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## Library listener lends a paw



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

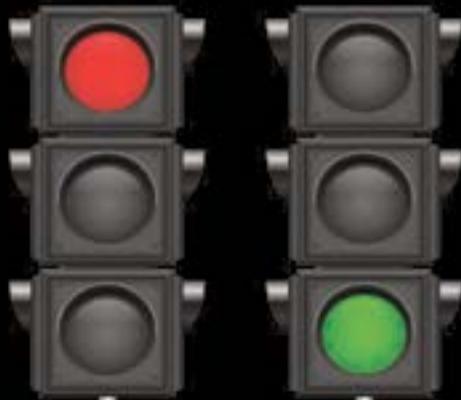
There were a handful of patrons in Waihi Library on Friday afternoon: adults perusing the stacks; some teens on a computer; and a furry, four-legged visitor curled up among the picture books. Six-year-old Connie, an Italian Spinone, was visiting the library with her owner and handler Sue Hagen for a new free programme called Read to Kuri [a dog]. Every Friday, they will be available from 3-4pm for children to sit and practice their reading in a non-judgemental, safe space, by reading aloud to Connie. The programme is free, with each participant able to book a 10-minute slot with Connie and Sue. The duo are part of Canine Friends Pet Therapy, a New Zealand-wide network of people who bring their dogs to libraries, rest homes, hospitals, and other places where they can have therapeutic benefits. Sue has been part of the group for around 15 years, with both Connie and her previous pets. "It's something that we can do together; it gives

Connie and her handler Sue are lending a non-judgemental paw to youngsters wanting to practice their reading. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

CONTINUED ON P2

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# Reading to Connie at Waihi Library

CONTINUED FROM P1

[the dogs] a bit of excitement, other than going to dog shows. I did agility with one of them, and that was fun, but I tripped and broke my ankle, so I stopped doing that," Sue said.

The animals go through exposure testing before joining the Pet Therapy network, to ensure they are able to handle the uncertainty of unfamiliar environments and people.

"The assessment they do is just to ensure that she's shock-proof, really... they dropped crutches on the floor around her and things like that."

The spinone breed was particularly well-suited to library work, Sue said.

"They're relatively calm, even though they're big, and they're just quite friendly," she said. "And she doesn't stop wagging her tail."

Read to Kuri has been running since May 16, and Sue said she was thrilled with the response so far.

"Last week a little girl had a book about a cat, and she wanted to read that to Connie, and she said, 'is it all right? Will it upset her?'" Sue said. "Some of the kids just lay down with her and read in her ear."

Sue is learning too. "There was one [child] that was probably nine, and she introduced me to graphic novels because I didn't really know what they were," she said.

The ages of the participants so far have varied, from five and just beginning to



Connie approves a young reader's book choice.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

read, up to around pre-teen. Several of the children had been excited to find dog-themed books to show to Connie, Sue said.

Library staff member Shey Scott said the programme was just another way the library could encourage children to become more comfortable with reading, and with the library environment.

"Ideally we'd like children who are making a little bit of an attempt. But even if they can't read and they just come along... that is getting the kids interested in the books and literacy," she said.

"And the wonderful thing about Sue coming in with Connie is that the children all got books out afterwards. And they would probably not have made that trip in."

"Just getting them in the door is a great thing, isn't it?" Sue added.

"Libraries are such wonderful places."

**DETAILS: Read to Kuri at Waihi Library, every Friday afternoon from 3-4pm. Email [hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or call 07 862 8609 to book a 10-minute slot.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10
Morning: 1:20am 3.2, 7:36am 0.9 Afternoon: 1:48pm 3.0, 7:51pm 1.0	Morning: 2:12am 3.1, 8:28am 0.9 Afternoon: 2:44pm 2.9, 8:51pm 1.0	Morning: 3:04am 3.0, 9:20am 0.9 Afternoon: 3:42pm 2.9, 9:48pm 1.1	Morning: 3:53am 3.0, 10:12am 0.9 Afternoon: 4:37pm 3.0, 10:39pm 1.0	Morning: 4:41am 3.0, 11:01am 0.9 Afternoon: 5:28pm 3.0, 11:25pm 1.0	Morning: 5:28am 3.0, 11:47am 0.9 Afternoon: 6:14pm 3.1	Morning: 12:09am 0.9, 6:14am 3.0 Afternoon: 12:31pm 0.8, 6:57pm 3.2
Sun: 7:24am 5:08pm Best At: 6:53am 7:13pm	Sun: 7:25am 5:08pm Best At: 7:33am 7:53pm	Sun: 7:25am 5:08pm Best At: 8:12am 8:32pm	Sun: 7:26am 5:08pm Best At: 8:53am 9:13pm	Sun: 7:26am 5:07pm Best At: 9:35am 9:57pm	Sun: 7:27am 5:07pm Best At: 10:20am 10:43pm	Sun: 7:27am 5:07pm Best At: 11:08am 11:33pm
Set: 12:27am, Rise: 1:12pm	Set: 1:25am, Rise: 1:33pm	Set: 2:22am, Rise: 1:55pm	Set: 3:20am, Rise: 2:18pm	Set: 4:19am, Rise: 2:44pm	Set: 5:20am, Rise: 3:15pm	Set: 6:21am, Rise: 3:51pm

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. [www.tidewiz.com](http://www.tidewiz.com) [www.tidespy.com](http://www.tidespy.com) [www.ofu.co.nz](http://www.ofu.co.nz)

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

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

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

# Waihi to the world: a lifetime in rugby recognised

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

Rugby stalwart Ross Cooper knew something was happening on the sidelines.

He just wasn't sure what.

While both Ross and his wife Judy had their suspicions something "secret squirrel" was afoot, with mail even being "snaffled" from the letterbox, it was little more than a week ago when they learned the purpose - that he'd been named a King's Service Medal recipient in this year's King's Birthday Honours.

The recognition has left him feeling "incredibly proud" and humbled, as he reflected on more than 50 years of service to rugby.

As a player, Ross played for Wairarapa-Bush, Centurions, and the Thames Valley Rugby Union, serving as captain, and variously as team manager and selector coach between 1984 and 2007.

He won two national titles with Thames Valley in 1988 and 1990. He then moved on to be a senior coach for Counties Manukau, and the Chiefs Super Rugby Team, and has been a selector for various New Zealand Under 17, Under 19, New Zealand Colts/Under 21s, Academy, Divisional, and Heartland teams.

He was an All Blacks Selector and Assistant Coach from 1994 to 1998, and counts among his proudest moments being part of the All Blacks coaching team that made history in 1996, clinching their first-ever series win on South African soil.

But despite working on rugby's



Ross Cooper has received the King's Service Medal for services to rugby.

Photo: SUPPLIED

biggest stages, Ross has never lost sight of his Thames Valley roots.

He has been involved for more than 14 years on the Thames Valley Rugby Union Executive Committee, including five as deputy chair, and is now its president and a life member.

And even in the most established rugby circles, he always made sure his region had a voice.

"I was in the Canterbury Supporters Club and Bill Bush, who's a famous All Black, was reading out the results of the day," he re-

calls. "I said: 'Excuse me, Mr Bush, could you please read out the results for Thames Valley?' And the whole crowd turned around and looked at me. I just thought, well, you shouldn't just read out First Division."

Having spent most of his life in the provinces, Ross, from Waihi, knows first-hand the strength of New Zealand's rugby heartbeat in the smaller regions. He says he's most proud of helping to break the notion that skilled rugby players only come from big centres.

"I've spent most of my time in Thames Valley, but people just assume that you have to be in Auckland to make a team," he says.

"You sort of break down some of the barriers that, you know, you have to live in Auckland or you have to play for the big teams to get there... but a lot of our All Blacks start in little Heartland units. You've got to dream; you can get anywhere if you want to work hard," he says. "I'm very passionate about Heartland rugby, that's what I'm trying to say."

As a selector and coach, Ross had a sharp eye for emerging talent - and a knack for spotting it early. One of his most memorable discoveries came during his time coaching Counties, when he first saw a young Jonah Lomu play for Wesley College.

"I came back from Counties one night, and told Judy: 'I've seen an All Black.' She said, 'What? You've seen an All Black?' and I said, 'Well no, he's not an All Black yet, but he's going to be'. And it was Jonah. "What happened was, in '94, I got him in my squad. He played against Horowhenua in 1994, and that was his first game ever in the league."

Rugby Database has it written: It was Wednesday, May 4 at what was then called Lion Red Stadium. Counties won 108-12.

It's a memory etched into the try line of his career, but Ross - whose first job was as an intermediate school teacher in Rotorua - says he wouldn't have been able to master any of it without his family's support.

"I'm just a school teacher from Waikato, basically, who fell into coaching," he says.

"You know, I'm very honoured. If it wasn't for Judy and the family, I would have never made it. I would never have done it without them."

And even though the King's Birthday Honour was, for a time, a well-kept secret, Ross' impact on New Zealand and homegrown rugby is anything but.



## Temporary closure of the Waihi Service Centre and the Ngātea Library and Service Centre Wednesday 11 June, 11:30am to 4:30pm

These services will be closed to the public to facilitate staff training.

The Paeroa Service Centre, Paeroa Library and Waihi Library will remain open during this time.

Online and telephone services will still be available.

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### John Bertrand Collectables Buying in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions This Week

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "This week will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



**Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant**

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated  
Director and Buyer  
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd  
Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

### Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



### Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

### Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

### Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

### Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 20 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

## JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

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- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



#### COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 20 times face value)
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets



#### BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



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- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

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- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

\*No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please\*



#### TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

#### COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



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#### WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
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- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
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- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
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- etc, etc, etc



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TAIRUA	Mon 9 June	Tairua Community Hall Annexe, 210 Main Road	12.30 pm to 2 pm
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# Historic oven latest to be swiped at battery

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

Volunteers at the Victoria Battery near Waihi are asking the public to keep their eyes peeled for an historic oven stolen from the site.

Between the evening of Wednesday, May 21, and early morning on Friday, May 23, a “small but very heavy” oven that had been stored on top of a carriage chassis was taken.

The chassis, which had been chained to others up at the Waikino museum, had also been moved down to the main gate.

The oven had been donated to the Victoria Battery Tramway Society five months ago for restoration and future display, and chairperson Kerry Single said the item had originally been used at the battery site, possibly to melt gold for sampling or to keep workers warm.

“This oven’s removal would have required at least two or three people with a trailer, utility vehicle, or van,” he said.

The theft has been reported to Police.

The historic site in the Karangahake Gorge has seen an increase in after-hours activity as of late.

Between the evening of Sunday, May 18 and Tuesday, May 19, a large skip bin was tipped



The historic oven was stolen from the Victoria Battery in Waikino between May 21 and 23.

Photos: SUPPLIED

off a bogey wheel chassis before the chassis was moved around 10 meters on to another rail line and pushed to where other wheeled items were stored.

“It was then left there as it was probably found to be very

heavy to shift from there,” Kerry said.

And in the last two years, two signs have also been stolen.

“Items outside are chained to each other and generally awkward shapes, sizes and weights.

We are considering CCTV, but that is a huge cost and [the thieves] would probably steal those as well,” he said.

“The main entrance gate is locked at night so it would be difficult to get a vehicle on to



the site without damaging the gate or removing the lock.”

Kerry told *The Profile* it was frustrating for the small but dedicated group of volunteers to show up to the site and find things had been stolen; however, despite the setbacks, they were committed to “safeguarding this invaluable heritage”.

“Volunteers spend on average about 300-400 hours a month at the site showing visitors around, maintaining and refurbishing the engines and carriages, repairing and maintaining the rail track, and museum exhibits,” he said.

“We would like to get the oven back so that we can preserve it and have it for all visitors to enjoy.”

**DETAILS:** If anyone has seen the oven or knows of its location, contact the Victoria Battery Tramway Society online or via [info@vbts.org.nz](mailto:info@vbts.org.nz) and they will retrieve it.





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# Hauraki rates set to rise 10.6 per cent

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

Hauraki District Council confirmed its rates for the next financial year at its May 29 meeting, with the adoption of its 2025/26 annual plan.

Council's group manager of business support Duncan Peddie said ratepayers could expect to see an average increase of 10.6 per cent per property overall.

The new rates will come into effect on July 1.

Property rates had previously been projected to be a 13.3 per cent increase in the council's 2024-2034 long term plan, but would now be increasing by only 8.4 per cent. This would amount to an average of \$251 extra per residential property annually, or 69 cents per day.

Duncan said the council had managed to offset the property rates with two one-off reductions in the council's budget: a \$1.65 million underspend on its roading budget, and a property sale of council land in Ngatea.

However, water rates would

now be increasing by 15.3 per cent instead of the projected 10 per cent; an increase mostly caused by the government's water levy increases and extra regulatory reporting requirements, the council said.

For an average residential property, this would mean an extra \$108 annually, or 30 cents per day.

At the meeting, the council also approved a grant of \$1500 for the proposed community garden on the corner of Aorangi and Ainslie Rds in Paeroa, subject to the group providing a satisfactory plan for the scheme.

It was noted that a land use consent would also be required, as the lot is zoned for residential and a community garden would be considered a farming activity.

A second grant of \$1691.50 was also approved for Waihi resident Sarah Keall, to attend the Aspiring Leaders Forum in Wellington.



The new citizens of Hauraki.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

## Hauraki welcomes new citizens

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

Eighteen new citizens were officially welcomed to New Zealand at Hauraki District Council's May 29 ceremony.

The new citizens affirmed their allegiance to the country in a moving ceremony, before gathering to celebrate with council staff, family, and supporters.

One of the newly-recognised citizens was Tina Ute Nopper, originally from Germany. She originally came to Hauraki in 1993, as an exchange student.

"I left - went back, finished school, went to university and I always wanted to come back," Tina said. "I'm very excited. Ever since I was an exchange student, that was my dream, so today is very special."

Tina's husband Carsten, also from Germany, was also made a citizen.

Their two sons were at the event to support them, along with Tina's original host family.



Tina, Carsten, and sons with Tina's host family.

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## ENTERTAINMENT



Con-Artists is on in Paeroa this month, featuring around 20 dancers. Photo: TOMEK FRIEDRICH

### 'Dynamic' dance takes to the stage

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

Paeroa Contemporary Dance is set to deliver a "high-energy" fundraising performance to help ensure the show goes on - both on-stage and behind the scenes.

The show, called *Con-Artists*, will feature around 20 dancers. One of them, Myana Johnson, said the June 14 performance would be "dynamic".

"It's been an incredible journey watching the dancers grow throughout the process, and the highlight would probably be watching all the different personalities and passions on the stage."

Myana said she's been attending Paeroa Contemporary Dance - whose artistic director is Helene Burgstaller - for 10 years. She said classes take place throughout the week, with around 30-40 children and adults taking part.

"If you love dance, and even supporting

young talent, totally join these classes, it's an awesome social hit," she said.

"We do all sorts - from making shows to filming dance videos... We have been working really hard for this show overall since February.

"We did a show last year around the same time and that was an absolute hit."

*Con-Artists* doubles as a fundraising evening, with money raised being put towards keeping classes running and the troupe's annual end of year show.

"The audience can definitely expect a high-energy, dynamic performance," Myana said. "I reckon it's going to be such a great night. There will also be an intermission where you can treat yourselves to some baked goods."

**DETAILS: Paeroa Contemporary Dance: Con-Artists, Paeroa Little Theatre, June 14, 6pm. Door sales, cash only \$10 adults, \$5 for children under 12.**



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# Rural Life

## Rise in outdoor burning complaints

Waikato Regional Council has received more complaints about burnings than usual for this time of year.

For the month to 25 May 2025, it received 36 outdoor burning complaints, up 50 per cent from the same period in 2024, when it received 24 outdoor burning complaints.

Incident response team leader Wayne Reed said people needed to be aware of the impacts of fires on their properties. "Communication is also key, so we encourage people to talk to their neighbours before they burn," he said.

"We have had a lengthy dry summer and now that the weather has changed, I can understand people will be wanting to have a bit of a clean-up."

Council said environmental regulations in this region allowed certain materials to be burnt, however, people needed to ensure the burning would not: cause adverse effects on human health or the health of flora and fauna; result in odour

that is objectionable that it causes an adverse effect over the property boundary; discharge particulate matter that is objectionable that it causes an adverse effect over the boundary; significantly impair visibility beyond the boundary; cause corrosion or accelerated deterioration to structures beyond the boundary.

Materials that could be burnt, so long as the above conditions were adhered to and the materials had been sourced from the property were: untreated wood and vegetative matter; paper and cardboard; food waste; non halogenated plastics; animal carcasses on production land.

To find out more about the effects of burning, and what the rules allow, visit: [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/air/outdoor-burning](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/air/outdoor-burning).

The council also monitors air quality at a number of sites throughout the region. The latest data can be found at [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/envirohub](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/envirohub).



The annual Kaihere School hunt will raise funds towards Project Active Turf. File Photo: SUPPLIED

## Kaihere Hunt to raise funds for turf

An event to raise funds towards a \$100,000 project at Kaihere School is set to kick off on June 6 to June 8.

The Kaihere Hunt will run for its third year with funds going towards Project Active Turf - a \$100,000 project to put artificial turf on the current school courts, which will become available for the whole community to use for sports such as tennis, hockey and athletics.

Organised by the Kaihere School PTA, The Kaihere Hunt has more than \$10,000 worth of prizes on offer this year.

People are invited to hunt pigs, deer, turkey, peacocks, magpies, rabbits, hare, stoats and ferrets - but the main focus is possums.

The PTA will organise the possums to be plucked and then the fur sold.

Hunting location is open and weigh-in is at midday on June 8 on the school fields.

Event co-ordinator Clare Ward said: "Thanks to the great support from local and other businesses plus community members, we have some awesome prizes up for grabs".

"The hunt is gathering momentum year by year with participation by hunters of all ages."

This year the focus is on possums, a major pest in the area, with four prize categories: most possums; second most; average number; lucky number.

Younger hunters are encouraged to be involved with 'mini hunters' prizes as well as spot prizes for the ugliest possum, the longest rat's tail, the silliest goose and the best dressed hunter.

Kaihere School children had their interest sparked when Maree Limpus from the Department of Conservation recently gave a talk about the importance of keeping the environment pest free - an important and serious message that goes with the fun and the competition of the hunt.

There are also categories in the 16 years and older group for average weight pigs, biggest tusks, and for heaviest deer and best head.

Mini-hunters, the under 16 year old group, can enter for average number of possums, most runners, most flight, most climbers and most overall pests.

**DETAILS:** For more information and to register an adult or mini-hunter, email [pta.kaihere@gmail.com](mailto:pta.kaihere@gmail.com).

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# Rural Life

## SOS call: Save Our Sheep, a sector in crisis

### OPINION

By **TOBY WILLIAMS**, Federated Farmers meat and wool chair

From the golden age of wool to lamb roasts at Sunday dinner, sheep farming has sat at the heart of our national identity for generations.

We used to proudly say New Zealand was built off the sheep's back but today our sheep farmers are sitting at a crossroads, unsure which way to turn.

Our sector is in crisis - and we can no longer face it alone.

Sheep are quickly becoming an endangered species in New Zealand. Their main predators? Pines, pigs, and poor government policy.

To paint a picture for you: I'm only 44, and in my lifetime alone we've already lost over two-thirds of our national flock.

That's not just a scary statistic-it's a warning sign that our policy settings are badly broken and that something is very wrong.

Since 2007, when the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) was first introduced, our national flock has shrunk by 40 per cent. We're now losing almost a million sheep every year.

If that trajectory continues, within the next two decades there'll be no sheep left in New Zealand. Is that really the future we want for our country?

As sheep numbers continue to decline, huge pressure is being put on the critical infrastructure that supports our red meat sector, like meatworks, shearers and stock trucks.

Without sufficient livestock, our



**Toby Williams says the sector is in crisis thanks to pines, pigs and poor government policy.** Photo: SUPPLIED

meat processors - already operating on tight margins - will struggle to justify the continued investment required to continue operating.

The economics simply don't work. Alliance's Smithfield meatworks in Timaru has already closed its doors, and that's not a one-off: it's a symptom of the times.

This is not the situation our farmers should be facing, but even with strong prices for red meat, farmers are still exiting the industry. Their confidence has evaporated.

When farmers aren't investing de-

spite good returns, it means they're looking at the broader policy picture and they don't like what they see.

So, what does a sheep farmer see when they look out their window?

Right now, it's nothing but pine trees, pests, and politicians breaking promises.

New Zealand's climate policy is creating huge uncertainty, and the endless push to plant pine trees risks forever changing the face of our rural communities.

Between 2017 and 2024 alone, 260,000 hectares of sheep and beef

land were converted to pine - not because forestry is a better use of that land, but because of our flawed ETS settings.

This is short-sighted, dangerous policy. We're sacrificing food production, rural jobs, and community resilience at the altar of carbon accounting.

Sheep farmers are not climate deniers. We've always been environmental stewards, understand the land better than most, and want to leave it in better shape for the next generation.

But regulation must be grounded in practical reality, not ideology. Blanket environmental rules that fail to consider the nuances of hill country farming are doing more harm than good.

The great irony in all of this is New Zealand sheep farmers are among the most efficient and sustainable producers of red meat in the world.

Our carbon footprint per kilogram of lamb is lower than virtually any other nation, and our wool is a renewable and biodegradable alternative to synthetic fibres and plastics.

So why are our sheep-farming families being punished, rather than rewarded, for the work we do behind our farm gate? The answer is simple: politics.

Unfortunately, the electoral math is not in our favour. Politicians will always chase the votes of big population centres like Auckland and Wellington over small rural communities.

There also seems to be an attitude in the halls of power that the farming vote can be taken for granted, but those who hold that view should tread carefully.

So, what's the solution? I think New Zealanders need to ask themselves a simple question: do we still value our sheep industry? Because if we do, we need to act - and fast.

It's time to start valuing food production and put an end to the broken climate policies that are turning productive farmland into pine plantations and pest havens.

Farmers are sounding the alarm. This is our SOS. Please save our sheep - before it's too late.

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# Future leader steps up for Youth Parliament

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

Seventeen-year-old Holly Timmins has been getting a first-hand taste of what it's like to be a politician.

The Hauraki Plains College student was selected to be Port Waikato MP Andrew Bayly's representative in the 2025 Youth Parliament.

The programme, which runs from April 28 to August 29, sees 143 youths from the age of 16-18 shadowing a member of parliament as they attend meetings, chat with constituents, and go about their regular duties.

They will also attend a two-day Youth Parliament event in Wellington - meeting their fellow youth MPs, attending think-tank sessions, and preparing presentations on a number of topics affecting New Zealand.

For Holly, the decision to apply was easy.

"I've always had an interest in politics," she said.

"I care deeply about my country and hope to encourage my generation to stay in New Zealand and contribute in a positive way."

The experience so far had been eye-opening, she said.

"I went to the Anzac Day services in Pokeno and Waiuku, and at the Waiuku service, I



Holly Timmins is embracing the opportunity to shadow MP Andrew Bayly as the Port Waikato electorate's Youth MP representative.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

read the Governor-General's speech," she said.

"I think not many get the opportunity to walk around with Andrew Bayly, and I'm actually really impressed with him. It's definitely been a lot of fun."

Holly said the most valuable part of the experience so far had not been learning about the political ideals of her mentor, but rather the way he deals with is-

sues in the job itself; things like personal safety, information-gathering, and remaining impartial when addressing constituents' concerns.

"He's giving me pointers as he does things... about reading people and seeing what they need and how they need to be spoken to," she said.

"The way he interacts with people and the way he talks

about his goals for the future, just keeping calm.

"Another big thing that he taught was how to say no, because obviously there are some people who have really bad struggles, but you can't always give them exactly what they need."

Meanwhile, Holly has also been attending online meetings with her peers. Her group

has been assigned the topic of gambling, a subject which Holly said she knows little about - but she's eager to learn.

"I don't actually know too much about gambling, which is fine because I'm quite interested to research and learn about it," she said.

"And then, in the school holidays, I go down to Parliament, and I get to present a speech, as well as [the] group study project."

Holly's real passion, however, is education. She said she hoped to one day be able to improve the education system and career opportunities for other young New Zealanders.

And while she intends to keep up with politics in the future, it's the internal workings of the system that interests her most.

"I definitely am going to keep doing politics in the future, even if it's just a hobby, just keeping up with it. Because it's hard being a politician in this country," Holly said.

"But I'm more interested in the inside stuff. It's about knowing what's actually going on. And if I read something online, I think, oh, is that true? Maybe I should do a bit more research.

"I'm interested in the truth."



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# Meet the LOCALS



*A big welcome to all new farmers and their families who have made the big shift to the Hauraki-Coromandel region for the new season! In this special Valley Profile feature, you will find information and messages of welcome from our district leaders and local businesses, as well as information about local attractions in the area. We hope your big move was a breeze, you're settling in well and you enjoy exploring the beautiful Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts!*

*- The Valley Profile team*



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# Meet the LOCALS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## A fantastic place to call home

It can be daunting to settle into a new place - new surroundings, unfamiliar faces and a different pace of life.

Even though the Hauraki-Coromandel is starting to cool down in temperature, the community stands out for its warmth, friendliness and how easily a sense of belonging takes hold.

New residents will quickly find that the community has a lot to offer both in comfort and accessibility.

Education is a key part of what makes the community thrive - not just for children, but for learners of all ages.

Families will find access to early childhood centres, primary and secondary schools known for their passionate teachers, strong academic programmes and active involvement in community life. You'll also find access to sports clubs and community programmes that encourage participation, connection and foster confidence such as art, fitness and music groups.

Market days, events and gatherings happen in lots of towns across the Hauraki-Coromandel as well.

A good way to see what is going on in the community is to ask a neighbour, read *The Valley Profile*, look at the notice board in the local supermarket or contact the nearest library.

The area has everything needed to support a comfortable lifestyle from local cafes and restaurants, to everyday essentials like supermarkets, healthcare services, vehicle maintenance places and more.

People don't need to look far for things to do out and about in nature with paths to the Hauraki Rail Trail for cycling or walking, paths and swimming spots in



The Karangahake Gorge is a good spot to have a splash, walk and cycle. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

the Karangahake Gorge or beach and surf spots at Waihi Beach.

But that's not all.

There are BMX tracks, skate areas and parks to enjoy in Paeroa, places to fish along the Thames Coast, mountain bike trails to traverse in the Kauaeranga Valley and even the mighty Pinnacles to hike.

Something that goes down a treat after a mountain bike ride or bush walk is another adventure to Hot Water Beach or sight seeing at Cathedral Cove.

No matter where people visit in the

Hauraki-Coromandel, there will always be something special to discover and a new memory made.

The Hauraki-Coromandel is a place where settling happens naturally and community is found.

It's not just about finding a new place to live, but becoming a part of a community that values people, supports one another and makes room for everyone.

For people starting fresh, this is the kind of place where the unfamiliar quickly begins to feel like home.

- By Davidda Hikatangata

## Our region has much to offer



By SCOTT SIMPSON, Coromandel MP

A warm welcome to everyone who calls our region their home, especially our newest locals who are settling into our communities.

This is a special place to live and it only takes a brief glance at the local papers to see that the Coromandel and Hauraki Plains are home to so many hard-working and enterprising individuals who are making their mark on the world. There's never a shortage of people being recognised for the contribution they're making in their field of expertise or doing their bit to make our communities stronger.

While the Coromandel has a well-earned reputation as an internationally renowned tourist destination, our region is so much more than a place where people flock to every summer to experience the classic Kiwi holiday.

We have a thriving primary sector, artisans making products which are demanded around the world, and a diverse array of small businesses who are contributing to the local economy.

As the local Member of Parliament, it's an immense privilege to represent our region and its people in Wellington. In terms of geographical size, it's one of the largest electorates in the country, stretching from the top of the Peninsula, down across the Hauraki Plains, and out to the Western Bay of Plenty. Getting the best outcomes for our region and its people is personal to me. My family have called the Coromandel Peninsula home for generations. I believe there's no better place to live, work, and play.

I'm always keen to hear from constituents. If you have any issue you wish to discuss or simply an opinion you want to share, don't hesitate to get touch by either calling 0800 550 330 or emailing [mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz).

## Nau mai haere mai Hauraki District



3 June 2025

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#### Land drainage

There are a few rules about urban and rural drainage that you need to know about, especially if you have our drains, stopbanks, floodgates or pumps on your property.

You'll find everything you need to know at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/bylaws](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/bylaws)

#### Water resilience on the Plains

To ensure you have water during peak demand periods, farms and rural properties should have 24 hours of on-site storage. HDC is able to supply the 24 hour demand, but not necessarily peak demand to the rural areas. Should there be an extended disruption of the HDC water supply, we can offer support with water tankers to assist in topping up your storage tanks.

Find out more at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/water/water-network](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/water/water-network)



#### Vote 2025

Be sure to vote in our local government elections this October. Learn more and update your address details at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/elections/enrol-to-vote](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/elections/enrol-to-vote)



#### Stock crossings

Find out more about the Hauraki Plains Roads, Stock Crossing Bylaws and permits at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/roads](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/roads)

#### Refuse Transfer Stations

There's no kerbside collection in our rural areas, but we do have a recycling and green waste centre in River Road, Ngātea. Recycling is free to drop off. Greenwaste fees apply.

You can also take your rubbish, garden waste, scrap metal and recycling to our refuse transfer stations in Paeroa and Waihi (Waihi RTS is closed until mid-June due to upgrades). We accept Eftpos, debit and credit cards. No cash facility.

Find out more at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rubbish-recycling)

#### Dog registrations due 31 July

On a rural property with more than three dogs? You'll pay the usual fee for the first three, then there's a discount for the rest. Puppies need to be registered when they are three months old.

Find out more about dog registrations and microchipping requirements at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/dogs-other-animals](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/dogs-other-animals)

# Meet the LOCALS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## District Mayors welcome new farmers to their districts



**Thames-Coromandel district Mayor Len Salt**

Nau mai, haere mai ki te rohe o Thames-Coromandel. Whether you're new to the district or have proudly called this place home for many years, we're truly pleased to welcome you.

The Thames-Coromandel District is renowned for its stunning natural landscapes, but it's the strength and warmth of our communities that truly make this region special.

There is much to celebrate right now. With the opening of the new Moanataiari Loop Track and the restoration of access to Cathedral Cove, it's an excellent time to explore some of the Coromandel's most iconic and beautiful locations.

We encourage you to get out, enjoy the fresh air, and discover what our district has to offer.

Throughout the year, our district hosts a range of events and festivals such as Beach Hop in Whangamatā and the Steampunk Festival in Thames that bring people together, celebrate local culture, and showcase the talents of the community.



Explore your new backyard in Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel, which includes the infamous Cathedral Cove beach.

File Photo

Our Council continues to invest in local facilities. Recent upgrades to parks, playgrounds, and public spaces, including the introduction of a new dog park, mean there are even more opportunities for whānau to enjoy time together and for giving your four-legged friends a good run around.

Life in Thames-Coromandel is about more than just breathtaking beaches and picturesque sunsets.

It's found in the friendly nods at the supermarket, children riding their bikes to school, and the comforting smell of fish and chips on a Friday

evening.

So, grab your jandals, keep an eye on the tides, and take full advantage of all that our stunning corner of Aotearoa has to offer. And if you ever need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out, locals are always happy to lend a helping hand.

If you have any questions or concerns about Council services or facilities, please contact us. Visit our website at [www.tcdc.govt.nz](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz), follow us on Facebook, or call 07 868 0200—we'd love to hear from you.

- Len Salt, Thames-Coromandel District Mayor



**Hauraki district Mayor Toby Adams**

Sometimes the grass is really greener on the other side of the fence! Nau mai, haere mai. Congratulations on 'mooving' to the Hauraki District.

Dairy farming has a long and proud tradition in the district so you're sure to feel at home in no time.

And if you do get days when pulling on the gumboots gets hard, also know that there is a wealth of support out there, so come and say hello at Council, we'd love to meet you, and be sure to connect with the Waikato Hauraki Rural Support Trust.

Two things worth knowing – it's local government elections in October this year, so be sure to update your enrolment address at [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz) and download our free Antenno app to get instant Council alerts for your area or property, direct to your phone.

It's the easiest way to report things that need our attention too.

There's a lot to love about this part

of the paddock so we hope you'll take advantage of our enviable lifestyle while you're with us.

Whether it's the stunning coastlines of Kaiaua and Whiritoa, or cycling and walking alongside the rugged Ohinemuri River in the Karangahake Gorge, you'll find fishing, biking and tramping options galore.

And being in the heart of the Golden Triangle, you're only a dog's whistle from the bright lights of Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau, Hamilton/Kirikiroa and Tauranga Moana if you need a bit of that, but there's plenty of unique cafes, restaurants and interesting shops on your doorstep too.

You may have already heard that we're a district that loves to punch above our weight – and getting stuck in is a great way to meet the locals.

Once you've settled the cows in, organised the shed, and unpacked all of those boxes, take some time to find out what's on in the district. Before you know it, there'll be a Hauraki shaped place in your heart!

Lastly, being prepared and having a plan can make all the difference in an emergency so I really encourage you to put that at the top of your to-do list.

Once you've sorted out your routine on the farm and familiarised yourself with the lay of the land come and say hello. Our friendly Councilors and staff are here to help. For more information on HDC services, visit [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz), follow us on Facebook or phone 07 862-8069 or 0800 734-834.

- Toby Adams, Hauraki District Mayor

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*For more information*

*Co-ordinator: Sally Christie*

*[sally@hfvin.co.nz](mailto:sally@hfvin.co.nz)*

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# Meet the LOCALS

ADVERTISING FEATURE



HG Leach & Co has built a rock-solid reputation in the quarrying industry. Photo: SUPPLIED

## A legacy: HG Leach & Co

Over the past seven decades, local business HG Leach & Co have built a rock-solid reputation in the quarrying industry and in the fabric of our local community.

From humble beginnings in 1952 as a drainage and dragline business, to a multi-generational, large quarrying operation in 2023; HG Leach & Co continues to build a legacy to be proud of.

As a leading supplier of aggregates, HG Leach & Co may be more a part of your everyday life than you first think.

From the sealing chip on our roads, to the metal on your favourite walking tracks and everything in between, HG Leach products are literally in the foundations of the Valley community.

“One of the things we’re most proud of is our ability to be a big part of the community.

“Not only as a supplier, but also as an employer and community sponsor”, Mark Baillie Chief Operating Officer says.

HG Leach & Co currently operate three

local quarries and produce a wide range of product including roading aggregate, drainage metal, base course aggregates, rip rap and farming aggregate for races and tracks.

When asked about the key to success Baillie says: “We’re lucky to have built a strong reputation for great product and reliable service”.

“Whether you are a local farmer needing base course for the races or a large corporate needing roading products for a major highway, you know we’ll bend over backwards to provide the service we promise you.

“I think it’s important to acknowledge the role our loyal customers and the community has played in our story to date.

“We’re privileged to be part of the Valley community and look forward to growing employment opportunities and continuing to provide great product for decades to come.”

- Supplied by H.G Leach & Co



Smith & Sons Hauraki owner Michael Woulfe and his son, Walter. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Smith & Sons has you covered

Michael and Haylee Woulfe are the owner-operators of Smith & Sons Hauraki.

If you are looking for a skilled tradesman who would love to see your project through from start to finish, then get in touch with Michael today.

We specialise in all aspects of home renovations from adding a storey to full kitchen and bathroom makeovers, plus decks, laundries, granny flats, and pools.

Our projects are tailored to your desires, ensuring every detail exceeds expectations.

We service the Hauraki district including the following areas: Thames, Ngatea, Paeroa, Tahuna, Coromandel, Kopu and Waihi. “We’re happy to come out and quote any job - no matter how big or small. I think

people get nervous about tiny jobs thinking it might be a waste of time, or that a bigger job might take a long time to craft a quote - but we’re very happy to do it.”

With a vision to offer customers the best service throughout their project process, Smith & Sons Hauraki wants the community to know that even if you can’t catch them in their 8am to 5pm operating hours - they will help make it work.

“Michael’s happy to come and do a quote on a Saturday or when people are heading home after work.”

**DETAILS:** To find out more or submit an enquiry, head to [www.smithandsons.co.nz](http://www.smithandsons.co.nz) or Ph 0800 764 846.

- Supplied by Smith & Sons Hauraki

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# Meet the LOCALS

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Family Relationship Services Trust supports Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki.

File Photo: PIXABAY

## Family wellbeing at the forefront

Welcome to Family Relationship Services Trust, your dedicated partner in fostering safe and respectful family environments in the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki regions.

We specialise in addressing and preventing family harm through education, intervention, and comprehensive support services.

We warmly welcome all our new and returning families and whanau to the district.

We know that this can be a stressful time, and we are here to help you when you need us.

By moving districts, we don't always leave our problems behind us. They tend to follow us and be amplified in times of stress.

Family Relationship Services Trust has been supporting this community since 1988, and we offer a bespoke service tailored to your needs. Whether it is counselling therapy, social worker support or both, we provide safe and confidential services.

We also work with local schools to provide education about making and keeping healthy relationships.

Most of our services are government funded and therefore free to you.

If you or someone you care about needs support, please contact us to discuss how we may be of assistance. Please have a look at our website: [www.frst.co.nz](http://www.frst.co.nz) for more information. We are here to help when you are ready.

**Disclaimer: We are not a crisis service. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, dial 111 and ask for the Police.**

- Supplied by Family Relationship Services Trust

## Travel made easy with helloworld

Based in the gateway to the Coromandel, helloworld Travel Thames is your local award winning travel agency.

Locally owned and operated, and servicing the community in the heart of Thames as an agency for more than 20 years.

We're passionate about what we do and we believe there is nothing like the power of local, working with you in your community. We will be right beside you before, during and after your journey to ensure everything goes smoothly, especially during these times where booking travel needs the guidance of an experienced agent.

We provide a complete experience.

From the thought to the reality, creation and holiday experience.

Whether it's the trip of a lifetime, a quick getaway, luxury escape, cruise or a coach tour, sports or event.

If it's travel related, you've come to the right place.

We have a great team: Kylee, Ashleigh, Jo, Jen and Doleena.

You will find us an enthusiastic team who all love travel and pride ourselves on our service to clients.

We work tirelessly to ensure that your holiday is a journey and not just another trip.

- Supplied by helloworld Travel Thames



helloworld Travel Thames team, left, Kylee, Ashleigh, Jo, Jen and Doleena.

## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

*We foster safe & respectful family environments, specialising in addressing & preventing family harm through education, intervention & support services*

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- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Elder Abuse
- Sibling Violence
- Violence towards Parents
- Dating Violence

### Counselling For:

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- Anxiety
- Depression
- Relationships
- Stress Management

We also offer a range of courses for challenges encountered in both educational & professional settings



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\*Terms & Conditions apply. Offers valid until 30 September 2025, unless sold out prior. Prices are per person (pp), NZD, twin share, includes port charges and inclusive of savings and Early Payment Discount where applicable. Prices and offers are correct as at 9 May 2025 but may fluctuate. Prices based on TXT10: 15 September 2026 and GTVIC8: 5 May 2026. Limited seats or suites and offers on set departures are available and are subject to availability. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 pp is due within seven days of booking. See in store for more information and full terms and conditions.

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## Meet the LOCALS



### Read bros, a Thames icon

For 158-years Thames' iconic hardware and industrial supplies store Read Bros, has provided businesses, farms and families with helpful service and a diverse product range over many generations.

"We've been part of Thames for so long that Read Bros is just part of the town, and we love being a part of this community" John Read says, who with his wife Nicola, owns and operates the business.

"Our service has always been a key part of our success and our ability to build relationships with our customers, and contributing to the success and growth of the district is important to us".

Read Bros was founded in 1867 by John's great-great grandfather to support the kauri timber industry, ironmongery, and the development of Thames township, and things have always kept moving forward. Developing the online store has

been an exciting addition to the business and is gaining great traction throughout the country, with customers being able to access the diverse stock inventory online at [readbros.co.nz](http://readbros.co.nz).

Read Bros is also now a part of the TradeZone Group, New Zealand's leading industrial supply specialists, joining the 33 other TradeZone stores around the country.

"We felt TradeZone was heading in the right direction, and providing for the customers and end-users that we want to work with," John says.

"Becoming part of TradeZone has enabled us to extend our range of industrial supplies, welcome new customers and provide nationally competitive pricing.

"Our three core customer sectors are industrial, trades and retail, and we can now offer more to everyone."

- Supplied by Read Bros



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# Meet the LOCALS



The team at Anexa is more than a vet clinic - 'we're your partner in farming success'. SUPPLIED

## Anexa supports local farmers

For more than 100 years, Anexa has supported farmers across the Waikato and Hauraki Plains with reliable, evidence-based veterinary care.

As a farmer-governed co-operative, we understand the demands of farming and the importance of having a vet team that works with you, not just for you.

Our members are at the heart of what we do - receiving trusted care for dairy herds, dry stock, and working dogs, alongside pets at home. We offer a full range of services, from routine treatment and preventative care to 24/7 emergency call-outs. At just \$11.60 per year, an Anexa Vet Club membership unlocks a range of benefits, including a two per cent discount for prompt payment of monthly statements.

More importantly, it connects you to a team of experienced vets, local technical service representatives (TSR), skilled clinic

staff, and an extensive network of animal health professionals.

We provide technician services support during busy seasons, free on-farm product delivery, an in-house lab staffed by expert microbiologists, and tailored on-farm training opportunities for both new and seasoned farm workers.

We focus on what matters to farmers - reducing disease, improving reproduction, and optimising performance.

Every recommendation is backed by the latest research and tailored to your farm's needs.

We're proud to invest in rural communities through animal health education, fair pricing, and support for local schools, sports clubs, and rural initiatives.

At Anexa, we're more than a vet clinic - we're your partner in farming success.

-Supplied by Anexa



## Kia ora and welcome families We're here to support you

Welcome to families who have recently come to live in Hauraki. CAPS Hauraki is here to support you to access the help you might need. Services we provide include:

- Support for adults who have experienced sexual harm, recently or in the past.
- Parenting tips and tricks for raising the next generation.
- Helping youth build confidence, access employment, training or education.
- Navigating systems, finding solutions with Social Work support.
- Regaining a sense of safety through child and adult safety programmes.
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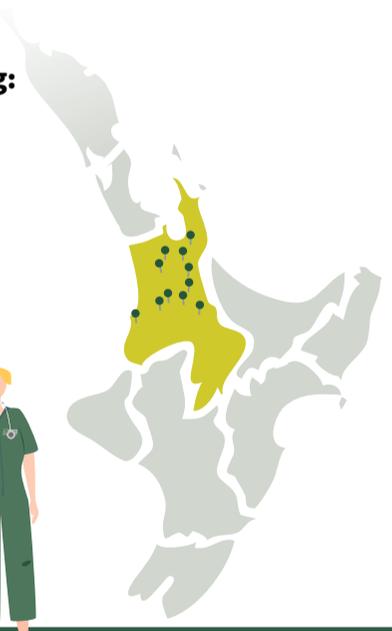
# JOIN ANEXA VET CLUB Created for farmers, by farmers.



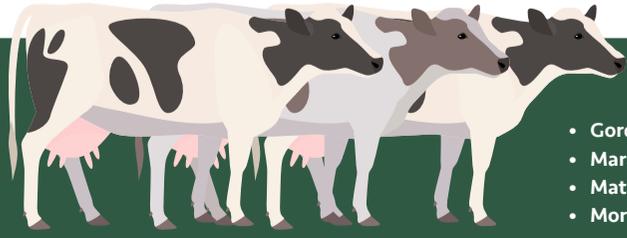
We're a team of veterinary professionals who are passionate about animal health and helping the communities we live, work, and play in. We're committed to evidence-based practices and always prioritise the health of your animals and the success of your farming business.

Founded by farmers in 1923, our Anexa Vet Club has a proud history in helping farms by offering:

- Vets who are specialised in herd health e.g., advanced mastitis advisers, healthy hoof advisers, body condition scoring, and in-calf advisers.
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- A team of technicians for efficient support on-farm in a range of animal-health jobs e.g., bolusing, teatsealing, disbudding, hoof trimming, and milk sampling.
- A local technical service representative (TSR) for products and arranging on-farm delivery.
- An in-house lab for fast and efficient test results.
- Tailored on-farm training workshops.
- Pet health and vet care with our companion offerings and retail services.
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# Meet the LOCALS

## Welcome to the district from FVS

Every year, the Hauraki region reminds us that successful farming requires a switched-on operator.

With the unlikely combination of heavy marine clay and rich peat beneath wet winters and hot, dry summers, the region throws a bit of everything at us.

From my time as a farm veterinarian in the Hauraki and Coromandel, I've learned that farmers here are resilient and innovative, always willing to try new things and put in the hours to get results.

At Franklin Vets, we admire your dedication to your land and animals. Our veterinary teams are equally passionate and dedicated, working with you to achieve the results you're chasing.

In short, you know how to farm, we know how to vet!

At Franklin Vets, our engaged team is committed to creating value for our clients.

We have a reputation for expertise in problem-solving and preventative veterinary medicine, building long-term, trusted relationships.

Our team offers the highest level of veterinary expertise and service to farming clients throughout the Plains and Coromandel Peninsula.

*Why choose Franklin Vets?*

We deliver veterinary care and production gains based on industry best practices.

Our dedicated farm vets bring you recommendations backed by the latest research and farming principles. Our services include: a full range of medical, surgical, and advisory services by a primary farm vet assigned to your business, accredited mastitis, InCalf, Healthy Hoof advisors, and nutritional consultants, proactive herd/flock health planning with financial breakdowns, data analy-



Greg Lindsay, Franklin Vets. Photo: SUPPLIED

sis tools (Infovet, WelFarm, DataLive) for smart on-farm decisions, quality products and medications at competitive prices, emergency after-hours vet service.

In the eastern region of Franklin Vets, encompassing Waitakaruru, Kopu, Paeroa, and Waihi clinics, we have 11 vets and six farm technicians delivering top-notch service.

If you want a veterinary team working hard for you, rain, hail, or shine, give us a call.

- Supplied by Greg Lindsay, Farm Vet and Regional Manager, Franklin Vets



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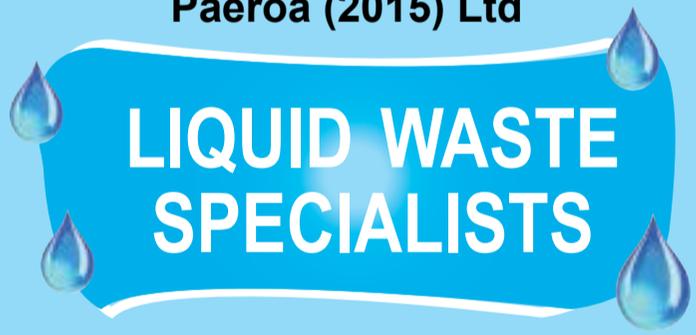
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# Coro events awarded funding boost

Several Thames-Coromandel events have received a total of \$16,500 from the government's Regional Events Promotion Fund.

The fund allocated \$6000 to the Whangamatā Half Marathon; \$5000 to Wings and Wheels and \$5500 to the 2026 New Zealand Women's Surfing Festival.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said the government was encouraging more New Zealanders to visit the region, with support from the Regional Events Promotion Fund helping boost regional tourism and promote local events.

"I'm thrilled to see the Whangamatā Half Marathon included in this round of funding support," Mr Simpson said.

"This event brings people to one of New Zealand's best-loved beach towns, supports local businesses, and puts Whangamatā on the map for domestic tourism outside the peak summer season."

The funding would help promote the Whangamatā Half Marathon, a growing event that draws participants and supporters from across the country, he said.

"The fund is aimed at regions that don't usually see high numbers of domestic tourists, especially during the quieter seasons," Mr Simpson said.

"Events like this are great drawcards. They bring life to our towns in the shoulder seasons and help keep local jobs and businesses going year-round."

"This National-led government is committed to backing regional growth and delivering practical support to communities like ours."

Across two rounds, the Regional Events Promotion Fund has supported 284 events across the country. A full list of successful applications is available on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment website: [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz).

# Tickled pink over fundraising success

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

Turua Hall was packed on May 24 as more than 100 people arrived for a pink ribbon brunch, with the event raising \$5000 for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation.

This is the second year breast cancer survivor Tina Moir and her daughter Tracey Traynor have held the event, and they were thrilled with its success.

"This cause is close to our hearts as my mum, my nana and great aunty have all had it," Tracey told *The Profile*.

"This was our second year hosting and our ticket sales doubled - we roughly had 110 women, men and kids attend."

Tracey had been the major driver behind the brunch events, Tina said.

"When I got cancer, it really hit her hard. She was one of my biggest supporters," Tina said.

"And she said, 'mum, we should have [a pink ribbon event] because they really need help to be able to do the stuff that they actually do, the foundation.'"

The brunch attendees were treated to a spread including cakes, slices, fruit and more.

There were also live auctions, raffles, and a spot prize for each person.

The raffles and auctions included items such as a quilt hand-made by Tina's sister, travel vouchers, and three loads of firewood provided by Tracey's dad, Smithy.

The pair said they were thankful for all their helpers and supporters, including the 50-plus sponsors who came on board to support the event.

"We couldn't have done it without [them] all. We already have people booking in for next year," Tracey said.

"It was an absolutely great day. I'm glad it's over though, it's been very tiring... but we're already planning the next one," Tina added.



TOP LEFT: Tina Moir, left, and Tracey Traynor with a sign featuring the many sponsors of the brunch.

LEFT: The pink ribbon event at Turua Hall featured a sumptuous brunch.

Photos: SUPPLIED

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# 'A stranger's sad end' at Paeroa's Puke Wharf



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

Around 11am on a Sunday in December, 1914, Frank Carlsen, a Norwegian barge hand, was in search of tobacco.

The 38-year-old had been employed for the past three weeks on the *Rotokohu*, one of the Northern Steamship Company's barge pulling steamers, now alongside Puke Wharf at Paeroa.

He asked two other barge hands, Sorensen and Rasmussen, if they had any tobacco and Rasmussen gave him some. Frank went away with a partially smoked cigarette in his mouth.

Rasmussen, working wharf-side, later borrowed a broom from Frank, going on to the steamer to get it.

Sorensen left the steamer for lunch about 12 o'clock, returning an hour later.

The cabin door was open and he guessed Frank was lying down - he was in the habit of sleeping on the barge in the river by himself.

Rasmussen returned the broom a little after 5pm, throwing it on to the barge, and at 5.30



**A steamer at Puke Wharf, Paeroa.** Sorensen left for home. The cabin door was still open.

The next morning at 8, when Mr Silcock, agent at Paeroa for the Northern Steamship Company, arrived at work, Captain McDonald of the *Rotokohu* told him Frank was missing. The cabin door was open.

Frank's washing was hung out to dry on the fence near the wharf. His best suit was missing, although all his hats were there. The police were called.

There was a 12-inch-wide plank from the wharf to the barge, which the *Rotokohu* lay on the outside of.

The length of the plank was only five or six feet, and went from one of the stringers of the wharf on to a stack of manure on the barge.

It was thought Frank had

slipped from the plank and drowned. Later that evening, after a search by Constable Miles and others over several hours, Frank's body was found near the Puke wharf.

Newspapers reported on 'A stranger's sad end'.

At the inquest Mr Silcock said Frank had been very steady and attentive to his work.

He was really off duty at the time of his accident, and the company took no responsibility.

Dr Smith said there was every evidence of death by drowning.

Sorensen, working about 60 yards from where the barge was lying, said it would have been quite possible for Frank to have fallen off the plank without Sorensen seeing him.

He heard no splash or anything to cause him to think there

had been any trouble. Frank appeared to be in good health and spirits when they spoke.

Both Sorensen and Rasmussen considered the plank safe for anyone to walk on. When Rasmussen returned the broom, the plank was in the same position as it had been at 11 o'clock that morning.

A verdict was returned of 'found drowned', with there not being sufficient evidence to show how Frank came into the river.

So far as was known, Frank was unmarried and had no relations in New Zealand.

He was known to Auckland police due to a drunken quarrel and failure to pay fines, but appeared to be on the verge of a new start in the Thames Valley.

Frank was buried at Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. Which current MP has been struck by lightning three times? a) Judith Collins, b) Maureen Pugh, or c) Nicola Willis?
2. The first American president to travel outside of the United States whilst in office was: a) George Washington to England 1796, b) Teddy Roosevelt to Panama in 1906, or c) John F. Kennedy to Germany in 1963?
3. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, who is the first character to find a golden ticket? a) Augustus Gloop, b) Charlie Bucket, or c) Veruca Salt?
4. The 1995 movie *Clueless* is loosely based on which Jane Austen novel? a) *Emma*, b) *Pride and Prejudice*, or c) *Sense and Sensibility*?
5. True or false: the QWERTY keyboard was invented by Gareth Qwert?
6. The start of the annual dairy season in New Zealand, when sharemilkers, contract milkers, employees, and their families move to new farms, is which day of the year?
7. Which of the following animals has one ear opening higher than the other to assist with height detection of its prey? a) Cheetah, b) barn owl, or c) rabbit?
8. Who was the first mayor of the Auckland Super City in 2010? a) John Banks, b) Len Brown, or c) Phil Goff?
9. How many corners are on a regular six-sided pair of dice?
10. Roughly how many grains of uncooked rice are there in one metric cup of long-grain rice? a) 800, b) 1800, or c) 8000?

**ANSWERS:** 1. b) Maureen Pugh; 2. b) Theodore Roosevelt to Panama in 1906 (to inspect progress on the Panama Canal); 3. a) Augustus Gloop; 4. a) *Emma*; 5. false. The QWERTY layout was devised and created in the early 1870s by Christopher Latham Sholes; 6. June 1st; 7. b) barn owl; 8. b) Len Brown; 9. 16; 10. c) 8000.



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# Clean up a no-brainer for caring students

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

Syringes, raw meat, clothing, and nappies were among 14 bags of rubbish collected in Karangahake Gorge by a group of environmentally-minded students recently.

At the beginning of May, staff and students at Karangahake School noticed a large amount of rubbish had been dumped alongside the swimming hole at Bott's Corner, in Karangahake Gorge.

"Rather than just drive past it like many do, we decided to take action," school principal Terry Watton said.

"It was a practical way to show care for our environment and take pride in our place."

Senior students Matt, Georgia, Cylis, Piper, Zaria, Charlotte and Jack, all aged between 11 and 13 years old, piled into the school van to set about clearing the mess. Armed with gloves, black rubbish sacks, and a very stern health and safety lecture, they spent an hour picking everything up.

It was disappointing, the students told *The Profile*, to find so much rubbish at the spot.

"There were mounds of it," they said.

"[We were] pretty disgusted at people just dropping their rubbish."

But despite the smell, they



The students with their haul of rubbish. INSET: The piles of rubbish included household goods, medical waste, and even raw meat.

Photos: SUPPLIED

were determined to get it sorted. Their efforts were further bolstered by a passer-by in a Higgins truck, who tooted in acknowledgement as they worked.

"A few other people gave us a toot, and then he turned back up, and he was just absolutely rapt that someone cared

enough to go and clean up," Terry said, adding that the man had also turned up to school the next day with some coolie bags and gear bags for the kids.

"One of the things I've said to [the students] was that you just go and do stuff like this - you don't expect anything in return," he said.

"So for the Higgins guy to come back and give us some stuff, and volunteer to come back and do some other work for us, it was good."

The rubbish bags were later picked up by one of the student's parents, Tony Howes, and taken to the transfer station.

The group of students all said they wouldn't hesitate to take action again in the future, but wanted to remind the public to have more respect for their community and environment.

"It's just gross."



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Kenny St, Waihi 2pm Kick Off	Boyd Park, Te Aroha 2pm Kick Off	<b>SENIOR C - Championship Round 2 - June 7th</b>	
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NB: The cinema will be closed Thurs 12 June to Wed 25 June. Final week for most of these films.

**Lilo & Stitch (108 mins)** PG. One for the kids. The wildly funny and touching story of a lonely Hawaiian girl and the fugitive alien who helps to mend her broken family. Four screenings Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 June.

**OCEAN with David Attenborough (97 mins)** PG. Through spectacular sequences of coral reefs, kelp forests and open ocean, David shares why a healthy ocean keeps the entire planet stable and flourishing. Stunning, immersive cinematography showcases the wonder of life under the seas and exposes the realities and challenges facing our ocean, yet the story is one of optimism: the ocean can recover gloriously.

**The Salt Path (115 mins)** M. Based on the best-selling book. 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. An honest and life-affirming true story of the healing power of the natural world.

**The Tavern (101 mins)** R16. Comedy. The Tavern is about five small town guys racing against time to save their beloved pub in rural Waikato from an evil Auckland property developer with sinister plans.

**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.

**Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning (169 mins)** M. A thrilling last chapter of the "M:I" series. Tom Cruise flies beyond all the stunts he's done before, leaving us in an exhilarated state of awe.

**The Phoenixian Scheme (101 mins)** M. Comedy. In a bid to secure his family's legacy, an international tycoon brings his nun-daughter into his most daring scheme yet in the latest film from legendary filmmaker Wes Anderson. Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hanks, Scarlett Johansson and others.

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Clinical Services Director, Dr Martin Mikaere.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Promoting wellness this winter

Winter has arrived here in Hauraki, and with it the seasonal illnesses that come with shorter days and cooler weather.

The Whānau Health Centre team at Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, led by Poukura Hauora Janine Thompson and Clinical Services Director Dr Martin Mikaere, have some important winter wellness messages to share.

"There are some steps that we can all take to look after each other during cold and flu season, remembering the basics of regular hand washing, wearing a mask if you have symptoms, and staying home if you are sick," Janine said.

Throughout the month of June, the team are focused on getting whānau immunised.

"Immunisation offers the best protection for our tamariki mokopuna against serious diseases like whooping cough and measles, which can result in hospitalisations and cause serious long-term health effects."

All immunisations on the National Immunisation Schedule are free for tamariki under 18 years old, and if you're not sure whether your child is up to date, you can check with your Well Child/Tamariki Ora nurse or your GP practice.

Flu vaccines are also available now in all of our Whānau Health Centres and are free for some groups, including hapū māmā

(pregnant people), whānau aged over 65, and whānau who have a long term medical condition like diabetes, asthma, or a heart condition.

"Our enrolled whānau can ring and book an appointment to come in and have their flu vaccine and, depending on the individual, they may be able to get their Covid booster at the same time."

And a reminder from Janine that if you or someone in your whānau is unwell, the free Healthline service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can call and speak to experienced nurses and paramedics who can offer health advice and information about what to do next.

"And if that advice for our whānau is to see your doctor, you can give us a call on our freephone number and we will plan the best care for you and your whānau to get well again."

**DETAILS: To contact Healthline, call: 0800 611 116. To contact Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki Whānau Health Centres, call: 0508 835 676. Our hours are 8.30am-5.00pm, Monday-Friday. If you call outside these hours, you will be automatically connected to our after hours service partner, Ka Ora Telecare.**

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Alternatively, follow us on our Facebook page to see when these are advertised.

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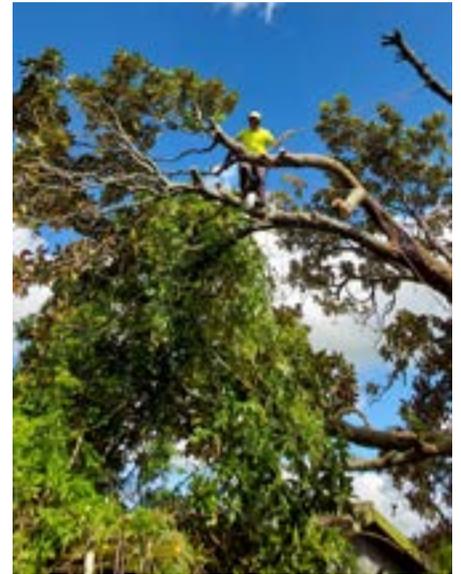
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# You don't know the half of it

## OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



The other day, I was in a meeting chatting about a new project and it needed a team around it. I offered to help get things started - get the ball rolling - but made it clear I'd need to step back once the team was set as I'm juggling a lot right now.

Most of the people in the room were at the retirement stage of life - more time to offer, decades of wisdom to share.

Someone chuckled and said, "We're all busy, Mike".

I smiled. Said nothing. But inside? I wanted to lay it all out.

I wanted to say, "Mate, I've got four kids. I'm up at 4:45am most mornings. I'm building an online course, trying to figure out how to publish a book, working full-time, and holding the rest of life together on not enough sleep.

We're lucky if we get two nights a week without something on."

But I didn't say it.

I kept quiet.

And later, I started thinking - how easy it is to assume.

How quick we are to judge someone else's 'busy', or pain, or priorities.

We hear one comment and think we know the story. But we don't.

Not really. Everyone's carrying something. Sometimes it's obvious.

Most of the time, it's tucked behind a polite smile, a quiet "I'm fine", or a nod that says, "Don't worry about me".

The next day, I came across a Proverb about how each heart knows its own bitterness - and its own joy.

It hit me.

We can't fully share in what someone else is carrying - but we can slow down.

We can hold off on the assumptions.

And we can choose to listen.

Next time someone says they're tired or can't commit, don't roll your eyes.

Don't assume they're lazy or unmotivated.

Ask.

Lean in.

Try to understand.

You might be surprised by the weight they're holding with one hand - while pouring your tea with the other.

*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.*

## In Brief

### RUAMAHUNGA SLIP

State Highway 25 was closed between Ruamahunga and Tapu on May 29 due to two slips that fell overnight. Large basketball sized rocks continued to fall on to the Thames Coast Rd in the early hours of the morning. Contractors for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi cleared the slips and the road reopened later that day.

### CORRECTION

A story in the May 6 edition of *The Valley Profile*, headlined "Water decision made", contained the statement "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." This statement was incomplete and should have clarified that the \$4361/\$4402 figures are the projected comparison costs by 2033/2034, not today's figures.

## CALL THE EXPERTS - Continued

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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Kyle McLaughlin, who found Pete

in the May 6th edition in the Central

Motors advert.

Go to page 2 for

details

on how to enter.



# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

## In Memoriam      Garage Sale      Public Notices

**GARRETT, Rodney George Edward:**  
Passed away 3 years ago 6th June 2022. Aged 60 years young. Loved husband, father, grandad, son, brother and uncle and a mate to many.  
*Always in our thoughts.*

### Church Notices

**Waihi Bible Chapel**  
Ph. Num 021 522 668  
Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James)  
You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn.  
Bible Study Wednesday nights 6pm

**Waihi Assembly of God Church**  
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10am Sundays  
Scout Hall,  
Baker St, Waihi

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### Painter

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**Thames Community Cancer Support Inc AGM**  
Wed 18th June, 2025: 11.30am  
Croquet Rooms Beach Road, Thames  
**All welcome**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CPNZ Paeroa Community Patrol**  
(formerly Night Owls Community Patrol)  
7.30pm, Wed 11th June 2025  
At CPNZ Offices 6 Rotokohu Road, Paeroa  
**All welcome** - Member voting only

### Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Motorsport Rally Tarmac Sprint event. The following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

**Period of closure:** Sunday 8 June 2025, 9.00am to 6.00pm.

**Roads to be closed:** Woodlands Road, Waihi (RP 7.470 - 9.252)

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.

D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

### Hauraki District Council Meetings - June 2025

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

**Western Plains Drainage District Committee**  
Thursday, 5 June 2025, 10.30am (Paeroa Office)

**Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee**  
Thursday, 5 June 2025, 1.00pm (Paeroa Office)

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 9 June 2025, 9.00am (if required)

**Audit and Risk Committee**  
Tuesday, 10 June 2025, 9.00am

**Community Partnerships Committee**  
Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 9.00am

**Planning Committee**  
Monday, 16 June 2025, 9.00am (if required)

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 23 June 2025, 9.00am (if required)

**Finance Committee**  
Monday, 23 June 2025, 10.00am

**Council**  
Wednesday, 25 June 2025, 9.00am

D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



**AGM Pipes and Drums of Thames Valley**  
to be held at Twentyman Hall Cnr Arney & Willoughby St. Paeroa  
on Tuesday 17th June at 7.00 pm

**Paeroa Amateur Athletic Club**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Sunday 8 June 2025 4pm  
Paeroa Domain Clubrooms  
**All welcome**  
Contact D Rawnsley 027 274 1853



Garry Kirkbride from Waihi built a new retaining wall in his garden with timber pile off-cuts. SUPPLIED

## From sawdust to second chances

Offcuts and leftover materials from the new library build at Waihi Beach are weaving their way into the community through a recycling effort that is giving them a second life in gardens, schools, farms and local projects.

Close to 170sqm of materials - mostly offcuts of timber, piles and plywood - have been utilised by individuals and community groups, including the Waihi Beach Menz Shed, Waihi Beach School and Habitat for Humanity. Much of the timber was recycled via an on-site 'kiosk' run by construction company Hawkins, from which people could collect materials for their home and community projects.

Garry Kirkbride, from Waihi, used cut-off timber piles to replace a garden retaining wall in his backyard. "It was a tyre retaining wall and, although it served its purpose, it was ugly - we are very happy with the result," he said. "It's a great initiative, offering scrap material free of charge to the locals."

Other materials that could not be reused, were recycled where possible through other means - polystyrene was returned to Expol, plasterboard went back to Winstone Wallboards, metal offcuts to a scrap metal dealer, and plastic was sent to saveBOARD, who upcycle packaging waste into new building products.

"In general, a site this size would generate up to 30 cubic metres of waste. So far we have redirected at least half of that," Hawkins site manager James Reynolds said.

"The aim was to do as much as we could for the community, while diverting as much waste away from landfill as possible. We also used as many local people and companies as reasonably possible."

Te Ara Mātauranga - Waihi Beach Library and Community Hub, is due to open at the beginning of July, replacing the existing library and service centre which was on the same site. "This approach turns construction into a community resource. When a building project gives back to the community in this way, everyone benefits," Western Bay of Plenty District Council's general manager Rachael Davie said. "It's a great example of sustainability in action - reducing waste while supporting the kind of connected, resourceful communities we all want to live in."

Items recycled and reused included: 33sqm rough-sawn timber; 57sqm piles' 40sqm plywood offcuts; 32sqm timber offcuts; 6sqm reinforcing bars; three cubic metres plastics (saveBOARD); and 20sqm polystyrene (Expol).  
**DETAILS: Keep up to date at: yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/te-ara-matauranga.**

## Fluoride set to be added

Waihi Beach and Athenree will soon have fluoride added to their water, as the Western Bay of Plenty District Council acts on a directive from the Director-General of Health.

Council said the directive, issued under the Health Act 1956, required it to begin fluoridating the water supplies at the Athenree and Wharawhara water treatment plants. The decision to require fluoridation was made by the Director-General of Health, not local councils, it said.

The affected areas include: Waihi Beach, Athenree, Tanners Point, Katikati, and the reticulated rural area through to Morton Rd, Aongatete.

"Fluoridation will begin at the Athenree Water Treatment Plant in June, once the newly installed equipment is tested and commissioned," council said. "The same process will take place at Wharawhara in July."

"Council is responsible for safely implementing the directive and ensuring fluoride is added within the Ministry of Health's recommended levels - between 0.7 and 1.0 parts per million. There is no expected disruption to the water supply during this process."

**DETAILS: More information about the directive and Council's role is available at: yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/flouridation**

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# SUDOKU

203

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

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EASY

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HARD

203

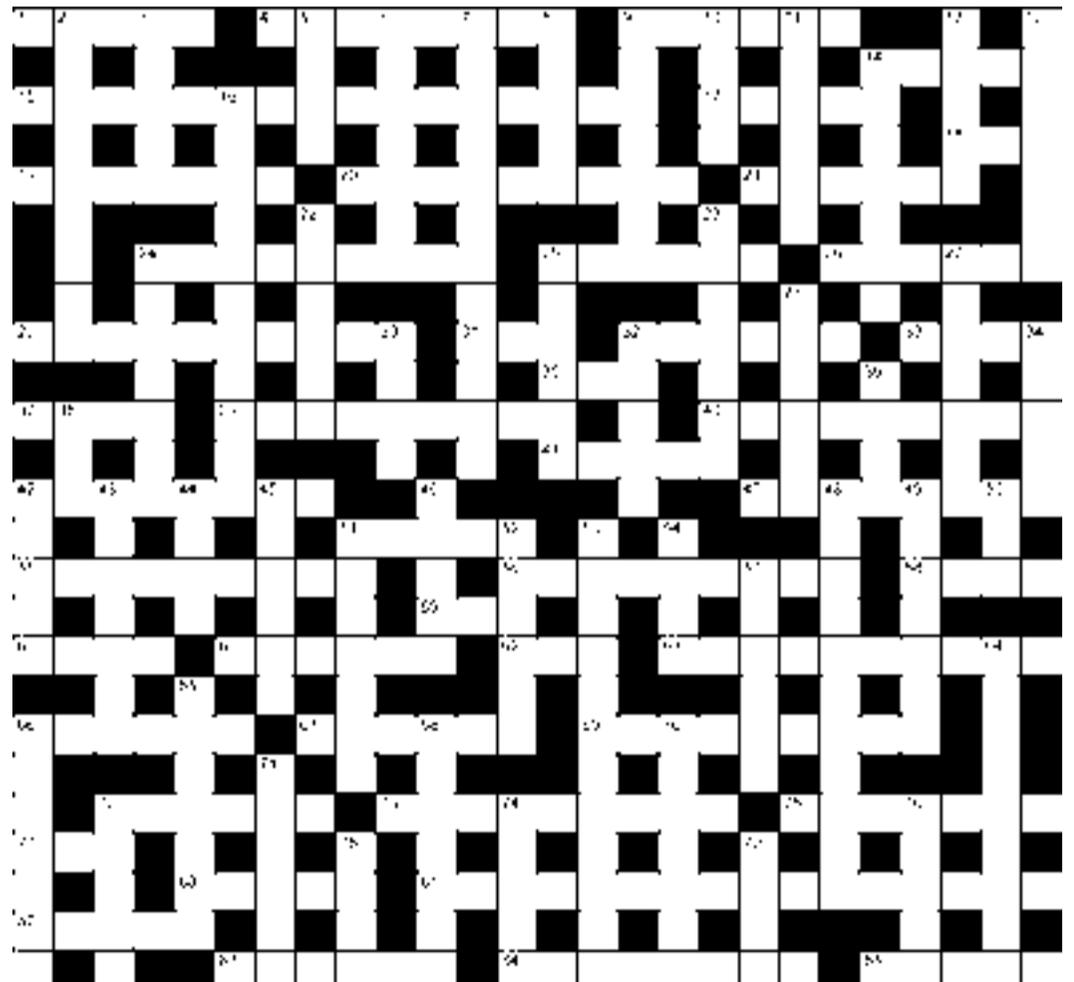
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company  
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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

223

- ACROSS**
- 1 Once more (5)
  - 4 Happy-go-lucky (8)
  - 9 Summary (6)
  - 14 Position (5)
  - 15 Rebuke for a wrongdoing (4,4,3,5)
  - 17 Light-headed (5)
  - 18 Enervate (3)
  - 19 Celebrate (7)
  - 20 Attributes (9)
  - 21 Tropical lizard (6)
  - 24 Zucchini (9)
  - 25 Rate (6)
  - 26 Summoned (6)
  - 29 Deceptive markings (10)
  - 31 Drag behind (3)
  - 32 Wooden hammer (6)
  - 33 Self-satisfied (4)
  - 35 Mature (3)
  - 37 Fixed look (4)
  - 39 Roman toys (anag) (9)
  - 40 End (9)
  - 41 Confiscate (5)
  - 42 Assailed (8)
  - 47 Nuclear reactor disaster (8)
  - 51 Superstars (5)
  - 55 Abundance (9)
  - 56 Accuracy (9)
  - 58 Alley (4)
  - 59 Twosome (3)
  - 60 Island off Italy (4)
  - 61 Ridicule (6)
  - 62 Buffoon (3)
  - 63 Resistance (10)
  - 66 Hypothesis (6)
  - 67 Rowboat (6)
  - 69 Zigzagged (9)
  - 72 Discipline (6)
  - 73 Of enormous strength (9)
  - 75 Learner (7)
  - 77 Laid up (3)
  - 80 Build (5)
  - 81 Be confident of success (5,4,7)
  - 82 Amend (5)
  - 83 Helix (6)
  - 84 Accounts checkers (8)
  - 85 Accommodate (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Central American country (9)
  - 3 Snow house (5)
  - 5 Area measure (4)
  - 6 Tire out (7)
  - 7 Memory (12)
  - 8 Spot on (5)
  - 9 Have (7)
  - 10 Nervous (4)
  - 11 Spectrum colour (6)
  - 12 Modeller's wood (5)
  - 13 Big cat (7)
  - 14 Evening wear (7)
  - 16 Container for hot or cold food (7,5)
  - 22 Horrified (6)
  - 23 Set apart (7)
  - 24 Infectious disease (7)
  - 25 Forever (6)
  - 27 Back problem (7)
  - 28 Academic award (6)
  - 30 School in England (4)
  - 32 Deserve (5)
  - 34 Inexperienced (5)
  - 36 Present (4)
  - 38 Pretend (3)
  - 42 Sufficient (5)
  - 43 Bother (7)
  - 44 Essence (4)
  - 45 Banished (6)
  - 46 Crowd (5)
  - 48 Lengthy jail sentence (4,7)
  - 49 Thinned (7)
  - 50 Triumph (3)
  - 51 Flavourless (7)
  - 52 Eerie (6)
  - 53 Working for oneself (4-8)
  - 54 Grain store (4)
  - 57 Hinder (6)
  - 64 Wrongdoers (9)
  - 65 Computer accessory (7)
  - 66 Representative (7)
  - 68 Delighted (7)
  - 70 Versus (7)
  - 71 Dormant (6)
  - 72 Dish (5)
  - 74 Snakelike dance (5)
  - 76 Australian wild dog (5)
  - 78 Agitate (4)
  - 79 Consumer (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Stamp, 4 Be on tenterhooks, 14 Tokyo, 15 Enemy, 16 Disgusting, 17 Audio, 19 Inn, 20 Tension, 21 Diversity, 22 Cannon, 25 Brokerage, 27 Praise, 28 Edited, 33 Passionate, 35 Tic, 36 Saline, 37 Scar, 39 Cot, 41 Mandate, 42 Potato, 43 Sorrowful, 44 Laces, 45 Esteemed, 50 Do, 51 Symbolic, 55 Slave, 58 Like a shot, 59 Spread, 60 Sketchy, 61 Get, 63 Noon, 64 Degree, 65 Run, 66 Eventually, 68 Refine, 69 Glossy, 71 Activated, 76 Campus, 77 Bumblebee, 79 Skylark, 81 Lei, 84 Spear, 85 Emigrating, 86 Unite, 87 Cheat, 88 Put one's foot down, 89 Shred.

DOWN: 2 Tender, 3 Mumps, 5 Evil, 6 Nagging, 7 Easier, 8 Trips, 9 Regatta, 10 Opal, 11 Kidnap, 12 Skein, 13 Wounded, 14 Tornado, 18 Rock-bottom, 23 Trial, 24 Useless, 26 Residue, 27 Piccolo, 29 Tactful, 30 Calais, 31 Strap, 32 Energy, 34 Eros, 36 Stuck, 38 Relic, 40 Tomb, 45 Ellen, 46 Take off, 47 Exam, 48 Echoed, 49 Gauge, 50 Destroy, 52 Make tracks, 53 Outrage, 54 Inhale, 55 Startle, 56 Frond, 57 Gave, 62 Eerie, 67 Endmost, 68 Replica, 70 Squeeze, 72 Created, 73 Bureau, 74 Weirdo, 75 Writhe, 76 Cider, 78 Brief, 80 Lunch, 82 Trio, 83 Knew.



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bayleys.co.nz/2630082

52.48<sub>ha</sub>

**Tender (unless sold prior)**  
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**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83  
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622

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bayleys.co.nz/2316097



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

**Asking Price** \$1,049,000  
**View** 3-3.30pm Sun 8 Jun & 10-10.30am Sun 15 Jun  
**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83  
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

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**Mangatarata 430 North Road**

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Essential infrastructure includes a two-bay shed, a traditional wool shed, and a larger four-bay half-round barn. In-zone for popular Hauraki Plains College is a big advantage. This property offers a rare blend of practicality, potential, and natural beauty.

bayleys.co.nz/2630076

59.0231<sub>ha</sub>

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 19 Jun 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**Phone for viewing times**

**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Sam Aislabie** 027 429 5410

sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only

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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.

bayleys.co.nz/2180801

339<sub>sqm</sub> 440<sub>sqm</sub>

**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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# Fundraising to keep 'hope in the hallways' alive

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

The Living Well Trust in Thames needs to find a final \$10,000 to ensure the longevity of its wellbeing programmes, after facing a “significantly tough” year.

Michael Wilkes, a youth worker with the trust, runs mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa, and said it costs around \$200,000 a year to keep the initiative going.

It is currently \$10,000 short of being sustainable.

However, Michael told *The Profile* it was not a “do or die situation”.

“It will mean that we have to draw from our limited reserves which, if the situation continues, will lead us towards closing our doors in the long-term, but not the immediate future,” he said.

“This year has been significantly tougher. About six months ago, we were looking at a \$50-60k shortfall and much of my time has gone into fundraising - along with our amazing treasurer who enjoys remaining in the background.

“So, I am really proud to be



Michael Wilkes, of the Living Well Trust in Thames. File Photo

seeing such a [small] gap to close.”

The Living Well Trust falls under the banner of Thames Baptist Community Ministries and does not receive government funding.

It has started a Givealittle online fundraising page, which has so far raised more than \$1600 of its goal.

Michael said the money the trust raised would help cover the shortfall in youth worker salaries, programme resources, and the behind-the-scenes costs that keep facilitators “turning up for young people when they need us most”.

**“Our goal remains the same, to see young people thriving, to see a place where our young people feel heard, valued, and look to their future with hope.”**

- Michael Wilkes



The Living Well Trust needs to find \$10,000 to ensure the longevity of its wellbeing programmes. Photo: SUPPLIED

“Our goal remains the same, to see young people thriving, to see a place where our young people feel heard, valued, and look to their future with hope.

“We are currently piloting an additional programme with young leaders with the support

of local school principals, so we are excited to see how that goes,” he said.

“The students are loving it at present.”

The programmes Michael offers teach tools to help navigate anxiety, build resilience, grow

confidence, and “remind kids they are not alone”.

**DETAILS: To support the cause, visit [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz) and search ‘Hope in the Hallways’.**



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