

River's rolling into Bream Bay are spoilt for choice with the variety of foods on offer. You can purchase freshly smoked or caught fish from a roadside caravan, or head to Mangawhai Tackle & Dive where you can chat to Brian about all the best fishing spots in the region, and stock up on tackle while you're there.

Lifestyle blocks are booming in these parts so there's an abundance of avocado and olive trees – and although many of the latter are not yet bearing fruit, it will be something to look forward to over the next few years. More established growers like Te Arai aMangawhai, are already producing international award-winning oils.

For those who are happy to let others do their foraging for them, the region offers an extensive range of cafés and restaurants, many with an onsite gallery to peruse while you're waiting for your tea or coffee to brew.

### **SMASHED PIPI CAFÉ & GALLERY**

#### **MANGAWHAI**

Coconut crab soup, garlic chilli scallops, prosciutto wrapped prawns, tagine of lamb and dukkah crusted chicken... yum, yum – what to choose? It's a hard decision for anybody to make but in the end the tender chicken wrap wins the day. After a delicious meal you can wander across the outdoor courtyard to the adjoining gallery for a look-see at Barbara Hockenhu's distinctive tubular vases and the works of many other NZ artists.

Corner Moir & Molesworth  
Mangawhai  
Tel: 09 431 4847

### **BENNETTS OF MANGAWHAI**

#### **MANGAWHAI**

Although local chocolatiers Bennetts of Mangawhai do not, as yet, have their own retail store (although this is on the cards) their complete range of unbelievably good chocolate can be found and purchased at the Smashed Pipi Gallery. Watch this space because I'm told that there are plans in progress to relocate the chocolate making operations to a site near the Smashed Pipi to provide a complete chocolate experience for passersby and connoisseurs of these delectable morsels.

No matter where it's purchased there's definitely something special about eating fresh chocolate, especially Bennetts' handcrafted delights which boast fresh cream fillings and real flavours extracted from fresh and freeze-dried fruit. The flavours, which range from blackcurrant and lemon cup to feijoa and champagne, are rich and tangy. Shelf life is limited due to the fresh ingredients and lack of preservatives but Bennetts' chocolates are so incredibly tasty, I can't imagine this poses much of a problem!

Visit Smashed Pipi Gallery,  
Cnr Moir & Molesworth  
Mangawhai  
Tel: 09 431 5500

### **MANGAWHAI TACKLE & DIVE**

#### **MANGAWHAI**

A variety of operators in Bream Bay offer charter boat fishing excursions. Jump aboard to enjoy harbour fishing at its very best, or tackle the bar and try your hand at catching a large snapper. Owner/operator Brian Cottrell of Mangawhai Tackle & Dive says that the rock fishing is particularly good in these parts. "Last year's pin fish went to a rock fisherman," he says. The breakwater at Mangawhai Heads provides several promising spots and the Hen and Chicks are also good, he reckons, "There's definitely some good fishing to be had out there." Brian has plenty of local tips for visitors and a good supply of bait and tackle at hand.

8 Wood St  
Mangawhai  
Tel: 09 431 4569

### **SAIL ROCK**

#### **MANGAWHAI**

If the fish aren't biting, head to Sail Rock in Mangawhai for fresh-as-if-you've-caught-it-yourself pan-fried snapper washed down with the obligatory glass of chardonnay.

The menu also offers a range of pizzas, and the children's menu provides games as well as a colouring-in section on the back.

Wood St,  
Mangawhai  
Tel: 09 431 4051