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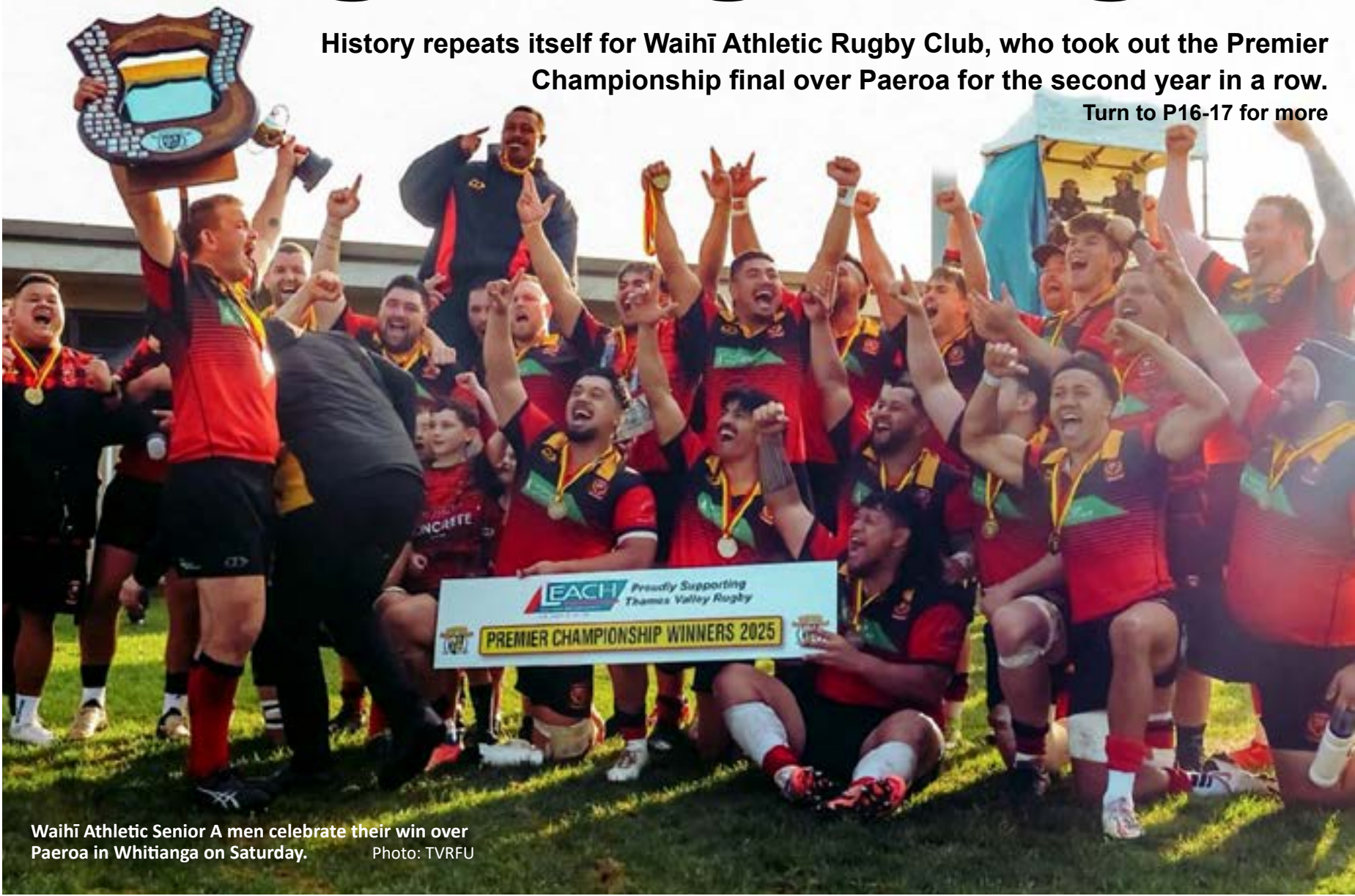
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BACK TO BACK

History repeats itself for Waihi Athletic Rugby Club, who took out the Premier Championship final over Paeroa for the second year in a row.
Turn to P16-17 for more



Waihi Athletic Senior A men celebrate their win over Paeroa in Whitianga on Saturday. Photo: TVRFU

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Venomous sea snake sighted

Reports of a venomous visitor to a Coromandel beach had the Department of Conservation (DOC) warning the public to keep their distance last week.

DOC said it received reports of a yellow-bellied sea snake washing up on Whangamatā beach on July 10.

In a social media post, the agency warned beach-goers not to approach or handle the brightly-coloured creature, and to keep children and dogs clear as well.

“Although they are generally docile, these snakes are highly venomous, so it’s important not to approach or handle them,” the post said.

“[They] will not bite if left alone and given space. If that were to happen, seek medical attention.”

Yellow-bellied sea snakes are naturally found in tropical waters and occasionally arrive in New Zealand carried by ocean currents, DOC said.

While DOC rangers were unable to locate the snake, the agency’s senior science advisor Dr Karen Middlemiss said it was unlikely to have survived.

“The snake was likely washed to our shores in recent stormy weather and this is not unexpected,” she told *The Profile*.

“Given it’s winter, and the cool water temperature, the Whangamatā animal will likely have been hypothermic and will not have survived long.”

DOC said the snakes were a protected species under the Wildlife Act, and it was an offence to harass, harm, kill or keep any part of them.

“Penalties can include up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to \$100,000,” the social media post said.

“If you see one... call the DOC hotline on 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) to report it immediately.

“Please send in photos and GPS coordinates.”



A file photo of a yellow-bellied sea snake.
Photo: LUIS CORREA/DOC

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NEWS/EDITORIAL: Managing Editor/Owner Teresa Ramsey, Ph 0204 0944 853, editor@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau, Ph 022 619 4889, kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz.
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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 16	Thu Jul 17	Fri Jul 18	Sat Jul 19	Sun Jul 20	Mon Jul 21	Tue Jul 22
 <div><div>Morning</div><div>4:47am 0.5 4:58pm 0.6</div><div>10:57am 3.3 11:25pm 3.5</div><div> 7:28am 5:20pm</div><div> Best At 4:16am 4:39pm</div><div> Set 10:30am Rise 11:00pm</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>5:34am 0.5 5:47pm 0.6</div><div>11:43am 3.3</div><div> 7:28am 5:21pm</div><div> Best At 5:02am 5:26pm</div><div> Set 10:55am</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>12:13am 3.4 12:33pm 3.3</div><div>6:22am 0.5 6:41pm 0.7</div><div> 7:27am 5:22pm</div><div> Best At 5:50am 6:15pm</div><div> Last Quarter Rise 12:09am Set 11:23am</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>1:04am 3.4 1:29pm 3.2</div><div>7:14am 0.6 7:41pm 0.8</div><div> 7:27am 5:22pm</div><div> Best At 6:41am 7:08pm</div><div> Rise 1:21am Set 11:54am</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>1:59am 3.3 2:30pm 3.2</div><div>8:11am 0.6 8:46pm 0.8</div><div> 7:26am 5:23pm</div><div> Best At 7:36am 8:05pm</div><div> Rise 2:35am Set 12:31pm</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>2:57am 3.3 3:37pm 3.2</div><div>9:13am 0.6 9:52pm 0.8</div><div> 7:25am 5:24pm</div><div> Best At 8:35am 9:06pm</div><div> Rise 3:50am Set 1:16pm</div></div>	 <div><div>Morning</div><div>3:59am 3.2 4:44pm 3.3</div><div>10:18am 0.6 10:55pm 0.8</div><div> 7:25am 5:24pm</div><div> Best At 9:38am 10:10pm</div><div> Rise 5:03am Set 2:12pm</div></div>

MOON AND FISH KEYS

 New Moon

 First Quarter

 Full Moon

 Last Quarter

 Good Fishing

 Fair Fishing

 Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Profile writing and youth work spark first book

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

Michael Wilkes is on day one of recording his audiobook for the soon-to-be-released *The Unschooled Life*. “Don’t mind my voice,” he says. “I’ve been talking all day, and it’s way more exhausting than I thought. I like talking, but this is different.”

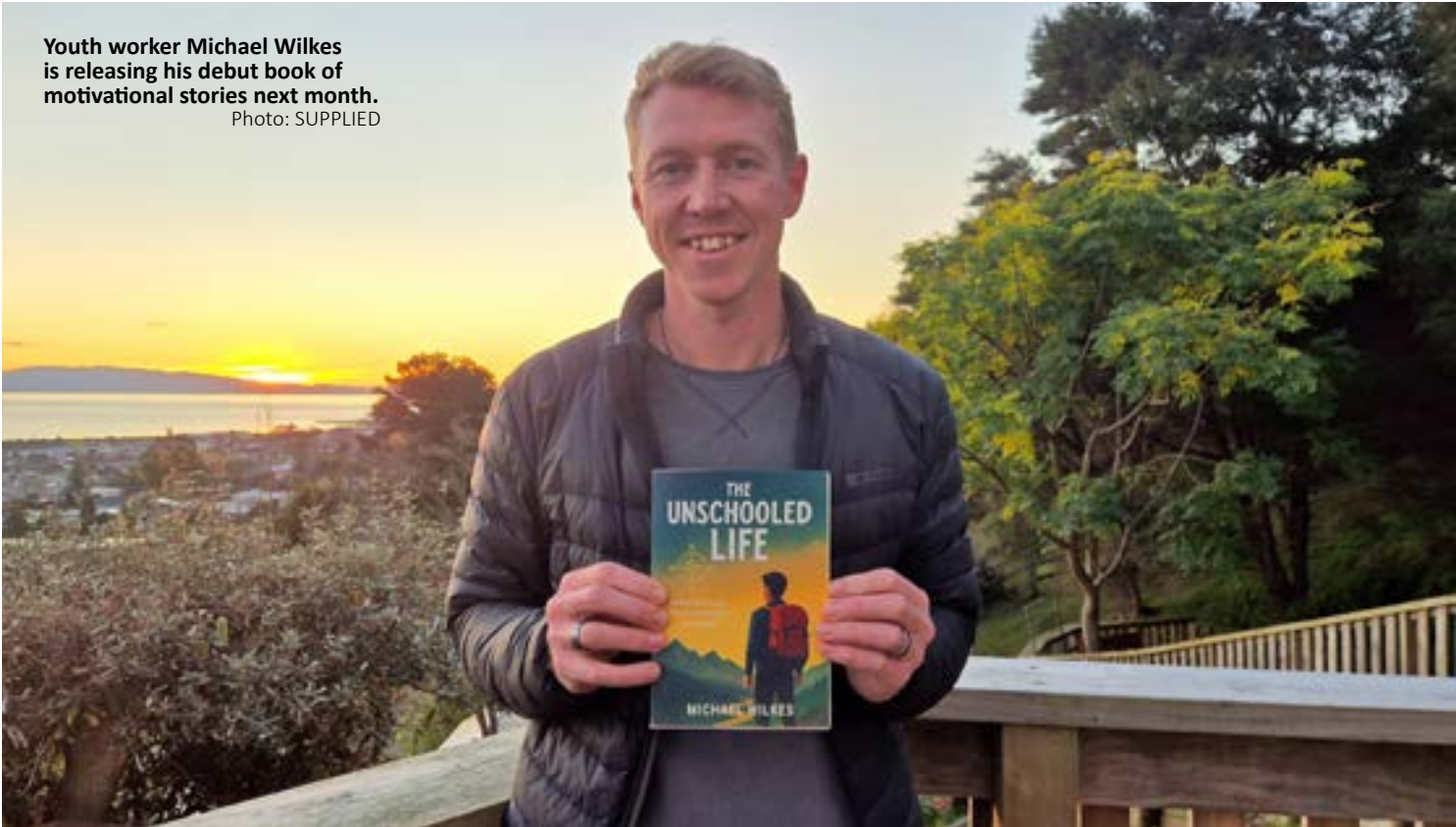
The Unschooled Life is Michael’s debut book, published in both hard-copy and audio formats, and is described by the author as a “field guide drawn from a decade of front-line youth work”.

In the Thames and Paeroa areas, the father-of-four is known for running his mentoring and resilience programmes, as well as for his weekly column in *The Valley Profile*, and it was these transcripts that inspired him to turn his teachings into something tangible.

Taking all of his excerpts, accounts, and life lessons, he weaved them together to form what is now his finished product - set to be released on August 1. “Doing the self-publishing journey, it’s quite a big, daunting thing,” he says, “even though I could just launch it into the nether - but then that’s where it would stay.”

Tossing *The Unschooled Life* into the great unknown isn’t

Youth worker Michael Wilkes is releasing his debut book of motivational stories next month.
Photo: SUPPLIED



an option for Michael.

He wants the book to reach - and help - as many people as possible, and in doing so, it could raise funds for the youth work he’s so passionate about.

“It is a journey where I’m hoping to continue doing this sort of stuff, plus some online courses,” he says, “and the goal is to fund the youth work and

actually, hopefully, fund another ministry idea that’s been really percolating in me over the last eight months.”

Michael has also launched an online fundraising campaign at [kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com) which has so far raised \$1994 of his initial \$2300 goal.

The money raised, he says, will help produce the audio-

book version, as well as launch a marketing push “to reach the people who need this most”.

“Humbled would be the word,” he says of the support he’s received so far.

“I read the feedback and I just find myself weeping.”

Michael says the book is him wearing his heart on his sleeve, and contains passages reflect-

ing on his childhood through to adulthood.

He plans to host a book launch in Thames on August 1, but for those wanting to get in touch or to read the first chapter, more details can be found at his website: michaelwilkes.kiwi.



Hauraki Plains ADAPTATION PLAN



Hauraki District Council, Waikato Regional Council and your Community Panel have been busy behind the scenes of the Hauraki Plains Adaptation Planning project.

We’ve reached a major project milestone with the preparation of the flood hazard modelling results, and we’re keen to share them with you. Just as importantly, we want to hear what flooding you experienced on your property or farm in the 2017 and 2023 storms to help validate the modelling.

Come along to our open days!

Come see us at our public events this July to chat to the team and find out more.

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Sunday 20 July
9am-1pm
Tūrua Hall
- Ngātea drop-in session**
Wednesday 23 July
2-4pm and 5-7pm
Ngātea Rugby and Sports Club
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Whānau fun

People from all walks of life showed out in droves for Whānau Day Out at the Waihi Memorial Hall on July 2. The event, run by Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki in collaboration with Hauraki District Council, focussed on connection, wellbeing and fun for every whānau. The hall was filled with adults, tamariki and stalls from local health providers, social services and community groups. There were spot prizes and activities for tamariki to enjoy, a free sausage sizzle and plenty of opportunities to connect with people from the community. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** snapped some of the wholesome activities.



Happy punters Zayla, left, Talon, Nikaia and Kahukura.



Kody-Rei, 9, Ngakau, 6, and Cassius, 7, enjoy Whānau Day Out.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Cousins Nehemiah, left, Hadassah and Rebecca.



Milan, 15, and Leah, 14, and Tumanako, 11.



Te Omeiha, 7, loves her face paint.

2025

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PAEROA COLLEGE

Passionate harpist joins prestigious syllabus

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A lot of boxes must be ticked before someone's compositions can be included in the Trinity College London harp exam syllabus.

It requires the right key, time signature and use of technical, theoretical and musical skills appropriate to each grade level.

It also needs to be the right length, with clear and correct notation and must be easily available.

It's part of what makes Anna Dunwoodie's recent news so monumental.

The Thames harpist found out a few weeks ago that not one or two but eight of her compositions featured in the 2025 Trinity College London harp exam syllabus and told *The Profile* it was "a bit of a surprise".

"I didn't even know they were putting a new syllabus out.

"This is a really exciting prospect – to have music written by a Kiwi listed in the syllabus of a very British institution."

The internationally recognised awarding organisation, established in 1872, specialises in the assessment of communicative and performance skills in music, drama, combined arts and English language.

Anna isn't a lone kiwi in this experience.

She was joined in the new syllabus by fellow Kiwi friend and principal harpist for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Carolyn Mills.

But it was clear that Anna's enthusiasm wasn't just for herself.



Thames harpist Anna Dunwoodie alongside her recently acquired harp, which has been lovingly restored and nearing its 200th birthday.
Photo: SUPPLIED

"Hopefully it'll just raise the awareness of the harp scene in New Zealand because we're so far away from the rest of the world."

Even though Anna reached out to the Trinity College chief harp examiner in 2020 to share her music, Anna said it wasn't until harp professor of Berkeley College of Music Felice Pomeranz, put Anna's sight reading books in front of the chief harp examiner and got her attention about "that harpist"

from the other side of the world, Anna said.

"There is so much amazing and creative noise happening in the UK, Europe and the Americas, that it's hard to break into the market, and as often happens, thanks to someone from 'over there' that opens doors for those of us on the fringes," she said.

Anna said it was hard to get international harpists to come to New Zealand

"I'm sure you could relate this to pretty much anything. But, you know, when we sell New Zealand really, really well to them over there [internationally], they all want to come."

It was evident Anna's intent to pull the New Zealand harp scene closer to the rest of the world was a big priority.

"I make a big effort to stay connected – I bring international harpists to tour New Zealand, I

regularly buy digital music from my favourite harp composers despite the fact that I write enough music to keep my students busy for a lifetime."

But being this far removed from the main harp communities was something Anna said "I feel we will always have to push to be noticed".

The passionate harpist said despite being artistic director for Harp Fest NZ, a hugely successful event in 2023, with plans in the works for a 2026 event, and having taught at main harp festivals and events around the world, upholding a constant presence at online workshops and conferences and providing copy for international harp journals and magazines - "there are so many other harpists, teachers, composers who are right there on the ground".

"We are at a disadvantage due to distance," she said.

But when international harpists do come to New Zealand - "it enriches the local harp scene", she said.

"What other student harpists come to realize is that they're just normal everyday people who have a passion for the harp.

"And they've worked really hard to develop that. And they have to practice, too. And they have bad days and good days and bits of music that they like and don't like," she said.

"When they start connecting to these people, they realize how much they're just other humans, too, and have the same wants and needs and ouches and successes and all that sort of stuff."

St John Thames

Health Shuttle service.

With the rising cost of fuel and the pressure on other household expenses, it makes sense for people to utilise the Health Shuttle service to go to their medical appointments. There is no charge for this; simply contribute a donation or koha as you can. Getting to your appointments is a priority for good health outcomes and the service is supported by our community for the benefit of our community.

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Thames High changemaker wins award

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Brooklyn Jiang’s motivation to take initiative came from something he learned this year: “nothing will happen unless you do something about it”.

The Thames High School service and environment student leader for 2025 told *The Profile* he saw a lot of young people at his school who showed initiative in what they loved to do and was “inspired by them”.

The 16-year-old’s ambitions were to receive an excellence endorsement in most of his courses and in NCEA Level 2, to be head boy next year and study engineering at Auckland University when he finished school, he said.

“I want to develop either sustainable modes of transport or work at Rocket Lab.”

But in the meantime, the year-12 student’s role as service leader was something he actioned as a student volunteer ambassador, where he promoted and encouraged his peers to volunteer in the community.

Brooklyn currently has more than 450 hours of volunteering up his sleeve.

“I’m also an observer on the Seagull Centre Trust, and I observe their monthly meetings



THS student Brooklyn Jiang and his family celebrate his Rangatahi Voices Award.

Photo: SUPPLIED

and give valuable feedback to them.”

His work with the trust is something that led him to snap up an award for Community Contribution at the Waikato Youth Awards, hosted by a

youth-led initiative called Rangatahi Voices on May 24 at the Waikato Regional Council.

The awards recognise and celebrate young creatives, leaders and changemakers from across the Waikato region.

Brooklyn said it was really hard to put into words what he felt but “I still can’t believe it”.

“It was because of my role as a student volunteer ambassador and that I built a relationship between my school and

the Seagull Centre with their Natural Organic Waste Solutions, or NOW for short.

“This is a trial to convert food waste into protein-filled animal feed by farming black soldier fly larvae in a safe, hygienic manner.”

Brooklyn said on the same day they had a school meeting on ways to minimise food waste from school, he went to the Seagull Centre Trust meeting and they discussed the project and their need for sources of food waste.

He said it was a productive day because “I put the puzzle pieces together”.

The young leader said he was persistent and liked to be busy, so after he received his Rangatahi Voices Award, he was motivated to start up Green Leaders - a small group of students who aim to make their school more sustainable.

“We brainstorm and propose ideas to lower our carbon footprint. The big one was to install solar panels on our school roof.”

Brooklyn said the group submitted their ideas in an application for the Zayed Sustainability Prize, which is up to USD\$150,000, and will be announced in October.

“My goal in this role is to make our school and our local community a little greener.”

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FOOTBALL

Thames Women storm to summit after 3-1 Triumph in Taupō
Thames Football Club Women braved the wet conditions for their longest away trip of the season, heading to Taupō in search of another key result in their title charge.

Their only defeat of the campaign had come at the hands of Taupō, who previously edged a 5-4 thriller in the reverse fixture at Rhodes Park. This was a chance to settle the score and move to the top of the league with a win.

It was a somewhat messy opening period as Thames struggled to find their rhythm, with Taupō dominating possession, setting an impressive early tempo and taking the early lead following a defensive mix-up.

At the 30-minute mark, Thames responded aggressively. Ceyda Nemburt capped off an impressive team move by confidently slotting the ball home, thanks to a perfectly placed assist from Meg-an Jamieson.

Nemburt remained a constant threat, coming close to scoring again just minutes later as Thames continued to apply pressure.

Samantha Chamberlain then linked up effectively with Jessica Rendall, whose shot was expertly saved by Makayla Thorley in the Taupō goal.

Chamberlain kept troubling the hosts' defense, almost putting Thames ahead with a brilliant solo run and strike.

With Thames turning the screw, a dangerous Taupō free kick was expertly cleared by Emma Hinds-Senior, who charged down the pitch to counter-attack. The cap-



Thames Football Club's Samantha Chamberlain clears the danger.

Photos: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

tain carried the ball confidently and unleashed a powerful shot that was brilliantly saved again by Thorley.

That attack marked the final action of the half, with the game finely poised at 1-1.

Thames came out with renewed purpose after the break, knowing they had to be more clinical.

A corner combination involving Jamieson eventually found Brooke Douglas on the edge of the box, whose effort was turned in by Hinds-Senior to put Thames ahead 2-1 - the perfect start to the second half. Jamieson contin-

ued to be a key provider, delivering another well-weighted ball to Douglas, who forced another save from the tireless Thorley.

With Taupō looking dangerous on the break, Taimania Hinds stepped up, anchoring the Thames backline and calmly repelling wave after wave of counter-attacks.

Then came a moment of real quality: a free kick from Douglas deep in her own half found Jess Rendall, who flicked it on to Chamberlain. Chamberlain swiveled and rifled a shot into the net to make it 3-1, giving Thames crucial breathing room.

Thames ended the game with a flurry of chances, refusing to relent. Chamberlain nearly added a fourth after Tanuja Edvalson threaded a clever ball into the box, but her effort drifted just wide. Douglas came close again with a thunderous free kick that rattled the crossbar before Nemburt was denied from close range.

Thames managed the closing stages with composure, determined not to let Taupō back into the contest, with the referee calling an end to a brilliant second-half display.

It was a long but reward-



Emma Hinds-Senior bursts forward.



Ceyda Nemburt with the equaliser.



Jessica Rendall and Samantha Chamberlain celebrate.

ing trip for Thames FC Women, who claimed all three points and climbed to the top of the table.

They now sit one point ahead of both Melville Epics and Northern United - the latter were held to a 2-2 draw by Cambridge Rubies earlier in the afternoon.

"I thought the team were brilliant today, Taupō came out strong in the first half but we were able to react," manager Xavier Brown said. "The aim now is to keep up this momentum and hold that number one spot for the rest of the season."

- Jonathan Coles

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Materialists (109 mins) M. Comedy. A young, ambitious New York City matchmaker finds herself torn between the perfect match and her imperfect ex. Starring Dakota Johnson, Chris Evans, Pedro Pascal etc.

Roger Waters This is Not a Drill: Live from Prague (143 mins) Live show from a founding member and creative force behind Pink Floyd. Captures performances from some of the most influential albums of all time – The Dark Side Of The Moon, Wish You Were Here, Animals and The Wall. Two screenings only.

The House Within (71 mins) Documentary film paints an intimate portrait of the fascinating and often tumultuous life of internationally celebrated New Zealand writer Dame Fiona Kidman.

Superman (129 mins) M. The original superhero driven by compassion and an inherent belief in the goodness of humankind. A singular blend of epic action, humour and heart.

Bank Of Dave 2 (104 mins) M. Dave takes on the dangerous and formidable payday loan companies. He recruits Jessica and Oliver to his cause. Together they embark on a journey to bring down the entire industry.

Kōkā (100 mins) M. Māori elder Hamo and local delinquent Jo form an unlikely bond on a road trip.

F1: The Movie (156 mins) M. A Formula One driver comes out of retirement to mentor and team up with a younger driver. From the filmmakers from Top Gun. Stars Brad Pitt. Shot during actual Grand Prix weekends.

How To Train Your Dragon (125 mins) PG. Despite an ancient threat, the friendship between an inventive Viking and a Night Fury dragon becomes the key to both species forging a new future together.

Lilo & Stitch (108 mins) PG. The funny and touching story of a lonely Hawaiian girl and the fugitive alien.

The Salt Path (115 mins) M. A couple embark on a year-long trek along the coast of Cornwall.



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Rural Life

Ferret surge sparks action despite major wins

The Predator-Free Waihi Beach initiative has reported a surge in ferret activity, raising alarm among the team, even as the project celebrates major wins in its fight against introduced predators.

To date, more than 20 ferrets have been trapped across the area, after “Goliath” was first spotted on a trail camera and later seen peering through a local resident’s patio door while she was having breakfast.

This is a concerning trend, as ferrets are among the most aggressive predators in Aotearoa, with devastating impacts on native birdlife, lizards, and ground-nesting species.

Predator-Free Waihi Beach co-ordinator Susan Lean said ferrets were fast, smart and deadly.

“Catching over 20 is a red flag – they’re not just passing through. We have stepped up monitoring and found that using KFC as a lure has helped catch them. We are reinforcing trap networks in known hotspots.”

Lean also praised the community’s support in protecting trap sites: “we would like to thank everyone for respecting the no-dogs policy along the Ōrokawa Track. It has made a big difference to our trapping efforts – especially after a black Labrador was captured on a trail camera disturbing traps, wasting hundreds of volunteer hours by leaving its scent and deterring the ferrets.”



Possums are entering the area from the far side of Ōrokawa Scenic Reserve and Athenree Gorge, and ferret sightings are increasing. SUPPLIED

Despite these challenges, the community has much to celebrate. Local efforts have removed over 6000 rats and 3000 possums in their small 33km² area of New Zealand, helping to restore balance in local bush and dune ecosystems, and giving native species and the forest canopy a chance to recover.

The programme combines cutting-edge technology with grass-roots wisdom, including valuable advice from 103-year-old local conservation enthusiast George Clark.

George recently shared his tried-

and-true trapping tips with the Predator-Free team before new traplines were installed in the Trig area.

“You’ve got to pre-bait the traplines first – feed the possums up. Don’t set them straight away,” George said.

“Give the possums a few nights to get used to the bait, say four or five, then you’ll get the lot. Works every time.”

Sure enough, the traplines have delivered – thanks to George’s golden rule.

To support and scale these efforts, Air New Zealand has con-

tributed thousands through its Every Corner Environment Fund. The funding will be used to extend trapping zones, enhance remote monitoring, and train more volunteers.

Environmental and Sustainability Co-ordinator for Waihi Beach Pippa Coombes said “supporting communities like Waihi Beach to protect and restore Aotearoa’s unique environment is a key part of our sustainability vision”.

“This is a project led with heart, science, and determination, and we’re proud to be part of it.”

However, the fight is far from

over. Possums are entering the area from the far side of the Ōrokawa Scenic Reserve and Athenree Gorge, and ferret sightings are increasing.

But momentum was strong, and the community was determined to stay ahead of the threat, she said.

DETAILS: Locals are urged to report sightings, adopt a trap from the Waihi Beach trap library, volunteer on traplines, or donate to help keep Waihi Beach predator-free. Contact Pip via predatorfreewaihibeach@gmail.com.

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Rural Life

Swazi Man at Mangatangi

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

The Swazi Man, Davey Hughes, will be at the Mangatangi Hall for one night only next week - helping to raise funds for Maramarua Rugby Club.

Organised by the Mangatangi Maramarua Catchment Group, which puts on social and farming events throughout the calendar, the evening with Davey Hughes will include stories, entertainment, and a barbecue supper.

“Davey Hughes’ passion for the environment and conservation aligns really well with what we do here in the catchment, so it was a perfect fit,” event organisers told *The Profile*.

“Maramarua Rugby Club is our local sports club that also has a hockey team with players of all ages, so lots of local people will benefit from the donation.”

A global adventurer, businessman, hunter, and conservationist, New Zealander Davey Hughes founded the Swazi clothing brand in 1994.

Organisers said the fundraiser will promise a night of entertainment and inspiration; one of its many events designed to engage, educate, and connect the local community.

DETAILS: An Evening with Davey Hughes, July 23, 6.30pm, Mangatangi Hall, Kaiaua Rd, Mangatangi. Show starts 7.30pm. BYO. Funds raised donated to Maramarua Rugby Club. Tickets: \$20, www.mmcatchment.co.nz/events, mmcatchment@gmail.com, Ph 027 350 2291.



Global adventurer, hunter, and conservationist Davey Hughes. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Sometimes you’ve just gotta take the hit



By MICHAEL WILKES
The other day I was towing a trailer, just a small job — nothing fancy.

I’d unloaded a few things and thought I’d head off.
My head was in the clouds, to preoccupied by figuring out how to launch a book.
And what I didn’t realise is that when I hooked the trailer back up, I hadn’t latched anything at all!
So there I am, cruising slowly down the road, when suddenly — bang! The trailer pops up off the tow ball.
It shoots forward, smashed against the curb, and then something worse happens — it changes direction.
Now it’s not just loose, it’s moving, picking up speed... heading straight toward the big hill. And I’m beside it. Watching it unfold, adrenaline spiking, mind racing.
I had a split second to make a call: Let the trailer go and hope no one gets hurt? Or take the hit myself?
So I made the call. I yanked the steering wheel hard right and let the trailer slam into the side of my truck.
It stopped. The dent in the truck wasn’t pretty, but it stopped.

And in the stillness after the chaos, it hit me — sometimes you’ve gotta take the hit now to avoid a way bigger wreck later.
It might cost you something — your pride, your comfort, even some of your resources — but there are moments in life where taking the hit is the wisest move. It’s true in relationships. It’s true in work.
It’s true in the conversations we avoid, the budget decisions we keep putting off, and the parts of our life that need attention before they crash down the hill and take out everything in their path.
So here’s the question I’ve been asking myself: Where do I need to take a dent now — so I don’t lose the whole truck later? Because the hit might hurt... But the wreckage could be so much worse.

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.

Foodies

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Mouthwatering menu at Royal Oak Hotel

A delicious, hearty meal is exactly what people will find at the Royal Oak Hotel.
Owners Lisa and Chris Chaffey and their team have refreshed the menu with mouthwatering dishes such as lamb shanks with their new fresh baby veges sauteed in honey; Royal Oak steak with their new peppercorn sauce option; pork belly bao buns and the very popular Thai beef salad with freshly seared beef.
People familiar with their signature special Tapu Pies won’t be surprised that Chris is set to enter the 2025 NZ Bakels Supreme Pie Awards after “a

lot of meddling” from Lisa and a few other locals who know a thing or two about good pies.
The pies need to arrive to the judges by July 23, they’ll be judged on July 24 and the results will be announced on July 29.
“So we’re all nervous and excited and no matter what, we are enormously proud of Chris.”
But things have certainly not slowed down at the Royal Oak with busy weekends and a lot of support from patrons.
“We understand how tight times are right now and we appreciate everyone

who stops in.
“We’d like to thank everyone for their support as we reach our third year here, time flies when you’re having fun!”
With new merch that has just landed - people can now check out the comfy Royal Oak branded track pants.
And for people who might like to join the team, Royal Oak are also on the lookout for more staff as they head into what they hope will be another bumper summer.
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Death Notice GRAHAM, William Hugh (Bill): Passed peacefully at Lexham Park, Katikati on July 12, aged 98 years. Cherished husband to Audrey; father to the late Peter and Caitlin, Bruce and Sally, and Lyn and John; granddad to Alice, James, Chris, Sarah, Jonathan, and Ariana; and great granddad to Lucas, Isabelle, Jordan, Rory, and Baby Armitt. <i>We all loved him dearly and will miss him always. Forever in our hearts; now at peace.</i> A service will be held for Bill at St James Church, 650 Pollen Street, Thames on Friday, July 18th at 1pm. Condolences can be sent to 205 Hauraki Rd, Thames 3574	Firewood Big double load of ti tree mix. Dry shed stored and free delivery. \$340 Ph: 022 386 0395 Firewood For Sale Old Man Pine \$140 per cube. Phone Mark 027 655 8661 or Steph 027 385 2806	Personal Lady wanted to share with Euro man, 70. Own home. Enjoys hot pools, caravanning and quiet times. Ph 027 665 9860	Public Notice Is your business in difficulties? Need some help? No cost to business. Ph Tony, 027 440 4045
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Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

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

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

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SPORTS REPORTS

CLUB RUGBY

WAIHI GO BACK TO BACK

CLUB FINALS: July 13

From a hitch-hiking Tighthead Ted
What a great day in Whiti-City for the finals day - especially after the biblical rain on Friday, one shower through the A final was a great result, weather wise at least.

For the Green Machine though, not such a great result, as Split Enz (look ‘em up kiddies, the original great Kiwi band) were once again proved wrong, and history can, in fact, repeat itself.

It was a tougher match than the scoreline will indicate in years to come too, 46-20 seems like a bit of a hiding, but it was hard fought. Paeroa opened the scoring in the match, and were looking laser focused early doors.

After 35 minutes, a scoreline of 9-6 to Waihi showed just how close the battle was, neither side breaking on defence, bending often, but not breaking. However, just before halftime, Waihi started to gain some ascendancy as their forwards rolled their sleeves up close to the line.

A series of close quarter attacks finally saw number eight Issac Seiuli crash over

for the match’s first five pointer as the rain started to pelt down.

The second spell saw the Waihi machine start to get into gear - field position, forwards belting into the Paeroa defence and earning penalties. With captain Kenan Gillson happy to increase the score by threes, these penalties were converted into 18 points through the match.

Paeroa were starting to wilt too, the unrelenting charges of Seiuli, Leson Huiarangi, James Mahi and Sam Halalilo starting to take a toll. However in typical fashion when these two teams clash, Paeroa managed to keep the game alive, snaring a five pointer when Waihi had a breakdown on attack.

Fullback Bitner Johanssen racing away like a thief in the night to score.

Equally typical in these clashes, Waihi responded within minutes, another series of strong charges from Huiarangi and Seiuli saw Collard set his backline away, and Peto-rukelani Pouri-Lane scored in the corner. Collard landed yet another goal, and the buffer was back 29-13.

A few minutes later and another nicely timed Collard pass put Ish Leilua in for a try, and the match was all over bar the

CONTINUED ON P17

It was a great day in Whiti-City for the rugby finals day - despite one heavy shower through the Senior A final.
Photo: TVRFU

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Public Notice

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings - August 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 August 2025.

Council Meetings and Ceremonies

Council Meeting
Thursday 5 August 2025 09:00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Citizenship Ceremony
Thursday 7 August 2025 09:30am, Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, Mary Street, Thames

Community Board Meetings

Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board
Monday 25 August 2025 10.00am, St Francis, 248 Main Road, Tairua

Whangamatā Community Board
Tuesday 26 August 2025 10.00am, Whangamatā Service Centre, 620 Port Road, Whangamatā

Thames Community Board
Wednesday 27 August 2025 10.00 am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Community Board Meetings


Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting
Thursday 21 August 2025, 9.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

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

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council

Public Notice

NOTIFICATION OF MASS AND/OR SPEED LIMITS ON BRIDGES



Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 11(3) of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, Hauraki District Council has fixed the following maximum mass and speed limits for heavy motor vehicles and combinations including a heavy motor vehicle on the bridges described hereunder:

Name of road	Name of bridge	Mass Limits		Maximum speed limit (km/h)
		Maximum mass on any 1 axle	Gross mass (maximum sum of axle mass)	
Ferry Road (Komata)	Ferry No. 1 Bridge (ID 107)	8200 kg	90% of Class 1	15 km/h
Crown Hill Road	Crown Hill Road Bridge (ID 109)		44000 kg	
Waitawheta Road	Waitawheta No. 1 Bridge (ID 126)		44000 kg	
Frankton Road	Frankton No. 1 Bridge (ID 71)		44000 kg	

Attention is drawn to the applicable penalties and infringement fees set out in Schedule 1A or Part 3 of Schedule 1B of the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999, which apply to infringements of these limits.

Date issued: 15 July 2025

Adrian de Laborde
Group Manager – Service Delivery
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notices

Thames Museum Society Inc

AGM 1.30pm
19th July 2025
Thames Museum te Whare
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Corner Pollen St and
Cochrane Street, Thames.
Phone 07 868 8509


Victoria Battery Tramway Society Inc.

AGM
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Venue Waikino Cafe

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RUGBY

CONTINUED FROM P16

shouting, 36-13. Another try apiece in the final 10 minutes, Paeroa's Johanssen getting his second, and Waihi's Dylan Bower, along with the sixth Collard penalty, saw the score hit 46-20 as the referee blew for full time.

A match fitting of a final, Waihi had to work hard for their win, and there'll be some pretty sore bodies around the Valley today.

Outstanding for Waihi were loose forwards Huiarangi and Seiuli, who both carried the ball like runaway locomotives.

Certainly the best game ole Tighthead has seen Seiuli play this season as he's struggled with a knee injury. Big Sam Halalilo at hooker, his first game back from injury was also impressive, as was old mate James Mahi, who was also a menace on the carry. In the back division for the champions, the bruise brothers in midfield, Dylan Bower and Ish Laulia were a great mix of brutality and finesse.

Both deservingly got onto the scoresheet. Then of course there is the general, Quinn Collard. A howitzer for a boot, controlled by a radar. Not just his goalkicking, which by Tighthead's abacus was 10 from 12, but also his kicking from hand.

Nothing better for a fatty to lift his head up after fighting away at a ruck and seeing the ball 60 metres down the field. A match winner in his own right.

Paeroa battled away, and scored the first points of the match, but their discipline failed them, and six Collard penalties told the tale. Huge efforts across the board though from the Green Machine.



Senior Women's Champs Coromandel celebrate their win.

Photos: SUPPLIED/TVRFU



Senior B Men champs Tairua, left, and Senior C Men champs Thames.

Number eight Tala Moli was massive, both on defence and attack, he looked like he'd gone 10 rounds with Mike Tyson by full time, but was still coming back for more.

Out of position Oshea Te Oka-Cox, and prop Bryson Williams-Oka were also bloody good. Halfback Des Faoa and his sniping runs kept the Waihi defence honest, and Hendrix Beazley tries hard to get his backline into action, and had a few powerful runs also.

Waihi Athletic 46 (I Seiuli, I Lei-lua, P Pouri-Lane, D Bellamy tries;

Q Collard 4 conversions, 6 penalties) beat Paeroa 20 (B Johanssen 2 tries, conversion, 2 penalties; P Tuigamala conversion). HT 16-6. Referee: Stu Watts.

Ole Tighthead Ted managed to catch a bit of the action from the rest of the finals too, thanks to his Uber, Bart the Photographer, arriving early.

After a quick stop in the refreshment scaffold for a shandy to wash the travel dust away, the C final was kicking off. Waihi against Thames, and it was a great clash - probably the match of the day. Thames jumped out to a 22-9 lead in the second spell, with the wind at their backs, but Waihi battled into the elements and took the match to 21-22 at full time.

Tairua dispatched Coromandel 36-25 in the B final, scoring some early tries into the wind, and it looked like they'd run away with the match once they got the wind at their back.

However, Coromandel are made of sterner stuff than most teams, and didn't win the last two B finals by giving up when the going got tough. An old school Fitzy 'game of two halves', but Tairua just had too many points for Coromandel to claw them back.

As Vince Lombardi famously once said, "we didn't lose, we just ran out of time".

The women's final saw Coromandel take one trophy home for the day, beating Paeroa 38-17.

I didn't get to see too much of this game unfortunately, as I was caught up in the B final drama!

But great skill levels and some powerful ladies out there strutting their stuff. Our wahines in the Valley have certainly come a long way in the past few years.

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SUDOKU

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

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MEDIUM

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1			4		9		3	

HARD

209

HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

229

- ACROSS
- 1 Severe (5)

4 Bony frame (8)

9 Face dent (6)

14 Vegetable (5)

15 Unusual (3,2,3,8)

17 Derision (5)

18 Bird (3)

19 Substitute in reserve (7)

20 Sickened (9)

21 Bypass (6)

24 Heir (9)

25 Fortified building (6)

26 Not fair (6)

29 Dangerous maniac (10)

31 Wholly (3)

32 Licit (6)

33 Pace (4)

35 Be in debt (3)

37 Competent (4)

39 Off-the-cuff (9)

40 Dried flower petal mixture (9)

41 Takes it easy (5)

42 Forebear (8)

47 Boss (8)

51 Annoyed (5)

55 Alter radically (9)

56 Vital (9)

58 Bathroom powder (4)

59 Beverage (3)

60 Fury (4)

61 On land (6)

62 Expected (3)

63 Banalities (anag) (10)

66 Half of diameter (6)
- 67 Thickset (6)

69 Classified (3,6)

72 Diverse (6)

73 Large spider (9)

75 Cradlesong (7)

77 Sheltered side (3)

80 Incident (5)

81 Excluded, ignored (4,3,2,3,4)

82 Deficient (5)

83 Stockpiled (6)

84 Reduced (8)

85 Romany (5)
- DOWN
- 2 Polite (9)

3 Prickle (5)

5 Retain (4)

6 Large vehicles (7)

7 Apt to shoot (7-5)

8 Approaches (5)

9 Thirst (7)

10 Greatest (4)

11 Pillaged (6)

12 Passenger ship (5)

13 Death investigation (7)

14 Continuing (7)

16 Cigarette seller (11)

22 Facelift (6)

23 Photo enlargements (4-3)

24 Hide (7)

25 Blush (6)

27 Completely (7)

28 Habitual practice (6)

30 Ring (4)

32 Fewest (5)

34 Earlier (5)

36 Thwart (4)
- 38 Forbid (3)

42 Thespian (5)

43 Billed (7)

44 Winner's ribbon (4)

45 Woodwind player (6)

46 Wheeled boot (5)

48 Recover from a life-threatening illness (4,7)

49 Pariah (7)

50 Long fish (3)

51 Tropism (anag)(7)

52 Lethal (6)

53 Flashy (12)

54 Opposed to (4)

57 Sent out (6)

64 Buoyant safety devices (9)

65 Foursome (7)

66 Hermit (7)

68 Moved on hands and knees (7)

70 Artist's board (7)

71 Arid area (6)

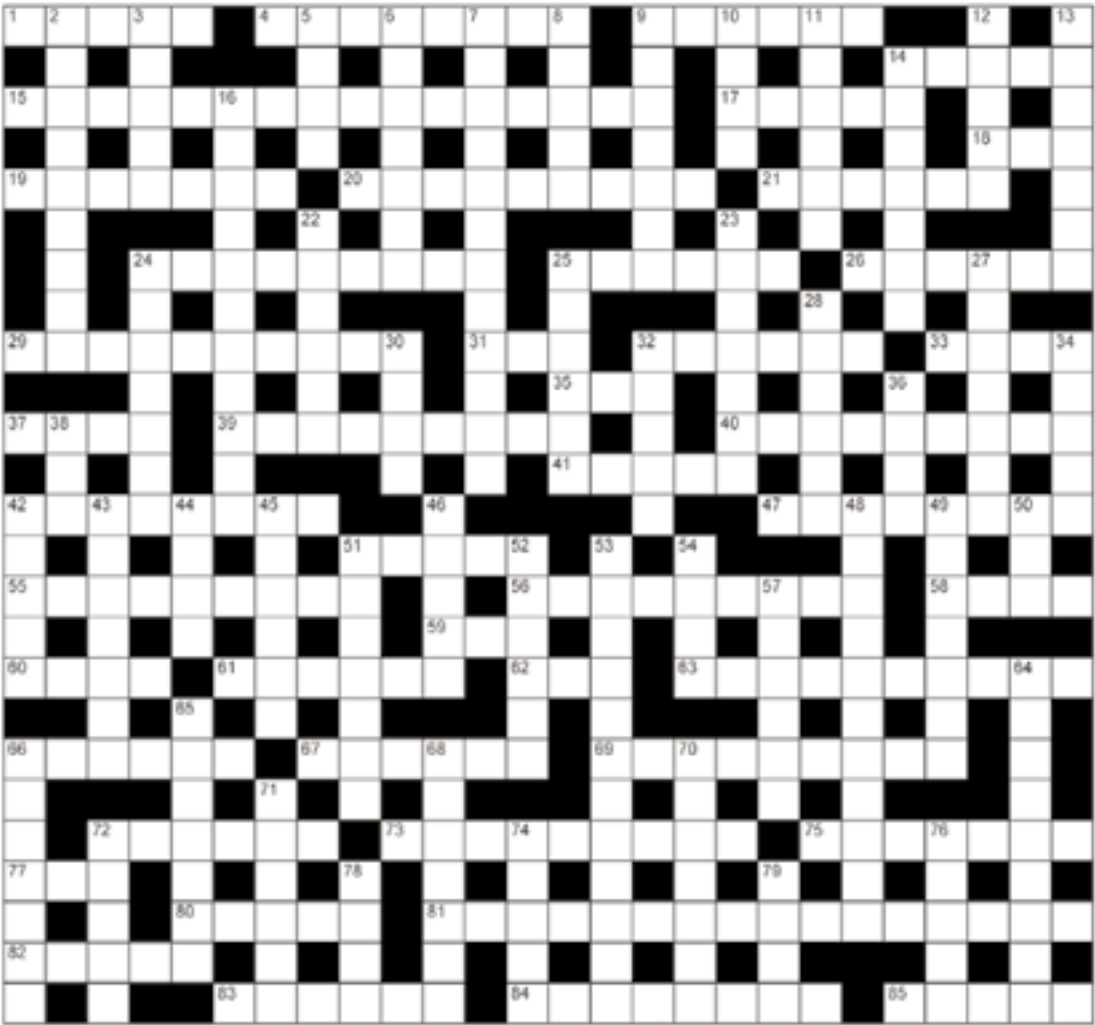
72 Spite (5)

74 Very bad (5)

76 Fortunate (5)

78 Agitate (4)

79 Long ago (4)



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DOWN: 2 Aerial, 3 Trick, 5 Idea, 6 Blister, 7 Leeway, 8 Whale, 9 Heeding, 10 Best, 11 Loosen, 12 Epoch, 13 Planned, 14 Pyjamas, 18 Compulsory, 23 Droop, 24 Draw off, 26 Elegant, 27 Replica, 29 Renewed, 30 Medium, 31 Clear, 32 Income, 34 Span, 36 Strip, 38 Pined, 40 Knee, 45 Anvil, 46 Erratic, 47 Heel, 48 Serial, 49 Pushy, 50 Message, 52 Family tree, 53 Notable, 54 Entice, 55 Recital, 56 Filmy, 57 Glad, 62 Bully, 67 Clipper, 68 Debacle, 70 Blemish, 72 Barrier, 73 Marina, 74 Hollow, 75 Plight, 76 Olive, 78 Defer, 80 Guide, 82 Fete, 83 Also.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hauraki musos rock out at Rockquest

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The “ultimate goal” for Hauraki Plains College band The Interns was to perform at Smokefree Rockquest. Luckily for the four-piece indie rock band, they already achieved that dream twice in the span of a few weeks, and with a second chance video in the works - they aim to make it three times.

The young quartet, made up of year 13-students Harvey Allen on the drums, Zoe Winter on the guitar, Jaskeerat Randhawa on the bass and Isaac Smith on the guitar and vocals performed at the Smokefree Rockquest Waikato Regional Heats on May 24 in Hamilton at the Clarence Street Theatre.

Not only did they perform an original rock funk piece called *Flow*, written by Isaac, they also made it through to the Waikato Regional Finals on June 14, where they performed *Flow* as well as a pop rock original called *If Only*, also written by Isaac.

“We were all pretty happy, especially on the day as the competition was really fierce, and we had no idea if we could go through again,” the musos said. While The Interns didn’t make it through to the National Finals, there was still an



Hauraki Plains College band The Interns rock out at Smokefree Rockquest.

Photo: SUPPLIED

opportunity for them to give it one more shot with a second chance video, which the young musicians will record during the July school holidays.

“We have to perform three original pieces, so we will do *Flow* and *If Only*. Our third [song] is still in progress being written by Isaac.”

Even though each band

member had played at Smokefree Rockquest before, this was their first time performing at the event as The Interns.

Bass player Jaskeerat, 17, said the “nerves set in really early” as the bands at the heats were good.

“The ones [bands] at the finals were the best, we needed to make sure we played beyond

comes to inspiration, the band doesn’t just draw from one source.

The band drew inspiration from each of their different music tastes, from Isaac’s interest in Twenty One Pilots and Jakeerat’s preference of funk and disco tunes to Zoe’s mix of Dire Straits and classical music and Harvey’s penchant for classic rock.

Even though The Interns won’t be continuing as a band after they “go different ways” and graduate from Hauraki Plains College, they hoped to have some sort of music in their lives. But for vocalist and guitarist Isaac - he planned to go to university next year to pursue songwriting and performance as a career, he said.

“Personally I am using Rockquest to build a portfolio of original songs that I can then use in live shows or release online to get myself into the industry.”

Isaac’s advice for students who wanted to start a band and get into performances was to just do it, he said.

“A lot of the time the reason people don’t make music is because they are afraid what they make isn’t good, but in reality, it is most of the time not as bad as they think it is.”



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