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Lest we forget

Paeroa's Anzac Day dawn service saw a large crowd gather on Primrose Hill on Friday, as commemorations were held throughout Hauraki-Coromandel to remember those who gave their lives for their country.

MORE PHOTOS: P6-7

The flag is lowered for The Last Post at the Primrose Hill memorial on Anzac Day. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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The skipper of a 13-metre aluminium boat was able to escape after it caught fire in Mercury Bay.



Photos: SUPPLIED/WRC

Skipper escapes unharmed after boat fire

A skipper escaped unharmed after his 13-metre aluminium boat caught fire and later sank near Centre Island in Mercury Bay last week.

Waikato Regional Council said the sole person onboard was rescued by a passing vessel and was uninjured.

A regional council harbourmaster vessel was deployed with three maritime officers on board, arriving at the scene about 3pm on April 22 and setting up an exclusion zone to keep the public at bay.

The damaged boat had holes in the side of the hull but remained afloat at that time.

Deputy Regional Harbourmaster

Hayden Coburn said the officers spoke to the skipper, who didn't require medical attention.

"The intensity of the fire would suggest the majority of the 300 litres of fuel on board at the time is likely to have burned off, with little to no fuel remaining."

"We'll be monitoring any environmental effects from residual diesel and navigation safety risk from debris," he said.

"The skipper has been in touch with his insurer and will be working with them to arrange salvage of his vessel."

At the second deployment that even-

ing, the hull was noted to be taking on water and the vessel was listing. The vessel sank overnight and Maritime Officers tried to relocate the wreck the following morning but were unsuccessful.

It's estimated to have sunk to a depth of around 80-90 metres.

"We are interviewing the skipper and working with Maritime NZ as well as local Iwi and Coastguard," council said.

"It's unknown how the fire in the engine bay started, with the skipper discovering flames and deploying a life raft before being picked up by nearby recreational fishers who saw the smoke about 2.30pm."

PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT/ADVERTORIAL: Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz; Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.
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Thames Tides

Wed Apr 30	Thu May 1	Fri May 2	Sat May 3	Sun May 4	Mon May 5	Tue May 6
 Morning: 2:31am 0.3, 8:50am 3.7 Afternoon: 2:57pm 0.1, 9:16pm 3.8 Best At: 1:53am 2:25pm Rise: 9:44am, Set: 7:01pm	 Morning: 3:22am 0.4, 9:44am 3.6 Afternoon: 3:47pm 0.2, 10:07pm 3.7 Best At: 2:57am 3:30pm Rise: 10:56am, Set: 8:01pm	 Morning: 4:16am 0.5, 10:37am 3.5 Afternoon: 4:37pm 0.3, 11:00pm 3.6 Best At: 4:01am 4:32pm Rise: 11:58am, Set: 9:09pm	 Morning: 5:12am 0.6, 11:31am 3.3 Afternoon: 5:28pm 0.5, 11:54pm 3.4 Best At: 5:02am 5:30pm Rise: 12:47pm, Set: 10:20pm	 Morning: 6:10am 0.8, 12:25pm 3.2 Afternoon: 6:23pm 0.7 Best At: 5:58am 6:23pm Rise: 1:26pm, Set: 11:28pm	 Morning: 7:11am 0.9, 12:23pm 3.1 Afternoon: 7:23pm 0.9 Best At: 6:48am 7:11pm First Quarter Rise: 1:57pm	 Morning: 8:12am 0.9, 1:53am 3.1 Afternoon: 8:29pm 1.0, 2:21pm 3.0 Best At: 7:33am 7:55pm Set: 12:34am, Rise: 2:24pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

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

Culture, craft combine in crochet calling

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

A Paeroa teen who has built confidence through crochet is now blending culture with craft as he prepares to launch his own business.

For four years, Dwayne Anania, 18, has been using crochet as a way to curb boredom, but with an award under his belt and a push of support, he is almost ready to share his finished products with the world.

Dwayne was introduced to crochet through friends after taking up a sewing class.

“It was the most confusing and hardest thing to ever start,” he said.

“I had made a crochet scarf just for practice and honestly had no intention in continuing with crochet at all.”

However, one day he decided to pick up a crochet hook and watch videos on how to make a variety of items.

Ever since then, he said, it became his whole life.

“The reason I love it so much is mainly because it’s the most relaxing thing ever and it helps - not just myself - but anyone to cure their boredom,” he said.

In 2024, he entered the Art Waikino Exhibition with one of his projects and won the Young Star Award, selling his



Dwayne Anania, 18, is turning his passion for crochet into a business.

Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

work the following day.

“Ever since that happened, it made me think about all the things that I had been missing

out on because confidence was holding me back, but I did it anyway and it was honestly not what I was expecting.

“You never know how things will turn out until you actually do it,” he said.

“[My confidence] has grown

through the past year with the help of my youth worker Carolyn Walker, who would push me into anything that had to do with crochet.”

That drive has led Dwayne to pursue a business he calls Te Waihangā Crochet.

“It means ‘creative crochet’ but depends on how you use it,” he explained.

“The things I am offering are crochet Māori-designed scarves... and [I’m] hoping that I can expand the business to other things in the near future.”

Dwayne also credited his former school Paeroa College in helping him build up confidence and skills to turn his passion into a business.

“And having amazing teachers and youth workers that were able to support and encourage me,” he said.

“School was the foundation that helped me believe this could be.

“What’s next is growing my business and getting more ideas about what I can even add to my business, such as other things during the summer months as well.

“[Also] getting my level 3s and University Entrance to go off and study.”



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5

2

2

4

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Waihi

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3

1



1

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3

1

1

1

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4

2

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2

1

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Movie magic alive and well in Thames

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

Quarter to one on Wednesday afternoon, and the line for movie tickets is out the door. It's the school holidays, and the Left Bank Theatre in Thames is doing a roaring trade. The next showing of Dog Man is at 1pm; all the tickets are sold out, and proprietor David Mullholland is behind the counter looking frazzled but cheerful.

"There's a lot more behind-the-scenes work than I anticipated," David tells me.

"But it's panning out better than I'd hoped. I never anticipated it would be so popular."

This is my first visit to the tiny boutique theatre since it opened its doors in August, 2024; back then David was nervous about whether Thames could support a cinema.

"I'm still learning what Thames likes and dislikes in terms of movies," he says now, noting the forecasted demand for morning screenings never seemed to eventuate.

"I've changed tack significantly this year though. I thought I'd curate an interesting mix of older and newer stuff... But nearly every movie I'm showing now is brand new."

The change in strategy has seen audience numbers skyrocket, David says. Since August he's had more than 5000 showings, and more than 7000 people have passed through the doors - most of them since he



David Mullholland says his first eight months of business have been a runaway success. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

made the switch to new releases.

"I got a significantly lower average number of attendees last year before I understood the importance of getting new movies," he says.

"People read about them in *The Listener*, see them on TV, and it piques their interest and makes them want to come."

Back in the theatre, I herd my entourage of children down the hot-pink hallway to find our

seats: a comfortable armchair and a two-seater sofa in the second-to-last row.

The other 25 seats fill up fast. There is no assigned seating as such, but when sessions are full David does his best to ensure larger groups can be seated together. It's helpful if people book online, he tells me - popular movies sell out fast, and email or phone bookings can only be processed when he's on

the premises.

Mostly, it feels pretty similar to a typical movie experience - we've even got some popcorn to munch on, though it's served in a metal bowl rather than a takeaway box. The vibe is cozy and relaxed, and although the room is small, it stops just short of feeling cramped.

Once the lights go down though, I forget about the room. The 3.3-metre wide screen feels

much bigger in the darkness. Surround sound and a digital projector do a superb job of providing the big-screen sensory experience one expects from a movie.

My companions are riveted to the screen for the next hour and a half, and the unconventional seating even allows for easy cuddles during the scary bits.

When the lights come up, it's time for a quick visit to the bathrooms before we brave the rain lashing the street outside. The cubicles are tidy and well-equipped - easily accessible for families or those with mobility issues.

We wave goodbye to David as we leave - it didn't take long for the foyer to empty, and now he's getting ready for the next screening. He's working on hiring staff to help with the load, he says.

"Things should settle down soon... I'm now able to employ a couple of people part time, which makes it more sustainable on the human front too," he says.

"I'm very much more confident that the cinema is sustainable and here to stay."

Overall it's a successful trip, my pint-sized pals assure me. While it's no luxury big-box theatre experience, it doesn't need to be. It's friendly, cozy, quirky, and decidedly Thames - a great way to spend a couple of hours.



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Remembering the fallen

Anzac Day commemorations took place throughout Hauraki-Coromandel on Friday, April 25, with parades and dawn and civic services being held. **MORE PHOTOS: P7**



Holding the flag at the Kerepēhi dawn service. Photo: TERRY KING



The march to the Kerepēhi dawn service was well attended. Photo: TERRY KING



Many take part in the Thames Anzac parade down Pollen St. Photos: TERESA RAMSEY



Thames High School students join the Thames Anzac parade.



Children carry a wreath.



St Francis School students take part.



Falling Birthrates essay competition

The essay question was: Alarm is rising about falling birthrates in New Zealand and throughout most of the world. With 57,006 births¹, an abortion death toll of 16,277 (in 2023) and rising, and only three non-kin adoptions in 2024², what are the long-term implications and possible solutions for New Zealand?

¹In the year ending June 2024. ²Oranga Tamariki.

The latest Essay Competition sponsored by Open Adoption on the Falling Birthrates in NZ and the world generated scores of brilliant

essays from many perspectives. The winning essays can be read on open adoption.org.nz, but here are some snippets of the various insights:

Some choices end a story. Others write a new one. A story where a woman who cannot raise her child still gets to love them is one worth

telling. A story where a child grows up knowing they were wanted, not just by one family but by two - is a story worth creating. BC

The power is in our hands to ensure we do not reap another lost generation in the next 25 years. Moreover, it is in the hands of the medical fraternity to support the young mother in crisis by promoting the long-term advantages of open adoption over quick-fix abortion, which most often

has consequences both mentally and physically. She who chooses life, including open adoption, always reaps a free conscience. She who chooses death is always haunted through the passage of time by what could have been. LW

My husband and I have raised two children through open adoption. Because of open adoption, both children have grown up with strong connections

to their biological families. Placing their babies for adoption allowed their mothers to mature without the heavy responsibilities of solo parenting. Today,

both women are in stable relationships and have had other children, while the biological fathers have also gone on to create families. SK

I was adopted at birth by loving Christian parents who gave me a second chance at life. My birth mother could have chosen abortion, but instead, she chose life. For that, I am eternally grateful. Adoption is a life-affirming

alternative to abortion, offering children the chance to be raised in loving homes rather than being denied their right to live. Every unborn child deserves the opportunity to fulfill their potential, just as I was given mine. AC

Primrose Hill commemorations

Paeroa’s Anzac Day dawn service saw a large crowd gather on Primrose Hill on April 25, as commemorations were held to remember those who gave their lives for their country. **ALICE PARMINTER** captured the occasion.



Jordana Rae leads God Save the King with the Kerepēhi Brass Band.



The Kerepēhi Brass Band prepares for the service at Primrose Hill.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Bagpipes ring out as dawn breaks.



The Cenotaph.



Members of the public pay their respects after the service.



A lone soldier stands guard.

MISCONCEPTION

Violence against women only occurs in specific groups.

REALITY

It occurs across all aspects of society regardless of race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, education levels, occupation or community position.


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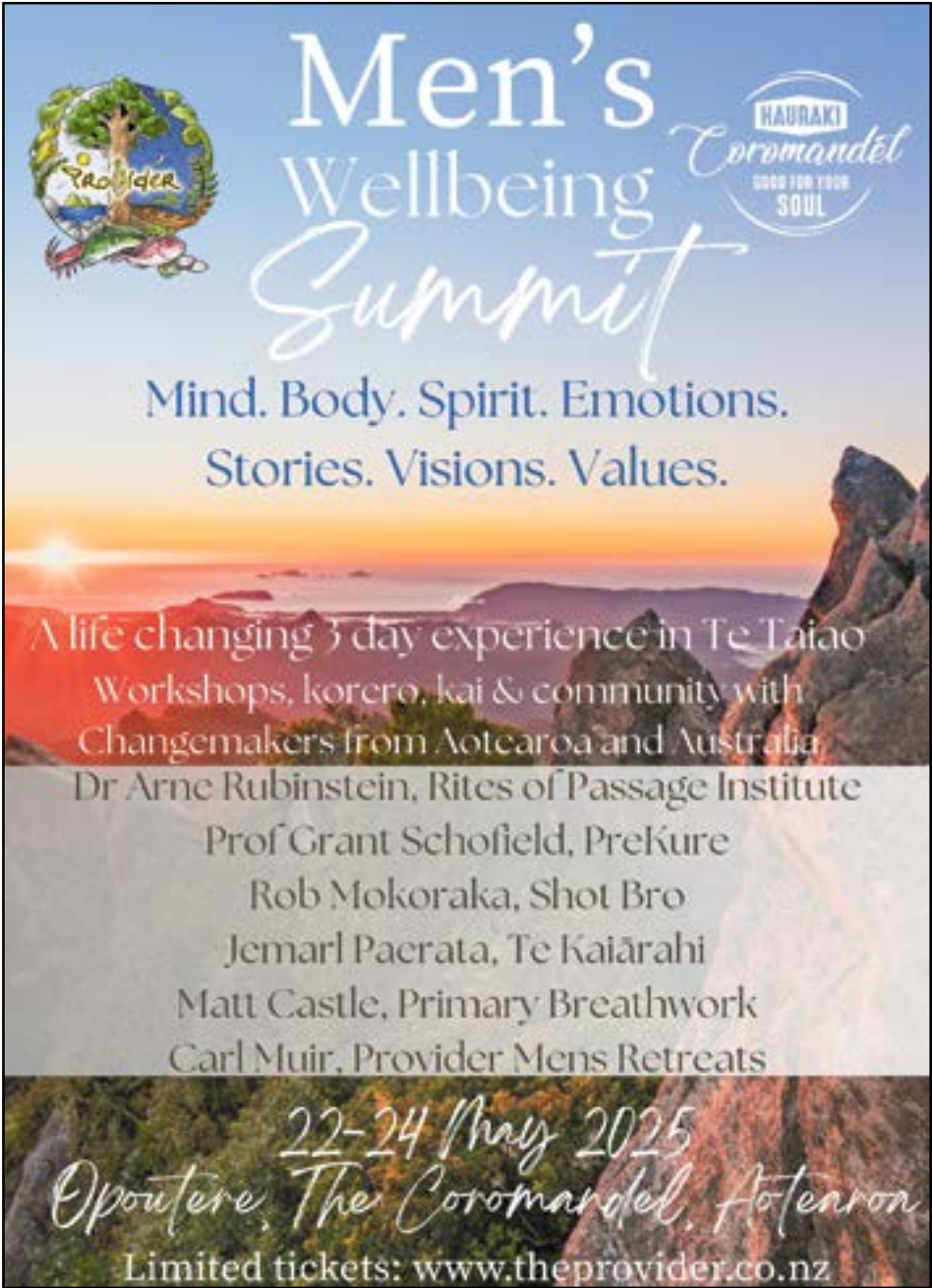


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ENTERTAINMENT

Beach life inspires shell art

Karin Lillis, aka “Pipili-Kcious”, is the featured artist at the Thames Art Gallery for May.

Originally from England, Karin and her family migrated to Fiji and it was there that she began her schooling.

The weekends and holidays were spent sailing to the many local islands and snorkeling around the mainland beaches with her family. It was this idyllic lifestyle that led Karin to her absolute love of beach-life and shells and her shell art.

A few years later Karin’s father was assigned work in New Zealand, but during their time in the Islands they collected many beautiful shells and brought them with them to their new home. The taking of shells was permitted in that time but not now. Karin treasures those shells to this day.

Karin’s love of the beach and coast saw her living on the Coromandel eastern beaches for many years and she now calls the Thames Coast home.

She has collected shells for many years and 15 years ago Karin started making her “Heavenly Hearts” from the strongest remains of the Ostrich Foot/Takai shells, or ring shells, which most of us are familiar with.

To achieve this she tied each shell to the heart frame, individually. Following on from this came the “Squiggle Balls”



Karin Lillis with her shell art. made from broken shells of the Takai. Over time, Karin has progressed, adding designs in shadow box frames.

seeing how much others love and appreciate her artistry as much as she does.

It gives her so much happiness to be able to use the shells she loves to collect.

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames. Open Monday to Friday 10am-2pm, week-ends 10am-4pm.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Mother’s Day Barbershop

Thames Music Group is offering its third Sunday afternoon concert of 2025 on Mother’s Day.

On Sunday, May 11, Mighty River Harmony will return to the stage at St George’s Church in Thames.

Mighty River Harmony is an A cappella chorus of around 30 men, mostly from the Waikato, who sing four-part harmony in the barbershop style.

Their aim is to inspire and entertain people through quality singing, enjoyment and performance of barbershop harmony.

Last year, the Chorus won the Gold medal in Barbershop Harmony New Zealand competitions, making them the number one men’s chorus in New Zealand.

This year they are not holding back. Their ambition is to

improve further and attain this accolade again.

The Chorus and some of its quartets perform regularly at both private and public functions. Mighty River Harmony last performed for Thames Music Group in August, 2023, when they attracted a large audience.

For the May 11 concert, Mighty River Harmony will present a range of songs, old and modern, including two that they will perform on stage at this year’s barbershop singers’ convention.

DETAILS: Thames Music Group’s Sunday Concert series presents Mighty River Harmony, Sunday, May 11, 2pm, at St George’s Church, Mackay St, Thames. Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 TMG member, Free entry under 18 years. Contact: thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz.



Mighty River Harmony will perform at St George’s Church in Thames on Mother’s Day.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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May Featured Artist

KARIN LILLIS

Karin Lillis is a passionate collector of shells, and for many years she has collected, bleached and polished shells to create her beautiful offerings



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For times, see our website, pick up a brochure by the cinema doors, or email or phone us. You can book and pay online or at the cinema, or book by phone or email and pay when you arrive.

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (116 mins) PG. Comedy. The enchanting tale of a seemingly ordinary British housekeeper whose dream to own a Christian Dior gown takes her on an extraordinary adventure to Paris.

Small Things Like These (98 mins) M. In 1985 devoted father Bill Furlong discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent and uncovers shocking truths of his own.

Tinā (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.

The Correspondent (119 mins) M. A gripping thriller and a compelling true story. While covering the news desk in Cairo, an Australian journalist is arrested and accused of terrorism.

Andre Rieu: 75th Birthday Celebration (128 mins) TBC. The King of Waltz invites you to a boat party with him and his beloved orchestra as they sail through his hometown of Maastricht. This brand-new cinema special is a tribute to André’s childhood dream of one day forming his own orchestra and travelling the world.

The Penguin Lessons (111 mins) M. Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy follows a man’s personal & political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentina.

A Minecraft Movie (101 mins) PG. Garrett, Henry, Natalie and Dawn are struggling with ordinary problems when they’re suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland.

Dog Man (95 mins) G. When a faithful police dog and his police officer owner are injured together on the job, a harebrained but life-saving surgery fuses the two of them together and Dog Man is born.

Woolgrowers reassured artificial fibre not a threat



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

New Zealand woolgrowers, including those at Thames, were encouraged not to fear competition from synthetic fibre.

Although other countries were trying to limit manufacture of their own natural resources and might be forced to go clad in cloth made from wood-pulp or extract of milk, wool would always be necessary to the remainder of mankind.

The manufacture of artificial fibre only interfered with the woollen trade in countries where the use of wool was restricted, as in Germany, Italy and Japan.

Nobody in his right senses would ever want to wear a suit made from fabric woven from synthetic fibre. It would lack the durability and elasticity of natural wool and would bag at the elbows and knees and stretch out of shape.

For underwear and suits it could not possibly rival wool. Rayon yarn was no substitute, being inelastic and needing to be blended with a tremendously heavy percentage of wool before it began to



Bales of wool are loaded to a dinghy, then on to a small coastal vessel on the Thames Coast for delivery to Auckland.

gain any of the qualities of woollen cloth. In Germany, artificial fibre cloth, called zellwolle, was being widely thrust upon the people as a substitute for woollen cloth. In Italy, artificial fibre was made from casein, the basic matter of cheese extracted from ordinary milk.

Meanwhile at Waihi, pensioners had approached Thames MP Mr Thorn complaining of their housing conditions, and asking whether it would be possible to have pensioners' houses built in the town.

Housing at Waihi was in a large number of cases as bad as could be. The total number of pensioners in Waihi, including miners, was 465.

Mr Thorn could not understand why nothing had been done to construct houses for them.

Pensioner housing was also needed in Thames and Coro-

mandel. In the Thames Borough, 650 pensioners drew pensions, and Coromandel headed the list of towns in New Zealand in respect of the proportion of pensioners to population, Thames coming in second. In both places many pensioners lived in houses that were thoroughly unsatisfactory.

Mr Thorn wrote to the Minister of Housing "I trust that you will give this your attention. You will earn the gratitude of many necessitous people if you can solve this problem".

In the Karangahake Gorge, six employees of the Ohinemuri County Council were injured when bags containing sodium chlorate on a lorry conveying them home from work burst into flames with startling suddenness, spreading rapidly over the lorry.

The men had been engaged in

ragwort extermination, utilising a mixture of sodium chlorate and lime.

The lorry was just nearing the blacksmith's shop in Karangahake Gorge when, without the slightest warning, the flames burst out near the tailboard and swept through the bags and tarpaulin covering the floor of the truck.

They shot into the air higher than the cab, and before the driver could stop the men had jumped or rolled off to escape the fierce heat.

The burning truck was brought to a standstill and the flames put out with sand, the only damage being charred woodwork.

The only explanation was that the swinging of the tailboard set up sufficient friction to ignite the small amount of sodium chlorate remaining in the empty bags on the floor of the truck.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter

1. Was cartoon character Bart Simpson's name chosen because a) it is an anagram of brat, or b) it was the name of a school bully at The Simpsons creator Matt Groening's school?
2. Which politician is older - Donald Trump or Winston Peters?
3. In the United Kingdom's domestic counterintelligence and security agency MI5, what does MI stand for?
4. Which Australian best-selling author claims to have murdered 19 people and is best known for his handlebar moustache?
5. *House of the Dragon* is a prequel to which series? a) *Game of Thrones*, b) *Ragnarok* or c) *Shadow and Bone*?
6. True or False: Lucy Lawless chose her surname from a 1989 novel by Nora Roberts?
7. Which of the following was NOT taxed in the 18th Century? a) beards, b) bricks, c) ducks, or d) windows?
8. Which island of Indonesia currently has the highest numbers of tourist visits per year? a) Bali, b) Java, or c) Sumatra?
9. How many extinct or dormant volcanoes are known within the Auckland region? a) 23, b) 53, or c) 103?
10. The current flag of Germany contains the colours black, red, and which other colour?



ANSWERS: 1. a) It is an anagram of Brat. 'Matt', but ultimately decided against it; 2. Winston Peters. Donald Trump is 78 years old, while Winston Peters turned 80 earlier this month; 3. Military intelligence; 4. Mark 'Chopper' Read; 5. a) *Game of Thrones*; 6. False. She was born Lucy Ryan, but became Lucy Lawless when she married Garth Lawless in 1988, taking his surname; 7. c) Ducks; 8. a) Bali; 9. b) 53; 10. Yellow.

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Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop

Thames
Sunday, May 11th
9 am - 4:30 pm



"Doing this workshop helped me feel more informed in discussing Te Tiriti and to understand current issues from a treaty perspective. Overall, I learnt that Te Tiriti is an opportunity for everyone to belong, but there is work to do for that to happen."

Who is this for? This course is for first timers and people wanting a refresher with up-to-date knowledge. Everyone is welcome.

What does it cover?
The course covers the context of He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti with a focus on the Hauraki rohe and relevance for today

Facilitators
Catherine Delahunty and
Shakēd From of The Basket Hauraki

Booking is essential
For more details and to book, please get in touch. Cost is on a sliding scale and affordable to everyone (includes morning tea, lunch and a printed A4 colour resource).

Email: thebasket.hauraki@gmail.com
Phone: 0204 1860 700 (Shakēd)
Website: <https://thebaskethauraki.my.canva.site/>



Men’s wellbeing summit to tackle ‘health catastrophe’

A men’s wellbeing summit taking place in Coromandel next month aims to confront what organisers are calling a “health catastrophe” among New Zealand males.

The summit aims to blend “indigenous wisdom with evidence-based practices, including rongoa [Māori herbal medicine], cold water immersion, and forest therapy”, event organiser Carl Muir said, and will be held from May 22-24.

“We’re facing a health catastrophe in New Zealand. Heart disease, mental health struggles, cancer, obesity, diabetes, and suicide are decimating our men. We are losing Tāne - good men with wisdom; brothers, fathers, sons - far too early. It’s time for honest conversations about why this is happening and how we can turn the tide.”

Carl, a Tairua-based fisherman and diver, said his passion for men’s wellbeing has led his work for the last five years.

He has hosted on-and-offshore habitat retreats for men to “lift the lid” on their health issues, including suicide, recovery after heart attack, addictions, work place bullying, or trauma induced through significant global events.

The summit - at Opoutere Beach - will bring together a team of leaders with lived experience, and will “move beyond traditional

healthcare settings”, Carl said.

“Most of us leading this gathering have chosen to take our work into Te Taiao - into nature - away from clinical settings,” he said.

“We’re creating transformation in the moana, among the surf and sand dunes, in the ngahere, along the awa, under the stars and around the fire. Certain conversations can only truly unfold in the presence of other men in these sacred spaces.”

Carl said the summit was designed for: men aged 20 and above passionate about personal development and proven natural wellbeing methods - fathers seeking stronger relationships with their sons; employers responsible for men’s wellbeing; healthcare professionals; educators, principals, and coaches; men in community service, public service, and conservation; and those working in construction, agriculture, manufacturing, policy, and forestry.

Participants required moderate physical fitness, water confidence, mental fortitude, and openness to spiritual exploration, he said, while pre-event coaching would be available for those needing support with fitness preparation.

DETAILS: Men’s Wellbeing Summit, Opoutere Beach, Coromandel, from Thursday, May 22 to Saturday, May 24. Tickets via theprovider.co.nz/mens-wellbeing-summit



Kids at Paeroa Library make their own scrapbook-like zines.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Free activities provide school holiday fun

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

School children had a variety of activities on offer to keep them busy over the school holidays, and the free activities at the region’s public libraries were a popular choice on rainy days.

At the Paeroa and Waihi li-

braries, sessions were held on different days for activities such as zine making, Lego, Playstation and board game sessions.

In Tairua, Thames and Whitianga, the library activities included Easter and Anzac-themed crafts like making

Easter baskets and headbands, felt poppies and peg soldiers.

The School of Mines also hosted school holiday activities for a small koha, with craft projects inspired by nature.





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SPORTS

Rippa of a day

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was a ripper of a day at Hugh Hayward Domain in Ngatea on April 9 for the Thames Valley Primary School Rippa Rugby Finals. Hosted by the Thames Valley Rugby Union, school kids from all across the Thames Valley showed up in full force ready to play with heart, have some fun and support their fellow school students and team mates. Even the referees were students from Hauraki Plains College.

The champions for year five and six girls were Netherton Nuggets, followed by Waihi Beach Manawa in second place. The year five and six boys champions were Waihi Beach Mako, followed by Netherton Ninjas in second place, while the year seven and eight girls champions were Hikutaia Honeys followed by Te Kauwhata No Way Ref in second place. And the winners of the year seven and eight boys were Waihi College Cheetahs followed by Pārawai Panthers in second place.



Hikutaia School's Nehemiah Bennett, 10, runs for the try line.



Netherton School's Mia Schulte, year 8, zips past Te Kauwhata College.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Netherton's Jesse Thompson, year 5, makes a run past Te Puru School players.



Year 7 and 8 Hikutaia Honeys v Waihi



Waihi chases a Te Kauwhata player.



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SPORTS

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Thames croquet pair come out on top

CROQUET

Lyn Robertson and Sheryl McConnell of Thames have become a formidable croquet pair. Last month they won the Thames Croquet Cockburn Mercer Cup, an annual best of three games, doubles handicap competition. Play was intense with all matches leading up to the semifinals going to three games and with two games in each instance going to tiebreakers. The semi-finals, against Annie Adams and Dawn Finch, was also extremely close and exciting to watch, the final score being 7-5 and 7-6 to Lyn and Sheryl.

On April Fool's Day, the Thames Croquet Club held its last tournament of the season, attracting players from as far away as Auckland's Mt Albert, Point Chevalier and Papakura, and closer to home: Te Aroha, Paeroa, Whangamatā, with four pairs from Thames completing the draw. Winning four of their five games, Lyn Robertson and Sheryl McConnell were clear winners of Division One. Runners-Up were Kevin and Irene Waterson from Paeroa.

In the Second Division, play was close with three pairs winning three games each, which meant the numbers of hoops won in each game was critical and the deciding factor for placements. The winners were Cynthia Bates and Cosmica Oosting from Te Aroha and Runners up were Sharon Walker from Mt Albert playing with Heather Goddard from Point Chevalier.

After a sumptuous afternoon



TOP: Cynthia Bates and Cosmica Oosting, of Te Aroha, winners of the Second Division April Fools tournament with tournament manager Dennis Karl, handicapper Sue Karl. ABOVE: Ring-ins, Graham Woodward and Judy Barkley play in their first tournament against Maggie McEwing and Hilary Taylor. RIGHT: Lyn Robertson, left, and Sheryl McConnell won the Cockburn Mercer Cup and the First Division April Fools Tournament.

Photos: SUPPLIED



tea of home baking, the prizes, sponsored by Saunders Mitsubishi, were handed out. Sheryl, wearing her presidents hat, made special mention of new members, thanking Tony Cole who not only played in the tournament but at 7am was there to help layout the greens, Judy Barkley who had volunteered for kitchen duty but

when needed to step in to play did so, and Graham Woodward, who switched from playing table-tennis to croquet to play with her to complete the draw. To wrap up the day, tournament manager and referee Dennis Karl thanked those who provided the food, helped in the kitchen and on the greens making such a successful season.

DETAILS: On May 1, the Thames Croquet Club will switch to winter hours until October 31 with play on Monday, Thursday and Saturday starting at 12.45pm. If you want to give the game a go, simply turn up to 101 Beach Rd, wearing flat soled shoes, mallets are provided, and the first game is free.

- Supplied by Thames Croquet Club

In Brief

NEW WALKING TRACK
The Moana-Taiari Link Track, a new walking track in Thames, has opened. Starting at the end of Moana-Taiari Creek Rd, the track offers sweeping views of Thames and the Firth before joining up with the Waiotahi Track leading towards Crosbies Hut.

GORGE TUNNEL CLOSURE
Hauraki District Council says the Karangahake Tunnel will close on April 20 and May 1 while emergency work is undertaken to remediate slip damage and remove some trees above the Western tunnel entrance. The closure will affect cycle and pedestrian access on the Hauraki Rail Trail.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED
Gr8 Job Hauraki has been offered two full scholarships worth \$5300 for the Classic 21-day course for 18-26-year-olds at Outward Bound, Anakiwa, Marlborough Sounds between May 5-25. To register your interest, email: Julie.Stephenson@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

DOMAIN CLEAN-UP
The Paeroa clean-up team will be cleaning up the Paeroa Domain on May 4, from 10am-12pm. Meet at the gate opposite Paeroa Library on Willoughby street. Bags and gloves provided.

REFUSE STATION CLOSURE
The Waihi Refuse Transfer Station will be closed from May 5 until mid-June to install two new weighbridges. Contactless technology using number plate recognition will also be installed at the site during the closure. Hauraki District Council is asking patrons to use the Paeroa Refuse Transfer Station during this time.

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scottsimpsonmp

National
Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Thames Valley
Club Rugby

Premier Men - R5 - May 3rd

Waitakaruru INTL Stadium
2pm Kick Off

The Lyons Den, Whitianga
2pm Kick Off

Boyd Park, Te Aroha
2pm Kick Off

Rhodes Park, Thames
2pm Kick Off

Womens' Competition - R1 - May 4th

Hayward Domain, Ngatea
1pm Kick Off

Hayward Domain, Ngatea
1pm Kick Off

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Cory Park Domain Tairua
2pm Kick Off

The Lyons Den, Whitianga
12.35pm Kick Off


Boyd Park, Te Aroha
12.35pm Kick Off

Rhodes Park, Thames
12.35pm Kick Off

Hayward Domain, Ngatea
2pm Kick Off

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

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

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MEDIUM

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HARD

198

198

EASY

2	3	5	1	9	4	7	8	6
9	6	8	3	2	7	4	1	5
7	4	1	5	6	8	2	9	3
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8	9	6	4	7	2	5	3	1

MEDIUM

7	6	9	1	2	4	3	5	8
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8	1	7	3	5	2	4	9	6
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HARD

3	5	8	9	4	7	6	2	1
4	7	6	1	2	3	8	5	9
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1	6	9	7	3	2	4	8	5

EASY

2	3	5	1	9	4	7	8	6
9	6	8	3	2	7	4	1	5
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1	7	3	8	5	9	6	2	4
8	9	6	4	7	2	5	3	1

EASY

JUMBO CROSSWORD

218

ACROSS

1 Actor's platform (5)

4 Drenched (6,2,3,4)

14 Tall narrow building (5)

15 Characteristic (5)

16 Popular book (4-6)

17 Meal (5)

19 Decay (3)

20 Reinforce (7)

21 Sell to retailers (9)

22 Accumulated until needed (6)

25 Blown instrument (9)

27 Speed (6)

28 Liveliness (6)

33 Self-satisfied (10)

35 Small piercing tool (3)

36 Clamour (6)

37 Social-climber (4)

39 Not many (3)

41 Tropical disease (7)

42 Grief (6)

43 Critically ill (2,1,3,3)

44 Winning (5)

45 Insect's feelers (8)

50 Via (2)

51 Suspense novel (8)

55 Fatuous (5)

58 Savage (9)

59 Do again (6)

60 Titter (7)

61 Dine (3)

63 Rich soil (4)

64 Refuge (6)

65 Popular success (3)

66 Welcoming (10)

68 Pie crust (6)

69 Filament (6)

71 Hypersensitivities (9)

76 Relish (6)

77 Contrary to a rule, standard, convention (9)

79 Come to light (7)

81 Tub (3)

84 Court case (5)

85 Slump (10)

86 Treat with contemptuous disregard (5)

87 Indigent (5)

88 Confidentially (7,3,3,2)

89 Wharf (5)

DOWN

2 Great fear (6)

3 On the wane (5)

5 Gaping (4)

6 Galley (7)

7 To the quick (6)

8 Stares lecherously (5)

9 Leaps (7)

10 Exchange for money (4)

11 Light (6)

12 Cutlass (5)

13 Object (7)

14 Remedial treatment (7)

18 Adornment (10)

23 Impudence (5)

24 Woman-fish (7)

26 Mollify (7)

27 Midpoint (7)

29 We learn (anag) (7)

30 Realm (6)

31 Hirsute (5)

32 Colour remover (6)

34 Stepped (4)

36 Woollen cloth (5)

38 Customer (5)

40 Indonesian island (4)

45 Ghastly (5)

46 Shatter (anag)(7)

47 Small cut (4)

48 Titillate (6)

49 House of wives (5)

50 Docked (7)

52 Almost depleted (7,3)

53 Traveller's stuff (7)

54 Uniformly (6)

55 Quarantine (7)

56 Malice (5)

57 Impulsive (4)

62 Grey-faced (5)

67 Shortness of expression (7)

68 Nip in the bud (7)

70 Shorten (7)

72 Tryst (7)

73 Useless (6)

74 Desk (6)

75 Pronounce not guilty (6)

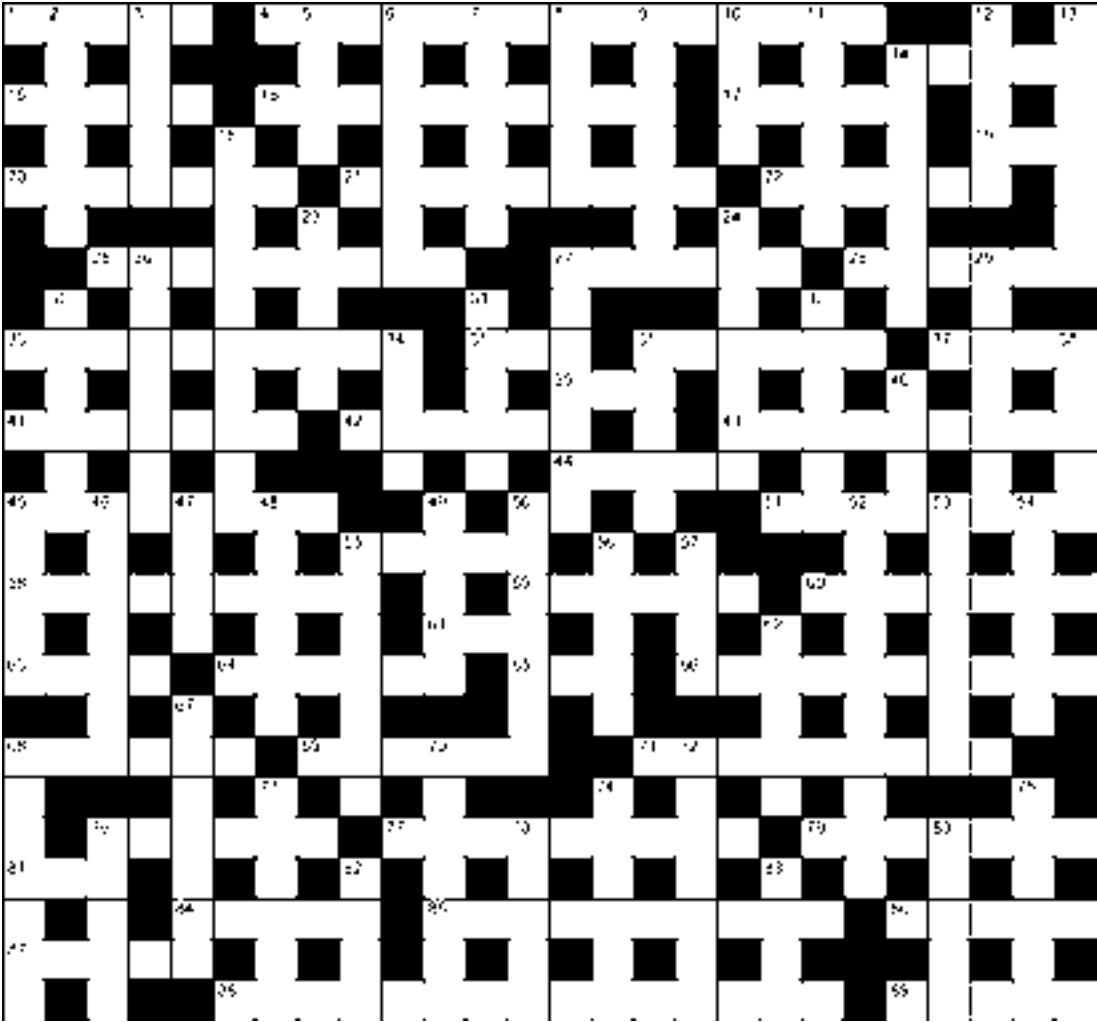
76 Scatter (5)

78 Evacuate (5)

80 Bogus (5)

82 Punch (4)

83 Shape (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Discuss, 4 Magistrate, 9 Prepare, 13 Riot, 14 Salmon, 15 Ensure, 16 Maestro, 19 Statistics, 20 Nauseate, 21 Topsy, 24 Unique, 25 Vacuum, 27 Overtaken, 32 Delegate, 33 Meagre, 34 Agitate, 38 Intrepid, 39 Go into, 40 Idol, 41 Helix, 42 Doped, 45 Full-scale model, 52 Other, 55 Stout, 56 Felt, 57 Acidic, 58 Caffeine, 61 Disease, 62 Joined, 63 Stealthy, 66 Intestine, 68 Moaned, 69 Acting, 73 Piste, 74 Bludgeon, 76 Gratifying, 81 Prophet, 82 Sextet, 83 Awning, 84 Free, 85 Heading, 86 Borderline, 87 Happens.

DOWN: 1 Darts, 2 Sporadic, 3 Scatty, 4 Mimic, 5 Gone, 6 Sternum, 7 Rescue, 8 Terse, 10 Reap, 11 Pastime, 12 Rarest, 17 Figurehead, 18 Stark, 22 Numerous, 23 Mango, 24 Untried, 26 Away, 28 Vertigo, 29 Relief, 30 Cajole, 31 Stripe, 33 Mania, 35 Theft, 36 Stop, 37 Cove, 43 Outfit, 44 Elude, 46 Uses, 47 Letdown, 48 Chains, 49 Laird, 50 Mainstay, 51 Liable, 52 Off the cuff, 53 Heir, 54 Reeling, 59 Asset, 60 Cede, 64 Stall, 65 Filigree, 67 Notepad, 68 Monitor, 70 Pierce, 71 Vetted, 72 Stench, 75 Due to, 77 Range, 78 Guess, 79 Vein, 80 Sari.

When to quit and when to push through

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

I have a van we use for youth work, and when we first got it, the key fobs didn't work. Since it's a push-start, that meant sitting there like an idiot, waiting for the van to recognize the fob before we could even get moving.

I was determined to fix it. The local key guys tried - no luck. Nissan Paeroa gave it a go - still nothing. I even drove to Auckland to see a locksmith - no success. Then I found some

Russian guy who operated out of his backyard. Sounded legit. Still no success.

Finally, a mobile locksmith in Auckland spent a couple of hours on it before pointing out a cut wire on the windscreen.

He figured that was the issue. By this stage, my wife was well unimpressed with my obsession - and the money I was throwing at it.

But the guy was on to something. After hours of searching online, I discovered that the fob receiver was built into the factory mirror.

The previous owner had removed the mirror, assuming it

was just some useless GPS system from Japan.

Thirteen months later, I finally had the right mirror, the wiring loom, and had spliced the wires together.

Then came the moment of truth. I pressed the remote... and click - the doors locked. Then I pressed again, and the motorised door slid open. WOOHOO, I DID IT!

Now, in the grand scheme of things, this was no big deal. I could have kept driving without fixing it.

But for me, the solution was more important than the cost. I have an obsessive personality,

and I needed to figure this out. And it got me thinking.

There are other things in life I want to do, things I want to change, things I want to achieve. I want to go on more adventures with my kids. I want to love my wife better. I want to save enough to take the family on a caravan trip.

The question I keep coming back to is simple: Is this thing more important than the cost? Because the truth is, if we don't keep the dream in front of us, the cost will always feel too great.

We'll default to spending on extra coffees instead of saving for that adventure.

We'll keep scrolling our phones instead of giving our kids the time they crave.

Some battles aren't worth fighting. But others? They matter. And for those, we have to keep pushing - because the cost of quitting is greater than the cost of perseverance.

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.

Gardening

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Autumn an ideal time to weed, compost, mulch

The last month of Autumn is here and it's a busy time in the garden before winter arrives. It has still been warm during the day so has prolonged the growth of plants.

It is an ideal time to weed, dig in compost and mulch (pea straw for example) which provides warmth and a weed suppressant before the ground becomes too heavy and cold.

In the flower garden - Fill gaps that appear in spots around the garden, sprinkle annual seeds of poppies, calendula, cornflower, marigold, stocks or alyssum. Before planting dig in compost and sheep pellets. Cover seed with a fine sprinkling of seed raising mix if you have some.

Autumn is the best time for planting new shrubs and trees so they can get established over the cooler winter months. Plant new seasons daphne, camellias and rhododendron, to add welcome colour to the garden in winter and early spring.

May is the last chance to get spring bulbs in

the ground. You still have time to plant lilies which are easy to grow and can be planted anytime between May and September. Dig in bulb food before planting and cover with 100mm of soil. Apply bulb food to bulbs already in the ground.

Once dahlia stop flowering the tubers and gladioli corms can be lifted stored in a dry place ready for replanting in spring.

They need to be lifted every couple of years because, left any longer, dahlia tubers quickly grow into heavy clumps.

If the ground, gets very wet or you suffer from too many hard frosts it is best to lift dahlia and gladioli every year and store.

New roses should be coming into garden centres next month so prepare the soil ready for planting. Existing roses can have a light tidy up (not pruned yet) and spray with copper.

Fruits and Vegetables - Continue harvesting autumn treats of feijoa, figs, guavas and per-

simmon as they ripen.

Apples and pears: continue late season harvesting. Once harvest is over and leaf fall is complete these can be pruned and sprayed.

Plum trees can be pruned once harvest is completed. Fertilise citrus around the base at the drip line.

Prepare strawberry beds for sowing young plants in June - November.

Continue harvesting your late summer crops of beetroot, cabbage spinach and lettuce. If the ground is still warm enough continue planting lettuces, spinach and broccoli and cauliflower. Protect from frost.

If you have planted leeks at the end of sum-

mer as they grow, pile up the soil around the stems to provide support and keep the stems white.

Add new herbs of thyme, coriander, parsley, rosemary and mint.

The compost heap will benefit from the addition of the autumn leaf fall. Many tree leaves are a particularly rich source of plant nutrient and make a valuable contribution to soil fertility. Turn compost heaps over regularly.

Lawns need aeration, fertilising and possibly reseeding this month.

Enjoy autumn in the garden.

- Ngatea Garden Circle



Sprinkle seeds of poppies, calendula, cornflower, marigold, stocks or alyssum. Photo: PIXABAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 2025 Moon Planting Calendar			1 Non planting Day	2 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	3 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	4 Non planting Day
5 Non planting Day	6 Non planting Day	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Plant above ground crops	10 Plant above ground crops	11 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
12 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	13 Full Moon	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	17 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	18 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
19 Non planting Day	20 Non planting Day	21 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	22 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	23 Non planting Day	24 Non planting Day	25 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
26 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	27 New Moon	28 Non planting Day	29 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	30 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	31 Non planting Day	Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms

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Tree Shapes owner Dylan Poulter and his team are ready to help. Photo: SUPPLIED

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"We can transform their place from something that they dislike to something that they absolutely love," he said. He said it was amazing how the community has taken him on board and given him the opportunity to work with them on their properties. Covering all areas across the Coromandel Peninsula, Thames, Paeroa, Ngatea, Miranda, Kaiaua and in between - "no job is too big or too small".

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New direction for Kaiaua

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

“Untapped potential” is the new focus for Kaiaua School, as staff and students embrace a shift towards nature-based learning and community connections.

The two-classroom school, nestled on the water’s edge in the Firth of Thames, is working to bring a hyper-local focus back to its curriculum. And with an abundance of local resources such as the adjacent beach, nearby Whakatiwai Regional Park, and strong ties to the local marae and community, school principal Carrie Taipari-Thorne says her 42 students are thriving.

“At Kaiaua School, we’re surrounded by richness - in the stories of our whenua, in the strength of our community, and in the spark

we see in every tamaiti [child],” Carrie says.

“There is so much untapped potential here, and our direction is about bringing that potential to life.”

Carrie, who joined the school as principal in term four, 2024, says the plan includes embedding Te Ao Māori across the school, strengthening whānau engagement, strengthening partnerships, celebrating student voice and success, and fostering student wellbeing.

Activities like waka - Carrie regularly competes in international waka and dragon boating teams - will be integrated into the school’s water safety lessons, while trips to Whakatiwai Regional Park will provide a chance to teach bushcraft and rongoā rākau [herbal

medicine-craft].

“Part of what our new journey is, is actually taking advantage of what’s around us and getting our kids out and learning and experiencing,” Carrie says.

“There’s lots of research that says that immersing our Māori tamariki in that context, in spaces where they belong, really lifts and enhances their learning... helps them to be strong and know where they belong. If they have those foundations, anything is possible for them.”

Carrie credits the school’s successful transformation to the support of its dedicated team of educators, school board, and community partners, and says the kura [school] is creating learning experiences that reflect the unique context and values of the Kaiaua



community.

“Our tamariki are hungry for more,” she says.

“More opportunities to express themselves, to learn through real-world experiences, to understand who they are and where they come from. And our staff are rising to

meet that hunger with passion, skill, and heart. My staff are exceptional - a small passionate group of educators and leaders who believe deeply in the potential of our tamariki.”



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TV CLUB RUGBY

THAMES THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET
Club Roundup : Round 4 : April 26, 2025
By Tighthead Ted, Whispering Will and their league of extraordinary gentlemen.
Round four of the HG Leach and Co Premier Championship, and the juggernaut that is Waihi Athletic keeps on keeping on. Not that they weren't given a scare by Hauraki North, finding themselves behind on the scoresheet 14-7 after 20 minutes. Waihou travelled away to the coast and took the points in a low scoring battle against Whangamata, who are still struggling to find their feet in 2025. Mercury Bay went the opposite way, travelling to Te Aroha to take on the Snakes, and showed that they will be a contender this season when the medals are handed out. Thames also showed they may not be pretenders this year, giving last season's beaten finalists Paeroa a going over on their home ground, and taking Waihi to the wire two matches ago. Thames sent shockwaves through the Valley, with a thumping win over the Green Machine in Paeroa. Thames were up 21-8 at halftime, with their big forward pack paving the way for a sharp, well drilled, big backline that made inroads with the quality pill delivered. With both teams taking a while to get used to the visiting referee, it was a good twenty minutes before rugby broke out through the deluge of penalties being handed out. Something both sides need to work on if they want to challenge Waihi and the 'Collard factor' at the pointy end of the season when the McClinchy is handed out. Paeroa to their credit, came out after the oranges break and took it to the visitors, but with injuries disrupting combinations in the forward pack, it was an uphill battle. Thames finished the game with a wet sail, dotting down two tries in the last five minutes to blow the scoreline out to a nineteen-point margin. Hendrix Beazley back in the 10 jersey did his best to keep the home side in the battle, his booming kicks causing all sorts of trouble for the Thames' back three. Korbin Cheswick was the pick of the home team's forward pack, and two try winger Keanau May-Matafeo was a handful. The visitors pack played well, giving plenty of ball to halfback Dan Edmonds, who controlled



The juggernaut that is Waihi Athletic keeps on keeping on - not that they weren't given a scare by Hauraki North, finding themselves behind on the scoresheet 14-7 after 20 minutes. Photo: TVRFU

the pace of the game well. Sione Etoni at centre was again all power, while wingers Cormack O'Connor, Tangi Utumoengalu and substitute Bobby Motuliki were relentless. Waihi were a mixed bag as they hosted Hauraki North in damp conditions at Kenny Street. The home side started well, scoring after a few minutes, but then the visitors forward pack rolled up their sleeves and hoed into the home pack, who had perhaps been looking at the points table pre game and thought this match might be a walkover. Two tries in five minutes certainly showed the champions that the Blue Bulls deserved a bit of respect. Led by number eight Josh Barker with some storming runs through the heart of the Waihi eight, they gave the locals a scare, and perhaps set a blueprint for other teams going forward. Old school up the guts pick and goes had Ross Cooper salivating on the sidelines - shades of his Valley side that won the NPC 3rd division in 1988. But Waihi were too slick across the board, and

once they stopped dropping the ball and trying to run everything out in the rain, managed to take the first half out 26-14. Speaking of old fashioned, a halftime barreling from a grumpy coach saw a lead of 45-14 with twenty minutes to go, before the mistakes crept back in, and North showed their fighting spirit to share the final quarter 7-7. The home side were well served, as they have been all season, by Hadleigh Morgan and the returned Dylan Horne, who helped himself to a couple of close range tries, while of the visitors Barker and Luke McDuff were the standouts in a robust forward performance, while Logan Mitchell and reserve halfback Matty Fisher led the way for the lads in the double digits. Mercury Bay were shaken by an early try to the hosting COBRAS before they got into their work and took a well deserved win 36-5 against the hard running home team. The visiting Marlins had to rely on their close tackling to keep the Snakes at bay, who kept hammering away through the midfield and

in close, but the stoic Bay defence lapped it up. A stronger set piece from the visitors saw any hometown errors punished, and a more potent threequarter line saw the Bay scoring points against the at times one dimensional home team. Cam Dromgool was a welcome addition to the Snakes pack, a tireless performance from the Valley stalwart. Shontayne Dare at hooker gave a tireless display and at ten Ashton Payne went well. The visitor's Jayden Tegg was always a handful for the Snake's midfield to contain, and up front it was hard to fault the efforts of Connor McVerry, Adam Coyle and Owain Leeming. Sometimes low scoring affairs are tight and tense, where both teams punch and counter punch, unable to knock their opponent to the floor. Sadly the match between Whangamata and Waihou wasn't one of these. Both teams struggled to assert themselves in a match that was there for the taking. It took half an hour for the scoreboard attendants to be troubled when Waihou spun it through the hands and scored out wide. Then, just before half time, they were gifted another five pointer when Harry Lafituanai pounced on an errant pass by the hosts and strolled over to take a 12-0 lead at the break. The second spell saw the red 'n' white trying to be more adventurous, particularly through their elusive pivot Jack Haydock, who showed a fine turn of speed and a deft sidestep that had defenders scrambling. Unfortunately, he was often unable to link with any support, and it took right until the end of the match, when Tyler Cotterill hung on the hip of Fozz Gilbert, who brushed off a few tackles, for Whangamata to breach the Waihou line. The visitors were deserved winners of a pretty dour match on the back of the efforts in the forwards, often out muscling Whangamata at ruck and scrum time. Saia Tafolo had a fine game for the Maroons from lock, and converted double digit legend Lafituanai continues to convert to a low number well. Jake O'Connor was ever reliable at halfback controlling proceedings with aplomb. Whangamata's Louis Johnston and veteran Jacob Chaplin were relentless in their endeavour to change the face of the game, and Haydock needed support runners to profit from his elusive runs. Fullback Lewis Doherty was also a classy act.

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

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Auction (unless sold prior) 12pm, Thu 22 May 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865

josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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