

Island revellers mellow but another scooter crash

Police Sergeant Raymond Matthews says good spirits prevailed on Waiheke during New Year's Eve and "behaviour was quiet on the island."

"Everybody was in a good positive mood," says Sgt Matthews.

But there were three arrests during the festive season. On New Year's Eve, a 22-year-old man was arrested for assault on a family member. He was held in police custody until Monday because courts were closed. The man was released on bail to appear in court later this month but breached his bail on Wednesday morning by returning to the address. Sgt Matthews says he will be held in custody until his court appearance, which is expected this week.

Police arrested a 36-year-old man for disorderly behaviour at 5am on New Year's Day at Palm Beach. He was causing a disturbance at a dance party. Police took him away but he was released a short time later. On the same night, the police held an Auckland man in his 30s in custody until he calmed down, after arresting him for fighting outside a New Year's Eve party in Onetangi. The man was released without charges.

On Monday 2 January, a 34-year-old Auckland woman who was on Waiheke to visit her family was arrested on previous charges after the police located her on Gordons Road. She was wanted for three separate theft incidents in the North Island. The woman was released on Tuesday to appear in court on her existing charges.

The Auckland Criminal Investigation

Branch (CIB) arrested an 18-year-old Oneroa woman on Tuesday 3 January for injuring with intent to injure.

"The assault occurred in the early hours of the new year at a private party," says Sgt Matthews. She has been bailed, and is expected to appear in court next week on 19 January.

The Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust crew assisted a woman in her 30s who was injured in a fall on Saturday 31 December at 7.40pm. It is believed she fell three to four metres off a boat in the Awaawaroa Bay vicinity. She had to be extracted by winch.

"She hit the railing on the bottom deck on her way down and then fell into the water," says Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter Communications Manager Lincoln Davies. "She was unable to get back aboard the boat... I believe she was helped to get to the shallows of a nearby bay."

The Coastguard put her in a Stokes basket before the Westpac Rescue 2 helicopter arrived, says Davies. She was flown to Auckland City Hospital in a serious condition.

Earlier that day, at 6.32am, the trust team flew a woman in her 20s to the same hospital in a serious condition after an assault.

On New Year's Day, a man in his 30s broke his leg after losing control of his scooter on Palm Road.

According to Sgt Matthews, the man slid and failed to take a corner.

"The road remained blocked for a short time while the man was being assisted by



Police Sergeant Raymond Matthews says good spirits prevailed this New Year's Eve.

the ambulance," he says.

The man was flown to Auckland City Hospital by the Westpac rescue helicopter at 1.30am.

Last year, Auckland Transport issued a report showing Waiheke and Aotea Barrier had almost one crash per 1000 residents between 2017 and 2021, making the two local board areas' scooter crash rates the highest in the Auckland Region.

Last week, the Westpac rescue helicopter assisted five patients with medical conditions, taking two to Starship Hospital and three to Auckland City Hospital.

The St John Ambulance team responded to 29 incidents on Waiheke Island in the past week. The crew has treated 25 patients, with 11 patients assessed and treated at the scene by St John paramedics. The remainder were taken to Auckland City Hospital, including six who were transported by Fullers360 ferries. • *Silvia Massa*



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WAIHEKE WEATHER 26 DEC - 1 JAN 2023										
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	WEEKLY TOTAL	MONTH TO DATE	MONTH HISTORIC
☁ WAI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	57.0
☁ AUCK	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	51.6
☀ WAI	24.7°	25.0°	25.6°	25.4°	26.1°	24.3°	23.5°	24.9°	23.5°	24.3°
☀ AUCK	26.4°	26.1°	27.3°	26.9°	26.9°	25.5°	23.9°	26.1°	23.1°	24.3°
❄ WAI	17.9°	18.3°	18.5°	17.5°	18.0°	16.4°	17.1°	17.7°	17.1°	16.2°
❄ AUCK	17.0°	19.4°	19.8°	16.5°	17.2°	17.4°	17.1°	17.8°	17.4°	15.8°

Data by WeatherWise Auckland: 020-4023-0106



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Everybody loves Waiheke...

Half a million international visitors are expected to arrive into New Zealand in the next two months and Waiheke's hot spots are packed with visitors from different parts of the world enticed here by the natural beauty of the island and our many other tourist attractions.

The Green family from South Africa has been in New Zealand for three weeks and Angus Green says they're on Waiheke to visit his son that came to live in the country several years ago.

"So far, I absolutely love it," says Angus.

"The beer is cold, which is perfect!"

The Greens' first stop was Queenstown. Angus says "It's like visiting almost two different countries."

Mr Green praised his son's country of residence, and he says they're planning to stay for another week.

"Everything works, everything is clean, and people are great," says Angus.

"It's expensive because of the exchange, but I mean, that's not Waiheke's fault."

Another aspect that gets a lot of attention from visitors is the island's village-type atmosphere.

"People are pretty chilled and it is easy to get around because you can go walking everywhere," says Wellingtonian newlywed Don.

Don and Cara were in Auckland and wanted to go somewhere nice to spend a small honeymoon.

Cara says it was easy to find their Airbnb accommodation, but that might be due to the fact that she booked it six months ago, she says.

When it comes to prices, Don says that "everything's expensive in New Zealand."



Angus, Santa and Morgan Green came from South Africa to enjoy Waiheke's cold beer and its village-type atmosphere. Photos Silvia Massa

"We've been to really nice places, and they were quite expensive for what they were," says Cara.

"But the day after we went to other places and they seemed more reasonable," she says.

Although the couple praised the island's shops' proximity to each other, they said they needed to take a couple of taxis to move around. Next time they'll consider renting a car since bringing their vehicle on the ferry wasn't worth it, says Don.

Transportation issues haven't affected backpackers Ben Weaver and Charlotte Du-Cann from the southern UK. The couple has spent four days on the island, and they say it was easy to move around down the coastal pathway.

"We've been doing a lot of walking,



Ben Weaver and Charlotte Du-Cann chose Waiheke as part of their backpacking adventure and they said the highlight of their short visit was the Whittaker's musical museum.

especially in the vineyards," says Ben.

One of their favourite experiences was visiting Whittaker's Musical Museum where they were in awe of the historical instruments.

"We are both musicians, so it was amazing for us," says Charlotte.

"The people there explained everything carefully, they're so passionate."

Charlotte and Ben say that they didn't do much research before choosing Waiheke as a destination and they were quite lucky to find accommodation since they booked their private room at a hostel ten days ago.

"We only saw an ad, and we also have family here in New Zealand," says Charlotte.

"Everybody said we should come... It all seemed so convenient," Ben says.



Michaela Nobir and Tumby Ngullie from Wellington came to Waiheke for a flash weekend getaway to escape from the loud sounds of the city.



Wellington newly-weds Don and Cara were looking to enjoy a small honeymoon before the big one and found Waiheke was the perfect place for that.



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Michaela Nobir and Tumby Ngullie came to the island looking for a one-day summer experience before the end of the year.

“It’s a nice atmosphere for people like us who are trying to have a rest and enjoy a day off from the city,” says Tumby.

Because it was an spontaneous visit they didn’t plan it very well, says Tumby.

“We wanted to go to a winery, but since I tried to book it yesterday, everything was sold out, obviously.”

Due to the lack of availability, the girls decided to make their stay shorter.

“We love it here, but we’re going to have to leave early,” says Michaela.

“However, we went down to the beach and walked around the shops, where we bought our hats because the sun was killing us.”

“Don’t forget to bring your hats if you are coming to Waiheke!” says Tumby.

The girls were unaware that they needed an at-hop to move around the island on public transport.

“We had to catch a taxi to go get it because the next selling point was an hours walk,” says Michaela.

Other than that, Tumby and Michaela loved their time on the island, especially their lunch at the “little Italian restaurant,” Fenice.

Cruise ship tourists rely on their own hop-on-hop-off buses and Terry Sun, a *Majestic Princess* passenger, was visiting the island with his family for one day. They were transported by tourism group EcoZip.

“Everything’s beautiful here, and prices are expensive but it’s just like everywhere else,” says Terry. • *Silvia Massa*

Full bins cause a stink over the holiday period



Rubbish Bins filled to the brim. Photos Merrie Hewetson

Between the Christmas and New Year holidays public rubbish bins on the island’s beaches and hotspots were overflowing due to the increase in population over the summer.

Auckland Council area operations manager Eli Ewens, says that during the summer period, Waiheke’s population increases to up to 35,000 people. “We understand the local community’s frustration at full rubbish bins during the summer period,” he says.

He says the contractors are frequently conducting litter runs and clearing public rubbish bins twice a day. “Rubbish is being accumulated after the last litter run of the

day with many frequenting the beach late at night due to the warm weather,” he says.

Eli says that Auckland Council will be working with local businesses to encourage responsible litter management in order to implement long-term solutions. “As a response, we will be putting out additional bins at hot spots, including at Oneroa, and are also looking at increasing the frequency of our litter runs.”

He appreciated community understanding and has urged people to dispose of their rubbish responsibly or, where possible, to take it home with them. “This includes ensuring your litter is inside, not just on top of, the bins,” he says. • *Olivia Walker*

Christmas at the beach for council rubbish truck



One of Auckland Council’s EV rubbish trucks spent a few days at the beach over the Christmas break. It sat on the roadside at Shelly Beach from at least Boxing Day.

“Our contractors have confirmed that their public litter LEV Compactor truck, which is a 100 percent battery-powered truck, has run out of power while emptying public litter bins at Shelly Beach. Due to the time of the year, the service team for this vehicle is unavailable until early January. However, our contractors have removed the vehicle and taken it back to the depot where they can work on it safely, out of the public areas,” says Keith Enoka, Auckland Council acting waste enterprises and refuse manager.

“We appreciate the patience of the community during this time of the year as we work to have this fixed as soon as possible.”

• *Olivia Walker*