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## Better range of affordable options for camping families

A new campsite featuring old forestry cabins refurbished in retro 60s style has opened in Whangapoua, broadening the choice of camping options for visitors to one of the Coromandel Peninsula's most popular and beautiful stretches of coastline.

The spectacular winding coast from Whitianga to Coromandel now offers an even better array of affordable options for families seeking that true Coromandel camping experience with the opening of the Whangapoua Holiday Park.

Suzanne and Aaron Morgan and Aaron's parents Jim and Gail Morgan worked solidly to open the campsite just in time for Christmas. The younger Morgans developed the concept on Jim and Gail's 11ha property, which once housed a state-owned forestry Head Quarters and cabins for single men working in the forest.

"All our neighbours including DOC, Earnslaw and local iwi and residents have been really positive and already we've had some wonderful guests staying," says Suzanne. "One of our first guests got engaged at New Chums Beach while they were staying with us and we had some bottles of champagne in the fridge ready for New Years, so we pulled them out and celebrated with them. I've been surprised how much people work together and develop friendships in the campground, we're really enjoying the business."

The campground has six refurbished cabins that sleep 2-3, another two larger cabins being completed, 10 tent sites and 10 campervan sites with a modern ablution block and shared kitchen. Further stages will include another ablution block, kitchen, barbecue area, lounge room and manager's house and office.

Developing the concept and completing the planning application took almost 18 months for Suzanne - a planner by trade - who did the work herself whilst busy caring for her twin boys Thomas and James (aged 2 years and 10 months).

The couple live in Matarangi having moved to the Coromandel from Auckland where they left 60hr-plus a week jobs. "Aaron's parents

offered the site to us as a business opportunity and we came up with a few ideas. But it leant itself to a campground because the cabins were already here and in such good condition. The Government built it so everything was done well, with water here and our primary wastewater already available."

Aaron has done much of the work with help from a builder and his parents, and Suzanne has had fun kitting out the cabins with a retro theme and more landscaping and signage planned to give finishing touches to stage one.

### **Suzanne and Aaron Morgan and sons James and Thomas**

