

GULF NEWS

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Big ship, little harbour

The cruise ship *Seabourn Encore* anchored just outside Matiatia harbour on Monday morning, delivering its passengers to shore by lighters. Local businesses benefited from the influx of visitors who had the option of either organised tours or self-discovery during their stay. Story page 5.

Photo Rob Brennan

Also this week

- Locals' lane causing trouble at wharves P 13
- Second hottest year on record P 16
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- Dirt track holds first race of the year P 46



A lasting legacy

Long-time Fullers chairman George Hudson, who died in late December, is remembered as a visionary who brought ferry services into the modern age. Page 10.



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Cruise ship comes to Matiatia

In a rare move, a cruise ship included Matiatia as a port stop in its itinerary this week.

The crew of the *Seabourn Encore* delivered hundreds of visitors to the island on Monday morning by ship-to-shore lighters from its position just outside the harbour. The vessel had spent the previous day and night in Auckland and departed for the Bay of Islands late on Monday afternoon.

Waiheke turned on a sunny mid-summer's day for the visitors with temperatures staying in the mid-20s and outside humidity tempered by a moderate south-west breeze.

One of the main on-island businesses to benefit from the visit was Ananda Tours, whose spokesperson Brooke Robinson estimated that between 350 and 400 passengers transited to the island during the day.

She said the company was appointed on behalf of the cruise ship operator, to provide passengers with three tour options around Waiheke as well as a shuttle service to and from Oneroa. Flying fox operator EcoZip was also selected by the company's in-bound agent to meet passengers off the lighters.

"It isn't very common for boats to stop at Matiatia but I think the smaller, high-end ones can just anchor off and tender the people from Matiatia head," she said.

Another cruise ship known to have dropped anchor there is *The World*, a lux-

A lighter from *Seabourn Encore* approaches Matiatia with a ferry following.



Waiheke Weather

Supplied by Weatherwise Auckland, 020 4023 0106

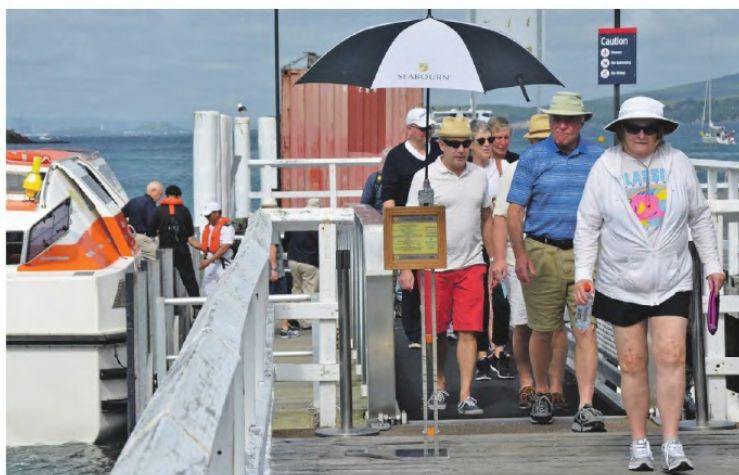
24-30 Dec 2018	Rainfall mm		Maximum temperature °C		Minimum temperature °C	
	Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland
Monday	45.5	62.0	19.8	21.1	17.0	18.2
Tuesday	10.5	38.0	21.0	23.0	16.0	17.0
Wednesday	0.0	0.5	22.1	22.8	14.9	15.9
Thursday	0.0	0.0	22.5	23.4	14.0	14.8
Friday	0.0	0.0	25.0	26.2	16.4	15.1
Saturday	0.8	0.0	23.5	26.4	16.0	14.8
Sunday	0.0	0.0	26.4	28.2	16.3	16.5
Weekly Total	56.8	100.5				
Dec Total	213.8	212.5				
Weekly ave			22.9	24.4	15.8	16.1
Dec Hist Ave	89.1	105.7	22.3	22.4	14.9	14.5

Week 31 Dec - 6 Jan 2019

Rainfall mm		Maximum temperature °C		Minimum temperature °C	
Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland	Waiheke	Auckland
0.0	0.0	23.3	25.2	17.5	18.6
0.0	0.0	24.0	25.8	18.6	19.8
0.0	0.0	25.6	27.1	17.7	18.1
0.0	0.0	25.5	27.1	19.0	20.3
0.0	0.0	23.9	24.9	16.0	15.3
0.0	0.0	25.1	27.9	16.4	14.9
0.0	0.0	26.1	26.3	16.6	17.4
0.0	0.0				
0.0	0.0				
		24.8	26.3	17.4	17.8
60.9	51.6	24.1	24.3	15.8	15.7



ury liner providing long-term residential accommodation to its passengers. At 210 metres, *Seabourn Encore* is slightly longer than *The World* but taking account of tonnage and beam width. they are about the same size.



The *Seabourn Encore* has a total paying passenger capacity of 600. She was built in Italy between 2013 and 2016, entering service in January 2017.

"It's a high-end boat and they expect their people to be well looked after," Brooke Robinson says. "They got us to run the whole of the excursions but a Passengers disembarking from a lighter.

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lot of the people don't book anything with the boat. They just come over and explore for themselves.

"Quite a few people got on the hop-on,

hop-off bus as well or some people went walking. It's all organised if they want it to be or they can free range as well.

"There were people coming off the

boat who were saying 'oh, we've heard it's one of the top-rated islands in the world'. That knowledge is getting out there." • Rob Brennan

Rescue by water and air

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter was the subject of much interest from beachgoers on Thursday 3 January when they landed on Little Oneroa Beach at 7.10pm to help a woman in her 50s suffering a medical complaint aboard a yacht in the bay.

Emergency services had to work together. St John's ambulance personnel were already on board the yacht, so the Coastguard sailed the helicopter's intensive care paramedic from the beach to the vessel.

Coastguard then delivered the paramedic and the patient back to the beach, from where the helicopter flew them to Auckland City Hospital in a moderate condition.

The Thursday callout was the last one before a very busy first weekend of the year, although not because of Waiheke. The island was the location of only one of 16 calls, and this was made on Sunday 6 January around midday. The crew assisted a female patient in her 80s in Onetangi

and flew her to Auckland City Hospital in a serious condition.

The week's Westpac callouts also included one made to Onetangi on Wednesday 2 January at 5am, to fly a boy to Starship Hospital.

It was also "a busy week for Waiheke's St John staff looking after locals and visitors to the island", said station manager Lloyd Barnett.

The ambulance staff had a total of 45 callouts, of which 28 were medical and 17 were accidents. Four were transported to the on-call doctor and 13 were treated at the scene of the incident. 20 patients were taken off island via ferry, three on the police launch and five by helicopter.

"We hope you are having a nice time on Waiheke and continue to take care in whatever you do," Lloyd said.

Police are giving similar advice. Noticing opportunist thefts of items such as sandals left on the beach and more, Sergeant Martin Felton asks that people be more

vigilant, don't leave stuff unattended and lock their car doors.

Two roadblocks have been in place for breath testing over the holidays, and out of all the people tested, only two will be prosecuted for driving under the influence, which the sergeant said was a good outcome. • Emma Haas

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter flew to Little Oneroa to attend a medical incident last week.



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