

# The Valley Profile

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**What began as a school leadership project quickly moved beyond the classroom when 12-year-old Mieya Smith learned that the fight for a safe footpath in her community wouldn't be so straightforward.**

The Ngātea Primary School student said a decades-old safety dilemma affecting families in Kaiaua and her hometown of Whakatīwai was the desperate need for a safe footpath connecting the coastal villages. So, she decided to take action.

"The school project was all about giving back to the community, so I went out and talked to the villages," Mieya told *The Profile*.

"I surveyed local residents, walking door-to-door and sharing an online form, and discovered that the majority of people ranked the footpath as their top priority for what change they wanted to see in the community.

"From there I knew I needed to get more awareness from beyond the towns, so with the help of my mum I emailed [Hauraki District Mayor] Toby Adams and council's Long Term Planning committee."

Mieya presented her findings to the mayor and councillors - a "big step" that at first yielded positive results.

However, she has since learned that central government funding cuts to safety works have halted the footpath's construction.

"When [Mayor] Toby emailed me back and said that the funding was cut for their safety works, I was really disappointed."

Mieya said she was also told by Coromandel MP Scott Simpson that the decision would be left for the district council to make.

So, enough was enough.

On July 20, Mieya and a group of supporters stood at the edge



## Young advocate fights for footpath

**On July 20, Mieya Smith, 12, and a group of supporters stood at the edge of Whakatīwai holding posters to raise awareness about the need for a safe footpath.**

**KELLEY TANTAU reports**

Photo: SUPPLIED

of Whakatīwai holding posters to raise awareness. She said she wanted to show the council how important a footpath was to the community.

"This isn't just about convenience, it's about making sure kids can walk to school or between the two villages without fear," she said.

"Tourists get nice cycle trails and walkways, but what about the residents who live here year-round?"

"Kids, parents, and even grandparents told me how scary it is to walk or bike along the road, especially with no safe space for pedestrians or pushchairs."

"Some suggested a flashing 'slow down' sign near the school too, but the footpath was the biggest need."

"It's a matter of safety for everyone."

Mieya said their voices were heard on the roadside, but this

wasn't the end of the fight.

She's calling on Hauraki District Council to find a way to fund the footpath project, even if it means reprioritising other spending.

"Safety shouldn't have to wait," she said, "and I think if a 12-year-old is putting in all this effort for this footpath, so should they."

Mayor Toby Adams said there'd been "a lot of talk" for a number of years about a footpath connecting

Kaiaua with Whakatīwai.

The project was set to happen under the previous government, with a programme that funded 61 per cent of the district's safety improvements on or near its roads.

However, with the change in government, Mayor Adams said, the funding was "squashed".

"So now we're going through our programme to see what [roading

CONTINUED ON P3

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# Mayor 'fit for duty' amid health concerns

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

Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt is adamant he is still fit to lead, despite a spate of health issues which have left him confined to a wheelchair as he awaits surgery.

Mayor Salt posted a message on social media on July 27 thanking Thames and Waikato hospitals for care he received during a "cycle" of inpatient visits between July 1 and 20.

"The last few weeks have been particularly challenging for me with a couple of niggling health issues getting bad enough to land me in hospital more than once," he said.

"At the core of these issues seems to be a combination of hip and spinal issues, some of them historical. I have undergone a series of MRI and CT scans as well as the usual x-ray and blood tests. I am happy to say that overall I'm feeling much improved. There is still more work to do and discussions with the orthopaedic specialists which will happen over the next few weeks."

The Mayor told *The Profile* he now needed to use a wheelchair at work, although he could still walk short distances.

"I'm on a list to be seen and to get some surgery, but it's not a fast list.



Len Salt says he won't let recent health issues affect his mayoral duties. SUPPLIED

"It's going to limit me for a little while... If I'm out and about and looking at things on site, there's going to be some areas where I've just got to be careful about whether I can access the site or not," he said.

"But I've got teams of people around me who are really ready, willing and able to help."

Accessibility accommodations, such as a closer carpark, are already being made for Mayor Salt at the council building in Thames.

"There's no getting away from the fact that I might be partially disabled, but that is purely an access and mobil-

ity issue," he said. Mayor Salt also confirmed his intention to run for re-election later this year, and he said the community could be "absolutely confident" in his ability to perform the role.


"I won't be the first partially disabled mayor or politician around, but it's a good exercise for a council in particular and for a community, in how to work in that disability space," he said.

"The knowledge that I have built up and the experience over the term and the projects that I'm working on with my team that are partway through will continue and they'll be beneficial to the council in ways that I'm really excited about."

Mayor Salt's duties were delegated to Deputy Mayor Terry Walker during his absence.

"I can't thank Terry enough for his assistance during this period. This has ensured smooth and seamless continuation of council activities and the duties of the office of the mayor."

The Mayor also thanked his wife, Svargo, and close friend and campaign manager Anna Dunwoodie. "It's been tough on them. But I can't say enough about how much they've helped and supported me through this."



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Thames Tides

| Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   | Sun   | Mon   | Tue   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jul 30   | Jul 31   | Aug 1  | Aug 2   | Aug 3   | Aug 4   | Aug 5   |
|   |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| <div>Morning<br/>4:45am 0.6 4:55pm 0.7<br/>11:01am 3.3 11:18pm 3.3</div> <div>7:19am 5:31pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>4:04am 4:24pm</div> <div> Rise 10:00am<br/>Set 10:59pm</div> | <div>Morning<br/>5:27am 0.7 5:39pm 0.8<br/>11:43am 3.2</div> <div>7:18am 5:31pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>4:45am 5:05pm</div> <div> Rise 10:23am<br/>Set 11:59pm</div> | <div>Morning<br/>12:01am 3.2 12:27pm 3.1<br/>6:09am 0.8 6:26pm 1.0</div> <div>7:17am 5:32pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>5:26am 5:47pm</div> <div> Rise 10:47am</div> | <div>Morning<br/>12:45am 3.1 1:14pm 3.0<br/>6:53am 0.9 7:18pm 1.1</div> <div>7:16am 5:33pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>6:09am 6:31pm</div> <div> First Quarter<br/>Set 12:58am<br/>Rise 11:14am</div> | <div>Morning<br/>1:30am 3.0 2:08pm 2.9<br/>7:41am 1.0 8:15pm 1.2</div> <div>7:15am 5:34pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>6:54am 7:18pm</div> <div> Set 1:59am<br/>Rise 11:45am</div> | <div>Morning<br/>2:19am 2.9 3:08pm 2.9<br/>8:35am 1.0 9:14pm 1.2</div> <div>7:14am 5:35pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>7:43am 8:09pm</div> <div> Set 3:00am<br/>Rise 12:23pm</div> | <div>Morning<br/>3:11am 2.8 4:09pm 2.9<br/>9:35am 1.1 10:11pm 1.1</div> <div>7:13am 5:35pm</div> <div> Best At<br/>8:35am 9:02pm</div> <div> Set 4:00am<br/>Rise 1:09pm</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   |
|-------------|----|----|-------|
| 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 |



# Florist latest victim as retail crime rises in Thames

**A Thames florist already battling an increase in shoplifting says rising drug use is fuelling a wave of retail crime. Her store is the latest to be hit. KELLEY TANTAU reports**

A florist in Thames “beefed up” security to respond to more brazen and more frequent thefts, but two offenders still at large weren’t deterred when they wantonly cut, smashed, and stole inside the Pollen St store.

Nicole Phillips, who owns Flowers on Pollen, was the victim of a break-in between 1am-2am on July 23.

Two people were caught on CCTV cameras changing their clothes in Service Lane 5 before making their way to the front of the store.

At 1.13am, one kept watch while the other jimmied open the doors and slashed the business’ recently-installed electronic security blind with a knife.

In the 30 minutes the pair were inside, they removed two security cameras, and stole electronics, a sound system, jewellery, cameras, chocolate and paperwork.

They toppled shelves adorned with ceramic pots, plants, homeware, and locally-made gifts.

They damaged the shop’s counter and register.

Costs were still being calculated but Nicole believed the crime had cost her upwards of \$7500.

“We have seen a significant increase in shoplifting lately - usually just small items, skin care and confectionary mainly, but we had an incident a few months back where someone stole eight bunches of flowers and some product in one go, so incidents of theft are more brazen as well as frequent, and we beefed up security as a response,” Nicole told *The Profile*.

She believed retail crime was getting worse in Thames, and said there were many factors at play, which was why the issue was getting “hospital passed” between organisations and “accountability holders”.

“I think it’s a community-wide problem; a mental health, addiction, housing, economic, crime - and consequences - problem.”

She also believed drug use in the town was fuelling a lot of the crime.

“We have seen so much antisocial and criminal behaviour on the main street. We have also had people urinate and defecate at our front door. There is just a real decline in standards in our town’s main street,” she said.

“I know the community board, council, business association and police are all working on initiatives to try and make our streets safer, and I hope we can get a good outcome for our community.”

**“I think it’s a community-wide problem; a mental health, addiction, housing, economic, crime - and consequences - problem.”**

- Nicole Phillips

Thames Business Association chief executive Sue Lewis-O’Halloran said she was “heartsick” about the latest break-in at Flowers on Pollen.

She echoed Nicole’s sentiments and said there were two key issues at play, “just as they are in small towns and big cities throughout New Zealand: mental illness and addictions, particularly meth”.

“There is no question that having a stronger, 24/7 police presence would probably help as we know our police are under-resourced. So I think a multi-agency, community-focused approach could be an effective way to deal with this,” Sue said.

“There are no easy solutions, [but] Flowers on Pollen is such an asset to Thames, as is Nicole, and she has worked so hard to create a beautiful space.”

Waikato East Prevention Manager, Acting Senior Sergeant Lara Beisly, told *The Profile* that at around 4:50am on July 23, Police received a report of a burglary at a commercial premises on Pollen St.

The burglary was believed to have occurred earlier that morning, at around 1:40am.

“Police have visited the premises and surrounding businesses and are working to try and identify the offenders.”

“CCTV footage has been located that shows a vehicle of interest outside the premises at the time.”

She said Police currently had a community constable, as well as frontline officers, assigned to carry out regular beat patrols in the Thames CBD area.

In the past week they have been visiting and speaking with local shopkeepers to discuss crime prevention measures. “This type of crime is incredibly frustrating and can have a significant impact on innocent people’s lives,” she said.

“We encourage all property owners to look at what they can do to deter criminals. Simple measures can have a big effect as many offenders are looking for easy targets. These measures include installing CCTV, securing windows, and reviewing locking mechanisms on buildings to ensure they can’t be easily broken.”

**DETAILS: Enquiries are ongoing and if any member of the public has information that may assist Police in identifying the offenders please call 105 and quote the reference number: 250723/2526.**

# Fight for Whakatiwai footpath

CONTINUED FROM P1

improvements] are the key ones and to see if we can fund those - and that means council will have to fund it 100 per cent.

“In a nutshell, we’ve got to try and please as many as we can with the least amount of dollars - and that’s a real balancing act.”

Mayor Adams said a roading report will be presented to councillors in a few months, and the Kaiaua-Whakatiwai footpath will be among the items up for discussion. “[Mieya] hasn’t given up, which is fantastic,” he said.

“It shows great courage and strength from a young individual to keep at that, and she’s passionate about it, and I’m confident at some point we’ll be able to get it across the line.”



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## Chris' Quiz

1. Miley Cyrus famously has which singer as her godmother?  
a) Cher, b) Dolly Parton, or c) Madonna?

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

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# Zachariah leads US Air Cadets in Japan

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Zachariah Siemers was around 10 years old when he realised he wanted to join the US Air Force.

It was something that sparked his interest after he watched some old World War II documentaries with his dad, the now 16-year-old told *The Profile*.

“My dad once told me about my great grandfather being a pilot in World War II and it just inspired me.”

Zachariah said his great grandfather was in the United States Army Airforce or USAAF.

Zachariah, who is a current member of 37th squadron Thames ATC, said he had a lot of family members who served in the army or navy, and “wanted to be the one” to follow his great grandfather into the Air Force.

It’s what makes his recent news a special milestone in his journey.

Zachariah returned to New Zealand after a two-week encampment in Japan last month with the US Air Cadets at the Misawa Airforce Base, a joint United States of America/Japan base on the shores of Lake Ogawara, where he was selected to take part as a cadre or cadet leader. He attended the same encampment in 2024 as a cadet, and was awarded Honour Cadet of his flight.

But his transition into cadre this year was “definitely a big step”, he said.

“As a cadet, you are the one



**Zachariah Siemers during his encampment in Japan with the US Air Cadets. RIGHT: Zachariah with the United States flag.**

Photos: SUPPLIED

learning and achieving things amongst your peers. Moving into cadre, you are being put into leadership so I had to now put my skills from last year into a leadership position.”

The leader, who is also a year 11 student from Hauraki Plains College, said all cadres had to be “at the top of their game” as they were expected to set an example.

“We are the ones making sure the cadets have someone to look up to and go to at the end of the encampment,” he said.

His title was Cadet Chief Master Sergeant, but people referred to him as Chief Siemers. He was able to take on new experiences, such as when he said he visited the Japanese side of the air force base and met members of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDAF such as pilots, trainers and crew



members who worked on the T2 Training Fighters, he said.

“They allowed us to put on the gear that is required to fly and sit in the cockpit.”

But the best part of the encampment was being reunited

with old friends he met previously, who also went back as cadre.

One significant thing Zachariah was able to do was trade unit patches.

“My unit commander from

37th squadron Thames gave me three of our unit patches.”

He said it was a very rare thing as his squadron didn’t give patches out easily.

His first trade was with his cadet deputy commander from California for a challenge coin from the Los Angeles Space Force at the Air Force Base in California.

The second trade was for a 35 MXG Staff patch with his encampment unit commander, who worked as an engineer for the F16 engines.

His final patch was traded with a senior member from the Okinawa cadet squadron who gave Zachariah a patch from his squadron.

His love of patches was evident, as he purchased more and was also given some as gifts.

It’s no wonder he soon adopted the call sign “patches”.

Zachariah’s advice for people who would like the opportunity to do something similar was to research and look up the New Zealand Cadet Forces.

“It may not be the US Cadet Forces but they are just as awesome.

“The closest unit is 37 Squadron ATC in Thames at the airfield. There is a recruitment night coming up in August at the Thames airfield... but you can still drop in any time,” he said.

“They offer an amazing amount of opportunities, I highly recommend if you are interested please give it a go, you will definitely feel different.”

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Waihi

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2


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1

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Waihi

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Thames Rallies Behind Local Businesses with Feel-Good Buy Local Campaign

A fresh wave of community spirit is sweeping through the Thames Ward — from Hikutaia to Waikawau — as the Thames Business Association proudly launches its *Buy Local Campaign*.

You may have already spotted the bright new stickers popping up on shopping bags, car bumpers, and shop windows, all carrying a simple yet powerful message:

Support the Businesses that Support Our Community

Behind this vibrant campaign lies a heartfelt goal — to remind locals that every dollar spent here makes a difference. And it’s not just economics. It’s about people, passion, and pride in our place.

“When you support local, you’re helping your neighbour, your cousin, your friend’s small business,” says one Thames business owner. “It gives me great pleasure to offer a job to a local person — it’s an investment in their future here.”

Here’s what happens when you choose to buy local:

- **More Money Stays Here:** \$68 of every \$100 spent stays in the local economy
- **Jobs Are Created for Locals:** Local businesses employ local people
- **The Environment Wins Too:** Less transport means less fuel and packaging
- **Community Groups Thrive:** From school fundraisers to rugby teams, local businesses give back
- **Tailored Products & Services:** They stock what *you* love, because they know you
- **Expert Help:** Local business owners build relationships, not just make sales
- **Thames Becomes a Destination:** Visitors love the charm and are guided by a local Info Centre that knows where to send them
- **Creativity & Enterprise Flourish:** Supporting locals helps new ideas and ventures grow

“We wouldn’t be able to give back to the community if people stopped shopping here,” another business owner shares. “Your support isn’t just appreciated — it’s essential.”

The Buy Local campaign is more than a slogan — it’s a movement. It’s about pride in our town, belief in our people, and building a better future together. So let’s keep it going:

Buy local. Stay local. Be proud to shop in Thames.

Check out the campaign at [explorethames.nz](https://explorethames.nz) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, where we’re shining a spotlight on the incredible local businesses that make our community thrive.

Thames Art Gallery

604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast

[www.thamesartgallery.co.nz](http://www.thamesartgallery.co.nz)

August Featured Artists

FAY TUTAHI

Exhibition Opening  
Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 5.30pm  
Drinks & nibbles provided  
All Welcome

Fay enjoys researching her subjects, and then reducing the information to a minimum; a shape, colour or word. In this way she is a minimalist storyteller

RIA ERASMUS

Ria's exhibition will feature a huge range of beautiful, weird, funny, unique and seriously interesting creations  
Something to interest everyone

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Movies from Thursday 31 July to Wednesday 6 August

For times, see our website, pick up a brochure by the cinema doors, or email or phone us. You can book online, by ringing or emailing us, or by popping into the cinema when it's open.

**The Life Of Chuck (110 mins)** M. A life-affirming, genre-bending story based on Stephen King's novella about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz.

**The Friend (120 mins)** M. Writer and teacher Iris (Naomi Watts) finds her comfortable, solitary New York life thrown into disarray after her closest friend and mentor (Bill Murray) bequeaths her his beloved Great Dane, Apollo. Apollo creates practical problems for Iris, but Iris unexpectedly bonds with him.

**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 an international best-seller. Set in the west of Ireland with stunning cinematography. A glorious, uplifting story.

**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.

**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.

**The Salt Path (115 mins)** M. A couple embark on a year-long trek along the coast of Cornwall. An honest and life-affirming true story of the healing power of the natural world. Based on a best-selling book.

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.

THAMES

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HONO MAI   JOIN THE TEAM

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Annual General Meeting of CAB Thames Incorporated / Te Pou Whakawhirinaki o Pārāwai will be held on Wednesday 27 August, 2025 at 3pm. All are welcome to attend at our premises, 301D Queen Street, Thames.



# Golden Years

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## All saddled up

Hetherington House’s dining room resembled something out of a western movie on July 24. The Waihi rest home’s residents were celebrating International Cowboy Day with home-baked cookies, line dancing, visits from family and friends, and a performance from Matamata country music singer Glenn Carley. **ALICE PARMINTER** moseyed on down to catch the festivities.



Edith dresses to impress, left, while Yvonne plays the sheriff.



Clare, Kim and Eleanor enjoy the atmosphere.



Joyce, Della and Barbie gather in the saloon.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Carol, right, samples the cookies with Billy and Nancy.



Billie Carpenter and Susan and Dennis O'Brian enjoy the occasion.

## Save up to \$805 off your rates bill

On 1 July 2025, the rates rebate income threshold per household increased. This means you could be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$805.

Are you a SuperGold Card holder\*? Then your income threshold is higher.

Check your eligibility and apply online at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-rebates-scheme> or contact your local Council.

If you qualify, your completed application must be received by your local council by 30 June 2026.

\*A copy of your signed SuperGold Card must be included with your application.



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## Tips to connect and enjoy your golden years

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

In the Hauraki-Coromandel region, there’s a quiet strength in the people who’ve helped shape it - our seniors.

The region offers not just beautiful surroundings to explore, but a strong sense of community that makes staying connected both possible and meaningful.

Whether people have lived here all their life or arrived more recently seeking a peaceful retirement - there are plenty of opportunities for people in their golden years to stay involved, informed and inspired.

A great first step is the local library or community centre.

These spaces often serve as hubs for information with bulletin boards filled with club notices, upcoming workshops, walking groups or social events.

Church services also offer gatherings, volunteer opportunities and quiet companionship for those looking to connect.

If you’re interested in staying active and social, you’ll find book clubs, craft groups, gardening circles or regular morning teas held in community halls or cafes. Local historical societies are perfect for sharing stories and keeping the region’s heritage alive - something many seniors enjoy contributing to.

Health and wellbeing are also supported across the region with pharmacies and clinics often hosting free screening days or wellness events and can also point people toward services like home visits, transportation help or local support groups.

For most people, connection often begins with a simple step: attending a gathering, saying yes to an invitation or starting a conversation.

The Golden Years are not just for looking back, they’re for staying involved, sharing wisdom and enjoying the community you are part of.





Golden Years

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Helloworld Travel Thames team, left, Shelley, Kylee, Ashleigh, Jo, Jen and Doleena. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Unforgettable travel

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Register now to secure your place by emailing [jo.robinson@travel.helloworld.co.nz](mailto:jo.robinson@travel.helloworld.co.nz) or calling 07 8689260. Enjoy a sit-down presentation on our most popular destinations and travel styles, with plenty of time before and after to speak with our team, ask questions, and gather inspiration for your next adventure. Registration and RSVP will be essential.

Meet Shelley who has just joined our award winning team, and Kylee who is available for appointments in Whangamata every Monday at White Noise office.

Join the helloworld team, Jo, Jen, Ash, Kylee, Dee and Shelley for an informative morning with great travel inspiration!

— Supplied by helloworld Travel Thames

## Hauraki District - a great place to retire

**R**etired in Hauraki District? Good choice!

Here's some helpful information about Hauraki District Council services.

**RATES REBATE**  
Check your eligibility online to see if you qualify for a rates rebate of up to \$805. If you do, make sure you apply every year by June 30 (they are not automatically renewed).

**Apply online or through your local council.**

**LIMITED MOBILITY?**  
If you have limited mobility, you can apply for our Assisted Kerbside Collection service.

**For \$60 a year, the contractor will fetch all bins from your property and return them to the same spot on each collection day.**

**HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY**  
Hauraki District Council owns and operates pensioner flats in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngātea.

**Demand can be high so it pays to get on the waiting list early. Eligibility criteria apply.**

**LOVE READING?**  
Join our libraries and open a world of friendship, online resources, activities, book clubs, community services and more. Check out [www.library.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.library.hauraki-dc.govt.nz)

**ANTENNO APP**  
Our free, easy to use app is your one stop shop for staying connected with council news and alerts - for example what bins to put out on collection day. Broken signpost, roaming dog, blocked drain? Report issues like this and more, on the spot, using Antenno - it's a game changer. Download from the Apple Store or Get it on Google Play.

**SWIMMING SEASON**  
Aged 65+? Swim for 90 minutes for \$2 (usually \$3), Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 9:00am.

**Visit [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz) to learn more about these services or contact our friendly customer service team on 0800 734 834.**

—Supplied by Hauraki District Council



Contact Hauraki District Council to learn more about their services. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Te Pou Whakawhirinaki o Parawai



Rural Life

# Students lead school farm wetland restoration

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

An undeveloped paddock at Hauraki Plains College's Hayward Farm is set to become a thriving wetland, thanks to a new project that blends environmental restoration with hands-on learning.

The initiative is part of a long-term development plan for the college's school farm, which was purchased by the Haurakian Charitable Trust to support hands-on learning in Primary Industries - a programme that now attracts around 250 students each year.

"The school farm's teaching and management team had proposed a long-term development plan, which included a wetland area," Yotam Kay, the college's teacher of horticulture, social and environmental studies, told *The Profile*.

"We chose this area as it has low grazing value while being a great wetland site, restoring a natural habitat, providing shelter and food for wildlife, and acting as a privacy shelter belt between the farm and the new neighbourhood being developed."

Yotam said the planting area would provide an array of learning opportunities during its development and as it ma-



Students work on the college's Hayward Farm.

Photo: SUPPLIED/HPC

tured. "Students are the ones propagating and growing the plants, as well as [the ones] who will be planting them and maintaining the area, which we hope will include pest control."

The area chosen to be developed as a wetland was in a low-lying paddock with poor drainage, Yotam said.

It will be planted in two phases, with each area about 2000 square metres in size.

The planting in the first site started this month.

The college is also in its fourth year of being involved in Trees for Survival, an environmental education programme which has seen the school plant

around 900 natives. Yotam, who also runs an environmental learning lab each week with Year 13 environmental council lead Ruby McKay, said students were "absolutely" becoming more 'hands-on' when it came to eco-minded actions.

"Most students find planting native trees an empowering and fun activity, and when asked if they would like to do this again, we mostly hear a resounding yes," he said.

"Students love contributing to the improvement of our environment's health. They are aware of the pressure we are placing on the environment and want to contribute to making it healthier.

"Research shows that opportunities to take action, like planting trees, directly contribute to their well-being and sense of efficacy.

"It is really exciting to collaborate with students and teachers on real-world projects in and around the school, and we are fortunate to have so many committed and passionate students who embrace these opportunities and see their leadership skills grow."



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tree, miniature houses inspire

The first of the featured artists for August is Fay Tutahi, who will be exhibiting on the southern wall of the Thames Art Gallery.

Fay has titled her exhibition *I Touched a Tree*, which pays homage to her new home in Te Puru and the settling-in process. Throughout that process, Fay began exploring her natural surroundings and building conversations that led her to discover several trees of significance and whakapapa ties.

She said the hows, whens, whos and the whys were all asked and finally, *I Touched a Tree* evolved.

Fay considers herself a new artist, although she has been creating healing art with others for more than 40 years, passing many of her skills on to emerging artists through community education, and she has participated in shared and solo exhibitions both local and throughout the North Island.

She said the initial enjoyment she gets from observing life in action is what she is about as an artist. She likes to study and research all that interests her to gain a deeper knowledge of her subjects.

She then reduces all that information to the bare minimum, may it be a shape, a mixed colour or even a word. She says one may consider her to be a minimalist storyteller.

The second of the featured artists for August is Ria Erasmus, a mixed media and pottery artist who works primarily with hand



Fay Tutahi's exhibition is called *I Touched a Tree*. Photos: SUPPLIED

built forms. Her exhibition will be at the northern end of the gallery. Her pieces range from quiet, earthy tones to bright, happy bursts of colour, reflecting a playful yet grounded approach to creating.

With a focus on texture, imperfection, and intuitive processes, her work explores the beauty of the handmade and the stories objects can hold.

Ria's exhibition will feature a huge range of subject items, from weird and funny, to useful or absolutely useless.... but seriously interesting.

She says: "there will be something for everyone, flickering fairy houses, bee drinking cups, patchwork mugs and bowls, replicas



Ria Erasmus' miniature houses will feature during August. DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm and weekends 10am to 4pm.

Voices in harmony at festival

St George's Community Choir is putting on a *Festival of Fauré*, a "reflective and uplifting" concert celebrating the music of French composer Gabriel Fauré.

Two performances will be held in Thames on August 2 and 3 in the historic St George's Anglican Church on Mackay St.

Committee member Barbara Tegg said the church was "a fitting setting for Fauré's reflective compositions" and the choir was "delighted" to welcome back guest artists for the shows.

Long-time collaborator Michael Bell will return on organ and piano; soprano Emma Jones and baritone Arana Ashby, both soloists from the University of Waikato, will join the choir in featured movements; while two Fauré works will be performed by flutist Nichola Genn Harris and pianist Yi Ting Heng.

Barbara said for the choir, rehearsing for the concert had been

a "joyful but stretching experience".

"The smaller pieces of music are sung in French, and the unfamiliar text has required careful attention and plenty of good humour.

"But the shared challenge has brought the choir of more than 50 singers closer together."

St George's Community Choir draws singers from across the Thames Valley, from Te Aroha and the Hauraki Plains, to the upper Coromandel and beyond.

The concert marks the first under the direction of Musical Director Kolitha (Koli) Jayatunge. Based in Waikato, Koli is an experienced tenor soloist and conductor, and also leads the Cantando Choir and Waikato Youth Choir.

**DETAILS: August 2 at 5pm and, August 3 at 2pm. St George's Church. Tickets: adults \$25; seniors and students \$20; primary school students free. Purchase at the door or Carson's Bookshop, cash only.**



Organist Micheal Bell rehearses with the choir. Photo: SUPPLIED



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# Life's not fair - but still worth grabbing with both hands

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Recently I walked out of a funeral for someone whose life was cut far too short.

You could see the questions and pain written all over the faces of those who loved them.

As I stepped outside, someone came up to me. We hugged,

and they said the words that get thrown around in moments like this — “Life’s not fair.”

And to be fair, the statement could not have been more fitting for such an unexpected and undeserved end.

But standing there, thinking about it later, my thought was simpler still: Life’s life.

Sometimes it’s unfair.

Sometimes it’s more than fair.

Sometimes we reap what we sow.

And other times, it just blindsides us out of nowhere.

It’s something I often remind my kids when they’re grumbling about something not going their way.

“Life’s not fair, the sooner your realise it the better.”

It’s not meant to be a harsh lesson — just an honest one.

Walking away from that funeral, reflecting on the fragility of it all, I found myself both

numb and challenged.

Challenged to push harder.

Challenged to love deeper.

Challenged to take life by the horns, not to sit back and let it drift by.

Because if life really is unpredictable, and none of us know what’s around the next corner, shouldn’t we be doing our best to make the most of it?

For our kids.

For our loved ones.

For our friends and our community.

For the legacy we leave behind. Life’s not fair.

But it’s still a gift worth grabbing with both hands.

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.

Gardening

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Gardens show signs of what's to come

We are at the crest of the hill and it is all downhill to spring.

It has been lovely watching the birds in the garden all vying for whatever food, nectar and bugs that they can find.

There is a distinct pecking order in the bird world so put a few nails in the top of the fence or on a post and put some citrus halves on to the nails.

You will be pleasantly surprised by the visitors to your garden.

This month is also a good time for a winter tidy up, clip hedges, edges and a final prune.

Prepare the vegetable garden for spring planting by digging in compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. This helps to condition the soil and attract earthworms.

If the seed potatoes are in your garden centre, now is the time to get your potato beds ready by digging in some good compost.

Continue harvesting existing crops and start planting out more cut and come varieties of lettuce.

Plant tomato seeds in trays and place on a warm windowsill in a garden shed or under cover so the seedlings are ready to plant out once the last frosts have passed.

Divide old rhubarb clumps which have wintered over and plant out pieces containing new green shoots.

If you are a bulb fan, your garden should be showing signs of what's to come once spring arrives.

I have been treated to beautiful Hip-

peastrums and Lachenalia through June and July. And now we can look forward to Magnolia and Camelia shows.

Plant marigolds, hellebores, azaleas and daphne while conditions are right. If it is warm enough, gladioli corms can be planted out. Keep beds well weeded and mulch.

Plant new season roses, they like sun, good air flow and when planting, a seaweed tonic. This promotes good root growth.

As existing plants awaken from their winter hibernation it's time to feed them to prepare for the flurry of new growth. Once fed they can have a new layer of mulch. Spray with a Copper Oxychloride to prevent infestation.

Attend to your fruit trees with a copper spray now. This will help prevent fungal and bacterial diseases on your pip fruit trees, stone fruit and berry plants later in the season.

Repeat weekly until the little green leaf tips start to appear, especially if you had a problem last season. Always remember to clean up leaf drop around plants to avoid spreading diseases. Sprinkle fertiliser around the drip line of the trees and mulch.

Prune your feijoas to encourage a healthy fruit crop for next season. Spreading a Lawn Fertiliser over the lawn in late winter will provide a rich source of nutrients which will nurture and improve the soil structure and the integrity of the lawn. Lawn growth is a good indication of warming soil temperature.

Aerate compost heaps and add your prunings to keep the worms happy and well feed.

Enjoy your garden.

- Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle

WINTER AT AEROVIEW

Gardening for August

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Bulb fans will be seeing signs of what's to come this spring, such as beautiful Hippeastrums.  
File Photo: PIXABAY

| Monday                                     | Tuesday                                    | Wednesday                                  | Thursday                                | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| August 2025<br>Moon Planting<br>Calendar   |  |  | Calendar<br>Supplied by<br>Gilmer Farms | 1<br><br>Plant above ground<br>Crops. Liquid Feed  | 2<br><br>Plant above ground<br>Crops. Liquid Feed  | 3<br><br>Plant above ground<br>Crops. Liquid Feed |
| 4<br>Non planting<br>Day                   | 5<br>Non planting<br>Day                   | 6<br><br>Plant above<br>ground crops       | 7<br><br>Plant above<br>ground crops    | 8<br>Non planting<br>Day                           | 9<br><br>Full Moon                                 | 10<br>Non planting<br>Day                         |
| 11<br><br>Plant root crops.<br>Liquid Feed | 12<br><br>Plant root crops.<br>Liquid Feed | 13<br>Non planting<br>Day                  | 14<br>Non planting<br>Day               | 15<br><br>Plant root crops,<br>trees and shrubs    | 16<br><br>Plant root crops,<br>trees and shrubs    | 17<br>Non planting<br>Day                         |
| 18<br>Non planting<br>Day                  | 19<br><br>Plant root crops.<br>Liquid Feed | 20<br><br>Plant root crops.<br>Liquid Feed | 21<br>Non planting<br>Day               | 22<br>Non planting<br>Day                          | 23<br><br>New Moon                                 | 24<br>Non planting<br>Day                         |
| 25<br>Non planting<br>Day                  | 26<br><br>Plant above<br>ground crops      | 27<br><br>Plant above<br>ground crops      | 28<br><br>Plant above<br>ground crops   | 29<br><br>Plant above ground<br>Crops. Liquid Feed | 30<br><br>Plant above ground<br>Crops. Liquid Feed | 31<br>Non planting<br>Day                         |



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FOOTBALL

**Draws all round for Thames FC; women edge closer to title**

Both Thames teams earned points on the road over the weekend. Thames Men were held to a 1-1 draw with Waikato Unicol Unicorns, while the Women's title charge intensified with a hard-fought 2-2 result against fellow title contenders Melville Epics.

Following back-to-back postponements, Thames Men were eager to return to action, travelling to Jansen Park to face Waikato Unicol Unicorns. The first half started slowly, with both teams struggling to gain a foothold.

The first sight of goal eventually came from Michael Kim, who drifted behind the defence, but his powerful shot was straight at the keeper. Thames goalkeeper Mathew Burchell then made a great save to keep the score level, tipping a Josh Bell shot onto the bar before smothering the rebound. Thames created several chances, but the opening goal continued to elude. Ben Taylor, returning from injury, flicked a header to Kim, who lifted the ball over the keeper and just wide of the post. Taylor then won possession with a strong tackle before sliding the ball to Michael Sogo, but his shot was tame and failed to trouble the goal. Unicol ended the half stronger, with Nikhail Naidoon darting into the box and firing a left-footed shot just wide.

The second half saw an improved performance from Thames, who played with more composure a better passing tempo. Yusuke Koizumi threaded a beautiful through ball to Troy Costello, who burst behind the defence but poked his shot wide.

Koizumi then sent a precise pass to Caleb Tehoaki, who returned the ball to Koizumi, whose curling shot was brilliantly saved by Unicol keeper Samuel Hodgson.

The breakthrough came just after the hour mark when Tehoaki found Sogo on the right. The winger crossed to Matt Baines, who controlled and slipped the ball under the keeper for a 1-0 lead, a rare but vital goal from the meandering left-back. Unicol struck back almost immediately, as Naidoon's searching pass found Aidan Timbers, who sidefooted home for 1-1 - capitalising on a lapse of concentration from Thames.

A promising move saw Xavier Brown whip a cross for Koizumi, who teed up Baines, but the finish was wild. Moments later, Keegan Apperly launched a long ball forward that Costello expertly controlled before teeing Brown, whose shot sailed over the bar. Despite strong pressure in the closing minutes, Unicol held on for a gritty 1-1 draw.

Thames FC Women travelled to Hamilton on Sunday to take on fellow title contenders Melville Epics, with both sides vying for the championship. After a tough battle featuring some brilliant defending, the points were shared in a 2-2 draw.

Thames had to come from behind twice, but a spirited performance and two well-taken goals from Ariel McNab, the second a brilliant strike from the edge of the box, earned a valuable point. Megan Jamieson delivered a standout performance, earning Player of the Match honors.

A tense end to the season looms, with Thames currently second with three games to play, one point behind leaders Northern United, whom they face on the final day.

- Jonathan Coles



Matthew Burchell claims the ball. Photos: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY



Ariel McNab scores a brace.



Michael Sogo plots his next move.

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The Valley Profile

Lions’ Service Day show included music from the 40s, 50s and 60s. Photos: SUPPLIED

Annual Service Day celebrated

More than 100 senior citizens attended this year’s Lions’ Service Day show, which was held in the Waihi RSA on July 20.  
A Waihi Lions spokesperson said the audience enjoyed 90 minutes of non-stop music from the 40s, 50s and 60s during the event. “It’s a good bet that they will be back for more next year.  
“During the 1980s and 1990s, the annual Lions’ Service Day was an important event in the Lions calendar- the Waihi Lions Club celebrated it by putting on a variety concert in the Memorial Hall for the Senior Citizens of the community.  
“A diverse selection of local talent was invited to put on a short performance, which could range from a Can Can from Carol Hayden’s Dance Academy to a Country and Western singing group.  
“In those distant days Waihi Lions was a male only group and wives and partners would provide a tasty afternoon tea. The audience generally took up a large portion of the hall.”  
The club revived the day around 10 years ago, but on a much smaller scale.  
“The Waihi RSA said it would be interested in co-sponsoring the event with the Lions and the Waihi RSA has been the venue ever since, with both clubs sharing the cost of providing afternoon tea.”  
Initially several local vocal groups provided the entertainment but for the past four years, this has been provided by the choir from Trudi van Stee’s Friends’ Place, which meets at the Waihi Beach Community Centre each week.

Sponsorship boon for Thames patrol

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

The Thames Community Patrol vehicle has been looking particularly well-groomed lately, thanks to the assistance of its new sponsor.  
Chris O’Shea, who moved to Thames from Morrinsville to take on the branch manager role at Thames’ Fairview Motors in November, 2024, was thrilled to lend a hand to the non-profit group.  
“I see a need in what the community patrol does,” Chris said. “I just think it’s a big asset for Thames to have the community patrol so it’s nice to get behind it.”  
Chris has been taking the vehicle in once a month for a full servicing and maintenance check, and even fills the fuel tank.  
“This is an amazing help for our patrol finances,” patrol member Dianne Leather said.  
“It just makes the running of the patrol that much easier ... we have to do our own funding so this makes a huge difference.”  
Chris has also joined the patrol as a volunteer, signing up for regular shifts on the road. He joins 14 volunteers already on the roster who patrol Thames several times a week.  
“We do a couple of day patrols now too... it’s just a matter of being seen out there,” Dianne said.  
“[But] we’re always calling out for more members.”  
**DETAILS: Contact Dianne Leather on 027 234 5845 to find out more about the Thames Community Patrol.**

Chris O’Shea, left, with members of the Thames Community Patrol. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



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A Top 10 list of the most frequently shopped items was determined across the following supermarket departments: Butchery, Fruit & Vege, Chilled, Frozen and Grocery using data provided by NielsenIQ through its Homescan Service for the most frequently shopped items in Total Supermarkets, New Zealand; 24-week period ending 11 August 2024. Copyright © 2024, Nielsen Consumer LLC. The price comparison uses the advertised prices from the stores above on 24/07/2025. 5 products were excluded as not advertised as in stock at one or more stores. See paknsave.co.nz/pricecheck for full T&Cs.

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**HARD**

|        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MEDIUM | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
|        | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
|        | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
|        | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
|        | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
|        | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
|        | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
|        | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
|        | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 |

MEDIUM

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

## EASY

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

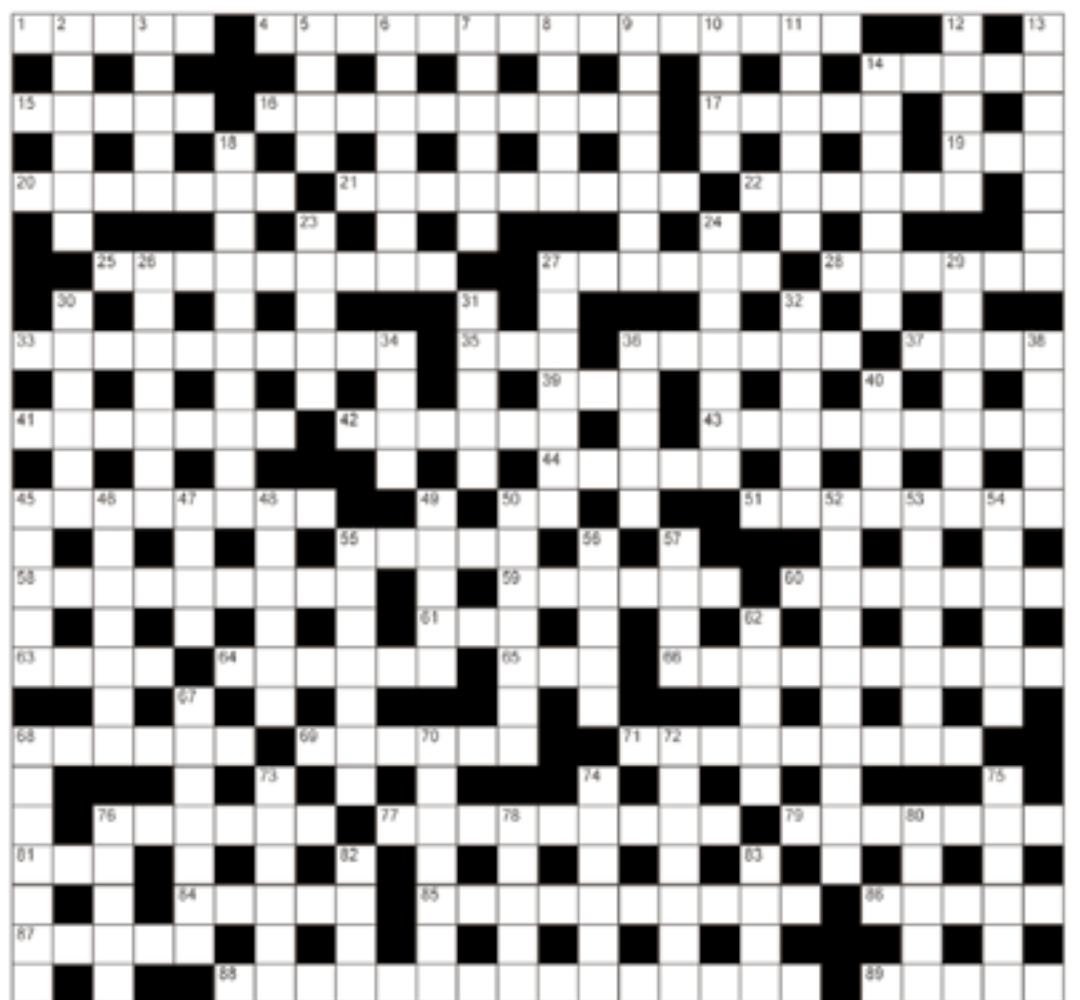
231

1 Poem (5)  
4 Under hire purchase (2,3,5-5)  
14 Baggy (5)  
15 Reek (5)  
16 Not shortened (10)  
17 Play (5)  
19 Cancelled (3)  
20 Take for granted (7)  
21 Hearth (9)  
22 Contestant (6)  
25 Cause to feel awkward (9)  
27 Unhealthy-looking (6)  
28 Size increase (6)  
33 Fenced in (10)  
35 Large snake (3)  
36 One who dies for a cause (6)  
37 Court order (4)  
39 Plant with pods (3)  
41 Out of the ordinary (7)  
42 Desk (6)  
43 Track and field events (9)  
44 Flatten (5)  
45 An so on (8)  
50 Thank you (2)  
51 Make curious (8)  
55 Change (5)  
58 Comrade (9)  
59 Chant (6)  
60 Give up all hope (7)  
61 Have (3)  
63 Falsified (4)  
64 Nailed (anag)(6)  
65 Family (3)

66 In an uproar (10)  
68 Synopsis (6)  
69 Peak (6)  
71 Insect killer (9)  
76 Follow secretly (6)  
77 Soldier's heavy garment (9)  
79 Let down (7)  
81 Small bed (3)  
84 Proportion (5)  
85 Sign (10)  
86 Powdered tobacco (5)  
87 Prime (5)  
88 Insignificant quantity (1,4,2,3,5)  
89 Girl's name; pale green gemstone (5)

2 Total (6)  
3 Subsides (5)  
5 Nil (4)  
6 Crossbreeds (7)  
7 Sounds (6)  
8 Purposeful  
surveillance (5)  
9 Extremist (7)  
10 Small whirlpool (4)  
11 Facilitate (6)  
12 Spinning blade (5)  
13 Egotistic (7)  
14 Whistle cord (7)  
18 Spotless (10)  
23 Commerce (5)  
24 Diary (7)  
26 Reclaim (anag)(7)  
27 Shoulder blade (7)  
29 Caution (7)  
30 Stringed figure (6)

**31** Monks' building (5)  
**32** Punctuation mark (6)  
**34** Barrel (4)  
**36** Pale purple colour (5)  
**38** Sample (5)  
**40** Learn (4)  
**45** Surpass (5)  
**46** Vie (7)  
**47** Side (4)  
**48** Brought up (6)  
**49** Backless seat (5)  
**50** Bauble (7)  
**52** Symbol on music (6,4)  
**53** Seize and hold (7)  
**54** Peerless (6)  
**55** Old item (7)  
**56** Rise (5)  
**57** Tangle (4)  
**62** Vacate (5)  
**67** Competition (7)  
**68** Get (7)  
**70** Cocktail (7)  
**72** Stretchy (7)  
**73** Kicked (6)  
**74** Frozen drip (6)  
**75** Airless (6)  
**76** Wander (5)  
**78** Accounts check (5)  
**80** Spear (5)  
**82** Horseback sport (4)  
**83** Unconscious state (4)



**ACROSS:** 1 Scent, 4 Pearls of wisdom, 11 Bight, 14 Decry, 15 Consequence, 16 Evidence, 19 Attempt, 20 Plain, 21 Espionage, 24 Overjoyed, 26 Croaky, 27 Handle, 31 Apart, 32 Barbaric, 34 Prejudiced, 38 Devious, 39 Instep, 40 Smooch, 41 Star, 42 Flooded, 45 Soundtrack, 50 Swindle, 54 Rain, 55 Styled, 56 Second, 57 Vagrant, 60 Equivocate, 61 Indolent, 62 Tower, 65 Jurors, 66 Canary, 67 Advertise, 72 Rehearsal, 73 Sieve, 74 Flannel, 79 Obliging, 80 Play for time, 81 Fight, 82 Start, 83 Ticked to death, 84 Learn.

DOWN: 2 Create, 3 Nerve, 5 Eros, 6 Resolve, 7 Sequin, 8 Flex, 9 Incision, 10 Moving, 11 Bodyguards, 12 Gone, 13 Treacle, 17 Spare, 18 Wickerwork, 22 Loyal, 23 Educated, 25 Vertigo, 26 Cockpit, 28 Appeal, 29 Proton, 30 Ejects, 33 Banjo, 35 Dirge, 36 Luge, 37 Asia, 42 Force, 43 Obituary, 44 Detect, 45 Split hairs, 46 Undo, 47 Destiny, 48 Recede, 49 Canal, 51 Wrap, 52 Nervous, 53 Linked, 58 Overweight, 59 Unwed, 63 Parallel, 64 Still, 65 Jealous, 68 Devotee, 69 Peanut, 70 Kimono, 71 Tether, 75 Noise, 76 Flea, 77 Eyed, 78 Qmit.





MORTGAGEE SALE



Boundary lines are indicative only



Boundary lines are indicative only

Preece Point 3035 Tiki Road

Mortgagee auction - lifestyle block near town

Just 4 minutes from Coromandel township, this 2.5036 hectare (more or less) parcel of bare land offers you the opportunity to create your dream lifestyle in one of New Zealand’s most sought-after locations. There’s a generous amount of flat land to work with and no buildings in place, this is a genuine blank canvas. Whether you’re thinking a weekend retreat, small lifestyle setup, or something off-grid, there’s plenty of space here to shape it your way. Set in the ever-changing Coromandel Peninsula, you’ll be surrounded by world-famous beaches, scenic bush walks, and a range of outdoor adventures—all within easy reach.

bayleys.co.nz/2180821

2.5036 ha

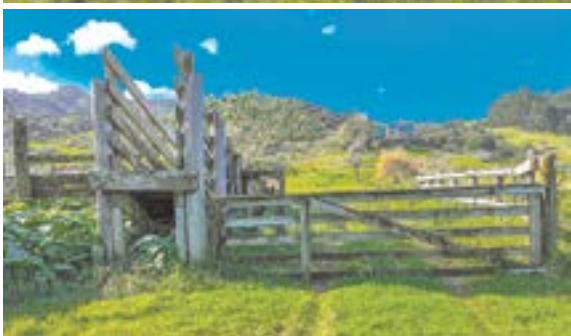


**Auction (will not be sold prior)** 11am, Thu 14 Aug 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** 10.30-11.15am Sun 3 Aug  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389  
maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz  
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

MORTGAGEE SALE



Boundary lines are indicative only



Preece Point 3195A Tiki Road

Mortgagee auction - opportunity knocks here

Just minutes from Coromandel township, this 2.6707 hectare (more or less) slice of land sits quietly back from the road, offering privacy and flat contour. Stock yards are already on site, and the space lends itself well to grazing, hobby farming, or a future lifestyle build. There’s room to run animals, grow food, or create a weekend base close to town—without compromising the peace and privacy. Only 4 minutes from Coromandel township, you’re perfectly positioned to enjoy the best of the area. Cafés, shops, schools, and local services are all within easy reach. World-class fishing, boat ramps, beaches, and bush walks are nearby—making this a great base for both work and weekend living.

bayleys.co.nz/2180823

2.6707 ha



**Auction (will not be sold prior)** 11am, Thu 14 Aug 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** 10.30-11.15am Sun 3 Aug  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
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**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389  
maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz  
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**Thames 401 Millington Place**

**Sunsets and room to play**

Immaculately maintained and beautifully presented, this elevated home enjoys town and Firth views and excellent flexibility. Sunlight fills the open-plan living that flows to a north-facing Archgola-covered deck. Three bedrooms (including a master with ensuite), family bathroom, and separate toilet complete the main level. Comfort is assured with two heat pumps, wood burner, and all-day sun. Downstairs: fourth bedroom, bathroom, office, and internal access garage/workshop. Outdoors offers 736sqm (more or less) of easy-care gardens, veggie beds, BBQ area, carport, and ample parking.

Just minutes to town, and within 1.5 hours of major cities—this is lifestyle and liveability.

[bayleys.co.nz/2180826](http://bayleys.co.nz/2180826)

4 1 3 1 1

**For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)**  
4pm, Wed 20 Aug 2025  
459 Pollen Street, Thames  
**View** 12.30-1pm Sun 3 Aug & Sun 10 Aug  
or by appointment  
**Pippa Jackson** 027 747 7000  
[pippa.jackson@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:pippa.jackson@bayleys.co.nz)  
HW REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



**Matatoki 244 Matatoki Road**

**Two homes – Multi-generation or income**

After 35 years with one family, this 1.69 ha (more or less) property offers charm, flexibility and multi-dwelling appeal. The refreshed weatherboard bungalow features matai floors, a farmhouse kitchen, and French doors to the garden. A wood burner adds winter comfort. Privately set back, the second dwelling is a modern black steel-clad unit with clean interiors and a covered pergola, ideal for guests, extended family or income. Flat, fenced land includes mature trees, fruit trees, sheds and a metal driveway. Both homes are well kept, offering space and lifestyle versatility. Close to schools, townships and the Hauraki Rail Trail, with vendors ready to move, don't miss this opportunity.

[bayleys.co.nz/2630095](http://bayleys.co.nz/2630095)

1.69 4 2 2

**Asking Price** \$1,250,000  
**View** 2-2.30pm Sat 2 Aug  
**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633  
[karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz)  
**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937  
[seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz)  
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Boundary lines are indicative only



**Kaiaua** 10 Rua One Place

**Beachfront brilliance – sophistication, style, and space**

Anchored at the water’s edge on a no-exit road, this elevated 1,557sqm (more or less) beachfront property captures sweeping views across the Firth of Thames to the Coromandel and Hunua Ranges. The three-bedroom, three-ensuite + toilet home is built for longevity, with concrete block walls, native timber accents, and a dumbwaiter connecting both levels. A rimu benchtop warms the main kitchen, with a kitchenette below. Expansive glazing frames the sea. A Dolomite filtration system and 75,000L water storage enhance function. With direct water access, Airbnb potential and subdivision prospects (subject to council approval), this is a bold and practical coastal offering.

bayleys.co.nz/2630046

1,557 sqm 3 3

**Asking Price** \$1,375,000  
**View** 3-3.30pm Sun 3 Aug & 9-9.30am Sun 10 Aug  
**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83  
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz  
**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622  
connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz  
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

**NEW LISTING**



Boundary lines are indicative only

**Thames** BNT Building, 304 Pollen Street

**National branded tenant – Entry level investment**

- National tenant – leading automotive parts distributor
- Main street location with customer parking and rear service lane
- Returning \$55,352 per annum plus GST and outgoings
- Six year lease from November 2023 with 3 years right of renewal

Entry level investment opportunity suitable for passive investors. The 436sqm (approximately) retail/warehouse sits on 508sqm (approximately) of commercially zoned land. BNT Automotive have operated here for 20 years. Enjoy steady returns with this easily managed commercial investment in the engine room of the Coromandel!

bayleys.co.nz/2180805

508 sqm 436 sqm

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 12pm, Thu 14 Aug 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** by appointment  
**Geoff Graham** 021 733 430  
geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz  
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# Stellar club debut for Fox Den fighters

KICK BOXING

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

The challenge had been issued to fighters across the country; and on July 5 it was Paeroa's Fox Den Combat Gym which came out on top, with three of its members claiming belts and World Kickboxing Association New Zealand titles.

'Hauraki Combat' was Fox Den's first official fight event since opening its doors late last year. Held at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall, the event featured 25 fights involving 13 Fox Den members.

Mikayla (Kayla) Fatamaka, 16, took out the NZ Junior Women's title against Hunni Fariu from SALT Gym in Auckland; while 31-year-old Tim Lingley beat out Auckland New Era Gym's Jeff Tautogi for the Regional North Island title.

The headliner fight against Forged Fitness Rotorua's Issac Morgan-Rangikataua was won by Kayla's brother Leighton Fatamaka, 17, who now holds the Cruiser-weight NZ Junior title.

Kayla and Leighton's father, coach and former fighter Zack Fatamaka said the trio, and all of the club's fighters, worked hard for their achievements.

"I'm proud of these guys. Some really good wins, some hard losses, but lessons learned for us," Zack said. "We're back to the drawing board at the moment - we're just changing the way we're training to accommodate what we picked up



The fighters and coaches at Fox Den Combat say it's their willingness to work really hard which sets them apart from the competition.  
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

in terms of fighters' performance, the way they're moving."

Fox Den Combat Gym, which initially ran under the name Paeroa Boxing and Fitness, closed down during Covid-19. It wasn't until late last year that Leighton convinced his father Zack to revive the club.

"I do have a history with [kickboxing]. But at the time, it was either become a full-time professional fighter or create my roofing and building business," Zack said. "And then in the middle of last year, Leighton started... saying, 'Dad, can you train me,

please?' They've reignited my love for the sport."

In just nine months, Leighton has claimed four belts. Along with his most recent title, he also holds two North Central Island titles, and is the NZ Iron Fist 90kg champion. "It was actually just meant to be a little bit of a side thing and then sort of took over our life," Leighton said. "We've trained pretty hard. I thought I was fit as when I first started... Then I had my first fight and nah."

"I love it though. I love to grind, love being busy. Keeps me sane."

Leighton's success soon drew

Kayla into the ring as well, and in just seven months' training, she's also taken to the sport completely.

"I love it. It takes a lot of pressure off when I come back from work - I just bang the pads," she said.

July 5 was Kayla's first five-rounder fight, and although she came away "knackered", she was thrilled with the result.

Tim, meanwhile, has been in the sport for a couple of years, after switching codes from boxing and training for a time in Hamilton. He loves the tight-knit Fox Den community, he said, which thrives

on the dedication of the Fatamaka family. "It's a huge amount of time, and you don't make money off it. Zack and [wife] Tracey, they've got their own family, their own business. Life is very full," he said. "It doesn't happen without them."

There was a lot of support from the Jacobsen and Laurent families too, Zack said, who along with the club's sponsors have put an enormous amount of time and energy into keeping things running.

Now, the fighters are working towards their next event on October 4, 'Hard Knocks'. "It's good to see the rewards come through with the wins and stuff. But October 4th is a big one. It's international opponents coming in."

His fighters were up for the challenge, he said.

"We have a programme called Couch to Coached. You train like a fighter, you eat like a fighter, and you go to fight after your 20 weeks' training. We do a lot of road work. We do a lot of pad work, a lot of gym work, a lot of IQ stuff."

"[Leighton's] got a really strong mindset, which is good because a lot of these guys feed on that. They see him working and putting in the effort."

But the titles and belts are just a bonus for Leighton.

"They're not what I'm chasing, really. The main goal [is] to get my last name out there and rep my family," he said.





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