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A FIERY FINISH

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

Deane Young's dream to stand in the number one spot for this year's D1NZ series has become a reality, despite a fiery "mechanical drama" and weather which sought to dampen spirits.

Hailing from Paeroa, Deane's season in the Pro-Sport Restricted Class started out strong, with three events and three podium finishes.

But round four and five weren't as smooth sailing.

"Round four, we didn't have a good weekend with that one," Deane recalled. "I don't even know where we finished. I think it may have been like 14th or 15th or something like that... so that hurt us quite a bit, points-wise."

Doubt crept in during the series' grand final, held at Baypark in Tauranga on April 25-26.

"My car had a few mechanical dramas and I lost the first and second battle. I got to run my third and fourth battle, but I had to forfeit the car, so we ended up in fourth place for the last round," he said. "But luckily, we still had enough points to get us through to the top step of the championship."

Deane earlier told *The Profile* that one thing pushing him to clinch the season was the fact the winner received a free trip to Japan, joining the crew at Drift Japan and driving three of the country's famous drift tracks.

He also wanted to better his last year's placing - fourth overall.

"It actually hasn't really set in 100 per cent yet," he said, "but I'm super proud that we did get there in the end. We've done three seasons of D1NZ Pro Sport, so we've kind of been around long enough and have had a few podiums here and there... So to get up on one of those top steps and be able to take a trophy home was super rewarding."

But Tauranga over the Anzac Day weekend saw cool mornings and "terrible" weather conditions, making it not only harder for drifters to impress the judges, but also the crowd, Deane said.

CONTINUED ON P2



Mechanical dramas did not stop Deane Young from taking out this year's D1NZ Pro-Sport championship.
Photo: WHIPPY PHOTOGRAPHY

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Waihi rallies to repair vandalised garden

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

The Waihi community has shown its support for a butterfly garden that was recently vandalised, with all of the original donors working to restore what was lost.

Sometime after 4pm on Tuesday, April 15, a vandal entered the garden - along the Mill Stream walkway - and wantonly destroyed seats and hand-built features such as a bridge and the favoured fairy house.

The following day, a fire broke out at the same site.

The garden's founder, Penryn Ballinger, said Police had been notified of the destruction, but no outcome had yet been determined.

However, she didn't believe the damage or blaze had been caused by children, as the crime had an element of intent.

"An area of ground was burnt just below the entrance to the Mill Stream Walkway and garden; three good-sized rimu were burnt, which will be lucky to survive," she said.

"If the two big old pines adjacent had caught fire, it would have been a very big blaze."

Inside the garden, a pine tree seat, bridge, fairy house, and fairy house seat had been vandalised while no damage was done to the plantlife.



The favoured fairy house in the Waihi Butterfly Garden, before and after the vandalism in April.



Photo: SUPPLIED

"Kids love the garden, and especially the fairy house, and they have been devastated by its destruction," Penryn told *The Profile*.

"We were all in shock when we first saw the damage, but it pulled the community together, and their heartfelt support on

Facebook was very reassuring."

Penryn, who alongside the Waihi Herb Society established the memorial garden back in 2021, said the original donors of the vandalised articles had all come forward to repair the damage, while David Anderson, managing director of In

Ch-it Plumbing, had offered to replace the fairy house.

"His employee, Mike the builder, will be getting on with the build now that the weather has calmed down," she said.

"The company plans to make the fairy house rebuild a family affair and will invite children in

to help paint it.

"We've also had contact from the community offering working bees, money, and even an art installation as the Butterfly Garden is a beautiful place to visit and the community have taken it to heart."

The garden was established with the help of Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership (HELP) Waihi, who cleared the bush of privet, blackberries, and wattles, and instead planted natives.

The Herb Society then spent a solid three months planting 1200 swan plants and 600 cosmos flowers, and creating paths that weaved through the bush.

Since then, the garden has become a beloved community affair, with the Keas from the 1st Waihi Scout Group wheelbarrowing in loads of donated mulch; and ladies from Hetherington House painting rocks to leave behind for young children to find.

The garden's co-ordinator, Sheryl Parkinson, would also love to have more hands on deck to help with light weeding and garden maintenance, Penryn said. She and her band of volunteers meet every Friday morning, from 9am-11am.





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Water decision made

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

In what Mayor Toby Adams said was one of the biggest decisions Hauraki District Council has faced in recent times, councillors decided on their preferred option to manage drinking water and wastewater delivery in the district.

The change is required by the government under its Local Water Done Well legislation, which replaced Three Waters.

The council's preferred service delivery model, an independent council-controlled organisation (CCO) in association with six other regional councils across the Waikato, would provide the benefits of economies of scale, affordability, and sustainability to ratepayers, Mayor Adams said.

Council modelling suggested the estimated cost to ratepayers under the CCO, known as Waikato Water Done Well, would be around \$4361 per annum. The cost per annum under the council's current long-term plan sits at \$4402.

The council is seeking feedback on this option with a public consultation, and will also present a second option of an "enhanced status quo" - keeping water delivery much the same as it currently is, but with extra regulatory oversight. This option was estimated to cost ratepayers around \$4447 per annum. The consultation closes on May 23.

Regardless of the option chosen, the council will be moving wastewater charges from the property rates bill, to the water bill. This change takes effect on July 1. Stormwater management will remain with the council.

Mayor Adams said the council has been working hard since Three Waters was originally floated, to ensure the district's water infrastructure was fit for purpose.

"We've invested heavily and filled our work programme up to a point where our district is in a really good spot, infrastructure-wise," he said. "The biggest fear our

ratepayers see now, is this debt. [But] debt ensures that everybody pays their fair share when they get to use that asset."

Meanwhile, the council also approved its schedule of fees and charges for 2025-26.

The major changes are within user-pays activities such as hall hireage, pool fees, building consents and waste management, with several fees increasing to cover operating costs.

The council also approved a new targeted rate for Whiritoa ratepayers, to provide funding for the Whiritoa Community Hall, which costs approximately \$10,000 a year to maintain. One of the only community halls in the district not currently funded by a targeted rate, affected ratepayers will now pay \$21 per property, to come into effect on July 1. Councillor Rattray noted there was significant support in the Whiritoa community for the new rate.

Another decision which initiated much discussion among councillors was whether to allocate funding for an upgrade of the lights on Waihi's Poppet Head.

The iconic mining structure, which sits alongside the Pumphouse at the top of Seddon St, has had numerous repairs to the strip of LED lights affixed to it. Council staff suggested the lights be replaced with pre-programmable, colour-changing lights at a cost of \$27,000.

Mayor Adams said it would be cheaper in the long run to take this option - "do it once, do it properly" - however, several councillors including Cr Ranchhod and Cr Holmes did not see the lights as a priority spend. Cr Gray and Deputy Mayor Paul Milner said the lights were spectacular and a draw to the town, when working correctly.

In the end, the decision was made to approach outside community groups, to gauge whether there was interest in forming a partnership to source external funding for the project.



The Taxpayer's Union "debt clock" stopped in Paeroa and Thames last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

Giant clock displays NZ debt

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

The Taxpayer's Union "debt clock" currently touring the North Island made stops in Paeroa and Thames on April 30 to highlight the nation's rising debt. The giant display, mounted to the side of a trailer, continued to count upwards during its journey, showing the Government's current level of national debt - upwards of \$185 billion. Taxpayer's Union investigations co-ordinator Rhys Hurley said the aim of the campaign was to get people talking about debt. "Most people don't actually know [about the amount of debt]," he said.

An associated petition from the union is calling for the government to "balance the budget and stop the debt clock". "What we're

asking is on Budget Day that Nicola Willis starts cutting wasteful spending... It rises the cost of everything and it's hurting the average Kiwi," Rhys said. During Finance Minister Nicola Willis' pre-budget speech on April 29, she said the previous government's spending during Covid-19 was to blame for the nation's debt, which rose by almost \$120 billion between 2019 and 2024.

"Our government's strategy is to reduce the deficit over time, through a gradual programme of consolidation and careful spending choices," she said. "We must ensure our country is financially strong and resilient enough to effectively respond to whatever the future may throw."



Ngatea library, council on the move

Ngatea's Hauraki District Council Service Centre and Library are moving, to make way for a new building on the site.

The old centre, on Orchard West Rd, will be closed on May 15-16 as staff relocate to the supper room at the rear entrance of the Ngatea War Memorial Hall.

Staff will operate from there from May 19 until the completion of the new council building. Public access will be from the glass doors at the rear of the hall building, and parking is available beside the hall.

A new accessibility ramp has also been installed at this entrance.

The contracting process is still in progress, but council staff said the demolition team is on standby to begin work as soon as the contractor is appointed and final consents issued. A final opportunity for members of the public to walk through the old building, constructed in the 1970s, will take place before demolition begins with a "Memories and Morning Tea" event. The date for this is yet to be confirmed.

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

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Public Interest Journalism

A close-up of a purple Visa credit card. The card features the word "Purple" in white at the top left. In the center, the words "INTEREST FREE FINANCE" are printed in white, with "FREE" being significantly larger and bolder than the other words. At the bottom right, the "VISA" logo is visible in white. The card has a dark, textured background with some light-colored, wavy patterns.

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Thames railway bridge shortcut ends in tragedy



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

When a bag and library book was found in the Thames harbour in July, 1912, it was an ominous clue as to the fate of 34-year-old John Phillips who had suddenly vanished.

He was last seen by Miss Gladys Beddek at Shortland going in the direction of the railway bridge which spanned the Kauaeranga River at Pārāwai.

It was around 10pm and John, a distinctively tall man, was heading home to Totara where his brother-in-law's family lived.

John was from Nottinghamshire, England, and a fairly recent arrival in New Zealand.

He had a wife, Emily, and a small son and daughter back in England who would be coming out to join him.

The Phillips' were assisted immigrants nominated by the Baxter family - John Baxter was married to Emily's sister, Fanny.

The Baxter's, of Gloucestershire, had arrived two years earlier taking up land at Totara



Pārāwai, Thames showing the Kauaeranga River and railway bridge in the foreground.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ra soon afterwards.

The railway bridge was often used as a shortcut despite being hazardous and John Baxter had cautioned John Philips about using it.

Soon after 10pm Pārāwai residents heard what they thought was people skylarking about in a boat on the Kauaeranga River. John Phillips wasn't seen again.

Around 19 days later the body of a man was discovered by Mr Pratt, a Hauraki Plains settler, amongst the mangroves on the foreshore near the mouth of the Waitakaruru River.

The police proceeded to the spot as soon as the tide was high enough, and conveyed the body - that of a tall man, fully clothed - back to Thames.

John Baxter identified the man as his brother-in-law, John Phillips.

At the inquest held at Short-

land the next day it was presumed John took the shortcut, and while crossing the railway bridge slipped and fell into the river.

John Baxter said John Phillips had not been in the habit of crossing the river over the railway bridge. It was dangerous with no proper footway, only being passable by stepping from sleeper to sleeper.

The Coroner returned a verdict that John drowned through accidentally falling off the railway bridge. He was buried at Shortland cemetery.

Around two months after John's death Emily and the children, aged four and six, arrived in New Zealand by the Arawa from London.

The Arawa brought about 400 passengers, 120-odd of who were assisted immigrants. Of the 'assisted' the High Com-

missioner had approved of 53 adults and four children, while the remainder were nominated by relatives in New Zealand. There were nine farmers, 42 farm labourers, 14 domestics, and nine wives who had come out to join their husbands.

Fine weather prevailed throughout the voyage, which was uneventful. Emily's occupation was listed as a housewife and her marital status as married, although by then she was widowed.

In 1917, when she was 47, Emily married Abraham Leman. They lived in Auckland until Abrahams' death in 1930.

Emily returned to the Thames Valley where she died suddenly at the Turua Private Hospital in 1933, aged 63.

Emily was buried at Shortland with her first husband John Phillips.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The adage 'If it's brown, lie down; if it's black, fight back; if it's white, say goodnight,' refers to a suggested response to which animals?
2. The New Zealand singer born as Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor is best known by which stage name?
3. Which ruler and leader was born in the 12th Century and today is still regarded as the founder of the nation of Mongolia?
4. The disorder where a patient's blood does not clot in a normal way is known by what common name beginning with H?
5. Which tourist attraction on the Tapu-Coroglen Road is now up for sale for the first time in 31 years?
6. The Great Sphinx of Giza in Egypt is composed of what type of rock? a) Igneous, b) metamorphic, or c) sedimentary?
7. Which safety feature of many modern roads was originally known as 'singing shoulders' when first installed in the 1950s in New Jersey, USA?
8. Which of these songs has become a Liverpool football club anthem? a) *Hold Your Head Up*, b) *Staying Alive*, or c) *You'll Never Walk Alone*?
9. Senior Trump officials used which messaging app in March this year to discuss an attack on Houthi rebels in Yemen, accidentally also inviting a US reporter to the chat?
10. Trifolium repens is the scientific/Latin name for which pasture legume plant?

ANSWERS: 1. Bears; 2. Lorde; 3. Genghis Khan; 4. Haemophilus; 5. Rapaura Watergardens; 6. c) Sedimentary; 7. Rumble strips; 8. c) You'll Never Walk Alone; 9. Signal; 10. White clover.

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Thames doctors join national strike

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

Several Thames health professionals were among those downing tools around New Zealand on May 1, as part of the “May Day” strike protesting against understaffing and low salaries for senior doctors and specialists.

Over 5500 senior doctors and specialists from the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists were involved in the 24-hour strike, in what the union’s executive director Sarah Dalton said was a “may-day call” for the public health system.

“The strike will result in planned procedures being postponed, but the same number of procedures are lost every week due to ongoing staff shortages,” she said in an April 28 statement.

“New Zealand will be short more than 3450 senior doctors by 2032 and we are already seeing the impact of doctor shortages across the country with longer wait times in emergency departments and for first specialists’ appointments.”

Critical services, such as “life-preserving medicine” and emergency departments, remained available during the strike.

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Thames doctors strike on Mackay St. Photo: SUPPLIED/WAIORONGO



The garden is a happy place for Waihi Beach School students. Photo: SUPPLIED

Students seek votes for garden upgrade

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The māra kai or garden at Waihi Beach School is a space where students, staff and volunteers play a part in helping things grow.

Principal Rachael Coll told *The Profile* it was all about students “being in the environment” so they could learn to love it and learn to look after it.

“They get to have that hands-on, real-life experience within it.”

Student groups, guided by their teacher and a volunteer helper, get to work in the garden every Friday, Rachael said.

Pumpkins, potatoes and kumara were some of the vegetables the students had grown, which were now ready to be

harvested, she said.

Students also made salads for their school pōwhiri, and baked for different events based on what was in the garden, she said.

But now the school of passionate young gardeners has an opportunity to further nurture their māra kai through the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s School Sustainability and Resilience Fund 2025.

Waihi Beach School is now in the running to receive funding for a rainwater collection tank and irrigation system.

In the school’s application, they said they would like to install a rainwater collection tank to support the growing of fruit and vegetables within their māra kai.

“Using fresh water is much better for overall soil and plant health.”

“Further, by connecting the tank to a gravity-fed irrigation system, we can water our garden when we are not there e.g. during school holidays and non-gardening days,” they said.

But the school community needs the support of people to help place a quick vote for the school online.

Supporters can vote for the school at www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/ssrf, where each voter receives a virtual wallet of \$35,000 to allocate toward the projects they would like to see funded before the vote deadline on May 9.

DETAILS: Visit www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/ssrf to vote.

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Events keep Tapu Hall at heart of community

Tapu Hall has proven to be a great venue in its 75 years of serving its Thames Coast community. Already this year, the hall has been used for two big family weddings and the Thames Coast Kiwi Care's 20th Year Celebration picnic. In April it was a great "rainy day outpost" (games, movies, table tennis, tables set up for colouring-in competition) and prizegiving venue for Tapu Camp's Easter Fishing Competition.

Traditionally, the hall's biggest and most significant event of the year was the Anzac Day parade, dawn service and community breakfast, which is organised in collaboration with the Tapu Volunteer Fire Brigade.

This year's event was bigger than ever with more than 130 people attending. In addition to being a solemn and profound occasion, it is truly a Tapu event with every individual involved in the service a Thames Coast local.

From the Anzac wreath-making workshop

in the hall the day before and to the community breakfast with its Anzac biscuit competition, the Tapu Anzac commemoration involved children, extended families and people from up and down the coast. It's a significant and pleasantly sociable chance to catch up with friends and neighbours in the welcoming and hospitable hall.

While these traditions are going strong, to keep the hall's engagement with the community moving forward the hall board has appointed a social committee chair, Karen Camp, to make sure the hall is used for a range of activities which appeal to different sectors of our community.

In May there will be a community Pink Ribbon event which is open to the entire community. No need to wait for an invitation to someone's private party – all will be welcome for a shared lunch with live music, art auction, raffles, some fun activities and

prizes. May is Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer month and it will be a chance for the hall to fundraise for an important charity and bring the community together.

Mid-winter will be celebrated with a potluck dinner and quiz night in July and in August there will be sports night in a "tabloid" format so that everyone gets a chance to play all the sports available at the hall - pickleball, darts, table tennis, pool and indoor bowls – and make it a fun night, followed by supper.

October already has two big events planned. Early in the month there will be a repeat of the very successful Dance Social with a live band and old-fashioned supper.

This was very popular back in October, 2024, and many in the community have been asking about when it will be held again this year. Later in the month, the hall will host a Sweet Louise fundraiser as a follow

on to the Pink Ribbon Event in May. Sweet Louise supports New Zealanders living with incurable breast cancer.

The hall committee is asking for ideas about events or activities that could be organised with the community. Karen and her committee are keen to hear suggestions and work with individuals who would like to plan events or have ideas that would make the most of the hall's great location and facilities - landscaped private garden, soon-to-be renovated commercial kitchen supper room, stage and big, well lit and heated main hall.

DETAILS: For more info, email: tapuhalltapu@gmail.com. Bookings: Contact Annie, Ph 027 476 0302, email: tapucamp@xtra.co.nz. Tapu Hall is a Charitable Trust and operates under a Service Level Agreement with Thames-Coromandel District Council, which supports it with an annual grant.

- Supplied by the Tapu Hall Committee

Bundle up your pet's vet care

Are you avoiding a trip to the vet because you're worried about the cost? Anexa's Bundle pet wellness plan offers a simple, affordable way to manage your pet's healthcare with easy monthly payments.

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Enrolling your cat or dog into Bundle means unlimited vet consultations, routine vaccinations and an annual blood and urine analysis to help detect diseases early.

The plan also includes discounts on surgery, treatments, pet food and dental care,

as well as nail trimming and microchipping - if your pet hasn't already been chipped.

Anexa customer Rachael, who has five rescue dogs - including three with special needs, says Bundle has been a game changer.

"We can't afford to insure them all, especially with pre-existing conditions, but with Bundle, vet visits are super affordable. We did the maths and we're actually saving money.

"With the unlimited consultations, we never hesitate to bring our pups in. It gives us peace of mind, knowing that a simple tummy ache isn't something more serious like an obstruction or poisoning."

Learn more about Bundle at your local Anexa clinic or visit anexa.co.nz/bundle.

- Supplied by Anexa



Many events have taken place in the Tapu Hall this year, including Easter activities, Anzac services, two weddings and Thames Coast Kiwi Care's 20th Year Celebration picnic. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Rural Life

\$10k donation enables pest control work

Predator Free Waihi Beach has received a significant boost in its fight to restore the natural ecosystem of Bowentown, thanks to a generous \$10,000 donation from the Pio Shores Sports and Community Association (PSSCA).

The funding, spread over 12 months, directly supports trapping and monitoring efforts in the area, helping to protect native wildlife and regenerate biodiversity.

The donation underscores the commitment of the PSSCA to environmental stewardship and community-led conservation initiatives.

With ongoing predator control, the project aims to reduce the impact of invasive species such as rats, stoats, and possums, which threaten native birds, lizards, and insects.

"This incredible contribution... is a game-changer for our work at Bowentown," Predator Free Waihi Beach co-ordinator Susan Lean said.

"It ensures that we can continue our trapping efforts, expand our monitoring programmes, and engage more volunteers in protecting our unique coastal environment.

"To date, we have eradicated over 2700 target predators from the area and are seeing the return of bellbird (korimako), morepork (rūrū) and bittern (matuku)."

Predator Free Waihi Beach is a grassroots initiative dedicated to restoring native habitats through



Predator Free Waihi Beach has received a large donation from the Pio Shores Sports and Community Association. Photo: SUPPLIED

strategic predator control and community action.

The project aligns with the national Predator Free 2050 vision and has seen growing success with increasing support from local volunteers, businesses, and organisations.

"We are proud to support Predator Free Waihi Beach and the mahi being done to protect our local environment," PSSCA treasurer Gail Kelly said.

"Bowentown is a special place, and we want to see it thrive for generations to come. By investing in predator control, we're investing in a future where our native species can flourish.

"Our association also supports other community facilities such as the Surf Lifesaving Club, BMX track, and tennis court."

The donation will help fund essential trapping equipment, bait, volunteer training, and monitoring efforts to track progress.

The ongoing work at Bowentown contributes to a broader vision of making Waihi Beach a safer haven for native wildlife, ensuring the area's rich biodiversity is preserved for future generations.

Community members are also supporting the kaupapa by donating or sponsoring through the Predator Free Waihi Beach Community Partnership Programme.

From \$50, people can sponsor a trap or a trapline to help continue the fight against predators, they can even choose their favourite native bird to support.

"Every contribution makes a difference in protecting our environment and ensuring native species thrive."

DETAILS: For more information on how to support Predator Free Waihi Beach or to get involved, email Pip.predatorfreewaihibeach@gmail.com.



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Rural Life

Funding opens for farmers

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

The Thames Valley’s local Rural Support Trust is calling on farmers “feeling the financial pinch” to apply for the government’s newly-released assistance payments.

Announced on April 22, Social Development and Employment Minister Louise Upston, and Rural Communities Minister Mark Patterson, said the government’s rural assistance payments would help with essential living costs for eligible farmers in 27 districts affected by dry conditions.

“We want to help eligible farmers whose income has been severely affected by drought-stricken conditions,” Upston said.

“We know farmers in these regions have been significantly impacted by low rainfall over recent months, and we want people to be able to access support when they need it.

“These Rural Assistance Payments are being made available until October 28, 2025, when farmer incomes are expected to lift.”

Patterson encouraged farmers doing it tough to get in touch with their local Rural Support Trust to find out what help was available and to apply for a Ru-

ral Assistance Payment if they needed it.

“Droughts often have a sting in the tail with the cold, tough winter months still to come. We know how hard it can be to recover from a drought, and we are here to support farmers through it.”

The Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust said any farmers, farm owners, contract milkers, and all others feeling the “financial pinch particularly hard” could get in touch.

“Help us help those within your community [by] encouraging them to recognise they too are vulnerable during a drought and are as entitled to support as the next farmer.”

Farmers in the Northland, Waikato, Taranaki, Horizons (Manawatū-Whanganui, including Taranaki), and the Top of the South Island (Marlborough, Tasman, and Nelson City) regional council areas can apply for Rural Assistance Payments.

DETAILS: To get in touch with The Waikato Hauraki Coromandel Rural Support Trust to enquire about Rural Assistant payments or other support available, call 0800 787 254.



Cathedral Cove among top 50 beaches

Mautohe Cathedral Cove has once again earned international acclaim, securing its place on the World’s 50 Best Beaches list for the second consecutive year.

Coming in at number 45, the beach was noted on the list as being a “pristine and tranquil place to visit”.

The annual list is curated with input from more than 1000 of the world’s leading travel influencers and industry professionals.

Destination Hauraki Coromandel said the cove is well recognised for its breathtaking natural beauty, cultural significance, and iconic status within Aotearoa New Zealand, and is a popular destination for visitors from around the globe.

“We’re incredibly proud to see Mautohe Cathedral Cove named among the world’s top 50 beaches for the second year running,” Destination Hauraki Coromandel marketing manager Megan Nunn said.

“This iconic location is not only a treasured jewel of Hauraki Coromandel but also a must-do experience for visitors to New Zealand. Its natural beauty, cultural significance, and place in the hearts of so many make this recognition truly special - reaffirming Mautohe Cathedral Cove’s status as one of the most spec-



Coming in at number 45, the beach was noted on the list as being a “pristine and tranquil place to visit”. Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

tacular and valued coastal destinations in the world.”

Visitors can experience Mautohe Cathedral Cove and the connected Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve in a variety of ways - by joining local boat tours, kayaking along the coastline, sailing the sheltered waters, taking a water taxi or walking the scenic track.

“However you choose to explore, Mautohe Cathedral Cove continues to inspire a deep connection with the land and sea.”

TRACK CLOSURE


Meanwhile, the walking track to Mautohe Cathedral Cove will be closed on May 8-9 to allow Department of Conservation contractors to remove five large wilding conifers above the rock archway and near the beach.

DOC Coromandel Senior Ranger Matt Flynn says the conifers are invasive weeds that threaten to permanently alter the unique landscapes only found in New Zealand.

“Removing the wilding conifers supports our weed management and biodiversity restoration goals – enabling native flora and fauna to regenerate at Mautohe Cathedral Cove,” he

The track will reopen to the public on May 10.

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Never give up: training for the challenges ahead

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



I love the chance to go on adventures with my kids. These days, we often start with a theme for the day—something to set the tone. Recent ones have been “We do hard stuff,” “Face the fear,” “Be brave,” or “Never give up.”

One trip that really put this to the test was our attempt at the Tongariro Crossing. The plan was set, but the weather had other ideas. Thick cloud cover rolled in, visibility dropped to near nothing, and in an alpine environment, especially with a 6-year-old and an 8-year-old, that’s not something to mess around with.

So we pivoted. Along with our friends, we made a new plan to hike to the Tama Lakes instead. Before we set off, I asked the kids what the theme of the day should be. Without hesitation, they declared, “Never give up.” I loved it—and we quite literally ran with it. As we neared the lakes, hikers heading back were shaking their heads, telling us it wasn’t worth it. “You won’t see a thing in this fog,” they said. “Especially with little kids.” The wind was picking up, the cold was biting, and morale was dipping. But my kids were determined.

“Let’s just see, Dad!” We pressed on. And then, the wind—what seemed like an added challenge—became our ally. It pushed the thick clouds aside, revealing the stunning views of the lake. That moment was pure gold.

On the way back, with temperatures rising, the kids started running. An 18km return trip, and they ran most of the way

down. Blew my mind. That’s what I love about these challenges: every time we face something tough, my kids’ capacity for more grows. They love the challenge, and they’re learning that pushing through discomfort leads to incredible rewards.

And this got me reflecting on something fascinating: a part of the brain called the anterior mid-cingulate cortex (AMCC). This part of the brain is the source of drive, motivation, and grit. And do you know how it grows? By intentionally choosing to do hard things we don’t want to do.

This explains why when someone starts pushing their fitness, we often see positive changes in many other areas of life. Hard things build resilience—not just physically, but mentally.

For me, this realization has led to morning exercise and cold showers. Why? Because I feel the shift. My AMCC is engaged, and I enter the day more focused, more ready, and more capable of handling whatever unexpected challenges come my way.

So here’s the challenge: What could you start your day with to help you build the resilience to face what’s coming?

Because if we train ourselves to embrace discomfort now, we’ll be far more equipped to tackle life’s bigger mountains later.

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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Flu clinics available at Health Ngatea

In February, Health Ngatea welcomed back our nurse prescriber, Nadia Molloy. Great to have you back.

The change of seasons are making themselves felt and we have already run two successful flu vaccine/Covid booster clinics. If you or your child are unwell, please phone us to be put on the triage list where a clinician will be in touch with you and make a plan accordingly.

If you are placed in the CBAC clinic to be reviewed with respiratory unwellness, please just drive up under the front portico and stay in your car. Most people can rely on their immune system to fight off the majority of viral infections.

The treatment is to ease the symptoms while you wait to recover.

This can include: Resting at home, Sipping wa-

ter for hydration, Drinking lemon and honey drinks for coughs and colds, Taking paracetamol or ibuprofen to relieve pain and fever.

To avoid catching a virus: Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds and dry them for 20 seconds; Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables; Don’t smoke or vape; Limit alcohol; Keep away from sick people and if you or your children are unwell, stay at home; Exercise regularly; Get enough sleep; Keep stress levels to a minimum to avoid weakening your immune system; Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.

Take care of yourselves and each other.
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Te Whāriki research goes global

Thames-based Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki showcased two of its research projects at an international conference last week.

The International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge and Development – Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love Conference – was held in New Mexico, and Te Whāriki was scheduled to present in the morning of its second day.

“We never imagined we’d even attend, let alone be moved into a prime slot,” director of research for Te Whāriki Paora Moyle said.

“We submitted an abstract from a community perspective to push the boundaries - to practice what we preach about amplifying marginalised voices, not just theorise about it.”

The research was a direct challenge to the academic elite, she said, and a rejection of the notion that knowledge could only be valid if it came from an institution or a doctoral thesis.

The approach stressed that without uplifting community voices - not just those with doctorates - the work of decolonising research fell short.

Paula Ormsby, leader of the Wāhine Toa Chapter of the Mongrel Mob Kingdom in Waikato, also took to the stage to share how she was reclaiming her identity and healing intergenerational trauma, drawing on ancestral Māori knowledge passed down through the PouHine wānanga.

“The PouHine has saved my life. I used to carry all the trauma, the anger, the shame. Now I see I was never alone. My tūpuna were al-



Paula Ormsby, left, Paora Moyle, and Denise Messiter at the event. SUPPLIED

ways with me, calling me home to myself,” she said.

Ormsby presented a selection of initial findings from *Ki ō Mātou Ake Kupu: Wāhine from Gang Whānau Healing Intergenerational Trauma through PouHine Wānanga*. The final report will be released in 2026.

Meanwhile, Te Whāriki chief executive Denise Messiter, who co-designed the PouHine wānanga with her elders, joined Moyle to present another research project: *As A Kid I Always Knew Who I Was: Reclaiming Indigenous Systems of Care for Takatāpui, Rainbow, and MŪPFAFF+ Communities*.

“This conference is about walking the talk,” Messiter said. “If reclaiming indigenous ecologies of love is truly the aim, then everyone

- especially the most marginalised - must have a place on the stage.”

The International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development is a committee of indigenous health scholars, researchers, and practitioners from Aotearoa New Zealand, Hawai’i, the United States, Canada, and Australia, with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of indigenous peoples.

The Te Whāriki team’s appearance at the conference was underpinned by seven years of work - but it doesn’t stop there.

They are expanding their research, using indigenous-led AI tools to map community networks during crises like Cyclone Gabrielle, and continuing to advocate for indigenous-led housing solutions.

SPORTS REPORTS

THAMES FOOTBALL

On Saturday, May 3rd, T&R Interior Systems Thames FC Men’s traveled to Morrinsville, seeking a positive result following back-to-back defeats. The hosts had convincingly beaten Thames in a pre-season game, but Saturday told a different story. A formation switch to a 3-4-3 and the long-awaited return of goalkeeper Matthew Burchell from injury leveled the playing field. The opener came after a cagey first quarter, with both teams grappling for a foothold. Raegan Winslow single-handedly hunted down a loose ball and capitalized on David Mendez’s hesitation in the Morrinsville goal, winning the game’s first penalty. Ben Taylor continued his goal-a-game streak by smashing the ball into the roof of the net for 1-0. Morrinsville reacted and started applying offensive pressure of their own. Brendan Scott sneaked behind the back line, but his low shot was expertly saved by the legs of Burchell, maintaining Thames’ slender lead. The first half turned into a midfield battle, with both teams defending astutely, keeping clear chances at a premium.

The game became more expansive in the second half with Morrinsville

smelling blood and rattling the bar with a Braian Uhalde long-distance strike. Moments later, the referee again pointed to the spot as Thames captain Mickaël Dernoncourt stooped for a header and was judged to have handled the ball. Uhalde neatly converted the penalty to pull Morrinsville level with 25 minutes left on the clock. The penalty saga wasn’t over, as Fernando Bassem Souilem worked his way into the Morrinsville box before a clumsy tackle by Satnam Singh sent him crashing to the ground. The referee pointed to the spot for the third time, giving Thames a golden chance to take all three points. This time, Keegan Apperley stepped up; Mendez guessed right and turned the ball away with an outstretched glove, sparking jubilant scenes from the home supporters. Thames ended in the ascendancy and nearly snatched the win with a close-range header from Sanket Gurung before a trademark Sam Cox free-kick was tipped over in the dying seconds. A 1-1 draw was a fair reflection of the effort put in by both sides. “There was a collective desire to improve on a disappointing season start. We can be proud of our performance, and it bodes well for the remainder of the season,” said goalscorer Ben Taylor.



Thames’ Sanket Gurung dribbles forward.

Photo: MARK BROWN

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Conclave (120 mins) M. Returns for 3 screenings. Follows Cardinal Lomeli as he oversees the group of cardinals responsible for selecting a new church leader while trying to uncover a secret from the late pope.

The Salt Path (115 mins) M. A couple embark on a year-long trek along the coast of Cornwall after losing their home and later discovering the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The People We Love (90 mins) M. New Zealand movie. Maddie is having a terrible day. Her first collection of short stories is rejected by her publisher, and she discovers her best friend getting it on with her boyfriend.

The Cats of Gokogu Shrine (119 mins) G. A cat colony inhabits a Shinto shrine. Residents care for them; others dislike the mess. Filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda observes their coexistence. A stunningly beautiful film that has wowed international audiences. In Japanese with subtitles.

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.

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

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Public Notice



HAURAKI DISTRICT PLAN

Proposed Plan Change 2: Waihi – Residential and Industrial Re-zoning, Further Submissions

Hauraki District Council hereby gives notice that the **Summary of Decisions requested by persons making submissions and the full submissions** received on Proposed Plan Change 2: Waihi – Residential and Industrial Re-zoning are now available on our website <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plan-change-2> or by visiting any council office or library in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngātea.

Further submissions, in the prescribed form (Form 6), can now be lodged with Council as provided for in Clauses 7 and 8 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991.

The following persons may make a further submission:

- any person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; and
- any person that has an interest in the proposal greater than the interest that the general public has;
- the local authority itself (Hauraki District Council).

A further submission may only *express support or opposition* to a matter raised in *an original submission (made under clause 6)*. It must not raise new points of submission.

Further submission forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from any Hauraki District Council office or Library in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngātea or contact us on 0800 734 834 (from within District), or 07 862 8609.

Completed further submission forms can be:

Posted to: The Chief Executive, Hauraki District Council, PO Box 17, Paeroa 3640
Emailed to: info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
Delivered to: Hauraki District Council service centres in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngātea.

A copy of your further submission must also be sent to the original submitter no later than 5 working days after lodging the 'further submission' with Council (Clause 8A, Schedule 1, RMA 1991).


Further submissions must be received by Council no later than 4.30pm, 20 May 2025.

Following the close of further submissions, the Council will prepare a report on the proposal and set a hearing date. All submitters and 'further submitters' who wish to be heard will be contacted.

Proposed Plan Change 2A: Kopuarahi Hall and Patetonga Hall (and adjoining land) Re-zoning – to become Operative

At its meeting of 30 April 2025 the Hauraki District Council resolved to declare Items 1-3 of Proposed Plan Change 2A to the Hauraki District Plan 'Operative' pursuant to clause 17(2) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991. In accordance with clause 20(1) of Schedule 1 of the RMA, Items 1-3 shall become 'Operative' on 16 May 2025.

D A Speirs
Chief Executive
on behalf of Hauraki District Council
6 May 2025



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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Jan O'Brien, who found Pete in the April 29th edition in the Thames Art Gallery advert.

Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12pm Monday

In Memoriam

MOLD, Beverley Joy: 1939 – 2024. Passed away 1 year ago.
Your wings were ready but our hearts were not.
Gone but not forgotten. Sadly missed by all the family.



Church Notices

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Public Notice

Cheers to Change!
We've Updated Our Local Alcohol Policy



Council has confirmed changes to our Local Alcohol Policy.
The key changes include:

- We have included a new discretionary condition which can, on a case-by-case basis, be added to off-licence premises which removes the sale of high strength single serve alcohol. These changes and all others (excluding trading hours) come into force from 8 June 2025.
- Reduced maximum trading hours. These changes come into force from 8 August 2025.
 - Off-licence (supermarkets/liquor stores) - 8:00am to 8:00pm
 - On-licence (restaurants/bars) and Club-licences (Sports clubs/social clubs)- 8:00am to 1:00am the following day. (This change was to align with a legislative change in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012).

To see the full policy please head to our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz
D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council



www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notice

Enrolment at Netherton School is governed by an enrolment scheme. Information and forms are available on the school website www.netherton.school.nz
Limited places for out of zone children are available for terms 3 & 4 of 2025.
Applications close midday Friday 16th May 2025 and are to be emailed to brook.hill@netherton.school.nz



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Thames Valley Club Rugby



Premier Men - R6 - May 10th

The Lyons Den, Whitianga
2pm Kick Off

Waitakaruru INTL Stadium
2pm Kick Off

Kenny St, Waihi
2pm Kick Off

Boyd Park, Te Aroha
2pm Kick Off

SENIOR B - R6 - May 10th

The Lyons Den, Whitianga
12.25pm Kick Off

Waitakaruru INTL Stadium
12.25pm Kick Off

Kenny St, Waihi
12.25pm Kick Off

Boyd Park, Te Aroha
12.25pm Kick Off

Hayward Domain, Ngatea
2pm Kick Off

BYE

Womens' Competition - R2 - May 11th

Hayward Domain, Ngatea
1pm Kick Off

Woolams Ave, Coromandel
1pm Kick Off

The Lyons Den, Whitianga
1pm Kick Off

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MY0607

SUDOKU

199

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

199

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EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

ACROSS

1 Discard (5)

4 Data processing device (8)

9 Stress (6)

14 Board (5)

15 Person or thing that one is extremely pleased or relieved to see (5,3,4,4)

17 Deadly (5)

18 Lubricate (3)

19 Atrocity (7)

20 Extremely loud (9)

21 Picturesque (6)

24 Female family head (9)

25 Tree-lined street (6)

26 Horse house (6)

29 Salad sauce (10)

31 Anger (3)

32 Overpower (6)

33 Flower stalk (4)

35 Welding spark (3)

37 Cab (4)

39 Unwisely (9)

40 Declaration (9)

41 Planet (5)

42 Enhance (8)

47 Double-crossed (8)

51 Large blood vessel (5)

55 Protect from harm (9)

56 Wormlike pasta (9)

58 Block up (4)

59 Friend (3)

60 Cereal heads (4)

61 Farm implement (6)

62 Invite (3)

63 Easy task (6,4)

66 Slough (anag)(6)

67 Thoroughfare (6)

69 Pernickety (9)

72 Woven container (6)

73 Starched (9)

75 Organise (7)

77 Spoil (3)

80 Corpulent (5)

81 Author's statement of indebtedness to others (16)

82 Prospector's plot (5)

83 Red wine (6)

84 Concluding by reasoning (8)

85 Begin (5)

DOWN

2 Very small dog (9)

3 Detest (5)

5 Yours and mine (4)

6 Trailblazer (7)

7 Shakespeare play (7,5)

8 Synthetic fabric (5)

9 Lack (7)

10 Sleeve end (4)

11 Observe (6)

12 Chaos (5)

13 Horizon (7)

14 Ten laps (anag)(7)

16 In the peak of health (8,3)

22 Sexual drive (6)

23 Litter (7)

24 Berth (7)

25 Sailor's response (3,3)

27 Electric cell (7)

28 Change genetically (6)

30 Long heroic poem (4)

32 Gain points (5)

34 Muffled (5)

36 Expensive (4)

38 Unreturnable serve (3)

42 Hurriedness (5)

43 Conflagration (7)

44 Enormous (4)

45 Make possible (6)

46 Lined chart (5)

48 Severe questioning (5,6)

49 Receives (7)

50 Self-image (3)

51 Alters (7)

52 At an angle (6)

53 Very remote place (4,2,6)

54 Fashionable (4)

57 Petty details (6)

64 Reptile (9)

65 Fruit flower (7)

66 Contort the face (7)

68 Contestant (7)

70 Varnish resin (7)

71 Expose (6)

72 Wide (5)

74 Counterfeited (5)

76 Representative (5)

78 Back end (4)

79 Biblical garden (4)

DOWN: 2 Terror, 3 Going, 5 Open, 6 Kitchen, 7 Deeply, 8 Ogles, 9 Hurdles, 10 Sell, 11 Ignite, 12 Sword, 13 Protest, 14 Therapy, 18 Decoration, 23 Cheek, 24 Mermaid, 26 Appease, 27 Halfway, 29 Renewal, 30 Domain, 31 Hair, 32 Bleach, 34 Trod, 36 Tweed, 38 Buyer, 40 Bali, 45 Awful, 46 Threats, 47 Nick, 48 Arouse, 49 Harem, 50 Berthed, 52 Running out, 53 Luggage, 54 Evenly, 55 Isolate, 56 Spite, 57 Rash, 62 Ashen, 67 Brevity, 68 Prevent, 70 Abridge, 72 Liaison, 73 Futile, 74 Bureau, 75 Acquit, 76 Strew, 78 Empty, 80 False, 82 Blow, 83 Form.



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View by appointment

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josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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Waihi Beach abuzz

Brighton Reserve, Waihi Beach was abuzz with basketball fans of all ages on April 12 for the second annual Parafed Bay of Plenty (BOP) basketball and Sport whānau fun day.

Organised by Parafed BOP, the event aimed to encourage kids and teenagers of all abilities to give basketball a go, and improve their skills through playing games and joining group drills.

Tauranga City Basketball Association Senior development officer Chelsea Savage attended and teamed up with former Tall Black Byron Vaetoe from Basketball NZ and Wayne Chase from the NZ Rollers Blacks basketball team to run drills and play in some scrimages with the attendees.

Representatives and players from Special Olympics Tauranga and the NZ Men's Whaikaha team, including ex-Waihi College student Todd Maitland and his mum Tina, who is also Whaikaha assistant

coach, made a special trip out to be part of the event. Northern Districts Cricket association coaches also hosted games of cricket on the reserve, in between basketball games.

Suzanne Morrison, of Parafed BOP, said the day was incredible. "We had all these talented sports people of all abilities, playing together and teaching the tamariki tips and tricks on the court," she said.

The Parafed BOP event was supported by Tauranga City Basketball Association, Basketball NZ and NZ Whaikaha, Tauranga Special Olympics team, Northern District Cricket Association, Live Well Waihi Beach and Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

DETAILS: To try Wheelchair Basketball can head to the Festival of Disability Sport at Mercury BayPark Arena, Tauranga, on May 10 at midday for a community game.



Te Ariki Berryman and former Tall Blacks legend Byron Vaetoe. Photos: SUPPLIED/MIKE HILL



Parafed Coachforce Volunteer Anna Hardie teaches tips and tricks, left, while people of all ages join in the fun and have a good day for all at Brighton Reserve, Waihi Beach.



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