

Hoppertunity

Pauanui Beach, Coromandel

Feature Story *p.6*

Three generations of family, and their passion for lifestyle property.

Destination *p.10*

Be a tourist in your own backyard with our guide to Whitianga, Coromandel.

Recipe Feature *p.18*

Fill your nutrition and soul needs with Tawny's creamy buffalo chicken pasta.

HOPPERS.CO.NZ

Hoppertunity

Whitianga Waterways, Coromandel

Welcome

It is my honour to introduce our very first issue of Hoppertunity Magazine.

This is a small publication we've had in the pipelines for some time now, but with a few roadblocks (namely covid), it has taken us longer to realise on this exciting new addition than we had initially endeavoured.

The intention behind this magazine, was to bring our readers along the journey with us, touching on the many different projects, places, and people that Hoppers are involved with, and rounding back to our main elemental focus - lifestyle. For lifestyle is nothing without the people, and in true Hopper-form this book was nothing short of some good old "CO-HOPPER-ATION", as my great-grandmother Edith Hopper had famed in her book, 'Hoppertunity Knox', from where this magazine founded its name.

This is a particularly special project for me and the marketing team at Hoppers, as from inception, the team have been elated about how this would demonstrate the depth of the Hopper brand and all of it's offerings. I would like to thank Michelle Kirkpatrick and Alyssa Castilian for their contribution in the initial setup, and a big thank you to our designer Hollie Smith, for bringing the whole concept to life.

We hope you enjoy.



SHANA HOPPER-MCCULLY

Sales / Marketing Manager - Hopper Developments

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Three generations of family

Lifestyle property is a Hopper family passion that we live and breathe. Delve into our history from where we have come to **where we are now.**



Hopper Bros commencing construction at Pauanui Beach, circa late 1960's.

Initially from Yorkshire, Ken and Edith Hopper immigrated to Auckland in 1920, later settling in Whangaparaoa in 1927. The young couple were hardworking and aspirational, purchasing the Arkles Bay Country Store and Post Office, further enterprising into dairy farming, pine trees, property, and even growing pumpkins to sell to the US Navy during World War 2. All the while the family multiplied with Ken and Edith having 6 children; Barbara, Tony, Ian, Guy, Bill and Trish.

Some years later Brothers, Tony and Ian, started their own construction firm in the early 1950's. Starting with developments around Whangaparaoa and surrounds, the brothers then tackled the big project of developing Pauanui into a holiday hot spot. Thus formed the Pauanui Ocean Beach Resort Development in 1967. This is where Hoppers truly found their forte in creative property, and lifestyle emerged



Pictured above Ian & Tony Hopper with Shaggy Aggy

to the forefront of their planning and decision-making. Tony and Ian, worked closely alongside planner Frank Easedale where they won awards for their efforts in Pauanui.

In the 1980's Ian's son Leigh became paramount to the organisation and took over management in 1987. Leigh, going back to his roots in the Hibiscus Coast, bought a large parcel of land in Orewa and subdivided what is now Maygrove and Lakeside Drive. Around the same time Ian and



Pictured: (left to right) Gray Hopper, Shana Hopper-McCully, Leigh Hopper & Andy Grey.

Leigh had a vision for some remaining land in Pauanui, and so the Pauanui Waterways canal development was brought to life in the early 1990's.

Pauanui Waterways, at that time, was unique to New Zealand, and for the first-time offering buyers their own slice of waterfront paradise on a man-made canal. This opened doors for many, creating a safe and fun environment for residents to enjoy swimming and other water activities. Boating was made easy, allowing boats to be berthed on private jetties, and much more. Community and lifestyle was centre to Leigh's vision of creating canal developments. He looked on to Whitianga, and in 1999 started developing the now expansive Whitianga Waterways Development. Northland was then in target, where Marsden Cove, the third canal development is currently sitting over halfway complete.

Hopper Developments has certainly expanded in the last 20 years or so. The company has diversified from property development into retirement living, marine associated activities, commercial, retail, housing development, and much more is on the horizon. Lifestyle is certainly still the company focus and remains core to the company strategy.

Today, Leigh has chosen to retire in Whitianga Waterways and enjoys much of his time boating and exploring the Coromandel East Coast. As for the business, his two children Gray and Shana, alongside his nephew Andy, and a few key personnel such as CEO Tim Brooks whom has been with the

company for over 40 years, are collectively driving company activities.

Gray and Andy both live and work on the Hibiscus Coast, where Hoppers HQ is based, and Shana is located at the Waterways at Marsden Cove. As Hoppers continues to grow, the company remains in good hands with the next generation forging ahead.

“

I'd like to enjoy my retirement seeing the next generation do great things and go on to achieve greater things.



- LEIGH HOPPER

Waterways Living



INTERVIEW BY KAY MCDONALD of Whitianga Waterways

Meet Anita and Lincoln Ellmers, **canal front residents** of Whitianga Waterways.



Lincoln and Anita Ellmers by Floyd Johnston, FWJ Media

“

Waking up every morning and looking out to the waterway, we sit out on the deck and enjoy a coffee in the sun.

- ANITA ELLMERS

What do you love about living in Whitianga? We love the fact that you live like you're always on holiday. We've retired to a spot where we love the location, the people that we meet here, and the waterways is a great asset for us. Everything we do is involved with the waterways.

What drew you to buy your home on the Waterways? It was a bit of a fluke that we came up here (from Hawkes Bay), we came for a concert and explored, discovered this place, and fell in love with this home. I think we bought it 3-4 days after the first visit.

What is your favourite feature of your home? The Indoor-outdoor flow, and the views, with always something happening on the waterways; boats going by, paddleboards, kayakers, there's always action.

What's your favourite thing about living at Whitianga Waterways? The fact that we have access to the water, it's lovely, and a big part of our lives, we go kayaking, paddleboarding, and fishing. We visit friends and socialise using the boat or paddleboard. The grandkids love fishing off the jetty too.

Where is your favourite place to dine at Whitianga? I think its on my deck here but we love visiting Stoked and Grace O'Malleys, having a beer at Smitty's, or a Coffee at Harbour House, with the beautiful view.

How do you and your family enjoy spending your time together? The grandkids live in the water from the time they get here. They use the kayaks and go off and enjoy that. The family enjoy fishing, BBQs, the outdoor living and spending time together. From the moment they get here they just seem to relax, and it's good to see them enjoy themselves.

Are you happy with your move? And why did you make the move? Couldn't be happier. It's a great retirement place, like a big playground, there's always something to do. We play golf at the local club, sometimes twice a week, and Lincoln volunteers once a week. It's been a great way to meet new people too. We also play tennis at the club and the sports park. We also bike everywhere, it helps keep us fit, and is a great novelty, everything is only a few minutes away. Sometimes we take the bikes on the ferry over to Cooks for a look.

Tell me a memorable moment you've made since moving to your new home. We fell in love with the place, and it decided our retirement straight away for us. We didn't even realise it was here or that it existed. Once we saw what was here, we realised we could make it happen for us. A lot of friends have come to visit and said "wow, now we know what you are doing". We've had some friends since visiting us here, also bought at Whitianga Waterways, and a few are playing with the idea.

Destination Spotlight

RECOMMENDATIONS BY WHITIANGA WATERWAYS

Be a tourist in **your own backyard** with our guide to **Whitianga, Coromandel**.

1. STOP & EAT CAFÉ

13 Orchard West Road, Ngatea

A foodies must do, with a 5 star rating on Trip Advisor, you'd be silly not to Stop & Eat here!

2. WAIHI LAVENDER FARM

118 Landlyst Road, Waihi

Indulge in their lavender beauty range, and you must try their lavender and blueberry ice cream!

3. CRAFT HAUS

711 Port Road, Whangamatā

Mouth-watering craft beer range and a simple, yet scrumptious, pub-style menu to compliment.

4. PAUANUI SUMMIT TRACK

80 Pauanui Beach Road, Pauanui

A 35 minute vigorous climb to the summit, with the best views over Pauanui, Tairua, and out to Slipper and Shoe Island.

5. COLENZO CAFÉ

895 State Highway 25, Whenuakite

You cannot go past Colenso Café, located on SH 25, settled within a gorgeous orchard of luscious fruit trees, is this stand-out boutique café.

6. TOP 10 HOLIDAY PARK

790 Hot Water Beach Rd, Hot Water Beach

Affordable accommodation options perfect for the family. Only short walking distance from world-famous Hot Water Beach.

7. CORO CLUB CAFÉ

7 Dakota Drive, Whitianga

This little gem is every locals fave. Located at the airfield, just make sure to get in early before their fan favourites sell out!

8. CASA AQUILA

31 Aquila Drive, Whitianga

A luxurious B&B, located on the canal at Whitianga Waterways. A wondrous space to fully immerse yourself into relaxation mode.

9. THE LOST SPRING SPA

121A Cook Drive, Whitianga

Did you even do Whitianga if you didn't visit the famous Geo-Thermal Lost Spring Spa?

10. THE FRENCH FIG CAFÉ

Shop 4 / 41 Albert Street, Whitianga 3510

For the most scrumptious comfort food and coffee, stop in and get your fix at the Fig.

11. SEA CAVE ADVENTURES

Whitianga Wharf, The Esplanade, Whitianga

A must do, includes a 2-3 hour boat tour, putting the picturesque Coromandel Coastline on display.

12. HUSH ACCOMMODATION

425 Driving Creek Road, Coromandel

Gorgeous little hideaway cabins, located north of Coromandel Town, immersed in native bush, perfect for a one-with-nature experience.





Boating in Mercury Bay, Coromandel Coast

Kubota Billfish Classic

WORDS SHANA HOPPER

The Kubota Billfish Classic is arguably **New Zealand's largest** and most popular game fishing tournament.

Competition shotgun start by Floyd Johnston, FWJ Media



For the last few years running, the Kubota Billfish Classic has created quite a stir amongst fishing enthusiasts, selling out of tickets in record time with entries all aiming to win big. The 2023 event proving no exception with 265 boats, 1200 anglers, and over \$850,000 in prizes won.

The man responsible for the events conception and roaring success is Tom Maxwell of Whitianga, and being a boating and fishing fan myself, I had to talk with Tom and ask him about how it all started. "I was disappointed with the state of tournaments in NZ ever since the GFC really, and I took a few ideas from different tournaments I have experienced around the world and blended these ideas into a formula that I thought would suit kiwi fishermen."

Reflecting on the events' success Tom told me the many reasons why he thought it had done so well to date.

“

The prizes, the vibe, the good times, the beautiful boats everywhere, the adrenaline rush of the shotgun start, but most of all it's anyone's tournament to win.



- TOM MAXWELL

We have had some great stories of 'the underdogs' taking out the top prizes all because they just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Just like this year, a real feel-good story was local trailer boat team - Maximus, coming from below on the leader board to tagging 3 marlin on the last day and to go on to share the lead with one of the favourites to win, Mataitai, a real David vs Goliath story there."

The 2023 Kubota Billfish Classic (KBC) concluded with some notable victors, including the boat Mataitai from Whangaroa skippered by fishing legend, John Gregory, winning \$245,900, and coming 1st equal to local Whitianga trailer boat Maximus, skippered by Tony Croft, who also took home \$76,500. Another four overseas travel prizes were won as well as a Kubota sidekick, a zero-turn mower, and many other fantastic prizes.

When I asked Tom what the highlights were at this years tournament, he mentioned; "the teams that travelled so far to participate in this event. We had boats travel from as far south as Nelson and as far north as Houhora, as well as everywhere in between. We had anglers that travelled from all over the globe including Hawaii, Australia, Guatemala, USA, and South Africa. The event has grown to be the 2nd biggest fleet of boats in a tournament anywhere in the world, and the largest and richest tournament ever held in the southern hemisphere, with totally unprecedented pay-outs for this part of the world."

“

I just get a real kick out of the fact that some of the most famous boats from all over the country, who would not normally consider coming to Whitianga, have now got this event locked in their annual calendar, with some spending more time here and in some cases even buying properties and making this their holiday spot, which is great for the local economy.

- TOM MAXWELL

There's no mistaking Tom's enthusiasm for fishing, and the pleasure he gets from making this event happen.

I also asked Tom what the motivation was to host the KBC in Whitianga. "Firstly, it is my hometown, and I was passionate about putting Whitianga on the map globally, and promoting it as a world class fishing destination. As the tournament has grown, it's become apparent that this is the only place in NZ you could host such an event logistically, with a sheltered bay and harbour, and plenty of good anchorage, and most

importantly is our infrastructure; with the marina, waterways development, and wharf, to house all the magnificent boats, and the ease to be able to step off your boat to access the towns shops, cafés, restaurants, bars and nightlife, makes it fun and easy for everyone."

It seems the events popularity is exceeding expectations, and fisho's are desperate to join in the adventure in 2024. I asked Tom what we could expect for next year, which he explained the goal is to build on the townships great effect to deliver the vibrance it has when hosting an event like this by adding "a multi-day festival on the waterfront to ensure there is plenty to do onshore for locals and visitors alike. The tournament itself will experience some real growth with an expected addition of up to 350-400 boats, sending us close to being the biggest tournament in the world, comparative to that of the 2022 White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Maryland, USA. We also estimate a possible \$1.5 million dollar prize pool for next year. We have had a lot of interest from overseas vessels particularly Australian that are keen to make the passage here, and next year also marks 100 years since the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club was established in 1924."

It's safe to say, pending securing an entry of my own, you'll be seeing me at the 2024 Kubota Billfish Classic!

For more information, follow Tom and learn more about next year's tournament on the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club website mbgfc.co.nz/tournaments/



Quickfire Q+A

GET TO KNOW

Leigh Hopper

What would you say has been the greatest success in your life?

I don't want for much that's for sure but I guess I get the greatest kick out of providing this product that you see out the window here [Whitianga Waterways] this is special.

What are the most rewarding aspects to your life?

I have family and I'm driven by a particular passion for flying, motorsport, and boating. The family has been dragged along from the week they were born. It's delivered us a pretty hectic lifestyle, but a great one. I wouldn't change a minute of it.

Favourite spot in New Zealand?

Mercury Island is my favourite spot around New Zealand. I know the whole of New Zealand's coastline intimately because all my life I've been flying around it but this is the most beautiful piece.

What do you like to do socially?

Chug around the canals, toot the horn and say come on board bring a bottle of wine. It's easy, it's casual but it's a lot of fun.



Creamy Buffalo Chicken Pasta



RECIPE TAWNY FLOYD of Hopper Developments



INGREDIENTS

Sauce – Blended :

250g Light Cottage Cheese
125g Light Cream Cheese
150ml Milk of your choice
200ml Buffalo Sauce Mild
½ Cup Grated Parmesan
1 tsp Paprika
1 tsp Garlic Powder
1 tsp Basil

Marinade:

600g Chicken Breast
1 tsp Olive Oil
Salt & Pepper
2 tsp Paprika
2 tsp Garlic Powder
2 tsp Onion Powder
1 tsp Basil
1 tsp Oregano

Other Ingredients:

1 Onion – Diced
4 Garlic Cloves – Diced
1 Courgette – Chopped
3 Capsicum – Chopped
1 cup Baby Spinach
250g Ghiotti Rigatoni Pasta
100ml Buffalo Sauce Mild

Garnish:

½ cup Finely Chopped Parsley
¼ cup Grated Parmesan

SERVES FOUR

Taste this rich high-protein creamy pasta recipe, a healthier alternative to add to your weekly meals, guilt free. With an abundance of fresh vegetables, this vibrant pasta will fill your nutrition and soul needs.

This dish can also be frozen, perfect for meal prep. Add in a tablespoon of milk and slowly reheat to keep the creamy consistency.

Nutrition (per serving):

Calories: 588 | Carbs: 62g | Fat: 16g | Protein: 47g

METHOD

Butterfly chicken breast and coat in marinade. In a large saucepan on medium high heat and a drizzle of olive oil, pan fry chicken until just cooked through. Set aside. In the same pan, softened onions – around 2 minutes then add garlic, cook until fragrant. Add the courgette and capsicum and sauté until golden. Meanwhile, cook the pasta to the packet's directions.

Remove vegetables from the pan and set aside. Pour in extra buffalo sauce and add the cooked chicken back in to coat. Remove the chicken from pan and slice into strips. Turn the heat down to low and add in the blended sauce. Slowly warm the sauce, add in al dente cooked pasta and some pasta water until your desired consistency. Add sliced chicken and cooked vegetables back in and combine well. Garnish with parsley and parmesan, serve immediately.



A true Hoppertunity



WORDS GRAY HOPPER of Hopper Developments

Hopper Developments have recently become the new owners of **Hobbs Bay Farm** located on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, adjacent to Gulf Harbour Marina.

A beautiful pocket of land with expansive coastal views spanning the Hauraki Gulf, rich with history and opportunity. Hobbs Bay was named after previous owner Jack Hobbs, whom was the Shakespears' (of Shakespear Regional Park) Farm Manager from the late 1800's. His land holdings eventually included much of Army Bay, Gulf Harbour and further west along the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. It was first cleared for farming by banker and captain Ranulph Dacre in 1861, before being passed to the Shakespear family, and thereafter bought by the Hobbs (Burrell) family early last century.

Strategically, we've been wanting to venture back into Auckland, and so fate would have it, Hobbs Bay would become available to us, with special thanks to the Burrell Family entrusting us with the promising future this land holds. It feels good to be back in home territory.

This unique pocket of land, holds a special connection to the Hopper family, with the (at the time) young Hopper brothers, Tony and Ian, spending many days on Hobbs Farm and attending Whangaparaoa Primary School in the 1940's with the Burrell children. Evidence of a

childhood romance can even be found carved into a particular wall in the farm homestead.

Our proposed plans are based on large residential lots with an average size of 1000m², creating some attractive amenity value to our eventual purchasers, all the while, keeping with the properties amazing topographical features; cliff top positioning, views out over the Hauraki Gulf, and public access down to Hobbs Bay Beach.

Central to our vision is to acknowledge and embrace the key heritage aspects of the land through the process of restoration of the Heritage Homestead (built in 1861 by Ranulph Dacre) to be planned and used as a café. This is located within the heart of the development and will become a focal point within the community. There will also be a number of recreational reserve areas including public playgrounds, and native bush walks.

The Hopper family and team are very excited about this next venture and are honoured to have the opportunity to evolve this land into a unique coastal lifestyle development on the Hibiscus Coast.



Some of the Hopper Team visiting Hobbs Bay



Artist impression of the homestead as a Café

What's on the Hopper Horizon?

Northland

THE ANCHORAGE – Waterfront Residences

The Anchorage Retirement Village will soon have the first Waterfront Residences complete. The new waterfront residences are thoughtfully planned, modern designed, teamed with resort-style finishes located at Marsden Cove.

For more information call Rebecca on 021 337 217 or visit www.theanchorage.co.nz

MARSDEN COVE

Discover Northland's hidden gem – Marsden Cove. With Marina, cafés, retail, supermarket, medical centre, Marsden Cove has everything and more. We currently have a limited number of sections readily available.

Get in touch with the team today on (09) 432 8379 or visit www.marsdencove.co.nz

Auckland

MAYGROVE VILLAGE - Orewa

Hopper Living's flagship Village, Maygrove Orewa, celebrated its 20 year Anniversary last year, and to celebrate, is getting a new modern look, including refurbishment of the café and bar area, reception, pool, gym and community spaces. Works commenced this May.

For more information call Paul on 021 636 290 or visit www.maygrovillage.co.nz

COUNTRY CLUB HUAPAI

Retire in Style – Wine Not? Country Club Huapai offers a perfect balance of luxury and comfort, located in the quaint township of Huapai. Become a member at Auckland's most exclusive Country Club today.

For more information call Chris on 021 982 583 or visit www.countryclubhuapai.co.nz

Coromandel

MARLIN WATERS - Whitianga Waterways

Life is simple, just add water. For a unique freehold retirement opportunity visit Marlin Waters. Currently selling the last of the waterfront villas.

For more information visit www.marlinwaters.co.nz or to arrange a time to view a villa with one of our friendly sales team phone (07) 866 0164

DOCKSIDE - Whitianga Waterways

The first stage of Dockside is planned for completion around July this year, where the new Whitianga Waterways Sales Office will be located. The second stage for completion will include a purpose-built waterfront café.

MEDICAL CENTRE - Whitianga Waterways

The new medical facility will be open after King's Birthday Weekend, where Mercury Bay Medical Centre will offer a range of medical and health services.

WHITIANGA WATERWAYS - Sections

Home is where your Boat is - Canal front and non-canal front sections are still available in limited numbers.

For more information talk to the team on (07) 866 0164 or visit www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

THE HAMMERHEAD - Pauanui Waterways

The final stage of Pauanui Waterways is soon to be realised, keep your eyes open for an exciting announcement planned for later this year.

To keep up to date, fill in the contact form at www.pauanuiwaterways.co.nz





IN MEMORY OF GWEN & STACE HOPPER



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