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Bag-snatcher caught after foot chase

What started as an ordinary Monday turned into a midday chase when Kamal Singh sprang into action after a customer had her handbag snatched just outside his Thames store. KELLEY TANTAU reports



Kamal Singh chased down a thief last week. Photo: SUPPLIED

On July 14, SuperPrice Furniture owner Kamal Singh was working in his Pollen St store when a man clad in a black hoodie grabbed a woman’s handbag and bolted.

Kamal recognised the woman as a past customer and, feeling “a little panicked”, rushed outside to her and her neighbour.

“I said: ‘Please keep an eye on the shop, I will go and try to get your bag.’”

And just like that, the chase was on. Fifty metres stood between Kamal and the alleged bag-snatcher.

Kamal started running on the opposite side of the road; running, he says, to the best of his abilities on a day he decided to wear loose, heavy clothes not designed for a pursuit.

The offender weaved through the Thames High School grounds, down Mackay St and along Richmond St, and Kamal followed him every step of the way, coming face to face with him down a service lane.

“I got really close to him, like face to face, but there was the mesh fence in between... I thought I could take him down, but he wasn’t stopping. He was just like, running constantly.

“Because he was young, he just kept running and running.”

At this point, other members of the public were also in pursuit of the man, and Kamal suggested they keep an eye on Sealey St, in case he showed up there.

“But as I’m walking back towards Mackay St, out of nowhere, he appears just behind me,” he says.

“He must have been like two, three steps away. And that’s when I knew: this is the only chance I have to grab him.”

Kamal is six foot two. He has long arms. But by the time he

CONTINUED ON P2

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Mummy said get some ice cream from the supermarket.

Did she really?

And some chocolate and lollies...

Right...

Nearly being fooled.

Bag-snatcher caught

CONTINUED FROM P1

closed the distance, clutching the man's hoodie and dragging him to the ground, he was drained.

"He was exhausted. I was exhausted. It was almost like, oh, thank God this is all over. Let's just take a breath."

But the ordeal wasn't quite finished - the alleged bag-snatcher threw some punches and even bit Kamal during the struggle.

"I don't really remember, to be honest, whether he bit me or not. It was only when I got back to the shop that I saw there were bite marks."

Kamal recalls that the Police soon arrived, cuffed the man, and assured him the hand-bag would be returned to his customer.

When he made it back to his shop - which he's owned for six years - the two hugged.

"We were all shaken," he says. "She sat down, I gave her water. I had some water, too."

It wasn't long before people came into the shop, calling Kamal a hero and commending him for his goodwill, but he tells *The Profile* that it was a collective effort that day.

"I felt good that I could help, and I felt really happy that everybody joined together to catch this guy. I couldn't have done it alone, for sure. You know, you get a bit more strength when there's four or five people standing behind you."

And on the offender himself, Kamal believes he was a young man, seemingly under the influence.

He hopes the incident will be a turning

point in his life.

"You see all these things on TV, YouTube, and TikTok, but when it actually happens to you, when it's happening to your own community, your own members, it is shocking."

"It didn't happen after seven o'clock in the evening. It happened between 12 o'clock, one o'clock, in the middle of the street, in the busiest block of the town."

"But I have to say, I'm absolutely concerned about the young guy, too."

"I hope this whole incident will be one of those incidents where he will look back and say: 'Oh, shit, I'm never going to do this ever again' and then he goes to live a good life."

"And I really hope," Kamal says, "he'll come back to me after 10 years and say: 'Hey, you got me'."

Waikato Eastern Area Commander Inspector Michael Henwood said Police received a report at 1.10pm on July 14 that a woman's bag was taken after they withdrew money from an ATM on Pollen St.

"The alleged offender was chased down Pollen St by a local shopkeeper, where they and other members of the public held on to the offender," he said.

"Before Police arrived, the shopkeeper was then assaulted by the offender. There were no significant injuries reported."

A 19-year-old man appeared in the Hamilton District Court the following day and was bailed to reappear in the Thames District Court on August 18 on charges of robbery and aggravated assault.

In Brief


KIRIBATI EXHIBITION
Thames locals Kaetaeta Watson and Louisa Humphry have their exhibition *Taimwanuokai: Forget Me Not* at the Māngere Arts Centre until August 23. The exhibition highlights more than a century of Kiribati knowledge, skills and artistry. The name Taimwanuokai was chosen because they said it spoke to the things they've done and what they're capable of doing. A closing event on August 23 at 11am will feature performances and te maroro with Kaetaeta and Louisa. Call 09 262 5789 for details.

STILL TIME TO STAND

There's still time for people to stand for their communities by stepping up as a candidate in this year's local body elections. Interested people can stand for district councillor, community board, or mayoral roles in the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, or Waikato Regional areas. Nominations close August 1.

CORO RALLY RETURNS

The Rally of Coromandel returns as part of the New Zealand Rally Championship, with racing taking place on August 23, and a street party kicking off festivities on Friday evening in Whitianga. Community groups and fundraisers keen to run food stalls at the event can email TCDC's Kirstin.Scarrott@tcdc.govt.nz. There will be no cost to attend.



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Thames Tides

Wed Jul 23	Thu Jul 24	Fri Jul 25	Sat Jul 26	Sun Jul 27	Mon Jul 28	Tue Jul 29
 Morning: 5:04am 3.2, 11:21am 0.5 Afternoon: 5:46pm 3.4, 11:55pm 0.7 Sunrise: 7:24am Sunset: 5:25pm Best At: 10:41am 11:12pm Rise: 6:08am, Set: 3:18pm	 Morning: 6:08am 3.3, 12:20pm 0.5 Afternoon: 6:42pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:23am Sunset: 5:26pm Best At: 11:43am Rise: 7:02am, Set: 4:29pm	 Morning: 12:50am 0.6, 7:08am 3.3 Afternoon: 1:12pm 0.4, 7:34pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:23am Sunset: 5:27pm Best At: 12:12am 12:40pm Rise: 7:46am, Set: 5:41pm	 Morning: 1:43am 0.6, 8:02am 3.4 Afternoon: 2:01pm 0.4, 8:22pm 3.6 Sunrise: 7:22am Sunset: 5:27pm Best At: 1:06am 1:32pm Rise: 8:21am, Set: 6:51pm	 Morning: 2:32am 0.6, 8:52am 3.4 Afternoon: 2:46pm 0.4, 9:08pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:21am Sunset: 5:28pm Best At: 1:56am 2:19pm Rise: 8:50am, Set: 7:58pm	 Morning: 3:19am 0.6, 9:37am 3.4 Afternoon: 3:30pm 0.5, 9:52pm 3.5 Sunrise: 7:20am Sunset: 5:29pm Best At: 2:41am 3:03pm Rise: 9:16am, Set: 9:01pm	 Morning: 4:03am 0.6, 10:20am 3.3 Afternoon: 4:12pm 0.6, 10:36pm 3.4 Sunrise: 7:19am Sunset: 5:30pm Best At: 3:24am 3:44pm Rise: 9:38am, Set: 10:02pm

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

Passion drives muscle car success

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

For Barrie Richards, punching above his weight in one of New Zealand’s most competitive motorsport classes all comes down to passion.

Behind the wheel of his 1971 HQ Holden, the Thames mechanic has proven that even against big names and big budgets, confidence and drive can go a long way.

After only two competitive seasons, Barrie has raced his way to a second-place finish in this year’s Napa Central Muscle Cars Group 2 class, with only seven points separating him from the winner.

Pride is the prize, and Barrie, who owns Barrie Richards Auto Repairs down Thames’ main drag, said he was thrilled with how his foray into competitive circuit racing has gone so far.

“I’m pretty stoked with how it went,” he said, “considering I hadn’t really done anything at that level; nothing on that kind of stage.

“You’ve got some big names in there like Angus Fogg and



Behind the wheel of his 1971 HQ Holden, Barrie Richards proves that even against big names and big budgets, confidence can go a long way. GREAT SOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY

And y Knight, and some real race car drivers with lots of experience. I mean, some of the cars are worth half-a-million dollars, so I chucked myself in the deep end a bit.”

Barrie said getting behind the wheel required confidence because stakes were high and the risks were real.

“I try to be sensible about it because there’s a lot at stake financially, and risk-wise as well. You don’t have car insurance on a motorsport track; you don’t have life insurance...

You’re putting a lot on the line a lot of the time.”

Central Muscle Cars was formed in 2003 by a group of like-minded enthusiasts who wanted to create a class catering to classic competition muscle cars.

The series caters to production vehicles manufactured from 1958 to 1978.

Barrie said contenders raced “for a chocolate fish” - highlighting that it was never about the money, but rather his love of old cars and ‘heaps of horsepower’ that drove him to compete. However, while the 2025-2026 calendar is already in development, Barrie said he’d likely be sitting the next season out.




“Financially, it’s really expensive, and it’s a massive commitment time-wise as well, so I’m not sure what’s going to happen after this, but what’s happened so far has been really cool.”

He wanted to thank the sponsors who had come on board to make this season such a success: HG Leach, Kōpū Tyres, and Kōpū Engineering.



“I couldn’t have done it without them.”

DETAILS: For more info on the race, visit centralmusclecars.co.nz.





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‘Bosty Bash’ raises \$20k for Goldfields

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

Children at Goldfields School will soon be able to bounce in style, thanks to a \$20,000 donation of funds raised at the 2025 Bosty Bash black-tie fundraiser on June 28.

The fundraiser event, held by the Boston Rohrlach Memorial Trust at the Thames on Kirkwood, saw 100 people dressed their best to the theme of “elegant blue” as they enjoyed music, canapes, spot prizes and auctions. The \$20,000 raised at the event has been earmarked for a specially-designed in-ground wheelchair-capable trampoline for Goldfields School in Paeroa.

“It’s about inclusion for children with special needs,” fundraiser organiser Arna Rohrlach told *The Profile*.

“We just want these beautiful children to feel included and just have fun.”

The trust began running fundraisers in 2012 after Arna’s seven-year-old son, Boston, died.

“He had severe cerebral palsy, and he passed in February of 2011 from pneumonia after having an operation. That pretty much rocked our world obviously, and from 2012 we decided to do a fundraiser to raise money for the special children at



Boston Rohrlach, pictured in his Gravity Chair, is the inspiration for more than \$100,000 in donations to Goldfields School since 2012.

Goldfields School,” Arna said. “He’d been at Goldfields for two and a half years, and the support that the staff gave us during that time was incredible.

“It was like respite for parents with children with such high special needs. It was just an incredible place for them to go because you knew they were going to be so well looked after.”

The trust holds Bosty Bashes every two years, and has raised more than \$100,000 for the school over the years.

The funds have contributed

“We just want these beautiful children to feel included and just have fun”

- Arna Rohrlach



Boston Rohrlach Memorial Trust committee members in their elegant blue best.

Photos: SUPPLIED

to specialist sensory equipment and an upgrade to the school’s swimming pool complex.

Arna said this year’s contribution of a trampoline will enable more children to participate in playground activities.

“It’s very close to our heart because obviously our boy was in a wheelchair, he couldn’t walk or talk, so we always really struggled with taking Boston to

parks and things like that,” she said.

Boston’s specialist Gravity Chair, which is now used by the school, will also be reupholstered with proceeds from the fundraiser.

Arna is now looking ahead to the next Bosty Bash, in 2027, and said she was grateful to the businesses and individuals of Thames who continue to sup-

port the trust and its events.

“We’re very proud of our efforts - we’re feeling pretty lucky, pretty special,” she said.

“We want to continue doing what we do in memory of Boston and just raising money for special equipment for these beautiful children.”





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History buff's Thames visit-turned-treasure hunt

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

Brisbane's Brenna Ballantine turned her recent trip to Thames into a week-long scavenger hunt, seeking out every stop along the town's rich heritage trail.

Brenna was visiting her nana Sue Ballantine in early July, and told *The Profile* she was inspired to have a "little scavenger hunt around Thames" after noticing the yellow heritage signs dotted about the town.

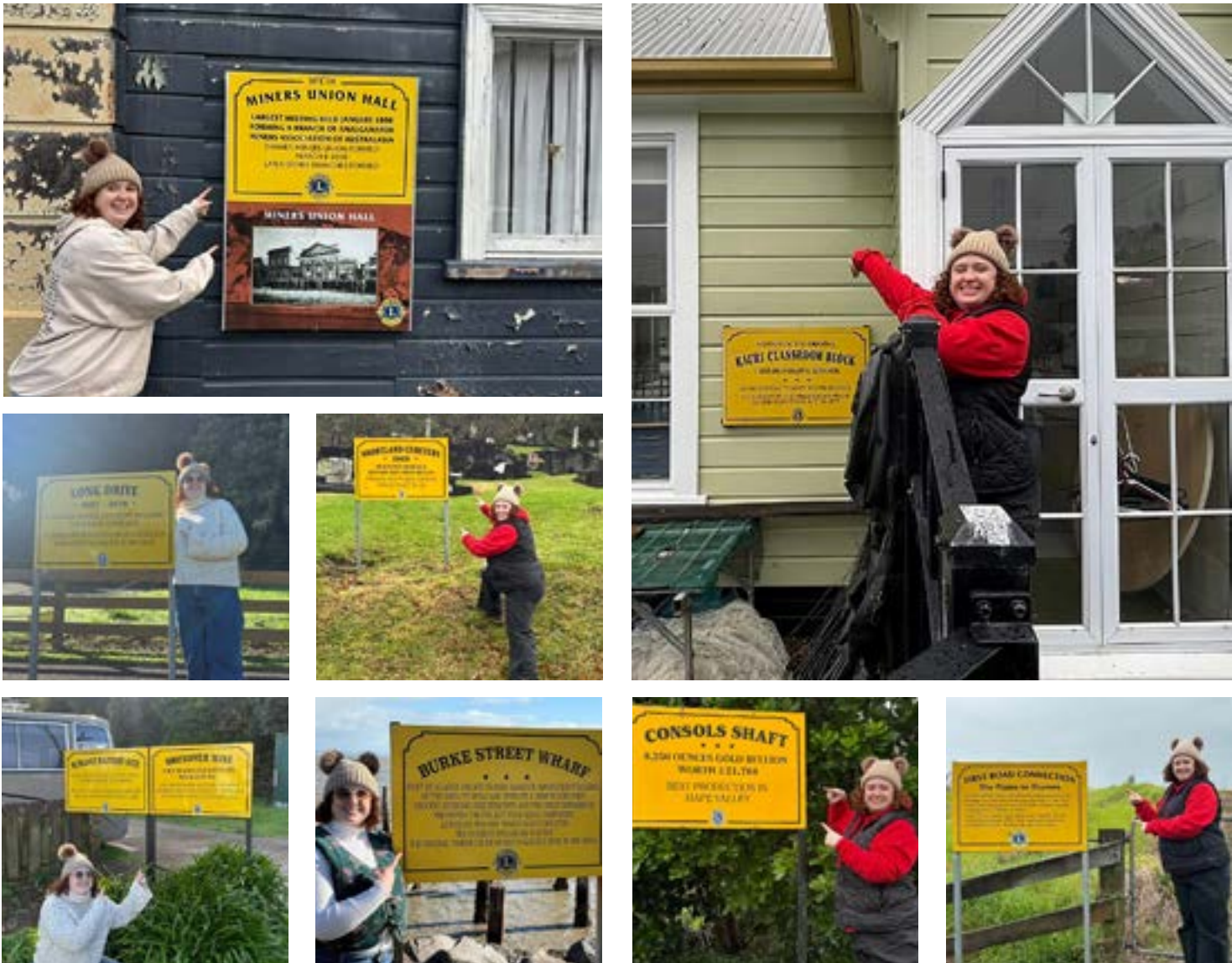
Studying to be a history teacher, the heritage trail - created by Lions Club members after the Thames Centennial - was a perfect way to pass the time, Brenna said.

"I roped in various family members to run down the street and snap pics of me with each sign. It took us all week to find them all amongst our other adventures," she said.

"I loved how supportive my family were in joining me... and also that we could still see some of these old structures standing near the signs."

"This was such a fun activity and great for families - even as a youth group activity for any local churches, or orienteering challenges for the scouts."

Brenna said her favourite signs sat at the Grahamstown Railway Station and St James Church.



Brenna Ballantine turned her trip to Thames into a week-long scavenger hunt, seeking out every stop along the heritage trail. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Hauraki lashed by ‘devastating’ storm



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1910

A devastating storm and flood left Paeroa with broken willow trees, sheds blown over, and verandahs and fences not in their accustomed places.

The footpath along Normanby Rd was broken and torn, the road swept clear of all but solid metal, and footbridges carried away in all directions.

At Karangahake, houses were swept off their blocks and the railway tunnel had a considerable amount of debris in it carried there from the river.

A lot of damage was done to the mining companies at Karangahake, including the crumpling up of the Talisman water race.

A man who came through from Waihi said the race looked as if it had been caught in a giant’s hand and squeezed and twisted.

Waikino business premises



Paeroa Hall sits at an angle after the storm.

Photo: SUPPLIED

were flooded out, as were several of the residential premises. The damage to the mining battery there was extensive.

The family of Mr Hall, who lived on the main road between Waihi and Waikino, had a most trying experience when they had to take to the roof for safety in practically nothing but their nightclothes.

They were compelled to remain in torrents of rain for several hours, being ultimately rescued in an exhausted condition, at about 7am.

The rescuers got them off the roof and on to a hastily-constructed raft.

The rate at which the river rose was astonishing. One man who was watching it at Paeroa stated that it rose 10 feet within an hour, which seemed an exaggeration but the man was adamant it was true.

Meanwhile, over at Neavesville, Mrs Dunovitch fell and broke her leg, and as no proper medical attention was available it was decided to carry her

to Puriri where a train could be taken to Thames and Mrs Dunovitch admitted to hospital.

Five men from the Golden Belt mine offered their services but despite other help being available, the five men were left to carry the injured woman the whole distance.

Fortunately three bushmen helped and after a rough and exhausting journey Mrs Dunovitch was conveyed to Puriri, some of the men’s shoulders being badly bruised and cut from chaffing.

In Thames, a period of peril due to poor water supply and pressure thankfully passed with no fires breaking out in the Borough.

But a few hours after the water supply had been turned on and was returning to normal a fire broke out in a house in Baillie St.

Despite the fire brigade quickly being in attendance it was found impossible to save the building, which was an old wooden one.

The brigade found that the nearest fire plug was in Grey Street, and no less than 800 feet of hose had to be put out before the water reached the fire.

Water pressure was considerably reduced, seriously handicapping the brigade, and the whole building and its contents were consumed.

Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter

1. Latin is the official language of the Holy See in Vatican City, but which language is more commonly spoken?
2. CSNY is an abbreviation for which supergroup, whose hits include *Teach Your Children*, released in 1970?
3. A Cavoodle (known in the USA as a Cavapoo) is a poodle crossed with which other dog breed?
4. What angle is a three quarter turn?
5. In the term soft drink, what does ‘soft’ refer to?
6. True or false: a luffa (sometimes spelled loofah) is obtained from a plant in the cucumber family?
7. Which is hotter, the surface of the Sun or the outer atmosphere (corona) of the Sun?
8. Eswatini, Namibia and South Africa all used which currency?
9. *The Little Mermaid* is most associated with which country, home of the author Hans Christian Andersen?
10. Which is bigger, Queensland or Texas?



ANSWERS: 1. Italian; 2. Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; 3. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel; 4. 270 degrees; 5. Without alcohol; 6. True. It is in the family Cucurbitaceae; 7. Outer atmosphere. The corona of the Sun reaches up to 2 million degrees Celsius which is around 5,500 degrees Celsius - scientists aren't sure why; 8. Rand; 9. Denmark; 10. Queensland - it is more than 2.5 times the size of Texas.

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Spreading smiles

Harold the Giraffe made visits to Coromandel Area School, Te Rerenga School, and Kopuarahi School in June to celebrate Wear Yellow for Harold Day. The Life Education Trust event was a fundraiser for the non-profit organisation, which delivers interactive life lessons to children nationwide. Around \$500 was raised for the trust. Te Rerenga School also had a visit from Big Harold and the mobile classroom during the fundraising week, which really brought it all alive for students, the trust said. “The Wear Yellow for Harold Day was a memorable and enjoyable event for all involved. The students’ participation, the fun activities, and the successful fundraising efforts made it an outstanding day. We are grateful for the support from our school community and look forward to future events with Harold,” Life Trust educator Leiset Gregory said.



Te Rerenga School students look cheerful in shades of yellow and blue for Harold’s visit. BELOW: Students from Coromandel Area School. Photos: SUPPLIED



Section A of the Hauraki Rail Trail is now open again. Photo: SUPPLIED

Trail reopening a ‘milestone’

After four years of closures due to major stop-bank upgrades by Waikato Regional Council, a key section of the Hauraki Rail Trail has officially reopened, reconnecting Waitakaruru to Kōpū.

The reopening of Section A was a significant milestone for both the trail and the wider Hauraki community, the trail trust said, as the coastal stretch was “renowned for its open skies, thriving birdlife, and sweeping views of the Firth of Thames”.

While some final remedial works were still underway between Pipiroa and Kōpū to improve the marine clay surface, the trail was fully passable and ready to ride, the trust said.

The closure was part of a significant flood protection initiative funded by the Crown Infrastructure Programme. Essential stop-bank upgrades were carried out to safeguard surrounding farmland and communities.

“This is a major milestone after four years of closure, and we are so grateful for the support and patience of our local community,” Hauraki Rail Trail chief executive Diane Drummond said.

Wellington-based Angus & Associates calculated the economic loss directly due to the closure was between \$750,000 and \$1 million.

“Now that the trail is open again, we see that money flowing back into the community where it belongs,” Diane Drummond said.

The reopening was a welcome relief for local businesses that cater to trail users, the release said, and cafes, lodges, and tour operators along the route, many of whom have weathered reduced visitor numbers during the closures, were once again open and eager to host visitors.

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Taekwon-Do club shines at regional comps

TAEKWON-DO

The Hauraki Plains Calibre Taekwon-Do club has made its mark at two major regional tournaments, showcasing skill, discipline, and outstanding performances.

On June 22, the club sent 12 competitors to the Counties-Manukau/Auckland North Regional Competition, where they faced fierce opposition from 15 clubs and 250 competitors.

Despite the tough competition, the team secured an impressive fifth place overall, bringing home a combined total of 24 medals - eight gold, eight silver, and eight bronze across sparring, patterns, specialty, and power categories.

Gaurav Kung was the standout performer of the day, dominating his divisions to claim four gold medals and earning the prestigious title of Best Overall Red Belt.

His exceptional technique and determination left a lasting impression on judges and fellow competitors alike.

Just six days later, on June 28, the club was invited to the Midlands Regionals, where 11 Hauraki Plains competitors continued their winning streak.

Against 96 competitors,



The Hauraki Plains Calibre Taekwon-Do club.

Photos: SUPPLIED

they secured another 23 medals - seven gold, seven silver, and nine bronze. Adding to the club's accolades, James Liddell was awarded Best Overall Male MiniKid, while Loiua Hart claimed Best Overall Female Green Belt, further cementing the team's reputation as rising stars in New Zealand Taekwon-Do.

Instructor Jon Sawden, a Third Dan Black Belt, praised the team's dedication and hard work.

The club now looks ahead to the upcoming national event, with confidence high following these outstanding achievements.

Hauraki Plains Calibre Taekwon-Do trains at the Waitakaruru Community Hall every Monday and Thursday evening. New members of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

For more details, contact Instructor Jon Sawden, Ph 027 477 0647.

- By Janie Smith





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Four Letters of Love (109 mins) M. Magical, lyrical & deeply romantic. A life-affirming tribute to human folly, fate, love & destiny. Starring Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter. Based on Niall Williams' international best-selling novel. Set in the west of Ireland.

Friendship (100 mins) M. Comedy. Men shouldn't have friends! Suburban dad Craig falls hard for his charismatic new neighbour, but his attempts to make an adult male friend threaten to ruin both of their lives.

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.

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. *One screening 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.

Check out the Coming Soon page of our website for films that are coming after this week too. We have quite a line-up of interesting and diverse films coming.

Rural Life

‘Irresponsible’ harvest results in convictions

Convictions and fines totalling \$112,500 have been imposed for repeated environmental damage caused by a forestry harvesting operation and associated earthworks on a farm near Waihi between August 2022 and October 2023.

Forestry company Seaview Logging Limited and company director, Graeme Howard Savill, who carried out the harvest, were convicted and sentenced by District Court Judge Lauren Semple in the Huntly District Court on April 17, 2025 on five charges of breaching National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry.

The defendants appealed the sentence to the High Court; however, last week that appeal had been abandoned and the original sentence retained.

The prosecution was taken by the Waikato Regional Council and related to forestry harvesting, earthworks and river crossing activities that occurred in an 18-hectare plantation forest owned by another company directed by Mr Savill.

When council compliance officers first inspected the forestry site, they found inadequate erosion and sediment controls, unstabilised earthworks and tracking, and an illegal river



Illegal stream crossing: Slash and spoil dam a tributary of the Waitaheke Stream. Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

crossing. Sediment and slash had also been deposited into a tributary of the Waitaheke Stream which flowed through the harvest area.

Despite two abatement notices being served on the company, follow up inspections over the next year found the defendants repeatedly failed to comply with the requirements of those notices, and continued

defendants are experienced forestry operators undertaking forestry harvesting in a highly careless if not reckless manner”.

Waikato Regional Council acting Regional Compliance Manager Evan Billington said: “The Waitaheke Stream is a natural state waterbody and a fish spawning stream. The national environmental standards are designed to protect these environments.

“Where landowners or forestry contractors act irresponsibly and in breach of the regulations, resulting in adverse environmental outcomes, they can expect enforcement action to be taken.”

Mr Billington added: “The harvest and earthworks management was done very poorly, with Mr Savill failing to take his responsibilities seriously, despite the intervention of Council officers. The adverse effects of sediment and forestry slash on waterways is widely known and, in this case, on a stream with significant environmental value that should be protected.”

DETAILS: Find the full sentencing notes on the WRC website.



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Rural Life

Bingo night to go full bogan for the birds

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

After a wildly successful debut last year, Bogan Bingo is back in action. Organised by Thames Coast Kiwi Care, the event is part fundraiser, part educational evening, and is all served with a side of air guitar.

The idea came about from neighbouring conservation groups who'd seen surprising success with the irreverent bingo format.

"Last year was our first year trying the Bogan Bingo style fundraiser," committee member Ric Balfour told *The Profile*.

"Catchment groups and pest control groups often talk to each other about how they manage fundraising and who they have used to help.

"And so, we found out from some folks over in the Katikati, Waihi side, that they had really good luck raising money with the Bogan Bingo option."

It turned out the Bogan Bingo host from Activate NZ Events was related to one of the Kiwi Care crew, and the rest was history, with last year's event bringing in around \$10,000.

Ric hopes a similar figure is netted



Bogan Bingo returns next month, featuring a fun-loving air guitar competition. Photo: SUPPLIED

from this year's evening.

"The main thing is to support our trapping," he explained.

"So it's traps, and the running costs of our LUV [Light Utility Vehicle].

"We have one of those that we can use to get up to our trap lines, and it can carry people or it can carry hundreds of traps in a day. So it saves a heck of a lot of time.

"And, you know, carrying traps on a hill with a backpack is something I've done enough to know that having the access to the LUV saves a lot of time and effort."

This year's event promises even more bingo rounds, spot prizes, themed corners, a live and silent auction, and a few classic bogan-style games in between.

Funds raised will help protect local kiwi populations, which have grown by 15 per cent in the Thames Coast project area, one of the few in the country showing real gains while national numbers decline.

"We're losing the battle in places that don't have the kind of trapping and support for kiwi protection," Ric said.

"So it's little projects like ours and others around the Coromandel that are doing great things."

DETAILS: Thames Coast Kiwi Care Bogan Bingo, August 2 at the Thames Civic Centre on Mary St. DJ plays at 6.30pm, bingo starts at 7.15pm. For more details or to buy tickets online, visit thamescoastkiwicare.org.

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Getting unstuck starts with one rock at a time

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

A m a t e called me the other day. His truck was stuck. Again. T h i r d time.

I told him we'd sort a rescue party (my truck's still in bits, so I couldn't help directly), but I also gave him a bit of cheek.

"Bro, by now you should know - always bring a second

vehicle or at least a winch."

But before anyone rushed to pull him out, I encouraged him to give it a crack himself.

He was properly bogged, sitting on the sump, with the rear wheels spinning in the soft stuff.

"If you wanna feel like champions," I said, "get a jack under the back, lift it up, grab some river stones, and build a solid base. You might just get yourself out."

We stalled the rescue operation to sort dinner out for the kids. The lads could wait.

A couple hours later just before we were about to leave we

got a message... They were out!

They got creative, stacked the hole with stones, and crawled their way out. No winch, no tow rope - just some ingenuity, grunt work, and a bit of determination.

When he called me afterwards, he was amped. Stoked. Proud.

And that's the point. Sometimes the best part of getting stuck is the process of figuring out how to get unstuck.

So here's the thought that's stuck with me: Maybe you're in a bit of a mess right now. Maybe it's your own doing. Maybe not. Either way - don't hesitate

to ask for help when you need it. But also ask yourself, what can I do right now to move forward?

It might not be huge. Maybe it's just one rock at a time.

Like cutting back one coffee a day and chucking that cash into savings.

Giving your kids half an hour of your full attention, no distractions.

Or chipping away at that uni assignment instead of the last-minute panic.

It doesn't take massive moves to make meaningful progress. It just takes showing up, consistently, and doing what you

can with what you've got.

Because when you lift yourself - even just a little - you feel it. You carry that pride. You gain momentum.

So whatever you're facing right now...

Grab a jack. Stack a few rocks. And start getting yourself out.

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.

Rural Life

Feds say new finance rules 'unworkable'

Federated Farmers is calling for new proposed 'green' finance rules to be scrapped, warning they're ideologically driven, unworkable, and risk doing real harm to rural communities.

In a letter sent to Ministers and key officials on July 11, the organisation outlined a series of serious concerns with the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy.

"This framework is fundamentally flawed," Federated Farmers banking spokesperson Mark Hooper said.

"It has been created without

meaningful input from working farmers, it imposes unrealistic standards, and it risks cutting off financial services to legitimate, productive rural businesses."

The Sustainable Finance Taxonomy is being developed by the Centre for Sustainable Finance and the Ministry for the Environment to provide a consistent framework for defining what is 'green' or 'sustainable' in financial markets.

Federated Farmers said it would create major risks for New Zealand's agricultural sector and is urging the government to halt

the process entirely.

"One of our core concerns is the lack of practical farming expertise involved in developing the taxonomy," Mr Hooper said.

"There are no hands-on farmers involved with the Technical Advisory Group. Instead, it's full of shiny-shoed bankers, sustainability advisors, and forestry lobbyists.

"If you're designing a finance framework for agriculture, farmers must be at the table. This is a total governance failure."

Without real-world knowledge of farming systems, the frame-

work failed to reflect the operational realities and sustainability efforts already embedded in New Zealand's primary sector, he said. For example, the proposed taxonomy defines 'green' farming as producing less than one tonne of CO2 equivalent per hectare per year.

"This threshold is so low that no working New Zealand farm could realistically qualify, even though we're home to the most emissions-efficient food producers in the world," he said.

"It sends a message that no farm is green, regardless of how

well it's managed or how efficient it is."

Another concern was that productive farmland would be disqualified from being considered 'green' if it was ever a natural ecosystem since 2008, he said.

"This ignores decades of sustainable stewardship and penalises farms that have long been operating responsibly," Hooper said.

Federated Farmers is urging the government to disband the taxonomy process entirely, warning it will do more harm than good.

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News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



23 July 2025

Kauri sign

We're delighted with the kauri sign installed outside Thames Civic Centre being viewed and appreciated by visitors and locals alike. It joins two other large signs using the new Explore Thames branding – in the shape of the Pinnacles and a poppet head reflecting the town's mining history – in Porritt Park and Grahamstown. Information includes a map, history and information from local Māori perspective.



RATES REBATES

Applications for the 2025/26 rates rebate year from Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs are now available. We're holding a series of rates rebate clinics around the district if you'd like a helping hand to apply.

Thames office: 4-8 August. Call 07 868 0200 during office hours to book a spot.

Find out if you qualify tcdc.govt.nz/ratesrebate



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PŌTI 2025 VOTE 2025

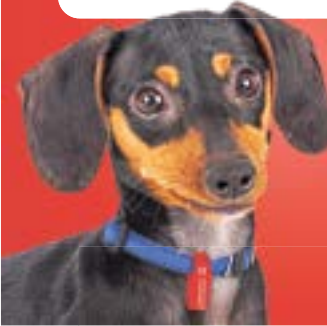
tcdc.govt.nz/elections

Nominations still open for Local Election 2025

Nominations for the Thames-Coromandel District Council election are open until Friday 1 August. Anyone interested in standing to run for Mayor, Councillor or Community Board Member in this year's election can submit a nomination online or through one of our Council service centres.

Elections are about more than voting. They're a chance to shape the future of our communities and the places that we value. Anyone considering standing as a candidate in our district should check out our 2025 pre-election report. It will help you understand more about our Council – who we are, what we do and some of the challenges that lie ahead for us. You can read it here: tcdc.govt.nz/PER-2025

Red-gister now



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

tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

KŌPŪ BOAT RAMP TOILET

A new public toilet for Kōpū boat ramp is due to be built in August.

It's one of eight public conveniences funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) through their Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF), including a new toilet at Waikawau.

tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps

CAREERS ROADSHOW

The Careers Roadshow 2025 is hitting the road in August, stopping in schools across the Coromandel (Thames High School on Monday 11 August) to inspire local rangatahi and showcase the career opportunities in our district.

We're calling on businesses, educators and industry leaders to get involved. Get in touch: isla.anderson@tcdc.govt.nz



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS ALL YEAR ROUND

The huge ripple effect of volunteering in inspiring societal change was publicised by Andrew Connaughton of Never Surrender Boxing Gym at an official celebration organised by our Council in Thames.

"Volunteering shapes our culture where helping each other is seen as normal," Andrew told around 50 attendees. "Young people grow up and see kindness in action, and feel empowered to do the same. It starts with one small act, but before you know it you've touched thousands of lives."

What's coming to your backyard?

At the end of June, our Council adopted the Annual Plan for 2025/26, setting our project priorities and budgets. We're mostly sticking to the course set in our Long Term Plan, but we had to make a few tweaks because of unavoidable cost increases and new government reforms, especially to water services. We kept the average rates increase to the 7.7% forecast in the Long Term Plan, and we raised some of our fees and charges to keep up with inflation or increases in the cost of delivering some services.



WANT THE DETAILS?

What's planned in your neighbourhood: tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2025

New fees and charges: tcdc.govt.nz/fees

Check your 2025/26 property rates: tcdc.govt.nz/rid

OUR NEXT THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 23 JULY, 10AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THAMES

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SPORTS

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FOOTBALL

Thames Women FC title charge gains pace after fourth straight win

Thames Women FC maintained their place at the top of the table with a commanding 4-1 victory over Waikato Unicol at Rhodes Park on Sunday.

In a start reflective of last week's outing in Taupo, Thames were caught cold as the visitors scored an early opener. A fluid attack saw Jessica Eyeington slide a precise pass to Georgia Mantell, who fired a first-time shot into the bottom corner for 1-0.

Thames didn't panic, instead settling into their natural attacking rhythm and delivering several dangerous crosses.

Their first clear-cut change fell to Ceyda Nem-burt, who controlled neatly before bursting into the box, but the finish trickled past the post. Brooke Douglas was next to have a glimpse of goal as she found a pocket of space before turning and firing a shot over from 30 yards.

A sustained spell of pressure paid off when Thames equalised with a superb goal. Jess Rendall's long ball found Keltie McManus, who applied a touch of magic to cushion the ball into the path of Douglas, who drilled a low finish for 1-1.

Samantha Chamberlain, Thames' midfield linchpin, then came close with a left-footed shot after cutting in from the right.

Despite dominance in possession, Unicol remained dangerous on the break, with Mantell's powerful shot rattling the bar just before halftime. Grace Teata followed up, but Nata-sha Cairns denied her in goal.

Unicol started the second half similarly to the first, creating a good chance. Teata found space on the edge of the area, but her curling effort drifted just wide. Thames found their feet again and took the lead. Last year's club top scorer, McManus, showed great pace to

latch onto a searching pass down the left from Emma Hinds-Senior, before calmly lifting the ball over the onrushing keeper to make it 2-1. Thames' narrow lead came under threat as Unicol launched a smart attack, reminding the hosts that the game was far from over. Mantell pulled the strings through midfield, combining well with Teata and Eyeington, but despite their pressure, the defence held firm and the final shot flew over the bar.

With 25 minutes to play, Thames grabbed a crucial third to give themselves breathing room heading into the final stages. Rendall burst through the backline with a marauding run before hitting the post with a curling shot - the rebound fell to Nem-burt, who was sent crashing down by a last-ditch tackle.

Hinds-Senior's initial penalty was well saved, but she followed up to smash the rebound into the roof of the net.

The two-goal lead gave Thames more freedom. They came close to extending it further, with Nem-burt and Rendall creating chances, but their shots failed to trouble Erika Parish.

Lydia Mahon put the result beyond doubt with a pinpoint right-footed strike from the edge of the box, sending the ball into the bottom corner and wrapping up a crucial three points to keep Thames firmly in the title hunt. Northern United's win means the gap at the top stays at one point with four games remaining. Thames now face another crucial test next week away to Melville Epics, a side still firmly in the title hunt with games in hand.

"Very proud of the team for coming through another tough game with all three points, enduring difficult field conditions along the way," said manager Xavier Brown.

"Huge effort from Lydia Mahon, deservedly awarded player of the match, her brilliant goal and constant threat down the wings."

Final score Thames Women FC 4-1 Waikato Unicol Women Development.

- Jonathan Coles



Player of the match Lydia Mahon scores. Photo: MARK BROWN ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notices

COSTELLO, Beverley Roy (Bev):
Passed away peacefully on 19th July, 2025; aged 88 years.
Loved wife of the late Ian Costello, and amazing mother and mother-in-law of Craig and Chanel, Julie and Tex (deceased), Maree and Butch. Nana Great to 8 adored grandchildren, and 19 treasured great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her immense joy and pride.
Her commitment to her family, friends, and community was unwavering, and her kindness touched the lives of many.
A celebration of Bev's life will be held at the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish Church, 1 Darlington Street, Ngatea, on Thursday, 24th July, at 11am, followed by a private cremation.
Please send messages to the Costello Family c/-38 Pipiroa Rd, Ngatea.

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Pet Memoriam

Pollie,
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TWENTYMANS

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Public Notices

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Venue Waikino Cafe

Meeting of Beneficiaries

Parish of Tahawai
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Purpose: Review of Trust
Venue: Te Poho 16 Tanners Rd, Tahawai
Date: August 9th
Start Time: 12pm
Please contact
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Public Notices


THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL
CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the Whangamatā Half Marathon event, will close the following streets to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.
Saturday 20 September 2025 between 7:30am to 12:30pm
Road closures will be carried out:
1. Williamson Park Internal Rd – from Mary Rd to Ocean Rd– No Access
2. Lowe St – from Ocean Rd to Esplanade St – Resident Access only
3. Lowe St – from Ocean Rd to Bellona Rd - Resident Access only
4. Bellona Road – from Lowe St to Achilles Ave - Resident Access only
5. Kiwi Rd – Road Closure Full Length - Resident Access only
6. Tui Rd – from Williamson Rd to Moa St - Resident Access only
7. Ocean Rd – from Lowe St to Williamson Rd
An approved copy of the Traffic Management Plan including road closure maps may be requested from Thames-Coromandel District Council.
Aileen Lawrie
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Public Notices

THAMES COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL
CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the Rally of Coromandel event, will close the following streets to ordinary vehicular traffic for the periods indicated hereunder.
Friday 22 August 2025
Between 3pm and 8pm
Blacksmith Lane and The Esplanade, from Albert Street to Monk Street.
Saturday 23 August 2025
Between 7am and 1pm
Kennedey Bay Road, from House 1424, and including:
All of Tuatēawa Road to the intersection of Waikawai Beach Road
All of Waikawau Beach Road to the intersection of Port Charles Road
Port Charles Road from the intersection with Waikawau Beach Road to the intersection of Colville Road
Between 10am and 7pm
The 309 Road From the Waterworks gate to House 1715
Between 11am and 6:30pm
Tapu Coroglen Road From the intersection of SH 25 to House 436
Between 3pm and 8pm
Moewai Road from the intersection of SH to the intersection of Abrahamson Drive.
All of Abrahamson Drive and Dakota Drive
An approved copy of the Traffic Management Plan including road closure maps may be requested from Thames-Coromandel District Council.
Aileen Lawrie
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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The Valley Profile

Bridging the way to a more walkable Waihi Beach

Waihi Beach is getting a new shared path and pedestrian bridge, which the district council says will make it easier for people to walk or cycle into the town centre.

Western Bay of Plenty District Council said the new link would connect Wilson Rd and Edinburgh St with a bridge across Two Mile Creek.

A boardwalk from the Wilson Rd car park will lead to the bridge, which will then continue as a shared concrete path for walking and cycling on the other side.

The path will feature a kōwhaiwhai pattern depicting the mangōpare (hammerhead shark) - a symbol of strength and determination.

The design, gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao, was selected from the wharehau at Otawhiwhi Marare, and will be sand-blasted into the concrete path.

Acknowledging mana whenua and their connection to the area, the same kōwhaiwhai was gifted to Waihi Beach's new library and service centre, Te Ara Mātauranga, which was recently opened.

The land next to the shared path will remain in gravel for the time being, so it can be used for overflow public car parking.

"This new connection will



The new Waihi Beach link will connect Wilson Rd and Edinburgh St with a bridge across Two Mile Creek.

Image: SUPPLIED

make it simpler and more enjoyable to get around Waihi Beach without needing to jump in the car. It's a great addition for both locals and visitors," council cycleways manager Scott Parker said.

"We're grateful to Te Whānau a Tauwhao for sharing this kōwhaiwhai with the community.

"It's a meaningful addition

to the path and a way for everyone to walk with a deeper sense of place."

Initiated by the Waihi Beach Community Board, the project is included in the community board's Waihi Beach Town Centre Plan, reflecting a commitment to better access and making the town more pedestrian and cycle friendly.

It is being funded through

Council's Waihi Beach Structure Plan.

Work on the project was scheduled to begin mid-July and be finished by mid-September, depending on the weather.

During this time, part of the Wilson Rd car park will be closed.

"There will be some noise and vibration while the piling

is being done, but we're doing everything we can to keep disruption to a minimum," Mr Parker said.

"All work will take place during daylight hours, and we'll be keeping locals updated as things progress."

DETAILS: Updates on the project can be found at yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/Wilson-rd-link-bridge.

ENTERTAINMENT



This Friday's free lunchtime concert will feature Te Puru School's Whanau Purapura. Photo: SUPPLIED

Te Puru students set to shine

Each year one of Thames Music Group's free Friday lunchtime concerts features a performance by students from a local primary school.

This year, the group's July free Friday lunchtime concert at 12:15pm on Friday, July 25, features Whanau Purapura, Te Puru School's Kapahaka group.

Whanau Purapura's performance features the school's senior members aged 11-13 years, many of whom have been part of the group for many years.

They will be performing some classic waiata as well as some waiata special to the local area.

Each week they train to sharpen their actions, fine tune their singing, and come together in the spirit of Whanaungatanga.

Their kaupapa is to fill Te Puru School's tamariki with pride in the cultural arts that are unique to Aotearoa. The group also likes to keep it fun, learn the old stories, perform

on special occasions, and at times, move the kuia (nans) to tears of aroha.

Come and support our local school children and enjoy their performance at this free concert.

DETAILS: Thames Music Group's Free Friday Concert series presents Whanau Purapura - Te Puru School's Kapahaka group, Friday, July 25, at 12.15pm, St George's Church, Thames. Free entry, koha/donation gratefully accepted.

SPORTS

Email your sports news, reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz



Andy McCowatt prepares to bowl.

Photos: SUPPLIED/TERRY KING

BOWLS

Kerepehi Bowls & Sports Club held it's Lion Breweries Optional Fours on July 6.


Results: 1st 4 wins 38 points 19 ends (Thames Coast/Kerepehi) Kaye Bunn team; 2nd 3.5 wins 12 points 17 ends (Hauraki) Grant Sharpe team; 3rd 3 wins 5 points

20 ends (Waihi Beach) Loz, Sian, Ritchie, Bev. Spot Prizes : Lead – Glenda Brackenridge, Two – Louise, Three – Kylie, Skip – Shaun Harrison.

Coming up: Sunday, August 3, O'Hagan Vision Care opt 4s; Sunday August 17 Harvey's Butcher Shop opt 4s. Good winter bowls to all those brave souls. - Terry King



Peter Rawlings competes in the day's competition.



DIRECT CREMATION within 15kms of Thames: **\$3225.00***


DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: **\$3470.00***

DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: **\$3580.00***

Outside all of these areas: **\$3225.00 plus mileage**

For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz **CONTACT: 07 868 6003**

* Additional mileage may apply, according to roading conditions. ** Plus Doctors Fee. The Doctors Fee for medical paperwork required for Direct Cremations is an additional charge. This fee ranges from \$45.00 to \$200.00, determined by the patient's Doctor.





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PET CREMATORIUM

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CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



SUDOKU

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

230

ACROSS

1 Perfume (5)

4 Pieces of shrewd advice (6,2,6)

11 Gulf (5)

14 Belittle (5)

15 Outcome (11)

16 Proof (8)

19 Endeavour (7)

20 Unembellished (5)

21 Undercover work (9)

24 Elated (9)

26 Hoarse (6)

27 Deal in (6)

31 Separate (5)

32 Savagely cruel (8)

34 Bigoted (10)

38 Sly (7)

39 Part of the foot (6)

40 Kiss and cuddle (6)

41 Celebrity (4)

42 Awash (7)

45 Film music (10)

50 Cheat (7)

54 Wet weather (4)

55 Fashioned (6)

56 Boxer's assistant (6)

57 Tramp (7)

60 Beat about the bush (10)

61 Lazy (8)

62 Tall building (5)

65 Courtroom trial participants (6)

66 Singing bird (6)

67 Promote for sale (9)

72 Dry run (9)

73 Strainer (5)

DOWN

2 Invent (6)

3 Courage (5)

5 Love god (4)

6 Settle (7)

7 Shiny garment decoration (6)

8 Power lead (4)

9 Surgical cut (8)

10 Poignant (6)

11 Protective escorts (10)

12 Vanished (4)

13 Dark syrup (7)

17 Extra (5)

18 Willow weaving (10)

22 Faithful (5)

23 Schooled (8)

25 Dizziness (7)

26 Pilot's compartment (7)

28 Charm (6)

29 Atom part (6)

30 Ousts (6)

33 Stringed instrument (5)

35 Mournful song (5)

36 Racing toboggan (4)

37 Continent (4)

42 Power (5)

ACROSS

43 Death notice (8)

44 Discern the presence of (6)

45 Argue over trifles (5,5)

46 Rescind (4)

47 Fate (7)

48 Ebb (6)

49 Waterway (5)

51 Enfold (4)

52 Tense (7)

53 Connected (6)

58 Corpulent (10)

59 Single (5)

63 Side by side, equidistant and not intersecting (8)

64 At rest (5)

65 Envious (7)

68 Fan (7)

69 Leguminous plant with underground pods (6)

70 Japanese garment (6)

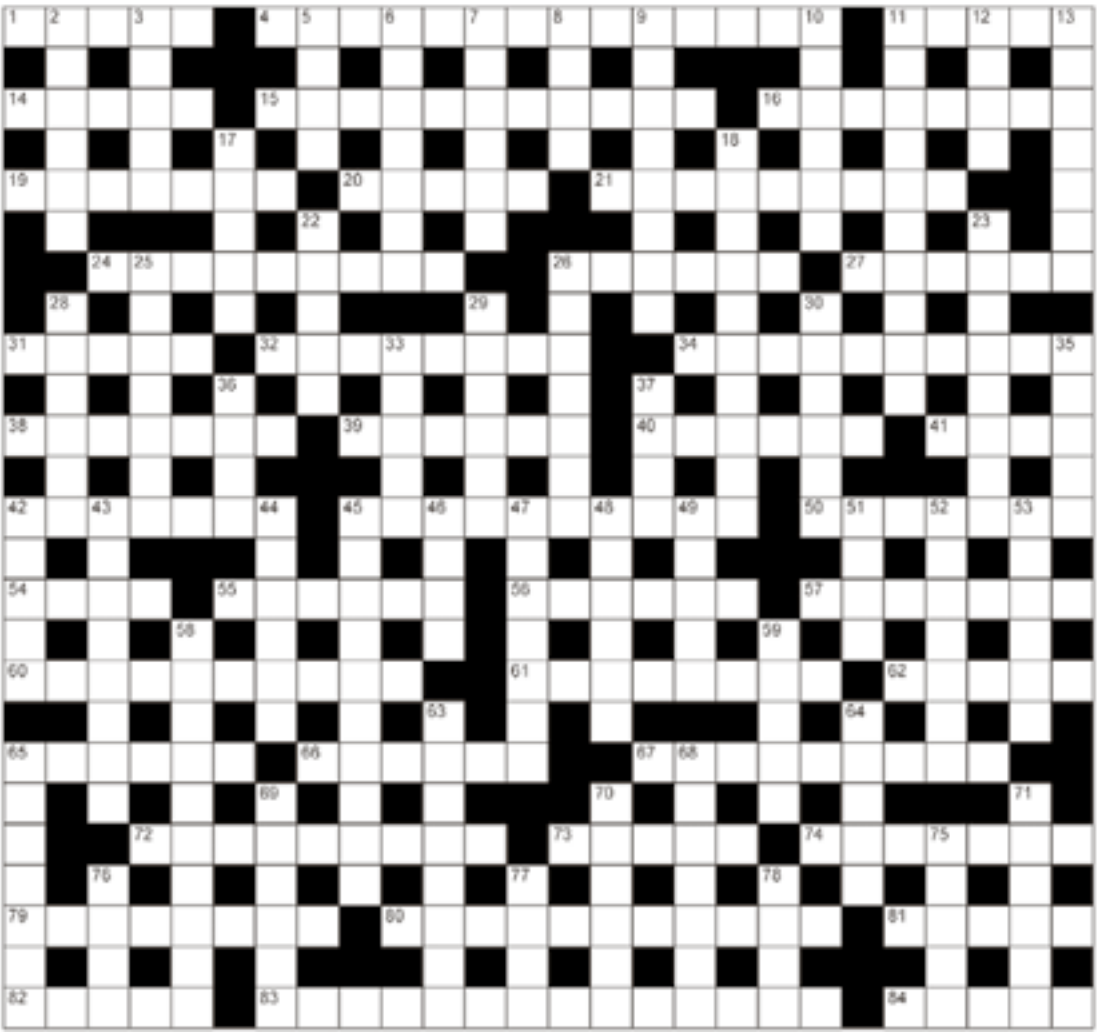
71 Restricting leash (6)

75 Hubbub (5)

76 Biting insect (4)

77 Watched (4)

78 Leave out (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Acute, 4 Skeleton, 9 Dimple, 14 Onion, 15 Out of the ordinary, 17 Scorn, 18 Emu, 19 Standby, 20 Disgusted, 21 Detour, 24 Successor, 25 Castle, 26 Unjust, 29 Psychopath, 31 All, 32 Lawful, 33 Step, 35 Owe, 37 Able, 39 Impromptu, 40 Potpourri, 41 Rests, 42 Ancestor, 47 Employer, 51 Irked, 55 Transform, 56 Essential, 58 Talc, 59 Tea, 60 Rage, 61 Ashore, 62 Due, 63 Insatiable, 66 Radius, 67 Stocky, 69 Top secret, 72 Varied, 73 Tarantula, 75 Lullaby, 77 Lee, 80 Event, 81 Left out in the cold, 82 Short, 83 Stored, 84 Lessened, 85 Gypsy.

DOWN: 2 Courteous, 3 Thorn, 5 Keep, 6 Lorries, 7 Trigger-happy, 8 Nears, 9 Dryness, 10 Most, 11 Looted, 12 Liner, 13 Inquest, 14 Ongoing, 16 Tobacconist, 22 Revamp, 23 Blowups, 24 Secrete, 25 Colour, 27 Utterly, 28 Custom, 30 Hoop, 32 Least, 34 Prior, 36 Foil, 38 Ban, 42 Actor, 43 Charged, 44 Sash, 45 Oboist, 46 Skate, 48 Pull through, 49 Outcast, 50 Eel, 51 Imports, 52 Deadly, 53 Ostentatious, 54 Anti, 57 Issued, 64 Lifebelts, 65 Quartet, 66 Recluse, 68 Crawled, 70 Palette, 71 Desert, 72 Venom, 74 Awful, 76 Lucky, 78 Stir, 79 Once.



OPEN HOME



Boundary lines are indicative only

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Set in the picturesque Kauaeranga Valley just over ten minutes from Thames township, this lifestyle property offers space, privacy, and the best of country living. The home features a large modern kitchen, spacious dining, comfortable lounge, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and an enclosed sunroom opening to a large courtyard and patio. Sitting on 5.0231ha (more or less), the land includes well-fenced paddocks, a double garage with a workshop, and wide rural views. A fully self-contained one-bedroom flat with a kitchenette and bathroom adds flexibility for family, guests, or income. Don't miss your chance to be located within the stunning Coromandel region. Get in touch today!

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4 1 2 2

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View 12.45-1.30pm Sun 27 Jul
Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399
glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz
Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389
maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
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508 436

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geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz
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SPORTS

Thames swim stars make a splash

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of Thames Amateur Swimming Club (TASC) swim stars made more than a splash at a recent competition. Twelve Thames swimmers competed at the Junior XLR8 Programme from May 31 to June 1, which was hosted by the Taupō Swimming Club at the AC Baths, where some of the young athletes not only achieved personal best results but also landed in top spots. TASC committee member Rebecca Greene told *The Profile* all but four swimmers earned a first, second, or third placing in at least one of their events, and said it was “such an impressive effort from the whole team”. Young aquatic athletes Haven Sawyer, 11, Devyn Greene, 9, and Chloe Scott, 13, achieved podium placings, while Levi Dowty, 13, achieved personal best results for all 10 of his events. Haven said he was “happy and a little shocked” when he found out he placed third for the



A group of Thames Amateur Swimming Club members ready to compete at Junior XLR8. INSET: Age group winners Chloe Scott, Devyn Green, and Haven Sawyer. Photos: SUPPLIED



One significant race for the swimmer was the 200m individual medley, which he said he hadn’t done in a while but “all four strokes felt really good”. Meanwhile, Devyn, who placed second overall for the nine year age group, said her most challenging event was the 200m individual medley. “I’ve only raced it once before. It’s long, but I just focused

on my strong strokes and gave it everything.” Devyn and her teammate Chloe both said they supported their squad by standing pool-side and yelling their hearts out. “My voice is usually gone by the end,” Chloe said. Chloe placed third overall for the 13 year age group, and went equipped with a pre-race mindset to think about how many lengths she needed to swim, end with a strong finish, and achieve a good personal best. Fellow swimmate Levi said the toughest event for him was the 200 individual medley. “It was the last race of the weekend, and I was exhausted, but I really wanted a PB (personal best),” he said. “I just kept telling myself to kick hard and keep going.” His favourite race was the 100m individual medley. “It’s fast and I’m pretty good at it. I also got a huge PB in the 400 free[style], which was really cool.” One thing was certain, the Thames athletes enjoyed their swimming community and advised young swimmers to “come and give it a go”. It wasn’t always serious, and there was a great mix of ages, they said.

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