# [***Festive fines for thousands in the post***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47X1-3JP0-0000-M4NF-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

The New Year hangover will arrive in the post for thousands of people arrested over the festive season.

In the North Island more than 780 revellers were arrested on New Year's Eve, mainly for breaching liquor bans and disorderly behaviour in Whangamata, Mt Maunganui and Auckland. They will be fined between $ 150 and $ 400.

But most will avoid their day in court, and plead guilty by letter.

Sergeant Vince Ranger, of Whangamata, said a special court day in Waihi had been scheduled for January 7 to deal with the 135 partygoers arrested at the Coromandel resort over the past two days.

Most would sign a form to plead guilty, and receive their fine in the mail, Mr Ranger said.

Police had not been left with a mountain of alcohol, despite the hundreds of people who had alcohol confiscated after breaching liquor bans that are in place throughout most of the North Island. All confiscated alcohol was poured out, Mr Ranger said.

New Year celebrations posed few problems for police. In Hamilton 29 people were arrested. Police said it was a quiet night, with no public countdown to welcome in the New Year.

Only one person was arrested for breaching the liquor ban which was introduced late last year.

In Taupo, 24 people were arrested on New Year's Eve, while Mt Maunganui police arrested 188 and said the night was a success.

Meanwhile, Vodafone has apologised to thousands of customers who have been without ***cellphone*** coverage in Bay of Plenty and Coromandel areas for two days.

The problem was expected to be resolved by the end of today, spokeswoman Sarah Williams said.

Vodafone was considering offering a compensation package to customers affected by the problem, she said.

- Police are looking for a man who sexually violated a 16-year-old boy on the sand dunes at Whangamata Beach Access Six about 2am on New Year's Day. The man they are looking for is described as caucasian and aged in his 50s.

- An explosion severely damaged a Whangamata pay phonebox about 12.20am today.

Police say a group of young people ran from the area just before an explosive device was let off.

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