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Market back at Hobbs Wharf

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Market stall holders and the public returned to the Hobbs Wharf development in Gulf Harbour last weekend, bringing life to an area that has been fenced off and virtually abandoned for more than two years.

The Hobbs Wharf food and craft market ran alongside the marina for two years, closing in November 2010 due to the collapse of the owners of the development, Gulf Corporation.

The new market, which was opened by the development's new owners, Top Harbour Ltd on January 27, features around 25 stalls and also has a café that is going to be open seven mornings a week.

Market manager Debbie Morgan says the market's mix of high quality fresh produce, food and arts and crafts will create a similar feel to the earlier market on the site, which attracted a strong following.

Live music will keep things humming along, and there will be children's entertainment including a bouncy castle. Top Harbour has permission to move a mature pohutukawa onto the site, to provide shelter and shade for a family picnic area.

The market is on every Sunday, at The Anchorage, 10am–2pm.

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Hopes pinned on festival

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Having recently re-opened its Sunday market, the Hobbs Wharf development owners Top Harbour have partnered with a charity organisation in running a four week festival from February 28 to March 24.

The Field of Dreams Summer Festival, which takes place in and around the marina development in Gulf Harbour, is one of most ambitious fundraising programmes ever undertaken by [Make-A-Wish NZ](#) and includes the planting of thousands of sunflowers and inviting the public to view outdoor movies and dragon boat racing.



The movies will be set up behind Hobbs Wharf Market at The Anchorage (off Pinecrest Drive), where a grassy bank forms a natural amphitheatre. The screenings begin on February 29 and run each Thursday, Friday and Saturday, starting at 8pm. A donation of \$5 from movie-goers goes to Make-A-Wish.

A demonstration of the power and energy of dragon boat racing will be held in the marina on March 3.

Auckland Dragon Boat Association events manager Natalie Fowlie says four of the Association's 10-person dragon boats will compete in a series of 200m races.

She says spectators can expect noise, excitement and a highly competitive spirit as the teams are in the middle of their build up to their regional competitions next month, and the Nationals in April.

Following the races, there will be an opportunity to try dragon boat racing.

Make-A-Wish NZ chief executive Carolyn MacDonell says the festival could raise more money than any other activity the organisation has undertaken.

Make-A-Wish NZ's mission is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

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