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From seafloor to gym floor

Whitianga gymnast resurfaces for comeback, KELLEY TANTAU reports

Alysha Read believed the 2022 nationals would be her swan song in the world of rhythmic gymnastics. With a goal to win, she placed second.

Alysha, who was 17 at the time, stepped away from the sport, though in the back of her mind she still had more to give.

In the three years since taking the floor, Alysha finished her schooling at Hauraki Plains College, completed a Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction, and got a job working for Dive Zone Whitianga.

She had traded leotards with wetsuits, ribbons and hoops with snorkels and flippers, but now she's preparing to step back into the arena after being selected for the New Zealand gymnastics team to compete in Australia.

"Honestly... trialling [for the team] this year was a very impulsive decision," she said. "In the back of my head I always knew I had more to give to the sport and I wanted to represent New Zealand. The opportunity came up, so I jumped at it, having no idea how I would do it logistically."

Alysha, now 20, starts her weeks off in Auckland, where she partakes in gymnastics club trainings on Mondays and Tuesdays before driving back to Whitianga for work.

She said it took her a long time to find a solid routine, but always made sure of one thing: "That I wake up in the place I am supposed to be, instead of driving back the morning of."

"For example, Sunday nights I will always drive to Auckland straight after work so I can be in the gymnastics mindset when I wake up. Every Tuesday after training, I drive back to Whiti so I wake up ready for work on Wednesday. I've found that helps to keep my focus on whatever I have to do that day instead of blurring the lines and being in the wrong headspace."

Alysha told *The Profile* she was originally only going to return for the 2025 season of rhythmic gymnastics after accomplishing what she set out to do. "But being back

CONTINUED ON P2

Alysha Read believed the 2022 nationals would be her swan song in the world of rhythmic gymnastics.
Photo: SUPPLIED

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Since last taking to the floor, Alysha completed a Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction and got a job working for Dive Zone Whitianga. Photo: SUPPLIED

From seafloor to gym floor

CONTINUED FROM P1
competing, training, loving it so much, I'm wondering why I would stop while my body is able and I have a way of making it work," she said.
"This year, my main goal is to succeed at gymnastics and give it everything I have. Next year, I feel like I will turn my focus back to work, upskilling, and getting some money back. I love my job and can't see myself doing anything else yet - but gymnastics will still be in the picture, I love it too much to stop again now."
Besides, there were a few similarities between diving and gymnastics, she said, such as utilising physical abilities such as strength and co-ordination, as well as the feeling of floating and freedom.
"When you are in the right headspace

on the gym floor, everything works and there's so much freedom - same as underwater: the calmer you are the better the outcome," she explained.
"There's also such a rhythm to both. Gymnastics you have music and you find your flow, underwater - the ocean is your music and it has a rhythm you must move with, you can't fight it, you have to go with it."
The Australian Nationals will be held this July on the Gold Coast, and while Alysha would love to medal again, she's focusing on putting on a performance to be proud of.
"I've been calling this year Project Comeback to see what I'm capable of and get back in the game again."

In Brief

SAFER PLATES

The Thames Community Patrol is running a Safer Plates fundraiser on April 12, 11am-1pm at the Goldfield Mall carpark in Thames. For \$10 per vehicle, the team will replace licence plate screws with security crews, to deter thieves. Funds raised will go towards operating costs for the community group.

SLIP FIX BEGINS

Work to fix the large underslip on Kūaotunu Hill is expected to be underway by May, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency says. The slip, which was caused by cyclone damage more than two years ago, was a large and complex damage site which has been operating as a single lane road ever since, NZTA said. The repair will take around six months to complete and most of the work will be done while maintaining the single line of traffic, although the road will need to be closed at times.

BRIDGE CLOSURE

Deck repairs to the SH25 Moana Anu Anu River Bridge in Whangamatā will begin on April 7, weather permitting, and will include replacement of deck planks and repairs to a transverse bridge beam. As some work can only be done when there is no traffic, the bridge will be closed for approximately 24 hours, Waka Kotahi said. The closure is scheduled to begin at 8am on April 8, and a detour will be in place and clearly sign-posted.

HAURAKI RD PROGRESS

Works on Hauraki Rd in Turua are expected to be completed by early May. Contractors have moved into the next phase of the works, with traffic now able to move in both directions on Hauraki Rd with stop/go controls in place.

PEPE BRIDGE INFO DAY

A public information session about the replacement of Pepe Bridge will be held at Tairua Community Hall on April 30 from 3-6pm. Waka Kotahi will be updating the community, and seeking feedback, on its plans to have a new two-lane bridge in place over Pepe Stream by 2027.

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 9	Thu Apr 10	Fri Apr 11	Sat Apr 12	Sun Apr 13	Mon Apr 14	Tue Apr 15
 Morning: 4:24am 3.1, 10:40am 0.9 Afternoon: 4:55pm 3.0, 11:04pm 0.9 Sunrise: 6:38am, Sunset: 6:00pm Best At: 9:35am 9:55pm Moon: Set 2:41am, Rise 4:19pm	 Morning: 5:17am 3.1, 11:31am 0.9 Afternoon: 5:50pm 3.0, 11:52pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:39am, Sunset: 5:59pm Best At: 10:16am 10:36pm Moon: Set 3:41am, Rise 4:41pm	 Morning: 6:03am 3.1, 12:16pm 0.8 Afternoon: 6:37pm 3.1 Sunrise: 6:40am, Sunset: 5:57pm Best At: 10:55am 11:15pm Moon: Set 4:40am, Rise 5:03pm	 Morning: 6:45am 3.2, 12:57pm 0.8 Afternoon: 7:19pm 3.2 Sunrise: 6:41am, Sunset: 5:56pm Best At: 11:35am 11:54pm Moon: Set 5:38am, Rise 5:24pm	 Morning: 7:25am 3.2, 1:35pm 0.7 Afternoon: 7:57pm 3.3 Sunrise: 6:42am, Sunset: 5:55pm Full Moon Best At: 12:14pm Moon: Set 6:36am, Rise 5:46pm	 Morning: 8:04am 3.2, 2:12pm 0.7 Afternoon: 8:33pm 3.3 Sunrise: 6:43am, Sunset: 5:53pm Best At: 12:35am 12:56pm Moon: Set 7:34am, Rise 6:11pm	 Morning: 8:42am 3.2, 2:48pm 0.7 Afternoon: 9:09pm 3.3 Sunrise: 6:43am, Sunset: 5:52pm Best At: 1:17am 1:39pm Moon: Set 8:34am, Rise 6:39pm

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	MIN	HIGH	LOW
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

Anzac street parades axed in Hauraki

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

There will be no veterans, service members or family marching down the centre of Hauraki's streets on Anzac Day this year, after the Hauraki District Council decided against providing funding for the parades.

Instead, the Paeroa and Waihi RSAs will be marching along the footpath on April 25, while Hauraki RSA will follow its route from previous years, through Hugh Howard Domain in Ngatea.

The council runs three Anzac civic services each year - in Paeroa, Waihi, and Ngatea town halls.

Although the preceding parades are managed by the RSA organisations and not the council, in past years the council has had a specific budget set aside for Anzac Day parades.

This funding allocation was removed during the council's annual plan deliberations.

A report tabled at the council's March 27 meeting showed Paeroa RSA requested \$3475 of discretionary council funding for its parade; Waihi RSA requested \$4075.

Hauraki RSA's route through the domain does not require funding for traffic control.

At the meeting, the council decided the traffic management costs were too high, and instead opted to contribute \$500 apiece



Anzac street parades will be missing from commemoration events in Hauraki this year.

to each RSA's Poppy Fund.

"In recent years, the cost of road closures for Anzac civic services in our three main centres – Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea, has risen significantly. At the same time, we've observed a shift, with more veterans and attendees choosing to gather in local halls rather than participate in the traditional march," Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said.

"In response, the council has decided to support the RSA in each town with a direct donation to the Poppy Fund.

"This ensures that our contributions provide tangible assistance to those who need it most while still honouring the spirit of Anzac Day."

The council-led services in the halls will still run as expected.

Paeroa RSA president John Hallett said the RSA felt the parade should be a civic service.

"We will simply walk along to

HAURAKI ANZAC SERVICES

PAEROA: 6am Dawn Service at the Primrose Hill cenotaph; 9.15am Civic Service at Paeroa War Memorial Hall.

NGATEA: 6am Dawn Service at Hauraki Plains College; 11am Parade from Hauraki RSA through Hugh Howard Domain; 11.15am Civic Service at Ngatea War Memorial Hall.

WAIHI: 6am Dawn Service at Waihi RSA; 8am Wreath Laying at Waihi Cemetery; 9am Tunneling Company Service at Gilmour Reserve; 11am Civic Service at Waihi War Memorial Hall.

the town hall, it won't be a formal parade... the council have decided they don't want that cost," he said.

"It's a little bit too late to fund-raise for it, [and] the RSA also is busy trying to get as many funds as they can to restore their dear old building in the near future, and so they don't want to bear the cost. Next year might be a different story."

Waihi RSA president Ellen Henderson said its members would proceed in formation along the street instead of up the middle of the road.

"It'll only be two or three abreast, but we will carry on doing the march because that's part of Anzac," she said.



WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence is a pattern of behaviour that includes the repeated use of tactics designed to dominate and control a family member. Physical violence is only one of the tactics – family violence can also include threats, intimidation, isolation, financial control, and psychological and sexual abuse.

Watch this space for some common misconceptions and the reality.

SUPPORT

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G.J. Gardner. HOMES

Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Services Academy kicks off at Hauraki Plains College

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of Hauraki Plains College students attended a two-week induction course at Trentham Military Camp on March 9 as part of a new leadership and life skills course at the school - The Services Academy Programme.

HPC Services Academy director Paul Dodds, who joined the students at the induction course, told *The Profile* the aim was to introduce students to the ethos and values of the Academy through military style methodology.

The course fostered teamwork, and helped set foundations for continued training, education and personal development, Paul said.

It prepared students by “putting them in an environment where there was nowhere to hide”, he said.

“It increases their comfort zone and taps into their inner self, so they become self motivated, thinking people, capable of setting their minds to something and achieving it.”

Year 12 students Reuben Dodunski and Sameera Hayes were two members of the Services Academy students who attended the induction course.

Sameera said the experience helped her as she wanted to join



The Hauraki Plains College Services Academy participated in an induction course in Wellington recently.

the police force one day, while Reuben said he wanted to get into the army next year.

After having a taste of what it would be like, Reuben said “I feel I could go into the army”.

Both students said they learnt basic marching and did a lot of

physical fitness training to prepare for the course.

One of the activities the group had to do was a timed circuit of the assault course at Waiouru Army Camp, Reuben said.

“We had to get everyone through, so working together

was huge.”

Some of their daily routines included marching to and from breakfast, lunch and dinner, which was around two kilometres altogether, and also their morning routine which consisted of a shower, beds made,

rooms tidied and boots polished, they said.

“It made us appreciate what we have at home and what we take for granted.”

One stand out moment for the young cadets was when everything went “belly up”, they said.

A cue from Paul pulled them up and reminded them they were a team and needed each other to succeed, they said.

Effective communication and learning people’s strengths and weaknesses were some of the leadership skills Reuben said he developed.

Meanwhile, Sameera said she became a stronger person, and learned how to work better as a team.

“We made it together, pushing through all the challenges, building friendships and becoming closer as an academy,” Sameera said.

The young cadets said they were glad they joined the Services Academy.

If given the opportunity to attend the induction course again, Reuben and Sameera both said they would do it, and their advice for other students was the same.

“Do it! Take the opportunity, you will never know when you will get the chance to do it again.”

SERVICES ACADEMY

Induction Graduation

Planning Session

Parade Ground Drill (Marching)

Assault Course

Longest Day - Equipment Carry 0430hrs

Fitness Testing

HPC Academy after their Induction Training Graduation Parade

Young drift's eyes fixed on championship victory

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

With three events and three podium finishes under his belt, Deane Young is in the midst of his best season yet as he vies to win the 2025 D1NZ New Zealand Drifting Championship.

And behind his success is a Hauraki town full of people eager to watch him smoke the competition.

Deane has been competing in the five-round championship since February, and with only two events remaining, he is sitting second overall in the Pro-Sport Restricted Class.

"I'm super happy," he said. "We have a solid chance of winning the championship if we can keep this trend going."

Deane has found himself on the podium after every round, clinching one silver and two bronze placements.

His next event is this weekend in Feilding at Manfield Chris Amon Circuit, and his goal is to bank as many points as possible and land on the podium again - this time, in first position.

"We need a win this weekend to make sure we have a good



Paeroa drifter Deane Young, far right, is in the middle of his best season yet. LEFT: Deane in action in his drift car. Photos: WHIPPY PHOTOGRAPHY

to drive three of Japan's famous drift tracks, spread across 10 days with all expenses paid for.

"This has been our best season yet. Last season we finished strong and managed to podium the last two rounds and ended up fourth overall," he said.

"But I think the reason behind the good season is a bit of a mindset change.

"We have an awesome car and the crew are top notch,

so all I need to do is drive the car and drive it hard. I think just trusting your judgement and trusting your opponent is a massive thing with drifting; no one wants to crash or wreck their car that they have spent a heap of money on and endless hours in the garage. But to win you need to drive hard and push to the limit of being in a 'crash' if that makes sense.

"If you hold back, you can get

lost in the opponent's smoke because you are behind them, rather than beside them, which then creates more risk of losing your battle or crashing," he said. "It also looks really bad on TV if you are not keeping up with them."

Deane, a former student of Pārawai School in Thames and now a Paeroa local, said he gets plenty of hometown support, with D1NZ even commending him for putting Paeroa "on the map".

"I get people asking where I'm from all the time. I say 'Paeroa', then they have a confused face trying to work out where Paeroa is, then I say, 'The L&P Bottle', then I get the: 'Oh yeah, I know the place'."

Deane has an array of local sponsors, including Watson Haulage which has naming rights; Maurice Watson who is his Mainfreight and Daily Freight driver; Tash Dawson from Raine and Horne Paeroa; Liz King at Valley Signs who has wrapped Deane's drift car every season; and Pipiroa Motors, which assists with keeping the car running and sorting tyres to burn every round.

He couldn't do it without them or his other national sponsors, he said.

DETAILS: Deane's drift journey can be watched on Sky Sport, and for updates visit www.youngdrift.co.nz or find D1NZ on Facebook.



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Disney's Snow White (109 mins) PG. A live-action reimagining of the classic 1937 adventure film. Journeys back to the story with beloved characters Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, and Sneezey.

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.

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 Andre's childhood dream of one day forming his own orchestra and travelling the world.

The Last Showgirl (88 mins) M. The Last Showgirl, a poignant film of resilience, rhinestones and feathers, stars Pamela Anderson as Shelly, a glamorous showgirl who must plan for her future when her show abruptly closes after a 30-year run. Pays homage to the working class of Las Vegas. 83% on Rotten Tomatoes.

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.

Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin (132 mins) M. Berlin during the Third Reich, 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. True story.

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.

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SH25, Waitakaruru - 2pm Kick Off

Lyon Park, Whitianga - 2pm Kick Off

SENIOR B

Boyd Park, Te Aroha 12.35pm Kick Off

Kenny St, Waihi 12.35pm Kick Off

SH25, Waitakaruru 12.35pm Kick Off

Lyon Park, Whitianga 12.35pm Kick Off

Woolams Ave, Coromandel 2.00pm Kick Off

BYE

New factory churns out half a ton of butter daily



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.

1901

The Paeroa dairy factory, situated near the Te Aroha Bridge, had been built on the very latest plans, and all the machinery and appurtenances were the most up-to-date.

The roof was covered with rubberoid, so that an even temperature was maintained inside the building.

The floor in the separator room, churn room, engine room and boiler room were all concrete. The freezing chamber and chilling room were insulated with pumice and double lined inside and out.

At its completion the factory turned out over half a ton of butter daily and upwards of 500 boxes of butter were manufactured, 300 of which were exported, the rest being sold for local consumption. All the butter sent for export was awarded first grade by Auckland's Government Grader.

Meanwhile, over at Hikutāia,



Packing butter at the Paeroa dairy factory.

Photo: SUPPLIED

a launch named *Milkmaid*, was built to the order of Mr J Morrison, mainly for the purpose of conveying milk to the Nether-ton Creamery.

An *Ohinemuri Gazette* reporter was invited for a cruise on the vessel, and hardly had he taken his seat when the launch was off, gliding through the water at a good pace.

The craft was 30ft long and a beautiful model, in fact one of the most pleasing yet turned out in the colony. The engine was four-horse power and one of the Union Oil Company's latest oil engines.

The boat attained a fair rate of speed - the trip from Auckland to Hikutāia accomplished in seven hours and 50 minutes, and the journey from Mr

Morrison's farm to the Railway Wharf taking one hour and three quarters. Oil engines were now rapidly coming into favour and being largely used throughout the colony.

In Waihi, telegraphic arrangements were inadequate and there was an immediate necessity for alterations to the telegraph line. There was only one branch wire for the entire district, the staff insufficient, and the building too small. The duplex system needed to be installed at once, and, if necessary, the quadruplex system be introduced into Paeroa, so as to relieve the line there. It was also necessary to alter the course of the wires, so as to avoid the long curve to Waitekauri.

Meanwhile, excursionists

who went to Thames by the *Wakatere* to see the Auckland-Thames football match had a somewhat unpleasant experience. Between four and five hundred people attended expecting to leave again at midnight. When the time came to get away, the tide was not high enough to float the steamer and all attempts to get her off failed.

Those who were fortunate enough to sleep all night found on waking that instead of being alongside the Auckland wharf they were still at Thames.

Some of the excursionists who could not get accommodation on the steamer walked round the town all night, while others were able to get beds in the hotels.

Everybody was looking forward to getting away in the afternoon, but the *Wakatere*, even with the help of the tugs *Patiki* and *Kopu*, would not move. At this stage, the *Awarua* came down from Kōpū and many of the excursionists boarded her to return to Auckland, thankful beyond measure at the prospect of a good night's sleep.

Meanwhile, another steamer had been wired for from Thames, and the *Taniwha* was sent, reaching Auckland with the rest of the excursionists around 10 the next morning. The *Wakatere* was eventually taken off the mud.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter

1. In an April Fools' Day prank on April 1, 1980, the BBC World Service announced which London clock-bearing landmark would be replaced by a digital version called 'Digital Dave'?
2. Is Orzo a pasta made from wheat flour, or another type of grain?
3. Does the placenta contain the mother's DNA or the child's DNA?
4. The office held by the pope is known as the: a) Papacy, b) Papalcy or c) Popacy?
5. True or false: Elvis Presley was born a twin?
6. What five-letter word beginning with S can refer to the stalk of a mushroom, and is also the surname of the lead singer from the band REM?
7. Michael Knight, played by David Hasselhoff, was the lead character in which 1980s TV series?
8. At approximately what temperature is water at its most dense at normal atmospheric pressure? a) 0°C, b) 4°C, or c) 100°C?
9. How many middle names does King Charles III have? a) 1, b) 3, or c) 5?
10. Which of these is closest to Sydney? a) Cape Reinga, b) Fiordland, or c) New Plymouth?



ANSWERS: 1. Big Ben; 2. A pasta made from wheat flour; 3. The child's DNA; 4. a) Papacy; 5. True; 6. Stipe; 7. Knight Rider; 8. Philip Arthur George; 10. b) Fiordland.

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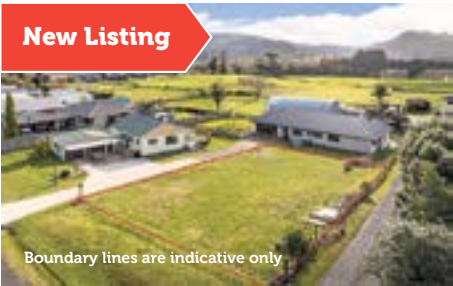
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Stand on their shoulders, soak in their wisdom

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

Recently, I had the privilege of sharing about our youth work at the Paeroa Lions. I was also asked to give a bit of inspiration and wisdom.

“Like those articles you write,” the gentleman said.

As I sat in that room - at least 20 years younger than the next youngest person there - I felt like a child among giants. Imposter syndrome hit hard. Who am I to give inspiration or ad-

vice to this group? The wisdom of just one of them would dwarf mine. The combined life experience in that room made me feel like I didn't belong.

But as I mixed and chatted, I relaxed. I was struck by the humility in that room. These men weren't there to puff themselves up. They were there to connect, to laugh, and to serve their community.

One of the younger men in the room - in his early 60s - pointed out some of the older ones and shared how much he admired them. After years of hard grind in a trade or on a farm, these men still roll up their sleeves

and muck in. These are men worth looking up to.

And as I looked around, I felt a twinge of sadness. So much wisdom. So much character. So much experience to be shared. Yet, where were the people of my age?

The Lions, like many in their generation, are more than willing to support, mentor, and journey alongside younger people. They'd love to see new blood coming in. But they don't always know how to communicate the beauty of what they offer in a way that resonates with us.

And honestly? I don't think it's their job to change and fit

into our world.

It's our job to seek them out.

We should come with humility, eager to learn from the life lessons they've already paid for in time, effort, and scars.

So today, this is a shameless plug - not just for Lions Paeroa but for the entire boomer generation.

I'm a millennial, now the patriarch for my children in the Wilkes line. My grandfather and father both passed within a year of each other. But I cherish the time I had with them. Before my grandfather passed, I sat with him, listened to our family history, heard the stories, and

soaked in as much wisdom as I could. That's our job.

And when we take the time to sit at their feet and learn, we get to stand on their shoulders - not repeating the same mistakes, but making new ones from a greater vantage point, so our kids can learn from us.

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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Rural Life

Man’s mission to make 2025 ‘Year of the Wrybill’

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

It worked for the bar-tailed godwit back in 2015, now it’s time for the year of the wrybill. The “endearing” avian is in the line of sight of Keith Woodley, manager of the Pūkoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, who, a decade ago, managed to get the godwit voted New Zealand’s Bird of the Year.

It’s now the time for the wrybill, a lesser-known species with a “Swiss army knife” of a bill, to have its moment in the spotlight.

It was during the Pūkoro Miranda Naturalists’ Trust’s 40th anniversary when the campaign to get bar-tailed godwits to the top of the Bird of the Year list succeeded.

Ten years on, Keith said it was now time for “the other fellow appearing on our logo” to get a turn.

“It appears on our logo because the Firth of Thames, between late December and August every year, is supporting at least 40 per cent of the world population of wrybill. They breed down south, but after they finish breeding, they all come north,” he said, “and so that makes it a big deal for us.”

Found only in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Waimakariri, the Rakaia, the Rangitata, and the rivers of the Mackenzie Basin are the strongholds for wrybill, and is the only place the birds breed.

Using a bill reminiscent of a “Swiss army knife”, they scrape around beneath submerged river stones for caddisfly or mayfly lar-



Wrybill erupt off the roost to perform prolonged aerial ballet.

Photo: BRIAN CHUDLEIGH

vae, and it is this natural environment Keith said New Zealanders need to be “careful” of.

“We need to look after those rivers. We need to maintain natural flows, and we need to be very careful with them, and these are some of the things that we want to highlight with our Year of the Wrybill because most New Zealanders, I believe, have never heard of a wrybill, let alone having seen one.”

And seeing one - or many - is a “captivating” sight, he said, due to the bird’s tendency to erupt off the roost to perform prolonged aerial

ballets.

“They tend to do these lovely aerobatic displays as a tight flock,” Keith said, “and so we’ve come up with a collective noun to describe the wrybill display - we call it a ‘flung scarf’ of wrybill.

“Early on in my tenure here, I was down at the hide and it was an evening tide. There were a lot of oyster catchers and a few godwits on my roost, and then they all suddenly took up and they were flying around. Then all the birds landed except the wrybill... They were just whirling around doing this loop-

de-loop for about half an hour,” he said. “I was walking back home and dusk was falling but I could still hear them up there. Then I remembered it was actually Saturday night, and I thought, well, maybe this is what wrybill do on Saturday nights.”

Keith said he was optimistic that 2025 would be the Year of the Wrybill. He’s started campaigning already, hoping to make people aware to vote wrybill as number one when it comes time for Forest and Bird’s annual competition - which was taken out by the hoiho



The wrybill has a unique curved bill. Photo: IAN SOUTHEY

yellow-eyed penguin in 2024.

The timing would suit perfectly. It is the Pūkoro Miranda Naturalists’ Trust’s 50th anniversary this year, and Keith said the trust has “forged a remarkable path” since its inception.

“I’ve been here for about 32 of those years - there’s a bit of longevity involved here - but it really has been an extraordinary organisation.

“There’ve been some great people involved all the way along... and the kind of things this trust has been able to achieve are quite astonishing.”

There will be an Open Day at the shorebird centre in October, as well as a member’s lunch in August, and for anyone interested in learning more about the trust or the wrybill, contact the centre.





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Rural Life

New proposed rate for Wharekawa Coast

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

A new targeted rate is being proposed by the Waikato Regional Council, for a river and catchment management programme on the Wharekawa Coast.

The proposed programme, outlined in the council's 2025/26 annual plan, will cover an area of over 20km between Waharau and Pūkoro/Miranda on the western shore of the Firth of Thames. The area is one of the few within the Waikato region that does not already have a formal catchment management programme.

The council said works included under the programme, such as upper catchment stability control, river management, clearing of blockages, wetland protection and enhancement, and natural erosion measures, are needed to improve the community's resilience to extreme weather events.

The work is expected to take place over the next ten years, at a cost of \$150,000 per annum. The council is proposing to fund 70 per cent of the project through a new targeted rate paid for by the Wharekawa community, and is seeking feedback on the structure of the targeted rate.

Two options have been outlined in the council's annual plan consultation document.

Option one, the council's preferred option, is for direct beneficiaries of the programme (those with properties on low-lying areas of the coastal plain) to contribute more to the targeted rate - their contribution would be \$18.10 per \$100,000 of capital value (CV). Meanwhile, Wharekawa ratepayers with hilly or inland properties would pay \$4.86 per \$100,000 of CV.

Option two would consist of a flat targeted rate, with all properties in the Wharekawa community contributing \$9.95 per \$100,000 of CV.


The remaining 30 per cent of the catchment management programme's cost would be funded through the council's general rate and would amount to around \$0.02 per \$100,000 of CV for all other Waikato ratepayers, similar to other catchment management programmes in the region.

A public drop-in session addressing the proposed changes will be held in Kaiaua on April 12.

DETAILS: The Waikato Regional Council's annual plan is currently out for consultation, with submissions being accepted until April 30. Go to waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan to find out more.

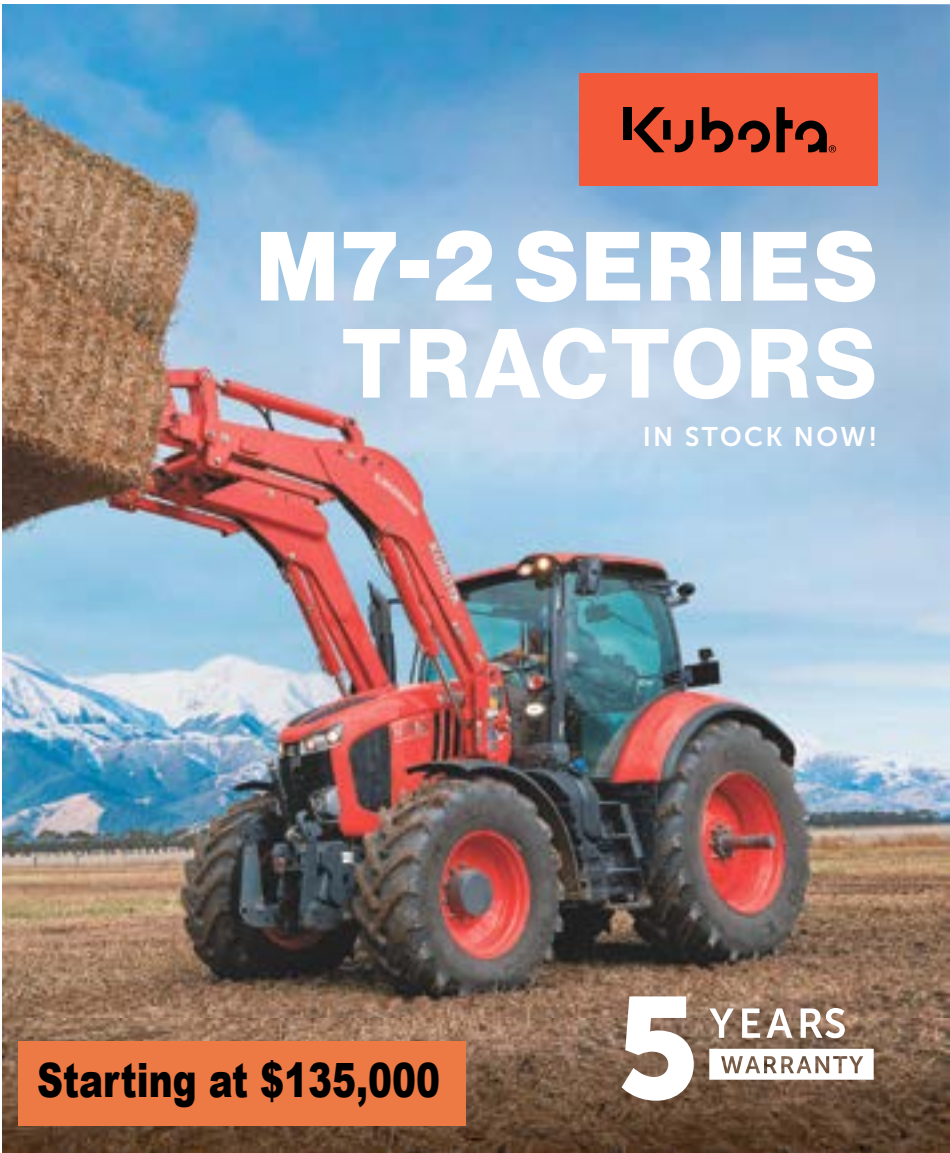
Drop-in session: April 12, 10am-12pm at Kaiaua Community Hall, Lipscombe Rd.





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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.

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 15 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

RATING REVIEW 2025

We’re reviewing our current rating system to make sure it is fair, equitable and transparent in how rates are calculated and applied.

Our Council will make a decision at its 8 April meeting whether to go ahead with the next step of the review which is public consultation to get your feedback on options.

If Council decides not to go ahead, then nothing will change.

Help shape the future
of our rating system

If Council decides to proceed, then we’ll have several options, including the status quo, that we’ll present for you to consider over April and May.



tcdc.govt.nz/ratingreview

Proposed changes to summer kerbside collections

We’re also proposing to change peak summer collections for rubbish and glass recycling in our east coast communities from twice weekly to once weekly.

These communities, from Whangamatā to Whangapoua, would still have rubbish, glass, mixed recycling and food waste

collected once a week from the week of Christmas to the week of Waitangi Day.

The second collection hasn’t been well used. Fewer than half of properties put rubbish and glass out for the second collections and the trucks are usually finishing the day with small loads. This is not a good use of ratepayers’ money and needlessly adds to costs, pollution and vehicles on the roads.

Our proposal will only affect rubbish and glass collections in our eastern communities, but all wards will benefit from the cost savings. Eastern communities will save the most since

they’ll see the service change, while Thames and Coromandel-Colville wards will also benefit as the rubbish and recycling budget is partially shared district-wide.

This proposal is part of the review of our Annual Plan for 2025/26, and we want to know what you think of this potential kerbside change.

The feedback period is from 1 – 29 April.

We’ll have public drop-in sessions where you can find out more and give feedback, as well as an online or paper survey to complete.



tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2025

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Peninsula Joinery recently completed a timber dwelling interior for a client. Photo: SUPPLIED

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ENTERTAINMENT

Promising pianist performing in Thames

Thames Music Group will showcase one of the most promising young talents in classical music in its Sunday afternoon concert series this weekend.

Fifteen-year-old pianist Shan Liu is rapidly emerging as one of the most promising talents in classical music under the guidance of renowned pianist Stephen De Pledge. In 2023, he made history as the youngest-ever winner of the Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition and received the Variety Artists Club of New Zealand Classical Music Award. In 2024, Shan was honoured with the Global Outstanding Chinese Artists Association Young Artist Award and the AIMES Emerging Talent Award, and he was selected as a Featured Soloist with both the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Manukau Symphony Orchestra for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons.

In 2024, his international reputation expanded further when he became the first



Pianist Shan Liu. SUPPLIED

New Zealand young pianist invited to the prestigious Morningside Bridge Music Program at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, a fully funded, one-month programme that offers mentorship from some of the world's leading musicians.

Shan, a Year 11 student at Westlake Boys High School, has performed in renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York,

the Sydney Opera House, and Auckland Town Hall.

His solo recital at the 2022 Beethoven Orbit Festival in Aachen, Germany, garnered widespread acclaim for his technical brilliance and emotive interpretation.

His solo journey to international acclaim is marked by a series of remarkable victories, and he has also achieved first place at prestigious events such as the César Franck International Piano Competition in Belgium, the Kings Peak International Music Competition in the United States, and the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in The Netherlands.

He has collaborated with many of New Zealand's leading orchestras, making his orchestral debut at the age of nine. He has also recently won the NZ Concerto Competition.

DETAILS: Shan Liu, April 13, St George's Church, Mackay St, Thames. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 for TMG members, Under 18s free entry.

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FOOTBALL

The 2025 season began on a sour note for Thames Football Club Men's, as they suffered defeat in the opening fixture on Saturday. It was all change during the pre-season, with key players Harry Williscroft and Ryan Le Roux leaving for pastures green, making a whopping 59 goals and assists with them. The race was on to rebuild during the summer break with a new coaching team and a crop of young players progressing through the ranks into the senior squad.

The freshly promoted Waikato Unicol Unicorns made the trip to Rhodes Park in Thames with their tails up after winning Division Three at a canter last season. The visitors started brighter and scored the opening goal after a low-drilled free kick was turned in by Nikhail Naidoo. Unicol's lead was soon doubled, as a mishandled cross dropped to the feet of Floyd Brunskill, who expertly hammered home into the top right corner. Thames reacted positively to the two-goal deficit as Caio Araujo held the ball up well before slipping an intricate pass through to Micheal Sogo, who advanced into the box and produced a calm left-footed finish into the bottom corner.

Thames carried the momentum and quickly added the equaliser when a tantalising cross from Herman Estefan was spilled by the Unicol keeper and neatly turned in by Araujo.

Thames went into the half-time



Defenders watch on as Kobe Brown tips over. Photo: MARK BROWN

break satisfied to be level but aware that a better second-half showing would be needed. A fast-flowing start to the second half was disrupted by controversy, as a heavy tackle from behind on Thames' winger went unpunished by the referee. Moments later, Keegan Apperley was harshly sent to the stands for a second yellow following, at best, an over-exuberant appeal - leaving Thames a man down for the remaining 30 minutes. That proved the turning point, as Unicol turned the screw and made their extra man count, stretching the play and peppering the Thames goal. It wasn't long before they capitalised, with two

BOWLS

After a weekend of awesome bowling, Paeroa Bowling Club has a new singles champion. Colin Demler was our eventual champion and played flawlessly throughout the competition and was a well deserved winner. Congratulations to all players and supporters who made this weekend the spectacle it was.

Meanwhile, after a very competitive and well supported twilight bowling season, the winners have made their mark and risen through the pack. Paeroa Bowling Club is very pleased to congratulate the Hake Heroes. The team, consisting of Trudy and Mark Kyd and Jesse Harris, came through and took the title for the second year in a row. Well done to the team and this year's competition proves that lawn bowls is alive and well in Paeroa. - By Martin Douglas



ABOVE: Paeroa Bowling Club singles champion Colin Demler. LEFT: Twilight bowling champions Hake Heroes: Trudy and Mark Kyd and Jesse Harris. left. Photos: SUPPLIED

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline 12noon Monday

Death Notice	Church Notice	Handyman	Painter	Situations Vacant	Situations Vacant
<p>CROSBIE, Trevor Allan: Trevor died peacefully after a long illness 24th March aged 80, with his wife and son Allan by his side. Beloved Husband to Maureen, Father and Father in law to Allan and Anita, Christopher and Rachel, and Barry and Linda. Grandfather to Aaron and Melody, Jamie and Nicolina, Bonnie and Matt, Grace, Connor and Harlan. Great-grandfather to Ariana, Alexander, Tobias, and MacKenzie. Brother of Shirley. He is greatly missed. A memorial celebrating his life will be held in the Catholic Church, 111 Baillie Street, Thames at 11 am, Saturday April 12th, followed by a shared luncheon and a cuppa in the convent next door. Please bring a plate if able. The service will be streamed online. Contact trevorsmemorial1944@gmail.com for details.</p>	<p>Waihi Bible Chapel Ph. Num 021 522 668 Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James) You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn. Bible Study Wednesday nights 6pm</p>	<p>An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 0212510246. ktpropertyservice.com</p>	<p>Professional roof painter. Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p>	<p>Woodturners Cafe is looking for a staff member to join our team for 20-30 hours per week, including 1 weekend day. No experience necessary as we can provide full training for the right applicant. Contact Lorraine with expression of interest on 021 246 9376</p>	<p>An opportunity exists for a part-time permanent bar person to work at the Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa. Approximately 20 hours per week and must be able to work Saturdays. No experience needed, training will be given. Please email CV to the Manager ohinemuriclub@xtra.co.nz or drop it into the club.</p>
	<p>For Lease Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p>	<p>Pets KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Shane & Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames</p>	<p>Storage Thames Valley Storage – secure, dry units available, two sizes. Call Trev 027 4076966</p>		<p>Administation Manager We are looking to hire a fabulous new person to join our team. This is a full time role with the hours being Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. If you are passionate about working with people in a fast pace and rewarding environment and would like to know more about this role please get in touch. Send your CV to Lizzie at admin@valleyeducation.co.nz or give us a call on 0273141577 and have a chat.</p>
	<p>For Sale  CJ's has SOLD OUT of firewood for winter 2025! Thank you to our new & existing customers for supporting a local family business. To join our order list for 2026 give us a call. Shaun & Chanelle Neustroski Ph 027 938 0349</p>	<p>Trades FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p>	<p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Handyman Services  THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p>	<p>CATERER REQUIRED The Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa is currently seeking the services of a contract caterer to operate our Club restaurant. If interested please forward your enquiry directly to the Club Manager via email : ohinemuriclub@xtra.co.nz</p>
<p>In Memoriam  MCATEER, Norman Douglas: Remembering Norm who passed away in Thames Hospital at 2.30am on 2nd April 2014. Will always be remembered with love every day as a very special person. Now riding peacefully in the sky. Patricia (Waiomu)</p>	<p>Weightlifting set for sale. Roughly 200 pounds and dumbbells. \$250 ono Ph: Ted 021 167 6777</p>	<p>Murray's Roof Cleaning Murray's roof cleaning For moss, mould etc Get your gutters cleaned before winter from \$100 Ph Murray: 027 449 5985</p>	<p>Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p>	<p>Storage TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA We will beat any legit quote for storage in 10ft or 20ft containers T&C's apply 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Public Notice Notification of intention to conduct spraying within Hauraki District local road reserve areas The Hauraki District Council road maintenance contractor (Ventia Ltd) will conduct a spraying programme within Hauraki District road reserve areas to control vegetation within the kerb and channel. The operational area will include the entire Hauraki District local road kerb and channel network, with spraying activity programmed to commence on Monday 07/04/2025. Agrichemicals to be used are: · Glyphosate 360 · Meturon For enquiries relating to the operation phone Charles Tana, Operations Manager, Ventia Ltd on 027 298 4993. We thank you for your patience during these road improvement works.</p>
<p>Church Notice Waihi Assembly of God Church "Worship & Healing" 10am Sundays Scout Hall, Baker St, Waihi</p>	<p>Hay HAY FOR SALE: conventional bales, this season, shed stored: \$12 per bale. Good quality meadow hay, suitable for horses. Pick up Puriri, Ph 0211454735.</p>	<p>Builder Reno's, decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559</p>	<p>Home Maintenance 'SHE SORTS IT' From Mess to Im-press: Gardening, home cleaning, painting, declutter, odd jobs, deceased estates. <i>Creating Beautiful, Organised, Serene Spaces.</i> Qualified and experienced horticulturist. Ready to Present to market or event! Contact Pippa or Gin Ph 027 747 7000</p>	<p>Home Maintenance HOUSEWASH SOFT WASH the exterior of your house, roof or patios, fences and driveways. Cleaning, moss treatment and water blasting for 25 years. Also exterior windows cleaned. Call 0800 737 777 or phone Andy direct on 027 313 4386 atlasgroup@xtra.co.nz</p>	



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HARD

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HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

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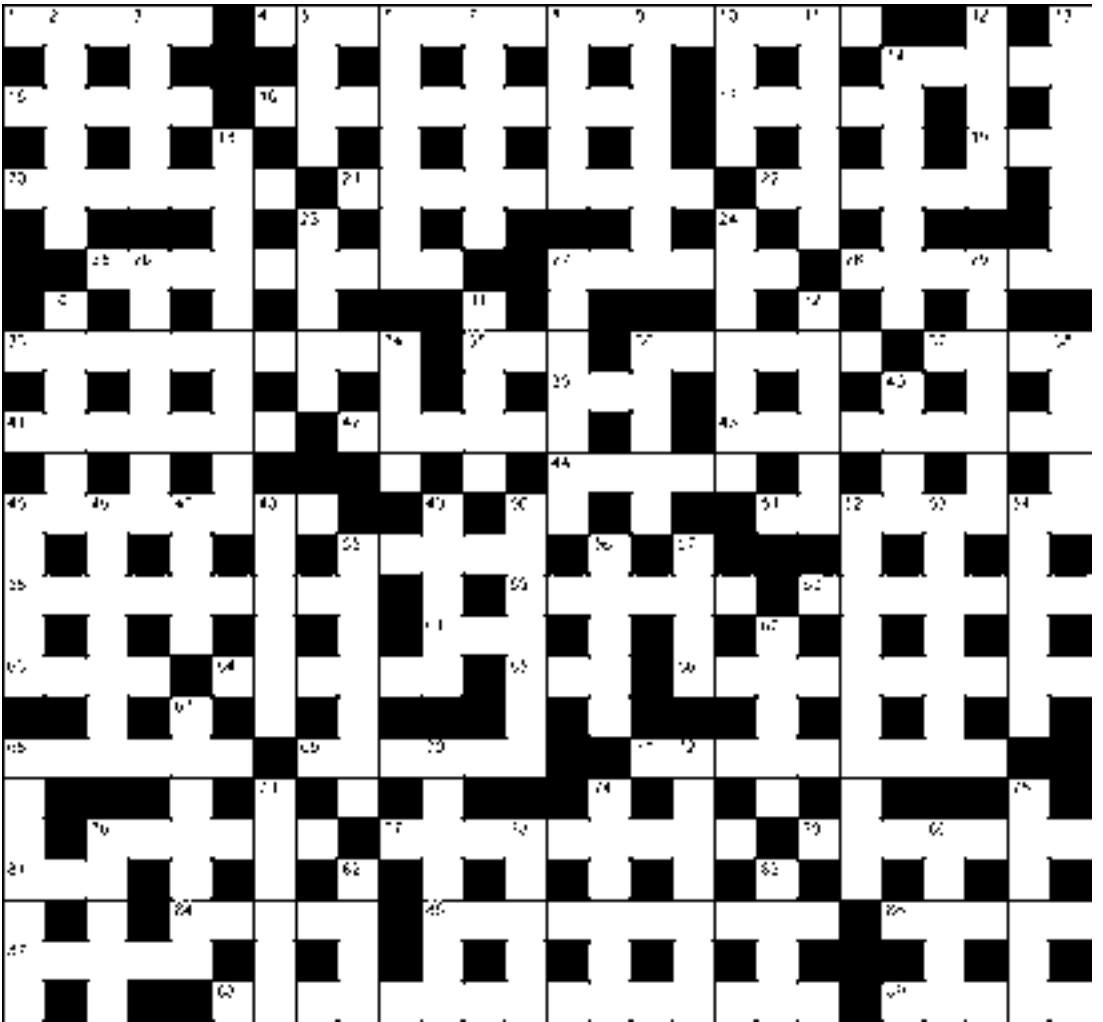
215

- ACROSS**

1 Fireplace (5)
4 Under time pressure (7,3,5)
14 Glossy fabric (5)
15 Growl (5)
16 Mailed explosive (6,4)
17 Roughly built hut (5)
19 Utilise (3)
20 Glass balls (7)
21 Stock list (9)
22 Tyrant (6)
25 Offer one's services (9)
27 Depressingly dark (6)
28 Next to (6)
33 Destroy by burning (10)
35 Tune (3)
36 Rectangular (6)
37 Prima donna (4)
39 Chart (3)
41 Alike (7)
42 Fairground throwing game (6)
43 Spruce up (9)
44 Care for (5)
45 Caribou (8)
50 Exists (2)
51 Attacked (8)
55 Gum (5)
58 Imaginary utopia (7-2)
59 Die (6)
60 Irritating (7)
61 Top student (3)
63 Transport (4)
64 Small (6)
- 65 Pretend (3)
66 Conform to expected attitudes or standards (3,3,4)
68 Gloss (6)
69 Good luck charm (6)
71 Children (9)
76 Preserve in vinegar (6)
77 Entertainment (9)
79 Bona fide (7)
81 Muck (3)
84 Afterwards (5)
85 Dexterity (10)
86 Line up (5)
87 Recess (5)
88 Insolent audacity (5,2,3,5)
89 Participates in a game (5)

DOWN

2 Airstrip (6)
3 Pulsate (5)
5 Delight (4)
6 Acute (7)
7 Increased suddenly (6)
8 Game fish (5)
9 Trade ban (7)
10 Endure (4)
11 Volcano mouth (6)
12 Dark beer (5)
13 Burned fragrance (7)
14 Captain (7)
18 Convalesce (10)
23 Homeless cat (5)
24 Entreat (7)
26 View (7)
- 27 People from Berlin (7)
29 First (7)
30 Imprudent (6)
31 Content (5)
32 Smells (6)
34 Love god (4)
36 Musical drama (5)
38 Greenfly (5)
40 Region (4)
45 Gets up (5)
46 Sloping letters (7)
47 Lodgings (4)
48 Evoke, draw out (6)
49 Stage whisper (5)
50 Not precisely accurate (7)
52 Additional fees (10)
53 Pancreas product (7)
54 White stoat (6)
55 Scott Joplin's style (7)
56 Malice (5)
57 Worry (4)
62 Minimum (5)
67 Skin mark (7)
68 Pipe insulation (7)
70 Back problem (7)
72 Provide money for (7)
73 Hold tightly (6)
74 Referee (6)
75 Boisterous (6)
76 Hunt illegally (5)
78 Swagger (5)
80 Ordinary (5)
82 Loyal (4)
83 Italian sparkling wine (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Ashes, 4 Figurine, 9 Jargon, 14 Abuse, 15 More often than not, 17 Fetid, 18 Hop, 19 Mystery, 20 Triggered, 21 Malady, 24 Pretender, 25 Layers, 26 Script, 29 Celebrated, 31 Tot, 32 Degree, 33 Slip, 35 Hue, 37 Bare, 39 North Pole, 40 Trafalgar, 41 Rogue, 42 Foreseen, 47 Globally, 51 Sonic, 55 Unsavoury, 56 Loveliest, 58 Open, 59 Eve, 60 Tart, 61 Stupor, 62 Air, 63 Barefooted, 66 Seethe, 67 Doodle, 69 Northerly, 72 Onrush, 73 Maintains, 75 Fanatic, 77 Rum, 80 Exile, 81 Fit to wake the dead, 82 Often, 83 Snared, 84 Speckled, 85 At sea.

DOWN: 2 Storyline, 3 Event, 5 Idea, 6 Uttered, 7 Inauguration, 8 Ernie, 9 Jittery, 10 Rife, 11 Outlay, 12 Pushy, 13 Seaport, 14 Advance, 16 Forbearance, 22 Pester, 23 Frigate, 24 Precede, 25 Lather, 27 Illegal, 28 Recall, 30 Dahl, 32 Deign, 34 Party, 36 Lamb, 38 Ado, 42 Fault, 43 Reserve, 44 Save, 45 Equity, 46 Anger, 48 Out of breath, 49 Apology, 50 Lie, 51 Symptom, 52 Cleave, 53 Over and above, 54 Club, 57 Earthy, 64 Extricate, 65 Sharpen, 66 Sparrow, 68 Dwarfed, 70 Ransack, 71 Assign, 72 Omits, 74 Notes, 76 Audit, 78 Near, 79 Cede.



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Seth Roe 027 320 6937 seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
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bayleys.co.nz/2630052

5,117 sqm

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The Kent Murchison is an 18kW freestanding fire with wood stacker, ideal for clean-air heating in medium sized homes. Using a combination of radiant and convective heat, It efficiently warms up to 210m2. Enjoy peace of mind with the Kent 15-year guaranteed firebox warranty.

A black, freestanding wood fire with a large glass front showing a fire burning inside. It has a wood stacker at the base filled with logs. To the right is a logo for KENT wood fires & heating.

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* Special offer - only available while stocks last









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The logo for Carswell Construction Ltd, featuring a stylized house icon and the company name.

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