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Exploring the deep

Dipping toes into marine conservation

Wetsuits were dusted off last month for the first Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) programme run in the Coromandel in four years. Between Covid, cyclones, a summer of never ending easterlies and road closures, the snorkel gear has been dry.

Cue Jorja Gilmore, who came on board with local provider organisation Friends of the Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve Trust.

"I am so excited to be able to help get the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust's EMR programme back up and running," Jorja said.

The school programme, run by the non-profit trust, consists of classroom work to discuss marine biodiversity; practical snorkelling lessons; a snorkel session in a local marine environment; and an excursion to a marine protected area.

Senior students from Netherton School took part during their school camp as part of their term-long focus on water learning. Jorja ran the two-day event alongside EMR's national co-ordinator Lorna Doogan, taking 70 students for snorkelling sessions at the eastern end of Hahei beach, and in the Purangi Estuary at Cooks Beach.

"Both days of snorkelling couldn't have gone any better, with the kids coming out of it with greater snorkelling abilities and a wider knowledge of both the marine and estuarine environment. There were many smiles, laughs, (happy) screams and some very tired but happy kids by the end of it, with many of them wanting to carry on their newfound snorkelling passion and wanting us to come back for a third day of snorkelling," she said.

The programme delivery was supported by DOC Marine Rangers Marie Everth and James Blackmore.

"The best part of the day was seeing the joy and excitement on the kids' faces after their snorkel around the reef at Hahei," Marie said.

"To hear them chatting about the octopus they saw, snapper and other marine life really puts into perspective the effect and importance the EMR programme has in getting kids connected to the moana and the conservation of our oceans.

"We look forward to supporting Jorja in the future, enabling kids across the Coromandel to experience marine life in their backyards and hopefully inspire the next generation of ocean conservationists."

DETAILS: Go to [www.mountaintosea.org.nz](http://www.mountaintosea.org.nz) for more about the programme.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES SEAWEEK, P16



Harry Firth, 9, takes a dive into some hands-on learning in Coromandel's Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve.

Photo: LORNA DOOGAN

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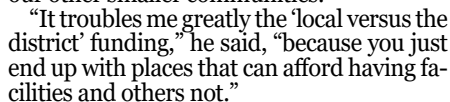
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Members of the public did say that the



A sub-regional facility at Kōpū South, which scored highly in the survey, had been evaluated in the business case as not viable for Thames ratepayers without additional financial support.

**LETTERS:** Send letters to the editor: [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:editor@valleyprofile.co.nz) or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at editor's discretion. **THE VALLEY PROFILE** is independently owned and operated. It is delivered weekly to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers. **OFFICE: 2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA. 3600 | ISSN 2703-5700**



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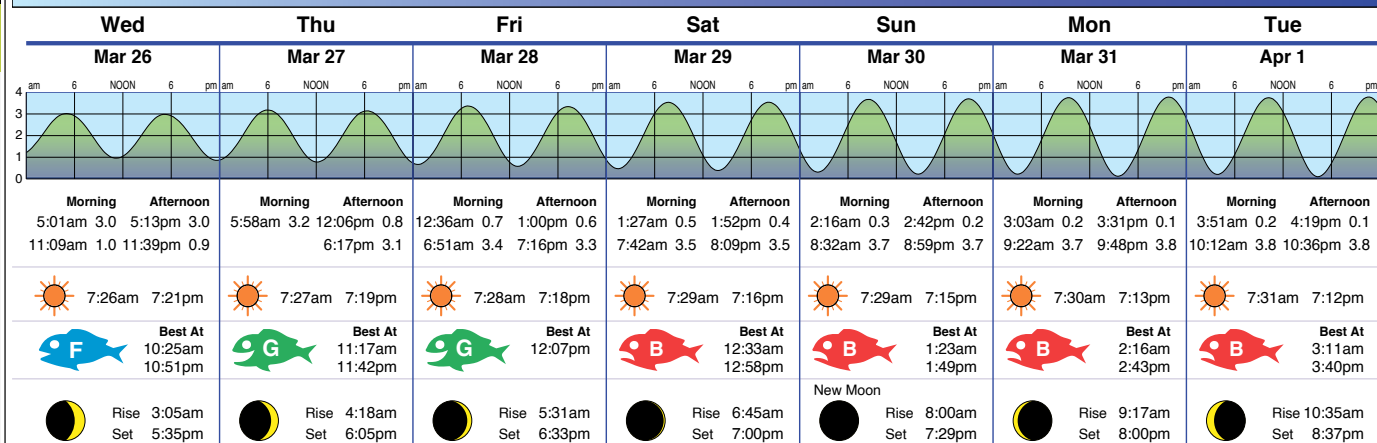


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# Thames Tides



\*Not for navigational purposes.  
Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd.  
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MOON AND FISH KEYS

MOON AND FISH REFS

			
New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.

PLACE	HIGH		LOW	
	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	- 0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	- 0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+ 0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	- 0	03	-0	05
Waipi Beach	- 0	12	-0	12



# Refugee camp and desert run ‘surreal’

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Facing the seemingly-endless expanse of the Sahara Desert under the sun’s full force was an “incredible experience” for former Paeroa local Jack Keelys.

Even more surreal was living inside a refugee camp for a week, he said, with the Sahrawi people who welcomed him in.

Jack and his partner Amy Strang signed up to compete in the Sahara Marathon solidarity race for the refugee children of Western Sahara.

With bare feet for the final 5km, and a child on his shoulders for the last 500m, Jack finished the race in four hours and in 13th place - out of 67 marathoners from across the world.

Now residing in Toulouse, France, Jack told *The Profile* he was the first New Zealander to ever complete the run.

“I was extremely proud of my result,” he said. “It was very cool to be the first New Zealander to complete the race... Half of the runners intended to finish at the four-hour mark, and only 13 of us did – highlighting how challenging it was.”

Jack said he had to overcome “some huge mental barriers” while he raced in complete isolation for many kilometres.



Jack Keelys and Amy Strang were the first New Zealanders to take part in the Sahara Marathon. INSET: Jack spends time with Sahrawi children; and crossing the finish line carrying a child on his shoulders. Photos: SUPPLIED

“The hardest aspect was definitely the exposure – being in the middle of the desert under the midday sun was scorching. I was drinking two cups of water every 3km and still struggled to hydrate.”

However, the most difficult part of the experience was emotional, not physical, he said.

“Living in one of the world’s largest and most politically complex refugee camps with a local family for an entire week was nothing short of surreal.

“We had no shower, no running water, and lived in tents or under tin-roofed shacks; four of us all sleeping together in a large room. However, we were treated incredibly by our hosts, not as special outsiders, but as family.

“The matriarch would host two tea ceremonies for us per day, we were cooked lovely meals, and neighbours and extended family would visit us to share broken, mixed-language conversations until midnight

most evenings,” he said.

Jack and Amy have been raising money for four causes close to their hearts: the Sahara Marathon project supporting camp refugees with special needs; the Sahara Marathon project supporting war orphans in restoring recently flooded Dakhla camp; the New Zealand Refugee Family Reunification Trust; and the Toulouse Refugee support charity in their current home city.

They’ve surpassed their goal of \$2500 and as at March 20, have raised \$3740.

“Amy and I were genuinely taken aback by the level of fundraising support. Our friends and families had supported us from the start... but after we began sharing the real-life and person-to-person stories and photos from our time with the Sahrawi people and explaining the massive impact a few dollars can make to their education, nutrition, or opportunities, these seem to have resonated and really surged donations,” he said.

“Every donation we receive, we do a little dance and get excited because we know the difference it will make.”

**DETAILS: To donate before March 31, visit [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz) and search for ‘Jack Keelys’.**



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G.J. Gardner. HOMES



# Our Coromandel



News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

26 March 2025

# Thames pool future progresses

**A new aquatics facility for Thames has moved a step closer with Thames Community Board recommending a preferred option of a \$26.2 million all-indoor facility within the grounds of Thames High School.**

The proposed facility would contain three pools: a learn-to-swim pool for younger children, a programme pool for therapy, aqua walking and learn-to-swim for older children, and a 6-lane 25-metre pool. There would also be an indoor splash pad.

Under this model, capital costs would be reduced by building the upper section of the aquatic facility with ‘structural fabric’ – a curved steel roof holding two layers of structural fabric with insulation sandwiched in between. A similar structure has been used in Kaitiāia’s Te Hiku Sports Hub which opened in 2024 and is reported to be performing well.


The average annual cost of the recommended all-indoor facility per ratepayer over 30 years would be around \$682 if funded entirely by Thames Ward.

“Finding a way to make the pool replacement



affordable to the community is a major challenge,” said Board Chair Adrian Catran JP. The Community Board has asked staff to draw up a report on funding options for Council to consider.

For more information, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/aquatics](https://tcdc.govt.nz/aquatics)



Thames  
Community Board  
**UPDATE**

**Board Chair, Adrian Catran JP reports:** “It was with a great sense of relief that we voted to recommend an all-indoor pool on Richmond Street. I’ve been involved with this project for the past 24 years. It goes without saying we must have a pool in Thames. But it also needs to be affordable. We have now asked Council staff to investigate different funding models and report on this for Council to make a decision. The Board confirmed that work will start on removing Centennial Pool by July 2027.”

**adrian.catran@council.tcdc.govt.nz**

**The Board’s next meeting is Wednesday 30 April 10am in Thames Council Chamber.** Meeting agendas and the 2025 Council meeting schedule are at [tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes](https://tcdc.govt.nz/agendas-reports-and-minutes)

## ANZAC PARADES AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

FRIDAY 25 APRIL



*The public are invited to attend Anzac parades and memorial services on Friday 25 April 2025 at the following locations:*

**THAMES: 5.45am Dawn Parade** – from Sealey St (outside BNZ), along Pollen St, turn left into Mary St to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, for **6am Dawn Service**. Followed by breakfast at the Thames Bowling Club, Mackay St.

**9.45am Civic Parade** – from Sealey St (outside BNZ), along Pollen St, left into Mary St, to Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, for a **10am Civic Service** followed by refreshments at the Thames Bowling Club, Mackay St.

*Returned service personnel are asked to wear their medals and decorations. Descendants of returned service personnel marching in the parades are asked to wear medals on the right upper portion of their apparel.*

**For the full list of parades and services around the district, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/anzac2025](https://tcdc.govt.nz/anzac2025)**

## Local Water Done Well

What does the future of water services look like? Our Council will soon be asking our community for feedback on how best to manage Council’s water services and infrastructure in the future.

The Government’s Local Water Done Well water services reform programme means councils throughout Aotearoa New Zealand must consider different management and operation models of our “three waters” – stormwater, wastewater and drinking water.

Currently, Council provides these water services, but under new legislation the status quo cannot continue. In Thames-Coromandel, a list of different models has been deeply researched and the advantages and disadvantages of each weighed up. These models, and what each means for ratepayers and residents, will now be included in the Council’s upcoming feedback process for community consideration.

You’ll be able to provide feedback from 17 April to 15 May. We’ll be holding meetings throughout the district and reaching out for feedback on the proposed options.

**[tcdc.govt.nz/lwdw](https://tcdc.govt.nz/lwdw)**





[tcdc.govt.nz/col](https://tcdc.govt.nz/col)

## COMMERCIAL OPERATORS LICENCES on our reserves

Our Council is now inviting applications for commercial licences for vendors to deliver activities on Council-owned reserve land.

Applications are open until Monday 24 April.

For more information or to submit an application, visit [tcdc.govt.nz/col](https://tcdc.govt.nz/col)

## APRIL RUBBISH & RECYCLING

On Sunday 6 April, with the end of Daylight Saving, our Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations revert to their non daylight saving opening hours of 8.30am–4.30pm.

The only days they’ll be closed in April are Good Friday 18 April and until 1pm on Anzac Day, Friday 25 April.

Check out details here: [tcdc.govt.nz/rts](https://tcdc.govt.nz/rts)

### KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS

On the week of Easter Monday, 21 April, yellow week collections for Thames Rural South and Thames & Surrounds take place on Saturday 26 April (two days later due to both the Easter Monday holiday and then Anzac Day on Friday)

Check out your collection calendar at [tcdc.govt.nz/bindays](https://tcdc.govt.nz/bindays)





## In Brief

Public Planet:  
**Journalism**  
SIXTH EDITION  
120 pp

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is repairing a damaged section of the Coromandel Walkway. The Coromandel Walkway, connecting Stony Bay and Fletcher Bay, was damaged during the extreme weather events of summer 2022-23, with large slips causing significant damage and forcing the temporary closure of a 670-metre section. DOC staff have waited for land movement in the area to cease – and now the land has settled, work has begun to recut the track. The track is set to be fully reopened in mid-April.

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# Unreported licence plate spikes stolen car stats

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

A seemingly large spike in stolen vehicles passing through Thames in February turned out to not be a spike at all, rather one unreported plate repeatedly pinging the town's ANPR cameras.

The Thames Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Camera picked up 54 stolen vehicles or number plates travelling in and out of the town last month.

This was more than four times the number captured at the same time last year - 13.

However, Thames Police Acting Sergeant Gareth Carter told *The Profile* the dramatic

increase was likely due to one plate activating the camera multiple times a day.

"I think the reason why the stats are a bit skewed is because someone has had their plate stolen and it never got reported to us.

"They've probably woken up overnight and thought, 'Oh, someone's stolen our plates, the police are too busy, we'll just go and get it sorted. So they've gone out to NZTA to get new plates... but now we've got two sets of the same plates out there."

An ANPR camera was installed in Thames in late 2020 after calls from the business community, which had been struggling with ram raids and



Thames Police Acting Sergeant Gareth Carter. File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

burglaries - most of which were committed using stolen vehicles.

With the camera installed,

Thames Police can be alerted to a potential stolen vehicle within seconds.

"The ANPR cameras can be at a lot of places now, like petrol stations and stuff like that, especially around Auckland," Sergeant Carter said.

"So, if you went to Auckland for the day with an unreported stolen plate, it wouldn't be uncommon to make 10 or more ANPRs, and you're left wondering, 'Why am I getting stopped all the time?'"

He believed the driver activating the ANPR camera last month lived out of town, and travelled to Thames for work.

He said this instance displayed the importance of re-

placing licence plates with "totally new numbers" if the originals had been nicked - as well as alerting police.

"If the plates have not been recovered, then police would strongly suggest replacing the numbers, and then that stops you getting stopped by police everywhere you go.

"We don't [want to] go chasing and stopping victims. We want to only catch the offenders."

In January, Thames' ANPR camera caught 50 stolen vehicles or number plates - a jump from 26 in 2024.





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### New Listing






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# Fun in the sun

The autumn sun shone down on Paeroa Community Support Trust's annual Children's Day event on March 16. Held at the Paeroa Domain, the fun and free family occasion honoured the joy, curiosity, and potential of New Zealand's tamariki, and featured face painting, inflatable games, and lolly scrambles galore. Reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** witnessed the fun.



Reiya, 8, gets her face painted.



Reeve, 1, says hi to mum from the activity area.



Santana, 7, takes a hit at swing ball.

Photos: KELLEY TANTAU



Alex, 5, makes a toss during a game of cornhole.



Nelly, 9, tries out the inflatable games.

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# Fundraising efforts enable student broadcasts



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

## 1938

To raise funds for an internal broadcasting system at Waitakaruru School and to provide an adequate library, the pupil's parents ran a Queen Carnival.

Waitakaruru residents participated enthusiastically and the social life of the village was brightened up considerably by a series of fundraising garden parties, a clay-bird shoot, and card evenings.

With the funds a microphone was bought to allow children to give plays from an outside building into the school. It was considered that by getting the pupils to present their own dramas, with their own sound effects, a higher standard of elocution and pronunciation would be reached.

Meanwhile in Paeroa, power failures and the lack of a resident engineer were causing inconvenience to the shopkeepers. The lights had failed on three consecutive Friday nights and on one occasion it had been an hour before they had been restored after an engineer had been brought in from Te Aroha. At a Chamber of Commerce meeting it was stated



Waitakaruru School pupils broadcast to classrooms from their studio.  
Photo: SUPPLIED

that Paeroa was the centre of an area embracing Waitakaruru, Thames, Waihi and Waihi beach, and the Thames Valley Electric Power Board should see fit to have an engineer resident in Paeroa.

Paeroa had troubles and there were troublemen (linesmen) to deal with them, but there were occasions which required technical men. There were four engineers in Te Aroha - surely one could be supported in Paeroa.

Over at Waihi, perhaps the most spectacular affair of its kind ever seen there, a roller skating carnival organised by Skateways Ltd, was held in the King's Hall. The only hitch in an excellently organised programme was the failure of the lights on several occasions. Novelty and special events were held in between all-skate times so that

everyone had quite a lot of time on the floor. Mr Bob Philips and Miss McComb gave skilful exhibitions of gliding and waltzing, and Mr Rae and Miss McComb gave a two-step.

Mr Rae also gave exhibitions of the two-step in five ways - toe spins, one toe walking, skating through bottles, and the cross-legged figure-eight through bottles - one of the most difficult feats. The Skateways entertainers, Jack Lucas (piano accordion), Ted Lonergan (side effects), and Mr Wheatley (saxophone, clarinet and trumpet) performed musical items. A hockey match on skates was fast and Waihi defeated Auckland by three goals to two. The last skate of the evening was a strenuous all-skate event.

Meanwhile, the longest sin-

gle trip yet undertaken by the Thames St John ambulance, 238 miles in all, was carried out successfully when an emergency case was transferred from Coromandel to Thames and on to Auckland. A Coromandel man, who suffered a compound leg fracture as the result of a heavy machine accident, was the patient.

The ambulance left Thames at 3.30pm and brought the man to the Thames Hospital, where X-rays were taken.

Specialist treatment was required and the ambulance left Thames at 9.30pm for Auckland, the patient being taken to a private hospital. Owing to the nature of the injury, fast travelling was not possible. The ambulance arrived back in Thames at five the next morning.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. On March 14th this year, Mark Carney took over from Justin Trudeau as the Prime Minister of which country?
2. True or false: Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday in The Republic of Ireland?
3. The first *US Survivor* TV series was filmed on the remote island of Pulau Tiga in which decade? a) 1990s, b) 2000s or c) 2010s?
4. The te reo Māori term *waewae* refers to which body part?
5. 'Nocturnal' refers to activity during a) the day, b) at night or c) at twilight?
6. The Falklands War was fought in 1982 between Great Britain and which other country?
7. Which word in the NATO phonetic alphabet is the longest at eight letters long, and is also the name of a month?
8. Which video game last week announced that players would soon be able to experience New Zealand tourist attractions within the game? a) Call of Duty, b) Fortnite, or c) Minecraft?
9. In 2024, which Hauraki secondary school had the highest school roll? a) Hauraki Plains College, b) Paeroa College, c) Thames High School or d) Waihi College?
10. In which year did the *Titanic* sink? a) 1898, b) 1912 or c) 1922?



ANSWERS: 1. Canada; 2. True; 3. b) 2000s (it was filmed in March and April 2000 and screened the same year); 4. Feet/legs; 5. b) At night; 6. Argentina; 7. November; 8. c) Minecraft; 9. a) Hauraki Plains College; 10. b) 1912.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Peter Augustin's artwork will be on display for April at the Thames Art Gallery. Photos: SUPPLIED

## Artwork reflects passion

Painter and sculptor Peter Augustin is Thames Art Gallery's featured artist for April, displaying his paintings on the southern wall of the gallery.

Peter was born in Slovenia, into a family of artists and musicians. During his childhood there he was an active painter, following in the footsteps of uncles.

In his teenage years, Peter moved to Switzerland, embarking on an artistic path, studying at the Lucerne School of Art where he received private lessons from renowned artists Paul Haelan and Otto Gilli.

He has dedicated a large part of his time and life to painting, between working in tourism and hospitality.

Peter lived in Switzerland for 35 years, exhibiting there and other countries, where he received various awards.

His work reflects the passion and inspiration of being an artist. It is symbolic, full of colours, emotions and is part of a larger context of cultures and rhythms of life, of the present and future in the countries he has visited, all the while following his own

unique artistic path. A lot of Peter's inspiration also comes from music, including historical operas, which he finds stimulates the imagination and triggers emotion which results in his use of colours.

Through colour he endeavors to make a positive contribution to people's lives.

Peter's working style has been described as "lyrical abstract" which includes methods such as brush, palette knife, spatula, and sponge techniques and makes a connection to his role-models de Stael, Jawlensky, Dali and Schiele, including the people around him.

Peter is greatly influenced by the bright colours of nature, the amazing variety of greens and blues and the sea that New Zealand has to offer. Peter has now settled in Whitianga where he is an active member of the art scene around the Coromandel and where he encourages people to participate by interacting with others, sharing and encouraging their knowledge and passion.

**DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, open 10am-4pm daily.**

Thames Art Gallery  
604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast  
www.thamesartgallery.co.nz

April Featured Artist

PETER AUGUSTIN

Peter's work is colourful and full of emotion, drawing inspiration from countries he has visited, life's rhythms and music, especially historical opera

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Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin (132 mins) M. Berlin examining Bonhoeffer's determination to live his life with uncompromising political and spiritual courage, while speaking truth to power, in his attempt to save countless Jewish lives.

Widow Clicquot (91 mins) M. Chronicles the gritty journey in the early years of the Veuve Clicquot vineyard in 19th century France and brings to life the fascinating young woman behind the iconic orange label. Based on the novel The Widow Clicquot: The Story of a Champagne Empire and the Woman Who Ruled It.

Firebrand (121 mins) M. Drama. In blood-soaked Tudor England, Katherine Parr, the sixth and last wife of King Henry VIII, is named Regent while tyrant Henry is fighting overseas. From the B&I Film Festival.

Tina (125 mins) M. Story of a Samoan teacher, who struggling after the death of her daughter in the Christchurch earthquakes, reluctantly takes on the role of substitute teacher at a wealthy private school.

Black Bag (93 mins) M. A high-stakes mystery starring Cate Blanchett, Michael Fassbender, Pierce Brosnan and others. An intelligence agent is suspected of betraying the nation.

Hard Truths (97 mins) M. Legendary filmmaker Mike Leigh returns with a fierce, compassionate, and humorous study of family and the thorny ties that bind us. Highly awarded film.

The Last Journey (95 mins) M. (Swedish with English subtitles). An emotional and hilarious story exploring a son's attempts to coax his father into reengaging with life. A joyous road trip through the south of France.

White Bird (120 mins) PG. Struggling to fit in at his new school after being expelled, Julian's grandmother tells him the story of her experiences in World War II. A moving drama fit for the whole family.

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# Trial to soldier on with ‘buggy’ waste solution

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

A \$900,000 trial project using insects to process waste is being developed in Thames, and organisers think it may hold solutions for dealing with commercial food waste, agricultural food waste, and even sewage solids.

The NOW Project - Natural Organic Waste Solutions - is being run in conjunction with the Seagull Centre. The three-and-a-half year trial will begin in mid-April.

The project will initially use food waste from Thames Hospital, Richmond Villas, and Bupa Tara-ru Retirement Village, along with a number of schools and commercial businesses including a mussel farm and a Coromandel brewery.

Collected food scraps will be run through a grinder and placed on trays impregnated with black soldier fly larvae, which are being bred specifically for the project.

The larvae will process the waste during their 10-day growing cycle, and will then be sold as feed for animals, such as fish and chickens. Their manure, known as frass, will be used as fertiliser.

The waste processing facility will be located at the Seagull Centre, in three shipping containers which can each hold up to 500 trays. The containers will be fitted out with ventilation and biofilters, and all food waste and insects will be securely contained.

Trial organiser Louise Deane from the Seagull Centre said larvae were very efficient at processing waste.

“The larvae can eat an enormous amount of food [and] can grow enormously fast,” she said.

“Worms will take six months to process waste - This sort of larvae can do it in as little as a week. You can hear them eating.”

Up to 15 per cent of global greenhouse gases were caused by decaying food waste, Louise said.

“If it’s eaten by insects, the greenhouse gas amounts reduce massively. And they clean up bio-waste.”

“People might worry that maggots seem a bit dirty, but what they’re doing is they’re cleaning... they’re quite good at processing



Louise Deane explains the NOW Project to residents at Richmond Villas. BELOW: Black soldier fly larvae.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

the bad things in waste that we need to get rid of.”

The first year of the trial will focus on commercial food waste, and will be based onsite at the Seagull Centre. Once the processes have been refined, the team will look at making its processing facilities mobile, to avoid having to transport large amounts of heavy waste.

The third year of the trial will investigate whether it is possible to safely process human sewage waste.

“It sounds disgusting but we spend an enormous amount of money drying our sewage sludge and then shipping it to landfill and wasting all the nutrients that are in it,” Louise said.

“We really need to cycle all the nutrients in our waste, in our food waste and our manures and put them back into the soil to feed the plants or put them into animals.”

It is this cyclical idea that sits behind the entire project, she said, finding ways to reuse valuable nutrients. Putting the larvae back

into the cycle as animal feed will have financial benefits as well as environmental ones.

“A really interesting thing that we’d like to look at is feeding fish,” Louise said.

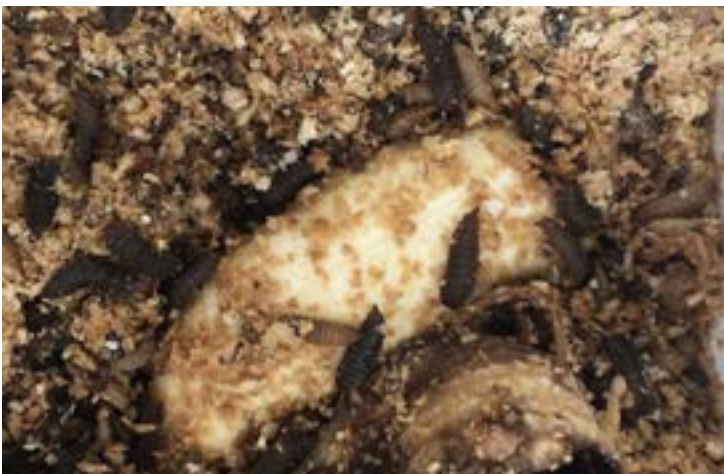
“If we can find a way of using the nutrients that we already have and using [the larvae] to feed chickens and fish, then we are not having to import soy or fish meal, which is hugely environmentally problematic.”

However, Louise said sewage-fed larvae would not be used as animal feed.

“There are other things you can do with it. We’re working with Environmental Science Research, which is a government research agency, to work out how to do all this safely and cleanly,” she said.

“We’re also working with students from the University of Canterbury on the products that you can make with them - you can actually make soap with the oil from the larvae, [and] adhesive.”

The trial is being funded primar-



ily by the Ministry for the Environment’s Waste Minimisation Fund, along with a \$50,000 grant from the Waikato Regional Council, and \$90,000 from the Seagull Centre.

“We’re going back to a natural system. It’s actually going to try and work with nature rather than against it, because when you have a monoculture and all the insects

are poisoned, there’s nothing to clean up the mess,” Louise said.

“We just want to try and push a solution that’s circular to avoid wasting all these nutrients that we really need to grow our food and to grow our animals.”



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Rural Life

Īnanga workshop held

A recent two-day workshop in Thames brought together environmental enthusiasts keen to enhance their knowledge about native fish, particularly inanga, and improve stream health.

Hosted by NZ Landcare Trust, Piako-Waihou Catchment Trust, and the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, the day was “a unique opportunity” for 25 community members to gain practical skills in stream management and conservation, Landcare Waikato catchments co-ordinator Ric Balfour said. “Nic Naysmith, national inanga spawning programme co-ordinator, kick-started the workshop with expert insights into the lifecycle of inanga, which makes up 90 per cent of New Zealand’s whitebait species,” he said. “Participants learned to locate spawning sites in coastal streams where the saltwater meets freshwater.

“While inanga lay eggs in dense vegetation, participants practiced spotting and mapping eggs using sago as a substitute due to the eggs’ minuscule size of just 1mm.”

A field visit to the Karaka Stream further revealed how human intervention could facilitate spawning. Straw bales were placed at the bird hide end of the stream to replicate vegetation for spawning, compensating for areas where natural vegetation has been replaced by rock and concrete.

Ric said he had been tasked with monitoring these bales through autumn to track their effectiveness in encouraging spawning. But despite these efforts, the Karaka Stream’s 600m concrete channel remained a migration barrier for whitebait, and restoring fish passage was on his to-do list.

Day two focused on stream health monitoring using the NIWA Stream Habitat Monitoring and Assessment Kit.

Whitebait Connection national co-ordinator Pat Hawkins guided participants through tools and techniques such as as-



Searching for eggs. Photos: SUPPLIED



A local native torrentfish, or panoko (Māori), sassing stream bank vegetation, examining streambed conditions, and identifying macroinvertebrates.

At Redwood Lane, just upstream from the channelled segment of Karaka Stream, participants practiced these skills while also discovering torrentfish and redbin bully trapped overnight in minnow traps.

Ric said Thames High School students had taken an active role in stream monitoring over the past three years, blending outdoor and science learning.

The workshops not only equipped participants with technical skills but also fostered a sense of community responsibility toward conservation, he said.

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# Gardening

## Add nutrients to garden soil

With increased soil moisture after the drier summer and early autumn months there is much new growth. Overnight dews bring a freshness to lawns and young seedlings. But soon enough cooler temperatures will arrive. Be aware of your frost tender plants and either move pots under cover or prepare to cover plants in the garden. Keep the garden weed free, add some fertilizer and a layer of mulch.

**VEGETABLES**  
Harvest the last of your late summer vegetables – pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants peppers and onions.

Store onions, pumpkins and potatoes in a cool dry place. If you choose to give your veggie patch a rest over the winter, add nutrients back into the soil by sowing a crop of blue lupins or mustard seed, which will add nitrogen and improve the soil structure. Raised veggie beds can be a bonus in winter, increasing the drainage, soil warmth and saving your knees and backs. Replenish soil and add blood and bone, sheep pellets and mulch if you wish. Once you have cleared your tomato patch, dig in some compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets and plant leafy greens like spinach, silverbeet, broccoli, cabbage or cauliflower.

A liquid seaweed fertilizer is an excellent plant starter. It helps to stimulate root growth.

**FLOWERS**  
Autumn is the ideal time for planting new trees and shrubs to allow them to get established over the cooler, wetter winter months. Now is the time to plant sweet pea seeds in a warm sunny spot for spring and summer flowering.

Sow seeds of alyssum, aquilegia, ca-



Harvest the last of your late summer vegetables.

File Photo: PIXABAY

lendula, cineraria, cornflower, hollyhock, livingstone daisy, lobelia, snapdragon to name a few. Once seeds are sown, water gently and keep the soil moist while they establish. Remove spent flowering annuals and plant your favourite winter flowers. Don't forget to replenish the soil before replanting.

**FRUITS**  
Continue to harvest late season apples, feijoas, persimmon, figs. The deciduous trees are all showing signs of leaf drop.

Once all fruit trees are harvested, spray pip and stone fruit trees with copper spray to protect against curly leaf, leaf blight, leaf spots, downy mildew, black spot and verrucosis. Feed citrus trees with Citrus Food to promote strong healthy autumn growth. Maintain a regular watering schedule to fatten fruit.

**LAWNS**  
After the dry summer months, some

lawns are looking a bit worse for wear, especially if they haven't been watered regularly.

This is the best month for sowing a new lawn or repairing your lawn. Mix in Saturaid with your grass seed and spread over prepared soil. This will help improve the water penetration through the soil and reduce any dry patches. Mow regularly, remove clippings and water in the morning. Aerate or core to improve drainage and feed.

**HERBS**  
Replenish your herb garden with compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets and dig well in. Sow sage, rosemary, thyme, parsley, mint, coriander, and chives.

**COMPOST HEAP**  
Add fallen leaves, and prunings.

Happy gardening.

- Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle

# Resilient growth

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

We kicked off the year with an ambitious team-building adventure: canyoning through a low-water stream.

The lush bush, big abseils, and endless laughter set the tone for a day filled with both excitement and unforeseen challenges.

I made a rookie mistake - planning an adventure I hadn't personally scouted.

Relying on online guides and feedback, I underestimated the time needed to complete the journey.

What began as a thrilling escapade evolved into a gruelling test of endurance, especially when a slippery walkout turned into a gruelling bush crash back to our vehicle.

Our aim for the day was to embody the very lessons we teach kids: resilience and managing tough thoughts.

Before setting out, I asked each team member to find a teachable moment from their journey to add to their kete for future storytelling. By the end of the adventure, we were soaked, bruised, and exhausted. Despite our fatigue, we took a moment to reflect. One team member's highlight moved me to tears. She shared how her hardest moment became her greatest triumph. Fatigued, angry at the river, and frustrated with me, she reached a breaking point.

In that dark space, she turned to prayer and discovered strength she didn't know she had. Instead of playing the victim or giving in to negativity, she made a conscious choice: to push forward, to lean into her faith, and to grow.

Her choice transformed her experience. She emerged as the hero of the day, proving that how we respond to challenges shapes the outcome more than the challenges themselves.

Her story got me reflecting on my own responses. I might not control what happens to me, but I can control my reaction. And often, that choice defines the story we tell ourselves and others.

So as we tackle the year ahead, let's ask ourselves: What story will I write with my response? Will I let challenges define me, or will I rise above them?

Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker. He and his team provide mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa to more than 300 students a year. They are passionate about supporting our young people to thrive. Much of this work is funded outside of schools and it becoming increasingly challenging in the current climate. Email michael@livingwell.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter.

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 14 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	 15 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	 16 Non planting Day	 17 Non planting Day	 18 Non planting Day	 19 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	 20 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
 21 Non planting Day	 22 Non planting Day	 23 Non planting Day	 24 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	 25 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	 26 Non planting Day	 27 Non planting Day
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Tim McWatters, who operates the company with his wife Althea, said the bulk of their clients were farmers and councils.

"They all keep getting us back, so we must be doing a good job," he said.

"We cover South Auckland, down to the Waikato, to the Coromandel Peninsula and the Hauraki Plains."

Tim said the future plans for the company, which currently has four staff, was to expand if an opportunity arose.

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Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

**NGATEA** - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy  
**PAEROA** - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub  
**WAIHI** - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalve  
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CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline 12noon Monday

Death Notice

RUSSEK, Judith Ann (Jiggs): Passed away March 20, 2025 at Masterton, aged 83 years. Dearly loved sister and sister-in-law to Sherry and John Carter, and loved aunty to Michael, Todd and Dean. R.I.P.

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Waihi Assembly of God Church

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Scout Hall, Baker St, Waihi

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Public Notice

HAURAKI MĀORI TRUST BOARD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 29 March 2025 - 10.00am

Matai Whetu Marae, 12 Ngāti Maru Highway, Kopu, Thames

AGENDA

1. Karakia-Mihi

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of previous meeting

4. Presentation of HMTB Annual Report 2023-2024

5. Presentation of HMTB Annual Plan 2024-2025

6. General Business

PARE HAURAKI FISHING TRUST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 29 March 2025 - (Commencing after HMTB AGM)

Matai Whetu Marae, 12 Ngāti Maru Highway, Kopu, Thames

AGENDA

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2. Apologies

3. Minutes of previous meeting

4. Presentation of PHFT Annual Report 2023-2024

5. Presentation of PHFT Annual Plan 2024-2025

6. General Business

7. Karakia Whakamutunga

Please note that the documents relating to the HMTB and PHFT AGM will be available on request from the HMTB office or on our website [www.hauraki-iwi.nz](http://www.hauraki-iwi.nz) prior to the AGM.

All queries to (07) 862 7521 or free phone 0508 468 288

Nikky Fisher - Chief Executive

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Hauraki District Council Meetings - April 2025

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of April 2025 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

Western Plains Drainage District Committee Thursday, 3 April 2025, 10.30am Paeroa Office

Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee Thursday, 3 April 2025, 1.00pm Paeroa Office

Regulatory Hearings Committee Monday, 7 April 2025, 9.00am (if required)

Planning Committee Monday, 14 April 2025, 9.00am (if required)

Audit and Risk Committee Tuesday, 15 April 2025, 9.00am

Community Partnerships Committee Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 9.00am

Regulatory Hearings Committee Tuesday, 22 April 2025, 9.00am (if required)

Finance Committee Monday, 28 April 2025, 10.00am

Council Wednesday, 30 April 2025, 9.00am

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# Crim no match for ‘wee doll’s house’

OPINION

By RON AGNEW



There is an element of danger in many jobs attended by police, and the circumstances playing out and results are usually unknown. However when I look back at the end result of a few of the situations that occurred, I can't help but have a bit of a chuckle.

In Rotorua in the early hours of the morning, at domestic dispute occurred between a slightly in intoxicated man and his partner. The row became heated and the police were called.

The man became very angry, agitated and violent and locked himself in the house with his firearms. Though fortunately his partner and their children were able to escape out the rear of the house.

The house was surrounded by Police in an effort to isolate him there so police could start negotiating with him. It was a very dark winter's night and my task was to get in a position to cover the rear and one side of the house while other staff covered other corners similarly.

I crossed through a neighbours property at the rear, climbed over the fence and had to crawl through a vegetable garden to get near the house.

I came to a smallish doll's-type house but doubting a large male could get into it, I crawled past and settled in a low hedge row concealed but with coverage of the sides and rear of the dwelling.

The Detective Inspector at the front of the house had started trying to make contact with the offender first by phone but with no result, he had to start appealing for the man to come out by loud speaker.

This continued for some time with no result and with growing frustration. The boss advised the offender to throw the weapons out or stand in the front door. If no response in five minutes, tear gas was going to be put into the house to get him out.

A few minutes went by and then I got a hell of a fright when I hear right behind me “all right I give up”, and turn to see the man struggling to free himself from the clutches of the wee doll's house! He was having trouble extricating himself.

I tried to sound as calm, unsurprised and unshocked as I could with an “okay come on” and took him around to the front in the darkness so everyone could stand down after his arrest.

The worst I got was a bit of ribbing later that night and the next day but in the years since, recall has provided some mirth in the strong memory of it with a chuckle anyway. Isn't it funny how things turn out sometimes.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer



Seaweed Week 2025 celebrated all things marine in the Coromandel. Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

## Community comes together to celebrate the sea

Seaweed brought together Mercury Bay residents of all ages to celebrate connection to the ocean.

Department of Conservation (DOC) community ranger Cheyenne Walmsley said the week demonstrated strong community spirit and a keen interest in marine environments.

“The ocean plays a big part in the lives of people living on the Coromandel Peninsula, and we saw that with many people participating in events and taking action during the week,” Cheyenne said.

The festivities began at Buffalo Beach on March 1 with a beach treasure hunt, marine-themed giveaways, and activities such as identifying marine pests and learning about seabird burrows.

On March 3, a beach clean along Hahei Beach and the Mautohe Cathedral Cove walking track saw 30 volunteers collect 40kg of rubbish. Meanwhile, the Experiencing Marine Reserves Trust ran a school snorkelling session in Hahei. Students were excited as they saw octopus, snapper and other marine life swimming right before their eyes.

On March 5, Mercury Twin Cinemas hosted a sold-out evening featuring short films and presentations on marine conservation. Topics included marine reserve monitoring, the effects of kina barrens, identifying marine pests, tracking seabirds with researcher Jamie Darby, the importance of estuaries with Coastcare, and learning about Aotearoa's manta rays with MantaWatch NZ.

Throughout the week, children participated in various competitions, including designing a Seaweed poster, building Lego sea creatures, and colouring a scene from Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve.

Local agencies also visited schools including Mercury Bay Area School, Coromandel Area School, and Netherton School, to discuss marine reserves and sea creatures.

“Thank you to everyone who joined in on making Seaweed 2025 a success,” Cheyenne said. “Off the back of a successful Seaweed 2025, we are looking forward to establishing Seaweed in the local events calendar for years to come.”



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Fill the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9

4	1							
7			5					8
8	3	2	7	1				
2				6		5		4
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EASY

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4	1			2		9		
	9		1		3			4

HARD

193

HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

213

- ACROSS
- 1 Student's composition (5)

4 Awkward predicament (6,9)

14 Pick-me-up (5)

15 Direction indicator (5)

16 Give no credence to (10)

17 Of imposing height (5)

19 Go hard (3)

20 Gulp (7)

21 Weather instrument (9)

22 Handwriting (6)

25 One who consistently overcharges (9)

27 Response (6)

28 Waxy light (6)

33 Castle access (10)

35 Burning (3)

36 Abrupt (6)

37 Festival (4)

39 Egg producer (3)

41 Description of an event (7)

42 Fishing weight (6)

43 Lacking due care (9)

44 Districts (5)

45 Foolhardy (8)

50 Former partner (2)

51 Fit and vigorously active (8)

55 Body organ (5)

58 Twenty-five percent (3,2,4)

59 Instructed (6)

60 Flier (7)

61 Room in public house (3)

63 Tale (4)

64 Pullover (6)

65 Amazement (3)

66 Strong-willed (10)

68 Kidnap (6)

69 Fiscal estimate (6)

71 Coming into view (9)

76 Pasture plant (6)

77 Manual agility (9)

79 Volunteered (7)

81 Mimic (3)

84 Merge (5)

85 Extended (10)

86 Narrow band (5)

87 Alleviates (5)

88 Almost too late (2,3,4,2,4)

89 Candid (5)

DOWN

2 Cunning (6)

3 Coral island (5)

5 Dilute (4)

6 Green vegetable (7)

7 Cowardly (6)

8 Girl's name (5)

9 Futile (7)

10 Fee for passing (4)

11 Place of work (6)

12 Feeling of anxiety (5)

13 Deliberately sink (7)

14 True-to-type (7)

18 Symposium (10)

23 Examine (5)

24 Numbs (7)

26 Oar rest (7)

27 Serious infectious disease (7)

29 Citadel (anag)(7)

30 Day nursery (6)

31 Throttle (5)

32 Distance up (6)

34 Check and correct (4)

36 Scoff (5)

38 Top room (5)

40 Grind up (4)

45 Spacious (5)

46 Exonerated (7)

47 Connection (4)

48 Gained points (6)

49 Cat type (5)

50 Competitor (7)

52 Low-flying machine (10)

53 Exhilaration (7)

54 Pressed (6)

55 Curt (7)

56 Blocks (5)

57 Storage building (4)

62 Precipitous (5)

67 Sea creature (7)

68 Garb (7)

70 Mischievous sprite (7)

72 One in hospital (7)

73 Decorative pattern (6)

74 Cave (6)

75 Quit one's job (6)

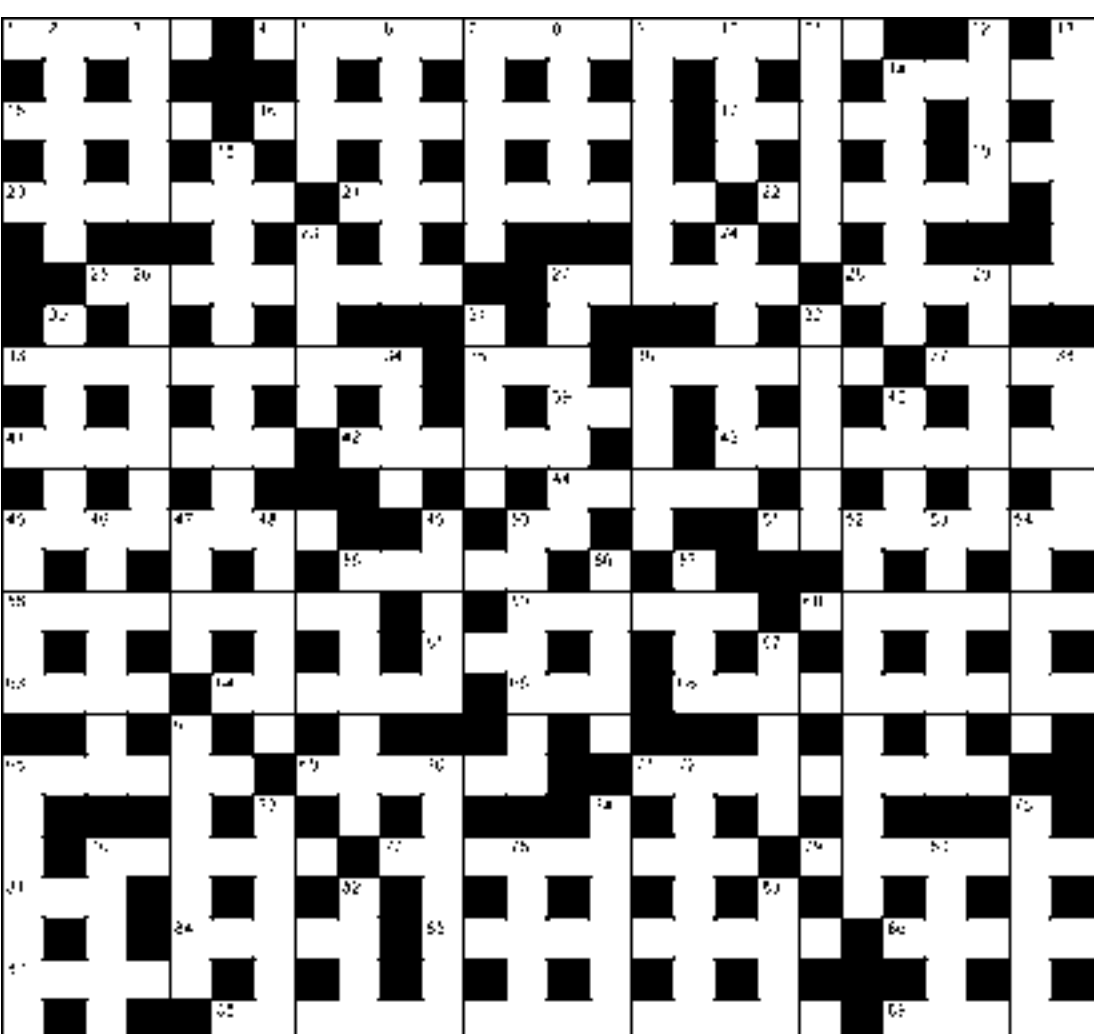
76 Discontinue (5)

78 Uniform jacket (5)

80 Go in (5)

82 Netting (4)

83 Joint line (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Stack, 4 Show a bold front, 11 Duvet, 14 Unwed, 15 Matrimonial, 16 Thespian, 19 Culprit, 20 Chaos, 21 Structure, 24 Intercept, 26 Sprite, 27 Deform, 31 Proxy, 32 Catacomb, 34 Distillery, 38 Ignored, 39 Collie, 40 Client, 41 Chew, 42 Glisten, 45 Headstrong, 50 Escorts, 54 Acme, 55 Acumen, 56 Novels, 57 Dubious, 60 Percentage, 61 Lemonade, 62 Eider, 65 Quarry, 66 Poirot, 67 Accompany, 72 Governing, 73 Canal, 74 Mimicry, 79 Imprison, 80 Connoisseur, 81 Herbs, 82 Saves, 83 Put off the scent, 84 Stays.

DOWN: 2 Tongue, 3 Cheap, 5 Hoax, 6 Worship, 7 Bamboo, 8 Land, 9 Fracture, 10 Tahiti, 11 Disorderly, 12 Void, 13 Tantrum, 17 Miser, 18 Curtailing, 22 Ocean, 23 Together, 25 Noxious, 26 Subject, 28 Frugal, 29 Foiled, 30 Stance, 33 Adobe, 35 Yawns, 36 Gene, 37 Echo, 42 Grasp, 43 Immortal, 44 Nicety, 45 Home ground, 46 Aunt, 47 Singlet, 48 Revamp, 49 Nylon, 51 Scum, 52 Opinion, 53 Toupee, 58 Tear to bits, 59 Idiot, 63 Bring off, 64 Split, 65 Queries, 68 Classic, 69 Recoup, 70 Saline, 71 Grubby, 75 Inert, 76 Spiv, 77 Knit, 78 Turn.





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4

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3.2<sub>ha</sub> 3 2 2

Asking Price \$1,099,000  
Phone for viewing times  
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83  
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399  
glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008  
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Paeroa 183B Thorp Road

Receivership lifestyle sale

Here is the opportunity to purchase this expansive 210 sqm (more or less) home on the outskirts of Paeroa that is situated on flat land overlooking the 15.39 ha (more or less) of land that comes with it. All it needs is a new family to enjoy all it has to offer. Inside lends itself to spacious open-plan living area including a well-designed and modest chef-like kitchen. Family living is well catered with four double bedrooms, and two bathrooms, and a guest toilet. Outside, the property is an entertainer's dream with extensive decking to the northeast. Situated in a desirable rural setting, the property is just 4 minutes' drive from the conveniences of Paeroa township. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/2630038

15<sub>ha</sub> 4 2 2

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)  
3pm, Thu 10 Apr 2025  
Bayleys Hamilton, 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
View 9-9.30am Sun 30 Mar  
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
Seth Roe 027 320 6937 seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz  
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SPORTS

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New pump track

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

An official opening for the new \$163,760 Pump and Bike Track around the Pārāwai School field took place recently. Mātua Waati Ngamane of Ngāti Maru was invited to bless the new circuit, which was built by Trail Pro, at around noon on March 3, then students were allowed to take to the tracks on their wheels. Pārāwai students, staff and teachers were invited to join together after school at 3pm for a ride around on the track and a sausage sizzle put on by the school. The project was made possible by the support and grants

of \$50,000 from Pub Charity, \$50,000 from We Care Community Trust, and the remainder from the Pārāwai School board and also school fundraising. In its grant application, the school said the track on the grounds at Pārāwai School was much closer to home for children of the community, who would be able to visit the school grounds to ride bikes and scooters locally and in safety with friends. It would also be an asset to the independent after school and holiday care programmes which were held at Pārāwai School, and included children from schools across the wider Thames area, the school said.



Pump track riders Blake Bergersen, left, Blake Mackenzie and Maia Ngamane.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Josiah Akulu shows his skills.



Luca Edmeades, left, and Micah Aloua tackle the skills section with ease.



Keeley Tuely, left, races Zoe Birch.



Matua Waati blesses the track.

