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The Norwood Rd skatepark in Paeroa may not look like much at first glance, but it is far from forgotten.

Every week, the energy at the park intensifies, with the site quickly becoming the centre of a local skateboarding revival.

It's thanks to Janik Levien and the crew behind Hauraki Skate, who want to grow the sport within the community - starting with free sessions and a mission to breathe life back into the slab they grew up skating on.

"Me and my two brothers both grew up skating this park with many of my other mates that we still skate with today. It's a special place for all of us," Janik told *The Profile*.

"We were all young rugby kids, but

skateboarding was awesome in the way we could do it when the sun was shining, any day of the week.

One key upgrade for the park sits at the top of the priority list: a professional concrete grind at a cost of \$9000.

The benefits of a concrete grind were

"massive", Janik said, from safety to usability, presentation and preservation.

It was crucial to making the park a safe and inviting space for young skaters finding their feet. "Paeroa has two skateparks, the main one at Railway Reserve that was built late-2010 and the original one on Norwood Rd that was

built about 25 years ago."

"Both are still usable, but are now weathered and the concrete is rough and usability is not ideal.

Janik said the Railway Skatepark was a

lot bigger, had more obstacles, and was a more-advanced park to teach kids.

However, throughout winter, it got "hammered" by the nearby oak trees which dropped leaves and debris that filled the park, creating hazards and an

unpleasant environment for users.
"Norwood Rd on the other hand - yes it's the older park and smaller, but without the problem trees and the sunken-in design, it hasn't been as hammered from debris and failed drainage," he explained.

CONTINUED ON P2

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the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Model Barn

Skatepark revamp rekindles revival

"Most of the park is flat concrete, great for practicing the basic fundamentals of skate-boarding like pushing, riding, turning, and stopping. Then it has a bunch of small and large obstacles, a few mellow ramps and some add-ons we have added to make it flow better. It's functioning okay for us at the moment," he said, "but with all old parks the concrete is rough."

Janik said the concrete surface at Norwood Rd was significantly worn and uneven, making it difficult for users to build and maintain speed, particularly younger skaters with less power and experience.

The rough texture also increased the risk

of injury in falls, caused faster wear and tear on equipment, and, compared to other fa-cilities in neighbouring districts, fell short when it came to surface quality.

"Making the decision to have Norwood our main park came down to what we can do ourselves to make the park better," he said.

"We have multiple trade skills of our own where we can build new obstacles, and renovate and maintain the park due to its size at next to nothing cost - just for the love of skateboarding and getting the park some ac-

Hauraki Skate has started running free weekly skate sessions for tamariki and rangatahi aged six to 16 years, and despite being only two months into their mission, Janik said it was safe to say they were happy with how it was rolling. "Each week now we have people using the Norwood Rd skatepark as it's our homebase we are starting from.



'We have also noticed more kids turning up on the odd weekday after school and on weekends," he said. "The kids must be talking about it at school, and we can already see the growth and interest just in the past month of having the skate school.

So, with the excitement ramping up and more skaters beginning to join in, locking down the \$9000 for the concrete grind was the next big trick to land. After that, the crew was hoping to plant trees for shade, put on a fresh coat of paint, and add picnic tables and a drinking fountain, as well as a small footpath. In the long run, they would also like to work with the district council to generate funding to add new, permanent, professionally-designed ramps at each end of the park. "We have a vision for the park and are ticking off what's the priority," Janik

said. "Our main group of experienced skate-boarders were on the board of trustees get-ting the Railway Reserve skatepark back in 2009. We have all been skating for around 15-17 years now. We know what a good facil-

ity can do for our small communities.
"With skateboarding in the Olympics, we feel it's essential to have a good facility for us to use where we can upskill and grow to

the wider regions."

A Givealittle fundraising page has been established to help Hauraki Skate grind to-

wards its goal, with \$3000 raised so far.

DETAILS: Visit givealittle.co.nz and search for 'Hauraki Skate'. The free, casual skate school runs every Wednesday at 3.30pm at the Norwood Rd Skatepark in Paeroa. Skateboards, and small obstacles can be supplied. For info, email Haurakiskate@gmail.com or Facebook.

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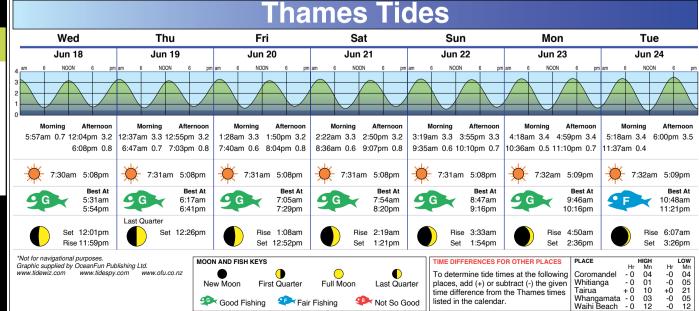






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Not So Good

Fair Fishing

Study highlights resilience during Cyclone

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

Anew study presented to the Waitangi Tribunal has highlighted Hauraki Māori experi-ences during Cyclone Gabrielle, while offering solutions to better support the district's most vulnerable.

The Health Research Councilfunded study, called Hauraki Māori Weathering Cyclone Ga-brielle, was led by director of research Paora Moyle at Te Whāriki Manawāhine O Hauraki.

It aimed to understand how Hauraki Māori mobilised to address the disaster response and recovery needs of whānau during Cyclone Gabrielle, which struck in February, 2023

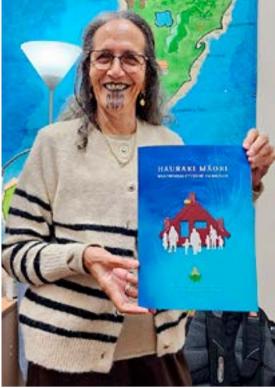
The goal was to use the insights obtained to improve local civil defence planning, enhance com-munication between Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki Māori, and inform more effective resource allocation for future extreme weather events.

This research focuses on communities who don't have a choice but to respond - it's in the DNA of Hauraki Māori to manaaki one another," Paora said. "They mobilise on the smell of an oily rag because of policy failures, not personal failings. But they shouldn't have to."

The study utilised Kaupapa Māori methodology, incorporating a pūrākau [storytelling] approach through semi-structured interviews and focus groups.

Thirty participants from Hau-

Thirty participants from Hauraki Māori communities, as well





personnel from the Thames-Co-romandel District Council, were According to the study, people experiencing homelessness faced particular discrimination, while the environmental expertise of Hauraki Māori, particularly those with deep connections to their whenua, was often dismissed by

authorities. However, the research also doc-

as senior management and field

umented how Māori communities

mobilised to care for one another.

Using networks established during Covid-19, communities quickly identified who needed medication, dialysis, or physical assistance. They set up evacuation centres with separate spaces for families and individuals, and even created a room for nets. even created a room for pets.

"We went down there. It was just me, my kids, and I took my cats," one participant said. "They

had this little old audio room that had been cleared out. So, the cats were in there. There was a window that we could see them. I could go in, have cuddles, feed them, they were fine... Some whānau just came down to have a kai because they had no power. Others came down because they started to get flooding in their houses.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Another success story was the Hauraki Relocatable Housing Project, which provided tranwhānau whose homes were damaged. The project particularly supported those living in sub-

standard conditions.

Te Whāriki Manawāhine O
Hauraki chief executive Denise Messiter presented the research to the Waitangi Tribunal's Cli-mate Change Priority Inquiry, positioning these local experi-ences within national discussions about climate justice and Treaty

There were also several changes proposed that researchers said could better support the district's most vulnerable residents, inmost vulnerable residents, including: recognising marae and community centres as critical emergency infrastructure with adequate resourcing; incorporating traditional environmental knowledge into emergency plan-ning; removing bureaucratic bar-riers that prevent whānau from using collective housing models like papakāinga; building rela-tionships with communities facing systemic disadvantages during non-emergency periods; and addressing underlying issues like housing poverty that made disasters worse. "Hauraki whānau have shown

us what climate adaptation actually looks like," Paora Moyle said. "The question is whether we're smart enough to listen to communities who've been reading weather patterns for genera-







Police support reduced speed on SH25A

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

he New Zealand Trans-**I** port Agency is keeping the speed along Kopū-Hikuai Rd/ State Highway 25A at 80kmh, a move welcomed by local po-

The agency said that, prior to the Taparahi slip and road rebuild after storm damage in 2023, it had identified the state highway as "high-risk", and that an 80kmh speed limit would make a difference in saving lives.

It said in the 10-year period from 2013, six people were killed and 35 seriously injured on SH25A, with most of the crashes relating to loss of control and speed.

"A significant reason for not taking this road back to 100kmh is the consequences to the community if there are serious crashes and the road has to be closed," the agency said.

Sergeant Scott Tyrrell, the supervisor of the Thames-Coromandel Strategic Traffic Unit, supported keeping the section at a safer speed limit.

'One of our functions is to be part of the investigation into serious and fatal crashes in our patch, so we know where, how, why these crashes occur," he told The Profile.

'A number of the crashes are due to vehicles losing control



Reducing the speed limit from 100kmh to 80kmh on State Highway 25A has saved lives. File Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

due to going too fast for the conditions, wet weather, or the type of road."

Sergeant Tyrrell said since the 80kmh speed limit was introduced for SH25A, there had been no serious or fatal crashes on that stretch of road.

There are still crashes," he said, "but at lower speeds, and consequently less trauma.

"I believe the lowering of the

speed limit has been a significant factor in the reduction of these serious and fatal crashes and support the decision to lower the limit on SH25A.

Sergeant Tyrrell said the change reflected what hap-pened in the Karangahake Gorge and SH2 Maramarua when the speed limits were also lowered on those roads.

"The serious and fatal crashes

reduced significantly in those areas as well.'

Speeds were also temporarily reduced along the Thames Coast Rd while SH25A was closed, largely due to the extra traffic the road saw, as well as slips and other damage from Cyclone Gabrielle and other storms in early 2023.

The reduced speeds were a temporary measure only al-

I believe the lowering of the speed limit has been a significant factor in the reduction of these serious and fatal crashes and support the decision to lower the limit on SH25A."

- Scott Tyrrell

lowed during the emergency period, and ...
December, 2024.
Waka Kotahi

Meanwhile, Waka Kotahi said it was finalising fund-ing to progress a speed review for parts of SH25, which runs across the Hauraki Plains, northwards up the western side of the Coromandel Peninsula, and down the eastern side to Waihī.

"Any review will take into consideration safety, technical, cost-benefit and other data, alongside community feedback received during a formal consultation period," the transport agency said.

"If funding is available, we aim to do the consultation this vear.

DETAILS: Contact Waikato.speed. reviews@nzta.govt.nz for further info on the speed limit review.



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Man, 71, found dead following Waihī house fire

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

A71-year-old man was the sole occupant inside the house that caught alight in Waihī on the morning of June 13.

Police told *The Profile* that the man was found dead inside the three-bedroom single storey residential dwelling on Montrose Rd.

While the cause of the fire was still being confirmed, Police said it was not thought to be suspicious at this stage.

According to a Fire and Emergency New Zealand incident report, crews from the Waihī and Mayor View brigades responded to the blaze at around 7.52am.

It took just under two-and-ahalf hours to extinguish.

Police and Fire investigators carried out a scene examination, and the cause of death will now be confirmed by the Coroner.





A man died in a house fire on Friday morning. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Mamma Mia! rehearsals underway

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

Rehearsals are well underway at Waihī College, for the school's production of Mamma Mia!

Based entirely around songs from the Swedish pop group ABBA, the musical follows the story of Sophie as she plans her wedding on an idyllic Greek Island - and her mother, Donna, who is met with reminders of her past when Sophie invites three of her former lovers to the event.

The college's students have been rehearsing for several months for the show, with twice-weekly practices after school and the occasional weekend. Director and drama teacher Ingrid Berry said it was all coming together nicely.

all coming together nicely.

"We're at the point where we're bringing all the pieces together - set, band, lighting. We're lucky to have some talented singers, musicians and comedians in our cohort who are really coming out to shine," she told *The Profile*.

she told *The Profile*.

"Our music man Mr Randell has been bringing to life those iconic ABBA songs, and I've been sneaking in some disco flair into the choreography.

"It's a fun musical, we've had such a laugh rehearsing it. I think audiences will enjoy it too."

The students were also having a blast, although with opening night only a few days away some admitted the nerves were beginning to kick in.

beginning to kick in.
"It's getting very exciting,



Sam and Donna (Hoani Pollock-Wilson and Bayley Goddard)
reminisce in the song SOS.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



The student band, led by music teacher Edwin Randell, brings the songs to life.

getting closer and closer to the

"You can see we're all working really hard," they said. **DETAILS:** Mamma Mia! June 18-

21 at Waihī College. See www. events.humantix.com for tickets.



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First death on Ohinemuri goldfield recorded

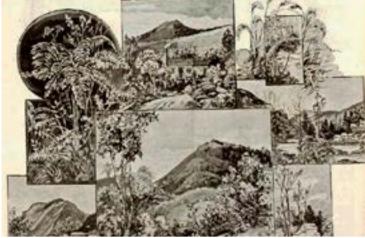


As part of a Valley Profile series. **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

When cargo after cargo began to arrive at Ohinemuri by several well laden steamboats it was wondered if anybody at all was left at Thames. It was Tuesday, 2 March 1875, the day before the long awaited opening of the Ohinemuri goldfield. There had been a rush from Thames and an exodus from Auckland; toiling along the dusty road with his swag was seen the Mayor of Thames.

Te Kahakaha, now called Mackavtown, was situated on a ridge. On the left was drop down into a deep gully, while on the right a sweep down to the Ohinemuri River. Beyond the gully was a rise which had been set aside as a diggers' camp, christened 'Block 27' which had been also the name of Thames' original digger's camp.

Primitive tents shone white against the dark green fern. The sound of the hammer was all around as stores and buildings were constructed. Everyone was dirty - large areas of fern had been burned off and the ground was covered with a fine black dust which begrimed everybody within a few minutes of their arrival. Sub-Inspector Bullen had come up by steamer with Sergeant Elliot and four consta-



bles, so there was a strong force of police and Armed Constabulary on the ground. The government offices, staffed by clerks and Constabulary men, consisted of a long frame covered with canvas, and a rough but strong paling in front to keep back the press of men seeking Miner's Rights.

Horses were at a premium. Some men slept with their horse ropes under them or fastened to themselves. As night fell Mackaytown sank into quietness but at intervals parties of men slipped away to where they proposed to peg off their claims.

Miner's Rights were issued until 3am. One who should have been there was 22-year-old Cornelius Murphy. The amiable and kindly Irishman was sick, having caught cold some six months earlier. He was staying at Tararu with his sister, Catherine Stewart, and her husband, James. The Murphy family, from Dromtarriffe, County Cork, had arrived in New Zealand in May 1865 by the *Empress*. The family's father had died and the mother Honora made the journey with her children, Cornelius being the youngest at around 12. The family moved to Thames when the goldfield was opened in August 1865 and the eldest son Denis mined there for several years. Denis now was at Mackaytown staying in the All Nations Hotel, one of the hundreds waiting on the Ohinemuri goldfield opening. Cornelius, who had formerly worked at Thames' Bird-in-Hand mine, laying ill at Tararu, could only listen to the exciting news brought from Ohinemuri.

At dawn on Wednesday 3 March men left the multitudinous tents of Mackaytown and headed along the steep track to the ridge. Groups were sitting all over the hill, with mining claim pegs in their hands. At 9.20am men were marching about with pegs and whispering in groups. By 9.50am Sergeant Elliott and four constables had arrived on the ground. Excitement was building, eyes were straining towards the camp and men anxiously referred to their watches. About 830 miners' rights had been issued. At 10am the goldfield was proclaimed open, a gun was fired and there were clouds of dust as men on horses flew

behind them, all racing for the Karangahake spur, about three miles from the Warden's Office. By 10.20am a forest of pegs had sprung up, and all down the route horses were standing, exhausted. There was wonder no-one was killed in the frenzy at the new El Dorado.

But after just a few days the Ohinemuri goldfield was declared a duffer and over 300 miners rolled up their swags and left. In April gold was discovered at Tairua, resulting in most miners leaving Karangahake. Mackaytown was practically deserted, the mountain abandoned, the shop and hotelkeepers disillusioned.

By now Cornelius had moved to Mackaytown for a change of air, staying with Denis at the hotel. His cold had turned into the lethal consumntion and he died on 3 May at 4.30am.

Cornelius was carried down to the Puke, near Paeroa, at noon by several men, and brought to Grahamstown that evening on the Alert. The coffin was then carried by several of his friends to the home of his sister Catherine at Tararu. The funeral procession was a very long one. The members of the Grahamstown Hibernian Society, of which Cornelius was a member, attended in full regalia. Nearly all the miners and storekeepers from Mackaytown and Karangahake were there, despite the wet weather.

By the end of 1876 the first Ohinemuri gold rush was well and truly over, the *Thames Advertiser* com-menting that the "Karangahake district is very sick and very little would kill it outright". In future years the field would become productive.

Cornelius' was the first death on the Ohinemuri goldfield. He was buried at Tararu cemetery.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris **Parminter**

- 1. Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has revealed that auditioned for a role in The Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, but was rejected. What role did she audition for? a) a hobbit, b) Arwen, or c) Eowyn (Faramir)?
 2. Mal Meninga played and coached
- which sport for Australia?
- 3. What colour are the fruit of the New Zealand native pigeonwood plant, porokaiwhiri?
- 4. Is Merlot usually a type of red, rosé or white wine?
- 5. The flag of Papua New Guinea features what type of bird?
- 5. As reported in the *Valley Profile,* Waihi Library has collaborated with Canine Friends to allow tamariki to read to kurī on Friday afternoons. Who or what is kurī?
- 7. Where in New Zealand would you find our largest botanic garden by
- 8. Which is the most abundant metal element in the human body? a) calcium, b) iron, or c) magnesium?
- 9. True or false: the northernmost point in the North Island is Cape Reinga?
- 10. Which mythical creature is the national animal of Scotland?



and 3 kilometres north of Cape Reing ANSWERS: 1. a) a hobbit; Z. Rugby League; 3. Orange; 4. Red; 5. A Bird of Paradise; 6. A dog; 7. Auckland Botanic Gardens, 64 hectares; 8. a) calcium; 9. False. North Cape / Otou is the northernmost point 30 kilometres east and 3 kilometres east point 34 kilometres pand 3 kilometres northernmost point 30 kilometres east profile and 3 kilometres pand 4 kilometres profile and 5 kilometres pand 4 kilometres profile and 5 kilometres pand 5 kilometres pand 5 kilometres pand 5 kilometres pand 6 kilometres pand 7 kilometres pand 7 kilometres pand 7 kilometres pand 7 kilometres pand 8 kilometres pand 9 kilo

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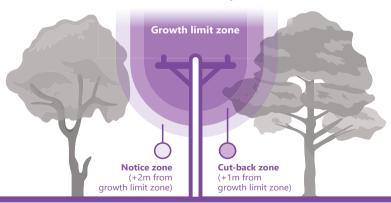
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High voltage lines (33kV)*	2.5m	3.5m	4.5m
High voltage lines (50–66 kV)*	3.0m	4.0m	5.0m
High voltage lines (66kV or more)*	4.0m	5.0m	6.0m

Burton's Catering brings home the bacon

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's one thing to provide excellent food services for customers, and it's another to be nationally acknowledged for it.

Burton's Catering does both.

It should come as no surprise to anyone who has experienced the food the Thames-business was nominated for the Outstanding Wedding Food Truck award at this year's Wedding Industry Awards, held in Wellington on June 7, where they snapped up the win.

But for Burton's Catering owners Kris and Elliot Burton, it came as a shock.

"I was actually a little bit surprised to be honest," Kris told *The Profile*.

The food connoisseur said there might have been a chance for them in the Outstanding Wedding Caterer category, but for the food truck side of things: "I didn't think I was going to get that one".

However, Burton's Catering is no stranger to accolades of this sort, following their win in 2022 for the Outstanding Emerging Wedding Business Award.

A "long-time passion" for food is something that propels Kris in her work.

She believes the thing that sets their food truck apart from other vendors was the fact they worked on the outside of the



Burton's Catering owners Kris and Elliot Burton take home the Outstanding Wedding Food Truck award. SUF

truck, not the inside, she said.

"So we can set up anywhere. We're not limited to anything."

The award-winning foodie said Burton's Catering specialised in paddock weddings, and while they offered a fine-dining service with things such as walk-around canapes, they didn't have just one set style.

"We're so versatile in what we

do."

One big thing they offered clients was for them to supply their own catch and gather, she said.

For example, if they're hunters, they can supply their own venison, she said.

One bride from a previous wedding supplied a wild pig she hunted and caught and Bur-

FOOU HUCK AWAIU. SOFFLIE

ton's put it on the spit for them. But there were other ways the Burton's team provided top services to their clients.

An event Kris said she'd never forget was a wedding they catered at the Grotto in Hahei on the Saturday night just before Cyclone Garbrielle.

Burton's had their marquees up to do family-style catering laid out on everyone's tables, while it was windy, rainy and "the trees around us were falling down and snapping".

Kris said a lot of team building happened during that event.

"That will be one of the weddings that I'll never forget because look [at] what happened after that event.

"You know, the roads closed. It changed everybody's life for such a long time."

It was clear why Burton's Catering kept winning awards.

The new accolade was significant "not just for myself" Kris said, but also shone a spotlight on the place Burton's came from.

"The Coromandel Peninsula actually has really good vendors. We kind of get forgotten about.

"Everybody wants to get married in the Coromandel Peninsula, but they outsource all the vendors," she said.

There could be hundreds of weddings in the Coromandel over the summer period, and not all the local vendors were known about, she said.

"There's other vendors around here that have won awards before. It's actually making people recognise that the Coromandel Peninsula have amazing vendors of their own."



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Womens' Competition - June 20th

Vixens Training Squad are playing Counties Manukau Development on Friday 20th June at Hauraki North

Rugby Club, kicking off at 1.00pm. All players who play within the TVRU Women's Club Competition in 2025 will be eligible for the Thames Valley Vixens who play in the North Island Women's Heartland Competition. There will also be a Vixens Training Squad selected, whom will have a number of trainings and play two (2) games throughout the Club sease to measure their development (this is the second game). Don't forget finals start next week for the Women's Competition

CLUB RUGBY

CALCULUS LESSONS

Club Wrap Round 10 : June 14 By professor Tighthead Ted

With two rounds to go, all bets are off as four teams battle it out for the right to try and topple the juggernaut that is Waihi Athletic. Yes, the title is there for the 2024 champions to lose. So you have Waihou, Mercury Bay, Paeroa and Thames in a race for spots 2-4. In a bit of brilliant scheduling, Paeroa host Waihou, and Mercury Bay host Thames this coming week, so that will add some clarity to the race. Then a week later, the final round before semifinals. Waihou have the poisoned chalice, and are hosting Waihi, while the other three teams have the bottom placed sides.

Waihou certainly have the toughest run in, they might go from clear sec-ond on the log, and with two losses drop to fifth - if Thames win both their matches, with bonus points. Mercury Bay need just one win from two, and have two homes games - Thames and North, so should, maybe, be able to take those. Paeroa also have two home games - Waihou and then Whangamata. At least one win there, probably, so they'll also make the cut. Thames have the hardest road to hoe and will rue their last two weeks of single point losses they have Mercury Bay away and then COBRAS at home. Confused? Me too, but with the ole Casio fx82 starting to burn out, ole Tighthead's calculations say Mercury Bay will finish second on the log, Paeroa third and Waihou will stagger into fourth. You heard it here first - remember that if it was right, if it's wrong, I know nothing,

nothing!
This week gave us an upset, a close match, and a couple of thumpings, just another typical week in the Valleys of Thames Valley.

First, the upset of the round, Hauraki North scoring at the death to steal the win, and possibly a semifinal spot from Thames. Ole Blue Bull was doing cartwheels as Seth Roe scored, and Logan



Whangamata managed a consolation try

Mitchell converted from wide to take the win. Shades of the 1994 McClinchy Cup final where the current manager, John Corbett, from number eight scored to steal the match.

The score continued to see-saw, and with eight minutes to go North was leading 27-26, and clinging on by the skin of their teeth. But Thames bashed their way over, converted, and it looked like game over, another 'close but no cigar' for North. However, there was still another stanza to play in the match, and who better to be playing lead fiddle but Seth Roe, who played last season for the Taniwha. The nuggety little halfback broke the hearts stole the Centennial Cup, off Thames with a well taken five pointer in the same spot as Corby's match win-

ner thirty-one years ago. Then another local derby, where Whangamata were hosting Waihi. The home team started with a hiss and

a roar, but after 27 minutes it was 20 nil to the visitors. Waihi took the ball and for 10 minutes everything they touched turned to gold. An old-fash-ioned Garryowen had the Whangamata fullback scrambling, and boom. try to the fast following halfback Finlay Davenport. A minute or two later Quin Collard lined up a penalty, and hey-diddle-diddle, straight down the middle, 10-nil. Almost from the kickoff, Ish Leilua, who had a whale of a game, ran on to a chip, got the bounce of the ball, and scampered 50 metres to score. Dylan Horne then seagulled his way to a try on the right wing, and it was 20

Finally, Toupou Tonga playing at lock crashed over and managed to ground the ball to get the home team on the board. The second spell started how the first ended, Whangamata hammering the visitors with wave after wave of pick and goes and close in running, but

to no avail, the Waihi defence was superb. Whangamata did manage a consolation try late in the match to prop Tobias Pulley, but it was too little too late. Waihi continue to look unbeatable, while Whangamata looked one dimensional, once the forward bash and

crash was repelled, there was nothing

else in the toolbox to worry Waihi Meanwhile, two matches were played out under the mountain of love in Te Aroha, Waihou hosting Mercury Bay, and COBRAS taking on the might of the Paeroa Green Machine.

COBRAS were unlucky to strike a Paeroa team starting to hit their stride at the business end of the season. With three tries in the first fifteen min utes. Paeroa were never in danger of losing. But COBRAS did not disgrace themselves. Much like Whangamata. they attacked, hammered away, and turned the middle portion of the match into a real bun fight. A nice

try to big lock Josefa Tokaibua running an inside line was a pearler. But it couldn't be sustained, and the final 20 minutes saw Paeroa run away with the match 55-12.

Hendrix Beazley was back in the 10 iumper for Paeroa and directed play with aplomb. Rimu Alexander on the wing showed more toe than a roman sandal and helped himself to a cou-ple of five pointers, and man mountain substitute lock Samiuela Stanlev scored a try, and created havoc with every carry of the ball. COBRAS were well served, as always by talismanic Cameron Dromgool from number eight, Saula Raiyawa, Owen Fakatava and prop Rowan Dare.

While Paeroa were scoring a half ton on the number two field, trench warfare specialists Waihou were doing battle with the beach boys from Whitianga. A tough match, two tries each, but the boot of Tom Larke proved the difference, his three penalties trumping Dev Sheehan's two conversions!

Mercury Bay enjoyed enough possession and territory to win five matches, but as many an army in history has discovered, it's hard to move an entrenched enemy, and Waihou were certainly entrenched. If it moved and wore yellow and black, it was not standing for long before a swarm of maroon and yellow would be racing to knock the hugger down. A hit more to knock the bugger down. A bit more patience needed for the Marlins in the face of ferocious defence will be needed in the next few weeks as the race for the trophies is run.

Waihou, when they got their hands on the ball were more circumspect than the boys from the beach, and made good use of their possession, two well worked tries to hard working loose forwards Daniel Pearce and Chad Bracey their reward. Good matches from the Mongoose midfield, Sam McCahon and Harry Lafituanai, a hard pairing to get through. I'm sure the Valley selec-tors will be watching that duo with interest. Scotty Day at hooker was also a busy little beaver, as all hookers should be on a Saturday afternoon.

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caretaker with a difference at Pūriri School

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

Pūriri School's new lawnmower is on the job 24/7, keeping the school's fields, lawns, and roadside berms trim and tidy. There's work to be done in all weather and even in the middle of the night - but Hagrid never complains.

That's because Hagrid is a Husqvarna autonomous lawn mower, part of the Ministry of Education's Small School Facilities Management pilot programme aiming to reduce the cost of property management for principals in small and rural schools.

Like an overgrown Roomba robot vacuum, Hagrid zips quietly around the school, trimming a few millimetres of grass at a time to avoid leaving clippings behind. Eight schools around the Waikato were chosen to trial the robot mowers, which were installed around three months

Pūriri School principal Lydia Lester said the initiative will save the school over \$10,000 a year in lawnmowing costs.

'It's very easy to use. The kids love watching him. Even when we first got him, we'd have community members stopping and just watching him," she said.

"And we'll be able to put that [saved] money straight back into the kids. We've given extra



hours to our teacher aide this year, which means extra support for our students.'

The mowers are just one small part of the pilot programme, which has offered external caretaking and maintenance planning services to 46 Waikato schools. The trial also includes access to a 24/7 helpline for logging urgent property jobs and organising contractors, the ministry said.

Shaun Prescott of Prescott's Garages installed Pūriri School's mower. He said it was a huge job,

as he had to map the school's grounds with GPS to guide its

"It's been quite a process of getting it right, but the way I set up the area can save a lot of Shaun said.

"If you run these properly, you're only taking a couple of millimetres every day. It goes back and recharges itself, then goes back to work.

Shaun said the programmed route takes the mower across a total of 8500 square metres.

"It's right on the upper limit of

that model machine. It's mowing 99 per cent of the school," he said. "It's mowing the roadsides, on the field, around the classrooms. And it does it when it's not obtrusive. Just silently, no emissions... You can mow the field in the middle of the night, no-one gets annoyed with us or anything. And it looks amazing. There's stripes in the field, like proper lawn mowing stripes."

There's no concern over theft either - Hagrid is GPS-chipped, and programmed to only work within the school boundaries.

Lydia called the mower "magi-

"He's amazing. He just gets on and does his work," she said.

"And I've got a little app that tells me if he needs some help, if he's got himself stuck in some trees... and I'll pop down and get him going again.

The Small Schools Facilities Management Pilot started in July, 2024, and runs until the end of June, 2025.









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wer" 520 EPOS" can handle green areas of up to 500 m². The mover also navigates easily in narrow parages and manages slopes up to 45% (24") with perfect cutting results — even in narry conditions. EPCS* ESS Reference



Rural Life

\$4m for rural wellbeing fund

As a million Rural Wellbeing Fund announced last week at the Federated Farmers Advocacy Hub at Fieldays is a great win for rural advocacy groups, president Wayne Langford says.

Mr Langford has led the way in pushing the government to deliver increased investment into rural mental health - an issue close to his heart. "It's hugely rewarding to get this across the line. I'm absolutely stoked the government are making such a meaningful investment in the mental health of our rural communities," he said.

"Federated Farmers have been involved every step of the way but we haven't been alone. The likes of DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb, Young Farmers and Rural Women have been right there with us."

Langford said the extra \$4 million from both Ministers Todd McClay and Matt Doocey to expand the investment in community-based wellbeing initiatives may be matched by industry partners, for a total pool of \$8 million.

be matched by industry partners, for a total pool of \$8 million.

"The investment is significant in terms of the dollar amount, but the real value will come in having a much more coordinated approach that brings all the energy and focus into one place.

"In practice, we're going to see the sector coming together to ensure we're investing in the initiatives that bring the best results and make a real difference

in people's lives. That will cut out a whole heap of waste, remove all the duplication, and make sure every dollar invested in rural mental health is working as hard as it possibly can."

Langford says, as a country, we've moved past the stage of simply acknowledging and building awareness of the importance of strong mental health.

"It's great that we've come such a

"It's great that we've come such a long way with rural mental health awareness, but now it's time for action. Supporting groups like Surfing for Farmers, Farmstrong, FirstMate and NZ Young Farmers, who are doing the mahi on the ground, is so important."

A five-member panel with repo

A five-member panel with representation from the primary sector will be established to assess project applications. Projects must demonstrate strong local delivery, provide clear benefits to rural people, and an ability to attract co-investment from industry and sector partners.

In announcing the funding, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Todd McClay paid particular tribute to advocacy by Langford, who he described as a long-time champion of rural wellbeing and mental health. However, Langford said a strength of the initiative was all the primary industry groups were united in the desire for action.

"We can now... make a real dif-



The Matarangi beachfront where the work will be taking place.

mage: SUPPLIED

Coastal restoration begins

Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) is beginning a restoration project in Matarangi this month, as part of its Shoreline Management Plan.

Beginning from June, the council will be restoring and rewilding a 600-metre section of coastline in the town, to improve dune health, increase native habitat, and build resilience to erosion and climate impacts. The project will involve planting native species of plants such as spinifex and pīngao, reshaping the dunes, controlling

weeds and pests, and halting mowing in the area. TCDC said the area may initially

TCDC said the area may initially look a little wild as the new habitat establishes and matures over the next two to three years.

The rewilding project is part of a 35km section of coastline to be restored between Whangapoua and Whangamatā. The council has set aside \$9.3 million in its 2024-2034 Long Term Plan for the work.

The council said the restoration project will support the coast's re-

silience to climate change, while also improving the habitats of native lizards, birds, and insects.

tive lizards, birds, and insects.

TCDC is working with the Waikato Regional Council and local iwi and community groups on the project. It has applied for a five-year Wildlife Act permit to undertake the work, due to the presence of endangered native skinks in the area. Information on the council's website said it may be required to establish new skink habitats prior to earthworks commencing on the dunes.

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Rural Life

Volunteer has ninja skills at catching turtles

Jayne Nightingale stuck her neck out for Waikato Regional Council when she first started catching and removing red-eared slider turtles from the Cooks Beach ponds about four years ago.

I was met with lots of negativity as there were locals who liked to see the turtles in what they saw as their natural habitat," says Jayne, who's passionate about getting on top of red-eared sliders in our environment before they become a real ecological pest.

"I even found on the local Facebook page someone saying how they had released a breeding pair back in 2013! It's my assumption that from those first two released. others have thought it was a good place to dump their pets as well, because they are cute when small but soon outgrow the aquarium.

Turtles grow quickly to up to the size of a dinner plate.
"So, I got out into the commu-

nity and shared information how they are not native and how harmful they are to our already fragile freshwater ecosystems and since then I have had people helping to catch them, and people contacting me when they found them on their

property."
So far, Jayne – with help from the community – has removed 76 turtles from the ponds and surrounding areas. The turtles are handed over to a University of Waikato professor who is studying the impacts of red-eared slider turtles in the wild in New Zealand.

Red-eared sliders, which can

MOTORS LTD



live up to 40 years, are among the top 100 worst invasive species in the world. Like many pest species, they are highly adaptable and can tolerate a wide variety of aquatic environments. As omnivores they can impact a wide variety of aquat ic plants, insects, eels and small fish species. They can take over nests of water birds to use as basking sites, and they are known to eat eggs and young birds.

Jayne said she was walking with

a friend around the storm ponds

back in 2020 and was surprised to see several turtles basking in the sun. "I contacted Waikato Regional Council, and they were aware of the turtles but had no one on the ground to set up a trap and check it regularly. I volunteered because as a former biosecurity officer I was very concerned knowing they would be breeding and that they could move from the ponds and into our natural waterways.

There has been sightings close by of a rare white banded rail, fernbirds, Australasian bittern and dabchicks, and we cannot risk these rare native birds.

Council gave Jayne a trap in the form of basking platform, which has ramps so turtles can get up on it, and catching a turtle depends on which way it slides back into the water. "I have been contacted by council biosecurity officers around New Zealand asking how we're doing it as they have not been able to control the spread in their areas, Jayne said. Among the turtles caught have been large breeding females that were found digging nests in residents' gardens.

"These 11 females would all have been illegally released pets because there are no known cases of female turtles having hatched in the wild in New Zealand.'

Pet turtles are allowed for sale in New Zealand because it was thought the climate was too cold for their eggs to successfully incubate and hatch. A female turtle can walk several kilometres looking for a nesting spot and can remain fertilised for up to five years, laying two to three clutches of about

11 eggs per clutch every year.
"It is the ground temperature that determines the sex of the offspring. Lower temperatures produce males, and our tempera-tures generally aren't high enough to produce females unless they're breeding in geothermal areas.
"But with rising temperatures

with climate change, there will be a more sustainable breeding envi-ronment across New Zealand."

Jayne, who was also scooping up baby turtles with a net from the ponds, says she's hopeful she's down to catching just a remaining few at Cooks Beach now.
"In January I collected a large

female that was found digging a nest, so I am hoping this is the last female, and it's just males left."

Waikato Regional Council said it was an offence under the Bios-ecurity Act to knowingly release red-eared sliders into a wetland in the Waikato region.



A/Hrs Mike 027 440 4681, Miles 027-227-1121 Email: admin@hpmotors.co.nz

Our Coromandel

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

Boaties praise Kōpū Boat Ramp

A promotion offering free day passes to Kōpū Recreational Boat Ramp over the past two months has met with an enthusiastic response.

Over 200 free day passes have been picked up by boaties, with the number of vehicles using the recreational area up by 60 per cent, to an average of 82 vehicles per day.

Feedback has included the ease of using the ramp, the discovery of a great fishing spot nearby and that the ramp saves a trip up the Thames Coast Road which has been beset by closures.

"The free pass encouraged us to try it, and I must say it's a great ramp," one user told us.

To add to the facility, a new toilet funded by the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund is being installed in the next few weeks.



Banish those winter blues by

taking part in activities at the library. Sessions include:

- Crafting Catch-up Mondays 10am
- Knitting Group Tuesdays 10am
- Toddler Time Thursdays 9.30am
- Book Chat Friday 4 July 10.30am





The library has an exciting **programme for the school holidays** on the theme of under the sea.

From Monday 30 June to Saturday 12 July there's a SpongeBob escape room. Booking is essential. P 07 868 6616 or E thameslibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

Drop-ins include:

- Tues 1 July Wooden stencil art
- Wed 2 July Make a pompom sea creature
- Thurs 3 July Create an under-sea torch
- Tues 8 July Make a lit-up fish using a circuit
- Wed 9 July Create sea art for your room
- Thurs 10 July SpongeBob scavenger hunt

tcdc.govt.nz/Libraries-Whats-On





Pick up a free pass from Early Bird Bait & Tackle, Hunting and Fishing Thames or Thames Council Office. Get in quick as the offer ends on Monday 30 June. tcdc.govt.nz/boating

Rubbish and recycling fees

From 1 July, the cost of a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) rubbish tag for kerbside collection will go up 25 cents to \$8.25. You can continue to use tags bought before 1 July.



In addition, we're introducing a \$5

minimum charge to use weighbridges at Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations that have them when disposing of general or green waste.

The charge for large 60L bags of rubbish remains unchanged at \$5. Small 20L bags (the size of the old plastic carrier bags) stays at \$2 per bag.

Check out updates to fees and charges for other services at **tcdc.govt.nz/fees**

Red-gister now



Register your dog online before 31 July 2025 to avoid late fees.

tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

Our next Thames Community Board meeting is in the Council Chambers at 10am Wednesday 23 July



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What's happening over Matariki weekend?

~Friday 20 June~

Our Council wishes everyone a peaceful, safe and restful Matariki. Take care on the roads. Enjoy our beautiful district and take time to appreciate our star-filled night skies during this special celebration of mid-winter.

COUNCIL OFFICES AND DISTRICT LIBRARIES



All Council offices (and AA services) are closed on Matariki Public Holiday Friday 20 June. So are our District Libraries and Thames Centennial Pool.

You can still contact us 24/7 at **07 868 0200** or **customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz**

REFUSE AND RECYCLING TRANSFER STATIONS

Our Transfer Stations will be open as usual on the holiday Friday, from 8.30am-4.30pm. Find your nearest station tcdc.govt.nz/rts

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS





There are no scheduled kerbside rubbish collections on Matariki public holiday Friday 20 June. tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

DOG RULES



Please keep your dogs on a lead in our town centres. There are off-leash dog exercise areas across our district. tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide

Celebrating our local volunteers

You're invited to a special event in your area to celebrate you and all the incredible mahi you do for our community. It's our way of saying thank you for everything you give.

Thames Volunteers Celebration

Wednesday 18 June – 2pm Thames Civic Centre, 200 Mary Street

For more information and to RSVP visit

tcdc.govt.nz/volunteerweek25







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Celebrating volunteers



The power of volunteering

Something we like to celebrate in the Hauraki-Coromandel districts is Te Wiki Tüao ā-Motu/ National Volunteer Week from June 15 to 21.

This is a time to honour the shared commitment and contributions of volunteers across not only our region but the entire country.

It's a time to acknowledge and thank the people who give back so much to our communities. This year's theme is Whiria te tangata - weaving the people together.

It highlights and celebrates the power of volunteering to bring people together. If volunteering is something you've never done before, let this be your encouragement to have a look

around your community and see where your skills, time or expertise might come in handy. This Volunteer Week feature in *The Valley*

Profile is a good place to start.

It's a place to see the fantastic ways people give back to our community, and find out how you can get involved too.

From the Victoria Battery Site and Goldfields Railway, to the community at Hauraki Plains College and the Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre - there are wonderful places all over the region who celebrate and welcome the support of volunteers.

DETAILS: To find out more information about volunteering visit: www.volunteeringnz.org.nz



The society's first locomotive is unpacked and ready for restoration.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Help tell the Victoria Battery story

The Victoria Battery Tramway Society applauds and thanks our volunteers who weave the stories and bring the history of the Victoria Battery Site alive for visitors to enjoy and learn about the significant part that this site in Waikino played in the processing of quartz to find the gold hidden from sight.

Our volunteers work together at the site so visitors can discover the history in a way that suits them.

Visitors can explore our museum, board our tram which weaves throughout the site or head on underground to get a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

The stories, photographs and knowledge of the Victoria Battery site are incredibly special and unique, so recording and preserving

them for years to come is critical.

We are in a changing world that relies on social media and the use of digital and online systems.

We also need digital volunteers to help achieve this. People with skills in communication, social media and digital technology who can help record and transform the stories and history so it can be there to share. If volunteering by driving a tram, showing people around the museum, and taking people underground is not for you, consider becoming a digital volunteer.

DETAILS: If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, email info@vbts.org.nz.

- Supplied by Victoria Battery Tramway
Society Inc



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- Cutting rags Testing electrical items Repairing furniture
 Painting signs Making our centre a better place
 - And for caring about our environment

Thank You From The Bottom Of Our Hearts 🎔 🎔 🞔 🖤 🖤 🖤 🗡

If you want to be a hero too and volunteer with us, please get in touch.

Hauraki Repair and Reuse Centre 1 Grey St, Paeroa - Ph 027 6000 445



Hato Hone St John Thames

VOLUNTEER WEEK 15th - 21st June 2025

We acknowledge and thank the valuable volunteers who willingly give their time back to the community through Hato Hone St John.

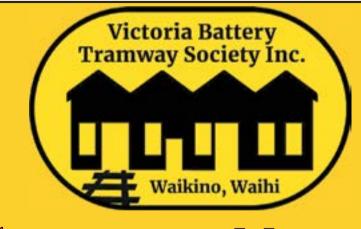
Without the support of the volunteers, Hato Hone St John would not be able to provide those programmes and services that help to reinforce our community's connectedness, resilience and strength.

Thank you to:

- > the volunteers that help with our Opportunity Retail Shop
- > the volunteers that run our Health Shuttles
- > the volunteer Friends of the Emergency Department / Hospital
- > the volunteers of the Thames Area Committee and our Patron
- > the volunteers on our Ambulances
- > the youth and their volunteer leaders in our Youth programme
- > the volunteer Caring Callers
- > the volunteer members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem

Thank you for your dedicated service and contribution to your community through Hato Hone St John.

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.



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Te Wiki Tūao à-Hotu

Celebrating volunteers





Goldfields Railway has become the number one attraction in the area on TripAdvisor. Photo: SUPPLIED

All aboard the volunteer express!

New volunteers are needed at Goldfields Railway - come and play on your own full size train set!

Our hugely popular railway operates between Waihi and Wakino, at the start of the Karangahake Gorge, and attracts local, regional and international visitors, catering for both the young and the young-at-heart.

The railway has risen to become the number one attraction in the area on TripAdvisor, with exclusively 5-star ratings from our passengers over the last two years. Our objectives are not only to preserve an important part of the nation's rail heritage, but also to preserve the railway as an essential part of the Waihī district's historical identity. Today the society's objectives have not changed from the original concepts - we cater for people interested both in the tourism operation, and the preservation and reconstruction of railway artifacts.

The 30-minute trip between Waihī and Waikino travels along the original East Coast Main Trunk Line (EC- MTL) rail bed alongside the Ohinemuri River, a route made redundant by the opening of the Kaimai Tunnel in 1978.

The track used by Goldfields Railway is virtually all that is left of the ECMTL, and offers views not only of fabulous scenery, but many of the original mining operation historical sites not visible from State Highway 2. New volunteers are always needed, from drivers and guards to engineering and track maintenance.

Come and help us keep our heritage railway alive, preserving the past for future generations, while at the same time having fun and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from like-minded enthusiasts.

DETAILS: More info: Martin Drew, email: mbsdrew@gmail.com or Ph: 027 494 7070.

- Supplied by Goldfields Railway

Gratitude for the unsung heroes of school sport at HPC

Ahuge thank you to our incredible sports volunteers.

Behind every game, training session, and event, there are dedicated volunteers making it all possible. Today, we proudly recognise and celebrate the amazing individuals who give their time, energy, and passion to support our school sports program.

Whether coaching, organising, scoring, transporting, fundraising, or cheering from the sidelines — your contribution does not go unnoticed. You are the heart of our teams, the steady hands behind the scenes, and the driving force that keeps everything running smoothly.

Sport teaches teamwork, perseverance, and

respect — and our volunteers embody these values every day. Without your commitment, we simply couldn't do what we do.

Your support makes a lasting impact not only on the players but on families, supporters, and the wider community.

This is a well-deserved THANK YOU.

We appreciate every hour you give, every early morning and late evening, and the countless small things that make a big difference. Please take a moment to find your name in the list below and know you are valued, recognised, and deeply appreciated.

From HPC Sports — thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

-Supplied by Hauraki Plains College



Hauraki Plains College celebrates its sports volunteers.

Photo: SUPPLIED

YOUR RAILWAY RAILWAY RAILWAY NEEDS YOU



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Hauraki Plains College

Don't be a moth: keep your eyes on the true light

OPINIO



By MICHAEL WILKES

The other night we had this massive moth fly in through the

window.

I mean, this thing was huge—like the size of my kid's palm.
No way we were sleeping

with the risk of a moth slap to the face at 5am.

So I had to sort it out.

Problem was, we've got highpitched ceilings, and the moth had found its perch way out of reach — just chilling up there, taunting me.

So I threw the sheets off, jumped out of bed, and grabbed one of the kids' Nerf guns.

And there I was, in my undies, firing foam darts around the bedroom while the kids slept and my wife watched on, half amused.

But eventually — boom — I landed the "Dude Perfect" shot. One bullet, one moth.

Job done.

I lay back in bed, feeling slightly more heroic than I probably deserved, and I started thinking: What is it about moths and light?

Turns out, moths navigate at night using the moon as a guide — keeping it at a steady angle so they can fly straight.

Then we came along with our floodlights, porch lights, phones, and all the rest... and suddenly, they're all over the place.

Distracted. Lost. Sometimes flying straight to their doom — and all they were trying to do was get somewhere.

That got me thinking about

We're not that different. We might have a dream, a goal, a vision — something we're aiming at. But then some shiny thing catches our eye. Something closer. Easier. Flashier.

And next thing you know, we're flying in circles, burning energy, and wondering why we're not getting anywhere.

That cushy job that pays well but costs you your health or family.

The flashy car bought on stupid-high interest.

The nights out that make your mornings a wreck.

That endless pursuit of status or success without ever asking

if it's actually the mountain you wanted to climb.

A dream without focus is just another distant peak in a mountain range you'll never reach. So don't be a moth.

Keep your eyes on your true light — and don't get distracted by the glow of what doesn't last.

Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Living Well Trust, running mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa. To support local youth work or follow more stories and insights, find him on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok @ michaelwilkes.kiwi. If you'd like to connect about a speaking engagement, community initiative, or supporting youth work, email michael@livingwell.org.nz.

DVERTISING FEATURE

Foodies





Breakfast bliss at The Cheese Barn with avocado on toast and pancakes with banana, bacon and maple syrup.

Delicious eats at The Cheese Barn

The Cheese Barn is situated in a picturesque area between Thames and Paeroa, only 5km from Kopu and is on the Hauraki Rail Trail, so they get plenty of cyclists calling in off the trail. They use Coffee LaLa beans and organic milk processed in the factory, which makes for a good coffee.

It's a popular stop to buy their award-winning cheese and yoghurt sold in the shop.

They make their own gelato and sorbet ice creams using organic milk

and cream that are only sold on site.
They come in tubs or cones and also on Belgium Waffles, which are

There is a breakfast menu served on weekends from 9am to midday.

a real treat.

Try The Big Barn Breakfast, or the latest menu has smashed avocado on toast or pancakes with banana and maple syrup.

Their homemade pies, frittata, and filos are a big hit too.

They have a BYO licence so you can bring your favourite wine to en-

joy with your cheese board or pizza.

The kids love the big outdoor area and can feed the animals like alpacas, goats, guinea pigs, rabbits, birds, and chickens.

The Cheese Barn is open six days a week, shut on Mondays, then open from 9am to 3pm in the winter and until 4pm in the Summer from Tuesday to Sunday.

See their Facebook page for opening hours and to see if they are open on Public Holidays, which is only in the Summer months.



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RD

ACROSS 1 Glue (5)

- **4** Very similar (4,2,1,8)
- 14 Maltreat (5) 15 Of birds (5)
- 16 Manage superintend (10) 17 Presents (5)
- **19** Signal (3)
- **20** Feign (7)
- **21** Disputed (9)
- 22 Slander (6) 25 To no avail (9)
- Revolt (6)
- 28 Give a facelift (6)
- **33** Hopeful (10) **35** Used to be (3)
- 36 Lacking ease or
- grace (6)
- 39
- Tangible (4)
 Mined material (3) Military commander
- (7) **42** Pillar (6)
- 43 Indispensable thing
- 44 Inflexible (5)
- **45** Safety strap (4,4) **50** Next to (2)
- Treachery (8)
- 55 Intestinal lesion (5) 58 Became sulky,
- angry (3,3,3) **59** Use (6)
- **60** Port (7)
- 61 Beverage (3)
- **63** Throw (4)
- 64 Travelling company
- of actors, performers

- 65 Family (3) 66 Worker with
- hammer and anvil (10)
- 68 Skilful (6)69 Breakfast holder

- 71 Getting (9) 76 Hail (6) 77 Came to an end (9)
- Live together (7)
- **81** Allow (3)
- **84** Jockey (5) **85** Financial ruin (10)
- Velocity (5) 87 Red powder (5)
- 88 Obtain a monopoly
- of supply of (6,3,6)

 89 Goat-man beast (5)

DOWN

- 2 Inn (6)
- 3 Freewheel (5)
- **5** Annul (4)
- 6 Utterly wicked (7)
 7 Passes out (6)
- Night fliers (5)
- 9 Contemporary (7) 10 Imminent (4)
- **11** Endure (6)
- Fruit liquid (5)
- **13** Evolve (7) 14 Conscience-
- stricken (7)
- **18** Browbeat (10)
- 23 Roofing tile (5) 24 Rickety (7)
- **26** Clothing (7)
- 27 Stonework (7) 29 Any time (anag)(7)
- 30 Orb (6)

- 31 Very unpleasant (5)32 Save from danger
- (6)
- 34 Block up (4) 36 Assess (5)
- Faithful (5)
- 40 Consumer (4)
- 45 Vision (5)
- Performer (7) 46
- 47 Thai monetary unit
- (4) **48**
- Repels (anag)(6) Severe (5) 49 End a relationship
- **52** Canine sniffer (7,3) Egg white (7) 53
- Grown-ups (6)
- 55 Rapid rise (7)56 Backbone (5)
- Explosive (4) 57
- Hold dear (5)
- 67
- Announce (7) **68** Eating implements
- (7) **70**
- Jemmy (7)
- 72 Spreading plant (7)73 Artist's workshop
- (6) **74** Minimum number
- for a legal meeting (6) **75** Animated (6)
- **76** Portly (5) Spiral seashell (5)
- 78 **80** Greek A (5)
- 82 Broad smile (4) 83 Highest point (4)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Shape, 4 Action stations, 11 Blank, 14 Usual, 15 Observatory, 16 Debonair, 19 Venture, 20 Hatch, 21 Assurance, 24 Desperado, 26 Crease, 27 Bikini, 31 Shots, 32 Muscular, 34 Livelihood, 38 Frantic, 39 Kabuki, 40 Equine, 41 Sign, 42 Rectify, 45 On the fence, 50 Analyse, 54 Same, 55 United, 56 Leeway, 57 Distant, 60 Squandered, 61 Reporter, 62 Quire, 65 Preach, 66 Ravine, 67 Stretcher, 72 Full house, 73 Zaire, 74 Flannel, 79 Schnapps, 80 Disobedient, 81 Strip, 82 Ledge, 83 Pluck up courage, 84 Edged.

DOWN: 2 Hostel, 3 Plant, 5 Cube, 6 Iceland, 7 Novice, 8 Tutu, 9 Thrashes, 10 Seesaw, 11 Bronchitis, 12 Away, 13 Karachi, 17 Grope, 18 Substitute, 22 Grout, 23 Minority, 25 Extinct, 26 Cardiff, 28 Charge, 29 Plough, 30 Hernia, 33 Chain, 35 Dense, 36 Tiff, 37 Seen, 42 Rises, 43 Commuter, 44 Yonder, 45 On the wagon, 46 Tidy, 47 Enlarge, 48 Exempt, 49 Chair, 51 Nail, 52 Lettuce, 53 Sentry, 58 Inaccurate, 59 Fewer, 63 Dip-stick, 64 Scold, 65 Parasol, 68 Terrier, 69 Slip-up, 70 Gazebo, 71 Revise, 75 Noted, 76 Shed, 77 Loop, 78 Snag.

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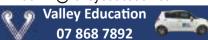
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Library booked for move as next chapter begins

Waihī Beach Library and Service Centre is preparing to turn the page on an exciting new chapter, as the team gets ready to move into a much larger, modern, purposebuilt space.

In preparation for the move, the current library will close temporarily from 2pm on Wednesday, June 18, until the opening of the new library - Te Ara Mātauranga - on Tuesday, July 1.

The closure will allow time to move eve-

rything across to the new building, which shares the same site as the existing library, Western Bay of Plenty District Council said. During this time, the loan system has

been configured so that no books or other items will be due back until the new library opens - in the meantime, people are encouraged to hold onto them

"This part foolity spice and community, said.

"This new facility gives us so much more room and flexibility to offer a wider range of programmes, events, and services for all ages - a future-proofed space that puts function and community needs first, without unnecessary bells and whistles."

The new 400sqm library and service centre will be four times bigger than the current library, and will be open 43 hours a week,

compared to the current 23 hours. This brings it in line with the council's three other library and service centres, in Te Puke, Ōmokoroa and Katikati.

It will be staffed by a customer services supervisor, two customer services representatives, and a community engagement librarian, who will be working across all age

The space will include two large meeting rooms with a moveable wall, one smaller meeting room, public computers and free wifi, dedicated reading spaces, 'bring your own device' work spaces, and a table for ac-tivities such as crafts and puzzles.

It will also feature artworks both inside and outside, that are interwoven with storytelling elements gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao, connecting the building to Ōtāwhiwhi marae and the coastal nature of Waihī Beach.

A blessing will be held on July 1 at 10am to mark the opening, and people will be able to step inside the new space from 2pm.

It's going to be a very special day for the

community and we look forward to welcoming everyone into this new space to enjoy and make their own," Rachael said.

"We know how much the library means to so many locals - it's a place for connection, learning, creativity and wellbeing. We can't wait to open the doors and start this exciting wait to open the doors and start this exciting new chapter together."



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SSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notices

HUGHES, Elsa Adele: 2 November 1924 - 11 June 2025

Passed away peacefully at Thames Hospital on 11 June 2025, aged 100½. Beloved wife of the late Ken. Dearly loved Mum of Robert deceased, Adele, Philip, Stephen and Terry. Loved by all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.
As per Elsa's wishes a ate cremation has been

TWENTYMANS

SAINTY, Ruth Mary:

Ruth passed away peacefully on Tuesday 10th June, 2025; aged 86. Devoted mother of Arthur, Maxwell, Valerie (dec) and David. Much loved grandmother.

Ruth was farewelled at a private cremation, as was her wish. A service will also be held at

a date yet to be determined. TWENTYMANS

Church Notices

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Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting. Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills nsured. Dennis Schule

Handyman Services. Waihi and surrounding areas. Building maintenance and repairs. Mobile - Grant

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E-waihi105@gmail.com **Pets**

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Contact Nikki -022 130 3885

Public Notice

Victoria Battery TramwaySociety Inc. **AGM**

Sunday 29th June 2025

1.30pm Venue Waikino Cafe

We are looking for a full time qualified diesel mechanic to join our team. For more information contact Andrew on 867 7524 or email your CV to

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Painter

experienced in interior and exterior work. Ph

Public Notice

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings - July 2025

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during July 2025.

Community Board Meetings

Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board

Monday 21 July 2025 10.00am, Pāuanui Community Hub, 23 Centreway, Pāuanui

Whangamatā Community Board

Tuesday 22 July 2025 10.00am, Whangamatā Service Centre, 620 Port Road, Whangamatā

Thames Community Board

Wednesday 23 July 2025 10.00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Coromandel-Colville Community Board

Tuesday 29 July 2025 09.00am, Coromandel Town Service Centre, 355 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Town

Mercury Bay Community Board

Wednesday 30 July 2025 09.00am, Mercury Bay Service Centre, 10 Monk Street, Mercury Bay

Please visit https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Council/Meetings/ Agendas-Reports-and-Minutes for copies of agendas and order papers

A Lawrie Thames-Coromandel District Council





PAPER DELIVERIES

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

NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea

PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square

WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalu THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bir Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store TURUA: Turua Dairy KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy

SH25 to close for bridge replacement

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is planning to replace the Boundary Creek Bridge on State Highway 25 north of Te Mata later this year. The bridge is currently reduced to a single lane with weight restriction due to its condition and needs to be replaced.

With two-way traffic and the slow vehicle passing bay to the south of the bridge restored, traffic will flow more smoothly through this area and the state highway will be safer and more resilient, the transport agency said.

Funding was confirmed earlier this year and design for a new bridge deck and repairs to the abutments have been completed. NZTA said it will be necessary to close the road at times during the work, due to the road corridor at the bridge being narrow and right on the coast. "We realise any closure on this section of SH25 will cause considerable disruption for road users, business activity will cause considerable disruption for road users, business activity and access to work, education and health services," the agency said. "NZTA staff have met with emergency services, local business and community representatives, to seek feedback on how we carry out the work. Feedback so far supports a single continuous closure – rather than a series of shorter closures spread across several weeks – as the preferred construction option." NZTA said the week-long closure would likely be in early November, with all work completed by corly December, should of the peak summer heliday period.

by early December, ahead of the peak summer holiday period.

"We recognise concerns in the community around the timing of the work. The priority is to ensure the resilience and safety of this state highway and this work needs to be done as quickly as possible to avoid the need for any additional restrictions in the event of further deterioration

The timeline for the works will be finalised in July, once a contractor has been appointed.



The Boundary Creek Bridge will be replaced.

Exploring Rūaumoko Restless Land at Thames Museum

n earth-shaking exhibition is opening at Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga this week.

Rūaumoko – Restless Land is an interactive exhibition exploring the science behind earthquakes and volcanoes. The display

figures hands-on activities, a shake table and workbook activi-ties encouraging preparedness for natural disasters.

The touring exhibition is a collaboration between the Natural Hazards Commission and New Zealand's national Te Papa museum. It combines science with mātauranga Māori (traditional knowledge), looking at the realm of Rūaumoko, the atua or god of volcanoes and earthquakes.

"Our aim is to reduce the impact on people, property and communities when natural hazards occur, and education is a key part of that work," Natural Hazards Commission chief executive Tina Mitchell said. "We want to help all New Zealanders to understand their local hazards and know the actions they can take to reduce their risks.

'Rūaumoko: Restless Land is a fun experience with a serious purpose. I am sure it will help people around New Zealand get prepared to face the natural hazards that are part of life in Aotearoa," Te Papa chief executive Courtney Johnston said. DETAILS: Rūaumoko – Restless Land, June 19- August 19 at the Thames Museum. Entry \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, and includes entry to the museum. See facebook.com/thamesmuseumnz for more.



Rūaumoko: Restless Land, 2024, Te Papa.

Photo: SUPPLIED/JANE HARRIS









Miranda 730 Back Miranda Road

Space, style and spacious grounds - Miranda living

Set on 4,521sqm (more or less) in the Hauraki countryside, this newly completed home offers modern design and family-focused living. It features four bedrooms, two spacious living areas, and an open plan kitchen with stone island and scullery, flowing to a wide patio. The main bedroom has a walk-in robe and tiled ensuite, with a sleek family bathroom for the rest. A double garage, ducted heat pump, ample storage and large shed with lean-to add everyday ease. Close to Miranda Hot Springs and zoned for Hauraki Plains College, this is a ready-made lifestyle with long-term

bayleys.co.nz/2630083

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Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 26 Jun 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

Phone for viewing times

Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz Connor Davis 027 496 4622

connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz







Puriri 107 Neavesville Road

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Asking Price \$1,049,000 **View** 10-10.30am Sun 22 Jun **Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83 karl.davis@bavlevs.co.nz

Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

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Ngatea 114 Pipiroa Road

Rural charm, urban convenience

Perfectly positioned where township convenience meets country charm, this 220sqm (more or less) home offers flexible living ideal for families, professionals, or entertainers. Originally built in the 1960s and extensively modernised, it features multiple living areas, an open-plan kitchen with island bench, and four spacious bedrooms (or three plus office). The master includes an ensuite and walk-in wardrobe. Comfort is ensured with two heat pumps and HRV system. Set on a flat 1,205sqm (more or less) section with a 3-bay garage, sheds, and fruit trees. Located in familyfriendly Ngatea near top schools and community amenities. A spacious, stylish lifestyle awaits—view today!

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Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 10 Jul 2025 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 12.30-1pm Sun 22 Jun or by appointment

Connor Davis 027 496 4622 connor.davis@baylevsngatea.co.nz

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







Hikutaia 62 Townsend Road

The good life

Escape to rural living with this spacious family home, featuring a modernised kitchen, woodfire, and heat pump for year-round comfort. Set on a manageable 2,548sqm (more or less), the grounds include established gardens, an orchard, and tunnel house infrastructure - ideal for self-sufficient living. A double garage and separate man cave provide great space for storage, hobbies, or entertaining.

Surrounded by green outlooks and scenic hill views, it's peaceful and well positioned between Paeroa and Thames. Trails, swimming holes, and holiday spots are close by, with major cities just 90 minutes away.

 $Perfect for families \, or \, anyone \, seeking \, a \, lifestyle \, shift-contact \, us \, today!$

bayleys.co.nz/2180796

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Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 10 Jul 2025 $96\,Ulster\,Street, Hamilton$

View 12-12.45pm Sun 22 Jun **Pippa Jackson** 027 747 7000

pippa.iackson@baylevs.co.nz Karl Davis 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz











Hikutaia 590 Maratoto Road

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 $Nestled in the scenic Maratoto \ Valley, this 6.4 ha (more or less) \ lifestyle \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ space, privacy, and \ self \ property \ offers \ offer$ sufficiency. The four-bedroom home features open-plan living across two levels, with a wood burner, wide rural views, and seamless indoor-outdoor flow. A covered entertaining area with a pizza oven, spa, and games zone is perfect for relaxed evenings. A self-contained unit adjoins a three-bay shed, offering flexible living or work-from-home options. The land includes fenced paddocks, raised beds, an orchard, and a high-stud barn. Just minutes from Paeroa, close to Thames and local attractions, this is an ideal spot for those seeking a balanced, rural lifestyle.

bayleys.co.nz/2630078

Asking Price \$1,200,000 Phone for viewing times Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83 karl.davis@bavlevs.co.nz Connor Davis 027 496 4622 connor. davis@bayleysng at ea. co.nz



Thames 574-578 Pollen Street

Multi-Title, Multi-Tenant, Multi-Option

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- Prime frontage on the main street.
 Add-value potential with flexible layout and scope to improve IEP rating.

Spread across three freehold titles, this well-located property on Thames' main street offers a reliable income stream with a flexible layout that leaves room for future strategy. While the overall IEP rating is low, 574-576 meets the minimum standard, giving investors a compliant starting point with a view to improving over time. This investment is $for those \ looking \ for \ flexibility, future \ options, and \ a \ presence \ in \ a \ well-established \ regional \ centre.$

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339_{sqm} **□** 440_{sqm} **□**

Auction (unless sold prior) 12pm, Thu 10 Jul 2025 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton **View** by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865 josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz



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