



ON THE WATER FEATURE

back to the beach

Inexperience and water don't mix

Inexperience in the water is one of the main causes of drowning.

So far this year, there have been 102 drownings, compared to 72 at this time last year.

While water education and swimming safety is targeted at young children, it is adults who are ignoring safety precautions and who are getting into danger in the water.

Goat Island Dive and Snorkel owner Julie George says people tend to get into trouble while snorkelling at Goat Island because they don't know their limits.

"People who have not been snorkelling before don't realise how far you can travel when wearing fins," she says.

"They are distracted by the marine life and sometimes, when they realise they are tired or in danger, it's too late.

Julie says wearing a wetsuit when snorkelling is crucial because it provides buoyancy and warmth, which helps to conserve energy.

Water Safety NZ chief executive Matt Claridge says that people get into trouble because they exceed their swimming ability and aren't properly prepared.

"Sometimes it's because they underestimate the depth of the water when coming up for air, while other times it's just lack of knowledge about the beach," he says.

"Sadly, this year's drowning toll is already higher than last year and summer is only just starting."

Matt says the water safety messages can't be stressed



Wearing a wetsuit while snorkelling is important for safety. It provides buoyancy and keeps in body heat.

enough. He says swimmers should always swim with a buddy and ask locals about the conditions.

"Remember, rip currents aren't often easily identifiable to the average swimmer. Darker water can indicate that the water is deeper and murky, brown water can be caused by sand stirred up off the bottom. Patches of rippled water in a calm sea can also indicate the need for extra care."



Te Arai beach is unpatrolled and can produce a strong rip current.

Know your beach

Omaha Surf Life Saving club captain Matt Hunt gives the following round-up on the conditions at local beaches:

Te Arai – Unpatrolled. The surf works best on a north easterly swell. Depending on conditions, it can produce a strong rip. Usually not as busy as other beaches.

Pakiri – Patrolled by Red Beach lifeguards and paid regional lifeguards during peak summer periods. Exposed to most conditions and subject to strong rips and holes. Waves can be "dumpy" at low tide. Swim between the flags when beach is patrolled.

Omaha – Patrolled during weekends from Labour weekend to Easter. Paid regional guards on duty during the week in peak summer periods. Exposed to easterly and north-easterly swells. Swim between the flags when lifeguards on duty. As with all beaches, conditions can change quickly.

Tawharanui – Unpatrolled. A busy beach during peak summer periods. Anchor Bay can produce "dumpy" waves. Beware of the reef and other rocks during middle to low tide. The surf works best on a north-easterly swell.

Want to take the hassle out of servicing your Toyota?

no worries service plan

A Toyota 'No Worries' Service Plan gives you the following benefits:

- ✓ Assurance of Toyota Genuine Parts & Service
- ✓ Tailored Pre-Paid Servicing
- ✓ Protection against inflation
- ✓ Choice of two servicing levels

Some conditions apply - please contact us to discuss further

TOYOTA
Service DDI 09 425 1090
service@wilmot.toyota.co.nz
Corner Whitaker Rd & Mill Lane Warkworth

Wilmot Toyota
www.wilmot.co.nz

MAHURANGI MARINE LTD
Servicing the wider Rodney area for 15 years

Wayne, Jed, Tony

HONDA MARINE
YANMAR marine
FYRAN BOATS

We service all outboard & diesel inboards
Specialising in:

HONDA MARINE **FYRAN**
YANMAR marine

Purpose built service vehicle
'We're in the business of mobile servicing'
Tony Saunders - Mobile Technician

For mobile service phone
0800 733 830

330 Mahurangi East Road, Snells Beach • Phone 425 5806



New Zealand Diving
Specialists in Sports & Technical Diving

Do you have a love for nature?
Discover the exciting deep ocean

Learn to Dive!

- Professional Training
- Charters • Tech Diving
- Discover Amazing Destinations
- Specialty Courses
- Equipment and Services

NEW RETAIL SHOP NOW OPEN - 22 Whitaker Road, Warkworth
0800 NZDIVING or 021 221 3971 • neil@nzdiving.co.nz • www.nzdiving.co.nz

ON THE WATER FEATURE

back to the beach



Coastguard courses update boaties on Gulf conditions

Boaties have the opportunity to learn more about popular anchorage spots in the Hauraki Gulf with Coastguard Northern Region's education cruises, on November 29 and December 6.

The evening cruises visit popular spots including Mahurangi and Kawau, and Waiheke Island and the Coromandel, providing information on hazards and practical safety tips. The commentary includes interesting history along the way and some of the fun recreational opportunities on offer such as walking tracks and prime diving spots.

Coastguard Northern Region education manager Darren Arthur says the cruises, which have run for 22 years, are just one way that Coastguard educates boaties about the importance of water safety.

"The cruises are a great opportunity to showcase some of the best spots in the Hauraki Gulf, as well as give boaties some tips on how they can make the most of our waterways," he says.

"Although we like to make these cruises interesting and fun, safety is always top of the agenda so taking boating enthusiasts through practical safety tips and alerting them to the hazards in these areas is key.

"Charts and reference books of the areas we visit are available for purchase on the day."

An onboard sausage sizzle will also be available with money raised going to Coastguard.

All cruises, which are held aboard a Fullers Ferry, will board at the Fullers Ferry Downtown Terminal at 5pm with a departure time of 5.30pm and an expected return time of approximately 10pm.

The first cruise heads out to Waiheke Island and the Coromandel on November 29, followed by the cruise to Mahurangi and Kawau on December 6. Fees for the courses start at \$48, with discounts for Coastguard members.

Info: www.coastguard.org.nz



Get back into Shape



Treadmill
Buy from **\$1299** Hire for **\$30/week**

Elliptical
Buy from **\$999** Hire for **\$25/week**

Rower
Buy for **\$1000** RRP \$1400 Hire for **\$25/week**

Exercycle
Buy for **\$450** WAS \$500 Hire for **\$20/week**

25% DISCOUNT FOR 3 MONTHS RENTAL

We deliver Whangaparaoa to Mangawhai
SPORTSWORLD
72 Queen St • Phone 09 425-7077 or 0800 022 425
People you know who know your sport



McCoy & Thomas
Hunting & Fishing Warkworth



Hunting & Fishing®
NEW ZEALAND

22 Baxter St Warkworth
Ph: 09 422 2308

Coleman
"The King" Chair
While stocks last



ONLY \$89.99

New Season
Design Crocs



INSTORE NOW

Huge range of
Icey Tek Chilli Bins



INSTORE NOW

Offers valid until 30th November or while stocks last.



marine | residential | commercial | rural | automotive

For all your canvas needs

- Boat covers • Awnings • Clear deck screen
- Shadesails • Ute Covers • Truck Tarps

1800 State Highway 1, Kaiwaka
Phone: (09) 4312 800 or 0800 226 240
Email: sales@canvasplus.co.nz • www.canvasplus.co.nz






ON THE WATER FEATURE
back to the beach

Fishing competition catches tip scales in charity's favour

A healthy catch during the Hynds Short Line Out Charitable Fishing Competition, held at Omaha on November 4-5, augurs well for the local season with a winning snapper almost double the weight of last year's equivalent and all target species caught.

Sam Ryburn of Warkworth Hunting and Fishing, says a wet start saw some contestants' vehicles get stuck in the camp site gateway, but conditions improved on the water and fishing was trouble-free, although one Omaha boat had to be towed in after it ran out of diesel.

More than 110 fishers from around Auckland took part, significantly up on last year's numbers, raising money for Mahurangi Rugby Club and the Rugby Foundation through entry fees

and a fish auction.

The heaviest snapper was caught by Wellsford's Aaron Fletcher off the rocks at Mangawhai at 1am, weighing in at 10.2kg, almost twice last year's largest. The \$2000 travel prize sponsored by Timberworld Warkworth, McMahon Builders and Harvey World Travel, went to Warkworth's Mike Ingham who caught a 2.01kg snapper, exactly matching the event's impressive average catch size.

Tomarata took out the Rugby Club Prize of Shimano gear for the club that caught the most weight of fish divided by the number of anglers entered, while heaviest kingfish went to Omaha's Brett Rathe with a 14.68kg fish. Jim Dyson, of sponsors Hynds Pipe Systems, caught the largest gurnard and Richard Gore caught the largest kahawai.

Pressure on shellfish

Northland Fisheries Officers have been alerted to a number of incidents recently involving people taking more than the daily bag limit of fish and shellfish permitted in the Auckland Kermadec area. Many of the fish/shellfish have been undersized. Northland Field Operations Manager Darren Edwards says while paua stocks on Northland's west coast are finite, but people keep applying pressure by taking undersize and excess amounts which. Penalties for breaching these rules range from infringement notices to prosecutions with fines of between \$250 and \$250,000 and the possible seizure of dive gear, boats and vehicles. **Info: fish.govt.nz**

Quantum Yachts
Quality Boat Building & Design
Refits & Modifications - Painting - Engine Installations - Marine Plumbing - Insurance Work

Kerry Miller
Phone: 09 425 6960 Mobile: 0274 390 357
Email: quantumyachts@gmail.com

HIFLO
OUTBOARDS
NOW AVAILABLE IN NZ

2.5 - 15 HP
2 & 4 STROKE

AFFORDABLE BOATING FOR ALL TO ENJOY

MATAKANA MARINE & ENGINEERING

Phone 09 422 7822
Fax 09 422 7824
Mobile 021 429 955
matakanamarine@xtra.co.nz
www.matakanamarine.co.nz
50 Matakana Valley Rd, Matakana

VOLVO PENTA

- **SNORKEL, DIVE HIRE & RETAIL SHOP**
- **BOAT TRIPS** - Goat Island, Mokohinau Islands, Great Barrier, Little Barrier, Hen & Chickens Group
- **PADI DIVE COURSES**

GUIDED SNORKEL Experience

TRY a DIVE Experience

BOAT Trips

www.goatlanddive.co.nz – 09 4226 925 – Leigh, next to Sawmill Cafe

AUTEC

AUTO ELECTRICAL

Marine Electrical Parts & Service

- Lights & Switches • Alternators
- Cable • Radios & Aerials • Starters
- Marine Accessories

ENDURANT BATTERIES



Your local Auto Electrical & Battery Specialist

27 Glenmore Drive, Warkworth

Phone: 09 425 7969 Mobile: 027 220 7006

Email: autec@clear.net.nz

OPEN MOST SATURDAYS 9AM - 12PM

is your boat ready for summer on the water?

westminster marineservices

experienced boat builder professional craftsman



our specialist services include:

- marine plumbing
- interior refits
- maintenance
- wooden boat restoration
- retrofitting
- scheduled servicing

talk to simon today...

ph 425 5243

mob 021 425 878 simon@westminstermarine.co.nz

WE DON'T DO AVERAGE! NEW BOAT TRAILERS & CRADLES Chassis of channel - Not box section



- ▶ Boat trailers, cradles and tractor repairs
- ▶ Galvanising work - wheels and fabrication
- ▶ Structural building and site work
- ▶ Agricultural - Gates - Security
- ▶ All general engineering

YOUR LOCAL MAKE IT ... OR MEND IT TEAM!



5/1 Hamatana Rd, Snells Beach (behind the Snells Beach Shopping Centre)
phone 09 425 6431 • www.enconltd.co.nz

ON THE WATER FEATURE

back to the beach



Boat batteries can cause confusion

By John Dale

With battery development progressing at a faster pace than ever before you could be forgiven for being confused when choosing a replacement. There are currently five different technologies in the lead acid range and all are good but only for specific applications.

With more creature comforts finding their way on-board, most boats will have at least two batteries, one to start the engine and the other to run the electronics, entertainment and communications systems. These batteries need to be kept separate when in use. The five battery technologies can be summarised as:

- The traditional 'flooded' battery (some call it "vented") is available as a marine battery and is still the best choice. It is internally robust but, perhaps more importantly, is compatible with the recharge voltage delivered by most engines.
- The Maintenance-free battery is a calcium battery and you have the convenience of not needing to top up the electrolyte. However it does need a higher voltage to recharge completely and most outboard motors or even inboards do not produce this higher voltage.
- Sealed AGM batteries are good quality, spill-proof batteries and are

ideal for runabouts. They cost up to 50 percent more than the 'flooded' battery but are super convenient. The AGM may not last any longer but they are trouble free.

- There are two other sealed batteries, Gel and Hybrid but they are not necessarily suitable as a start battery or cyclic house battery for the trailer boat.

Which one each boatie chooses is mainly a matter of budget or convenience. The most economic option is the tried and true 'flooded' battery – a start battery, and deep cycle for the house duty. If you're looking for a trouble free option, AGM is a good choice and this technology is also available as a start battery or deep cycle. Whether your batteries are 'flooded' or AGM, it's important to take care of them to ensure they last the distance. Keep them on a 'float charger' for the entire time when you are not using the boat. This means they are not recharged just before you go out but maintained all of the time that the boat is sitting in the driveway week after week and all winter.

Whichever battery you choose, be professional – it's wet out there.

John Dale has been in the marine industry since 1961.

Christmas at Couldrey

Couldrey House in Wenderholm Regional Park is dressing for Christmas this month, thanks to the efforts of a local floral art group and the Friends of Couldrey House. The Hibiscus Coast Floral Art Group received a community grant of \$800 last month, enabling its members to again put on an event that is a celebration of Victoriana and was last held at Couldrey House five years ago. The floral art group will decorate each room, from the butler's pantry to the entrance hall and dining room in a Victorian theme. The event takes place on November 26 and 27, and members of the public are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the display of vintage cars and stalls with hand-crafted products such as quilts. Refreshments will be on sale. Entry is \$5 per person, children free. Opening times are from 10am to 4pm each day. Info: www.historiccouldreyhouse.co.nz

Sudoku the solution

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