-faced herons (matuku moana) fly by.

Our song 'Pūriri,' featuring the pūtōrino (Māori flute) tone of Jani's tenor recorder, celebrating the return of korimako (bellbird) to our home, gained us RNZ Māori programme airplay.

Other native birds we have written and performed songs about are:

kotare – kingfisher, ruru – morepork, pīwakawaka – fantai, toutouwai – North Island robin, kōtuku – white heron, kāhu – harrier hawk.

The tūi features in our 'Give Me Water' song, which we played on the Whitianga Bubble Bites series, Episode 4 (during Covid lockdown), available online.

The kākāpō saxophone song was written to encourage the kākāpō to keep breeding, as their numbers are dimin-

ishing; it is available to hear and view on YouTube.

Yes, it's a paradise alright, quiet, beautiful and mostly unspoilt, so our songs are inspired by this daily reminder of heaven here on earth, and we sing and play songs to give thanks to nature.

But we are aware that there are destructive forces at work just around the corner, so we remind people by singing about protecting the environment. We have a major issue in the Coromandel over gold mining, an ongoing struggle for several generations (thank you, Coromandel Watchdog). Why are permits still being given for mining under and around precious conservation areas that should be protected for endangered species such as Archey's frogs, and other precious flora and fauna?

Many people are fighting in different ways for the environment; for us, it's a great privilege to be musicians and have a platform to bring these Green issues to the attention of people.

We have also developed a modest artist workshop facility to include other musicians and artists.

'Karanga Tangata Whenua  
Hold Fast to this Land.  
If we lose the land  
We have nowhere to stand.'  
Quote from Paul's song 'Home', from the album Green Rebellion

-Words by Jani and Paul Lee  
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# At Coffee LaLa, the roast is still fresh after 20 years

In 2002, Mark Tugendhaft was experimenting with green coffee beans in a popcorn maker. Twenty years on, Coffee LaLa offers nine blends to cafes and customers around the Coromandel and the North Island. Mark owns the roastery with his wife Nedilka Redojkovich, assisted by a small but dedicated team of LaLa roasters and coffee packers.

The roasting at Coffee LaLa has always been done in what used to be Mark's pottery studio in the days when he was a full time potter – or, rather, part time potter, part time surfer and part time environmental warrior.

The roastery sits nestled amongst native bush in the Blue Fridge Valley just out of Kūaotunu, and is story-book cottage cute from the outside. Inside, the roastery resembles something like a mad scientist's laboratory – Mark handmade all the roasters himself to his own specifications. Nedilka runs things in the attached office, managing ... well everything but the roasting! Long time locals, Mark and Nedilka were an essential part of the fight to keep destructive gold mining out of Kūaotunu in the 1980s and 90s.

Mark and Nedilka in their days fighting to save the Coromandel from gold mining (left), and enjoying a cup of Coffee LaLa (right)



Coffee LaLa is as local as you can get on the Coromandel, roasted and packed by a couple of old hippies in the bush in Kūaotunu. Why would you get your coffee anywhere else on the Coromandel when you can drink coffee like a local?

Don't worry though, these hippies know what they're doing – Coffee LaLa has won 18 NZ Coffee Awards due to Mark's special roasting method, roasting the origins separately and then blending them after roasting. This allows each origin to be roasted to perfection and is the reason Coffee LaLa is always smooth and never bitter!

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# From Coro With Love

## From small town life to jet setting around the world, Chloe Potae shares how travel became her career.

Kia ora, my name is Chloe Potae and I am an international flight attendant.

Whitianga is and will always be my home, I've grown up there and most of my family have done the same. I started travelling when I was 18 years old, travelling for leisure and adventure as well as working as an ESL teacher. Right from the get-go I was hooked with the 'travel bug' and excited to seek out new experiences in different countries as soon as I could.



I had travelled to 15 different countries by the time I was 22 and the world was my oyster! Unfortunately, as everyone in the world felt our lives come to a halt when covid hit, I found myself back home in Whitianga with my family, knuckling down for whatever was to come. I found myself reflecting a lot on my travelling experiences and those of my friends and family who had stayed in our hometown.

A lot of the things I experienced whilst overseas just can't compare to those of the people I grew up with in Whitianga, if only because of the mindset you have when somewhere new and unknown. It changes you. The adrenaline and awe you carry when meeting new people on your own in a foreign country completely changes your perspective on everything.

I must admit, one of the biggest changes for me was the increased feeling of how much I appreciated my home. New Zealand, the people and our culture. The Coromandel, the peace and relaxed lifestyle. My friends and family who will always be a staple and pillar. Almost every new city, beach or bar, I found myself missing home just a little bit more.

Post-covid I found myself where I had been when I was 18, working in hospitality (which I will always love), feeling a bit lost and to be honest rather unsatisfied. Growing up in a small town, your vision of the world tends to grow a little narrow and the whole world seems very far away. I remember thinking, when growing up, that the drive to Auckland was a massive undertaking and I had since literally flown 15+ hours across the world.

After a while trying to find my feet in the world, attempting to go back and study, plant some roots perhaps, I found myself trying to branch out and find myself a career.



I moved into a different part of hospitality and took a job managing a motel/apartment complex. This was a fantastic opportunity but became difficult and I soon found myself searching again. With the support and encouragement from some dear friends, I found myself planning my move to the big smoke (Auckland) to start my training to become a flight attendant. In theory, this job had the few things I was looking for – hospitality, travel, excitement – and is considered a career.

With that I set off and now have graduated and been flying for a couple months. So far I have travelled back to one of my favourite countries, Singapore, which I used to frequent every year and a couple of new countries – Hong Kong and San Francisco, in the US.

I continue to meet new people, get to give the best hospitality and represent my country every day on the clock. Not to mention how cute the uniforms are!

Growing up in Whitianga, I would have never thought I'd be doing what I am now. Not necessarily because I didn't think I was good enough (at times, yes), but just because the world felt very far away. Taking that leap when I was 18 fresh out of high-school was my ticket out. Not out of a bad situation but out of the little coastal beach town that has its own ecosystem and into the theme park of the world.

I hope to keep you updated more on my journey here with the amazing team at Coromind and Altbays. Watch this space as this little Whiti girl conquers the world. Xx

-Words by Chloe Potae

# Choosing The Right Fruit Tree For Coromandel

Coromandel is a perfect place for gardening. However, as a beginner, it can be difficult to know which fruit trees are best suited to the area.

The subtropical climate of Coromandel is generally warmer and more humid than other parts of New Zealand. This means that certain plants, such as citrus trees, avocado trees and fig trees, thrive in the area. These plants can provide a bountiful harvest, making them popular among new gardeners, especially because they are easy to grow! You will need a warm and sunny spot in your garden. The tree should be planted in well-draining soil, in a position where it will receive at least six hours of direct sunlight per day (eight for citrus).

Before planting, make sure to dig a hole that is twice as wide and deep as the tree's root ball. Then, remove the tree from its container and loosen any tangled roots. Once planted, the tree should be watered deeply and regularly, especially during hot weather.



Avocado tree

To help the avocado tree to grow strong and healthy, add compost or other organic matter to the soil before planting. Also, prune the tree to promote branching and provide support for the tree as it grows.



Citrus tree

The ideal soil pH range for citrus is between 6.0 and 7.0. Fertilise your tree with a balanced citrus fertiliser according to the package instructions. Citrus trees are also prone to pests and diseases, so keep an eye out for any signs of infestation or infection and address them promptly.



Fig tree

Figs are hardy trees, but they should be protected from frost during the first few years. Figs also have a tendency to bear fruit on the previous year's wood, so prune your tree each year to encourage new growth and fruit production.

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It's also good to understand that these trees can take a few years to produce fruit, so be patient and take good care of them. Other popular options include the all-time favourite, kiwi-fruit, feijoas (aka pineapple guava), and the sweet and tangy passionfruit.

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