

The Valley

Profile

100% THAMES

100% LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

626 Pollen Street 07 868 6124

TRUST YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS

Totalspan Coromandel 1/46 Kopu Road, Kopu, Thames
P 07 869 0400 E coromandel@totalspan.co.nz

0800 TOTALSPAN
TOTALSPAN.CO.NZ

TOTALSPAN
STEEL BUILDINGS
WHO CAN? TOTALSPAN!

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

After a hard-fought battle to keep its doors open, the Thames Coast Community Kindergarten committee has made the “difficult decision” to close.

Despite a growing roll and strong efforts from families and staff, mounting financial pressures, a shortage of hands on deck, and the long-standing underfunding of early childhood education centres have proven too great to overcome.

Last week the committee announced it would close the Te Puru kindy from Friday, June 27 for the foreseeable future.

“Everything has happened really quickly,” kindergarten committee chairperson Kate McGee told *The Profile*, “and it’s not necessarily a financial issue anymore. We just don’t have the community support to be operated by parent volunteers.”

Kate said the kindergarten was started more than 30 years ago by local families, and had been “a total labour of love” for everyone involved. It was community-owned and governed by a committee of parent volunteers with small children.

“The families have been amazing,” Kate said. “They have kept this place going for so long. But we have just found it more and more difficult to attract new members to the committee, and because of the current financial climate and the regulatory environment that we’re operating in, the challenges of running a small early childhood centre like ours are a lot bigger than they used to be and they need a lot more time and attention than we are able to give it.”

Kate said a small group of parents had shouldered “a heavy load” as of late, and despite fighting hard to save the kindy - including extending opening hours and



The kindy’s annual duck race fundraiser at Te Puru.
File Photo: SUPPLIED

making the service more accessible to local families, thus growing the roll - recent events had “over-taken” them.

“[The decision] was really, really difficult for me because my son is three, and his big sister went to that kindy, and I just really wanted him to have that two years of kindy before he started school, where he’d have all those special memories that my daughter has,” Kate said. “We’ve fought really hard,

but those of us who are left, there’s a small group who really love it and really want to carry on, but some of us are just burnt out.

“It’s been very hard to come to terms with the fact that, you know, this is potentially it, that we may not be able to reopen.”

Families who have been involved with the kindy are invited to a meeting on July 9 to help decide its future and potential uses - such as a playgroup if the kindergarten

is not able to reopen.

There are also hopes that a celebration day will be held for the community to be able to commemorate memories made at the site.

“I’m still hoping on a miracle,” Kate said, “but if there was any hope for the kindergarten to continue, I think it would need a committee of professionals or members of the community who are better able to give it the attention

it needs, because parents of babies and under fives just don’t have a lot of spare time, and they’re not able to commit the time and energy that you need to effectively act as governance and employer for an early childhood centre.”

DETAILS: If anyone from the wider community is interested in attending the July 9 meeting or offering assistance, email tcckindy@gmail.com.

Zero to Hero – Recycle, Recycle



Rubbish without recycling is like throwing your trash directly into landfill ... that makes me see red!
Well, it’s a no brainer ... make the Smartest move, call the experts today, we know how to put things in their place.

Get your clean green bin for your business today.

Phone us today **0800 4 MY BIN** (0800 469 246)
www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



Tangata Ora Trust

for

- Mobility Equipment
- Daily Living Aides
- Information Support
- Advocacy

10am-1pm Mon-Thur
607 Mackay St,Thames
868 7723



Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your full name & postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Beds R Us ad.

MSD staff relocated after building issues raised

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

Thames' Ministry of Social Development office has "reopened as usual" one week after reports staff were redeployed to Paeroa due to the condition of the building.

In June, the ministry acknowledged that its current offices in Wintec, on Queen St, were "not ideal," but stressed that alternative options were being explored.

However, last week the Thames centre was temporarily closed reportedly for security and privacy upgrades, with staff redeployed to Paeroa.

It came after Thames' Community Board Chair Adrian Catran urged the ministry to seize the opportunity to move into a building better suited for meeting the community's needs.

Mr Catran told *The Profile* in June that since the Ministry of Social Development [MSD] moved from its Pollen St address in November, 2023, due to building damage, there had been "no action or clear communication" on when the service will return to fully meeting local needs.

He said the current Wintec building was "just not fit for purpose" and offered very little privacy for people needing advice.

He also understood it was difficult to have a decent security system in place, plus other "minor challenges around dampness".

Mr Catran said the former Idea Services building in Willoughby St was "as good as one will get other than a purpose-built building", and called for the ministry to make the move.

At the time, the Ministry of Social Development's regional commissioner for Waikato Tracey Smith said that the office at 414 Queen St was "not ideal" - but it was temporary. "We issued a tender through the Government Electronic Tendering Service website on November 29, 2024. The tender closed on February 10, 2025, but it didn't result in a suitable replacement building for our Thames Service Centre," she said.

"We are now exploring other options for suitable permanent premises."

The office was reopened as usual on Monday morning.

The Profile contacted MSD for further comment about the issue but they only confirmed the Thames Service Centre was temporarily closed on June 30 and the site was reopened and is back to business as usual on July 7.

In Brief

BUS SURVEY

A survey on the future of bus services for the Waikato region is available online. It focuses on areas where contracts are up for renewal, including Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki. Waikato Regional Council is asking for feedback before midnight, Sunday, July 13. Info at: yourvoicematters.waikatoregion.govt.nz.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Candidate nominations are now open for this year's Local Government Elections, and will close at noon on August 1. Candidates can stand for roles including their district's mayor, councillor (in either a territorial authority or regional council), local board member, or community board member. Election day is on October 11, with preliminary results released after midday the same day. More info at www.votelocal.co.nz.

CAREERS ROADSHOW

A Careers Roadshow will be held at Thames High School on August 11, and students in Years 9 to 13 will have a chance to meet with local employers and tertiary education providers. The Economic Development (ED) Team at TCDC will have two stalls, where local businesses can participate and/or provide materials for the ED team to share.

PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT/ADVERTORIAL: Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz; Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.
NEWS/EDITORIAL: Managing Editor/Owner Teresa Ramsey, Ph 0204 0944 853, editor@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau, Ph 022 619 4889, kelly@valleyprofile.co.nz; Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz.
LETTERS: Send letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at editor's discretion.
THE VALLEY PROFILE is independently owned and operated. It is delivered weekly to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution peninsula-wide, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers. **OFFICE: 2 QUEEN ST, PAEROA, 3600 | ISSN 2703-5700**

FIND US ONLINE:
www.valleyprofile.co.nz or download the **Coromandel App** on your smart phone

FORAGE

READ BROS. COOK • BAKE • CREATE

A unique collection of kitchen and homeware carefully selected each season for those who love to gift, cook and create.

READ BROS.

EST. 1867
Hardware

A traditional hardware store where you will find quality goods and quality service, every time.

www.readbros.co.nz
308 Pollen St, Thames
07 868 6608

Accountants

The Hauraki Taxation Service Limited

- Established 1982
- For out of town independent accounting advice
- Approved agents for Inland Revenue Department
- Offices in Thames & Coromandel Town

[myob](http://myob.com) [xero](http://xero.com) [CASHMANAGER](http://cashmanager.com)

328 Pollen Street, Thames
Ph/Fax: 07 868-9710
E:thames@haurakitaxation.co.nz

95 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel
Ph/Fax: 07 866-8660
E:coro@haurakitaxation.co.nz

Thames Tides

Wed Jul 9	Thu Jul 10	Fri Jul 11	Sat Jul 12	Sun Jul 13	Mon Jul 14	Tue Jul 15
<p>Morning: 5:39am 2.9 12:01pm 0.9 Afternoon: 6:27pm 3.1</p> <p>7:31am 5:16pm</p> <p>Best At: 10:45am 11:12pm</p> <p>Set: 6:11am Rise: 3:19pm</p>	<p>Morning: 12:22am 1.0 12:46pm 0.8 Afternoon: 6:30am 3.0 7:10pm 3.2</p> <p>7:31am 5:16pm</p> <p>Best At: 11:40am</p> <p>Set: 7:05am Rise: 4:17pm</p>	<p>Morning: 1:06am 0.9 1:28pm 0.7 Afternoon: 7:17am 3.0 7:50pm 3.3</p> <p>7:30am 5:17pm</p> <p>Best At: 12:07am 12:34pm</p> <p>Full Moon Set: 7:53am Rise: 5:21pm</p>	<p>Morning: 1:50am 0.8 2:08pm 0.6 Afternoon: 8:03am 3.1 8:31pm 3.4</p> <p>7:30am 5:18pm</p> <p>Best At: 1:01am 1:27pm</p> <p>Set: 8:34am Rise: 6:28pm</p>	<p>Morning: 2:33am 0.7 2:48pm 0.5 Afternoon: 8:47am 3.2 9:12pm 3.4</p> <p>7:29am 5:18pm</p> <p>Best At: 1:53am 2:18pm</p> <p>Set: 9:08am Rise: 7:37pm</p>	<p>Morning: 3:17am 0.6 3:29pm 0.5 Afternoon: 9:29am 3.3 9:54pm 3.5</p> <p>7:29am 5:19pm</p> <p>Best At: 2:42am 3:06pm</p> <p>Set: 9:38am Rise: 8:45pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:01am 0.6 4:12pm 0.5 Afternoon: 10:13am 3.3 10:38pm 3.5</p> <p>7:29am 5:19pm</p> <p>Best At: 3:30am 3:53pm</p> <p>Set: 10:05am Rise: 9:52pm</p>

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

Providing pastoral care for Bougainville teens

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

In June, 2024, Thames psychologist Beryl Riley headed to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville with Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA). She was there on a year-long assignment at Arawa Secondary School, mentoring teachers and helping them develop a counselling and pastoral care programme for their 800 students.

It was a rewarding experience, she told *The Profile*.

“People have a sort of image of Bougainville as being very scary - well, that’s not what I experienced. Bougainville people are essentially pretty peace-loving.”

Bougainville is on the cusp of independence, with the region working towards an official separation from Papua New Guinea in September, 2027. The move has been decades in the making, and the region’s people still suffer greatly from the effects of the 10-year Bougainville Civil War in the 80s and 90s, in which an estimated 20,000 Bougainvilleans died.

“Most families have got people who are traumatised, either from being combatants in the Bougainville Resistance Army or they were attacked by Papua New Guinea troops,” Beryl said.

“In terms of being a bit reactive, they had pretty low thresholds for getting upset and angry, probably PTSD sort of symptoms.”

This was Beryl’s second volunteer trip to the region - her first, in 2011, was as an aide to Bougainville’s only mental health nurse.



Beryl Riley, right, with staff from Bougainville’s Arawa Secondary School.

Photos: SUPPLIED

This time, however, she was tasked with improving the mental welfare of teenagers, something she said the region sorely needed.

“There’s no mental health education or anything like that,” she said.

Beryl worked with the senior staff at the school to set up policies and guidelines for a pastoral care system, also teaching them basic counselling skills and patterns of behaviour to watch out for. There were some misconceptions to

overcome, she said.

“I’d only been there a couple of weeks, and I had one of the young female teachers come and say to me, ‘Miss Riley, I want you to come and sort out 9C or whatever it was, they are a bunch of humbugs’,” Beryl said.

“And I realised her view of being a school counsellor was that I was like a disciplinarian. So I had to run [sessions] with the staff on when would you use a discipline pathway in the school and when

would you use a counselling pathway, and the sort of issues you would look at.”

The staff were very open to learning, Beryl said, with some opening up about their own trauma. Many even opted to attend extra training sessions on their own time.

“The women came, which is to be expected because women want to do that care giving stuff. But I was really pleased that five of the men came [too].”

During Beryl’s time at the



Sir Jerry Mataparae, second from left, visits Arawa Secondary School, with Beryl, right.

school, she was also able to share some Kiwi culture.

“I had a little kapa haka group. And we actually got to welcome and sing for the New Zealand High Commissioner when he came to Arawa to open the chocolate festival,” Beryl said.

“And [former Governor-General] Sir Jerry Mataparae came to the school... our principal was almost crying because he said, to Bougainvilleans, New Zealanders are just really up there because we’ve supported them all the way through, we’ve helped them with the peace process.”

Beryl’s time in Bougainville is now at an end, but she encouraged anyone interested in travelling to consider volunteering.

“They give you accommodation, you get really good health insurance, you get all your flights and a living allowance,” she said.

“It is an adventure. You do get to do what you might pay a fortune to go and do.”





Trade Qualified | Licenced Builders | Licenced Designer On Site



- Houses
- Garages
- Farm Sheds

- Commercial
- Garage Doors
- Auto Openers

We take care of everything from start to finish, including consents

90C Kopu Road, Kopu, (next to bridge), Thames • Ph: 07 868 8663 or 0800 374 000

info@carswellconstruction.co.nz • www.carswellconstruction.co.nz







Comfort Meets Style Sale

STOREWIDE SAVINGS ON NOW!

*T&Cs apply.



Live Life Comfortably.

FURNITURE & BEDS R US

205 SEALEY ST, THAMES | PH 07 868 6128

Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Hauraki's Teigan tumbles to the top

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Teigan Lange doesn't really feel pressure when it comes to the sport of tumbling. That's because it's not only something that "keeps me motivated", but also something she loves, the 17-year-old athlete told *The Profile*.

It was around seven years ago when the young athlete first "got hooked" on the sport, which is a gymnastics discipline made up of skills such as flips, twists and handsprings performed on a padded surface. But Teigan's tumbling talent was unmistakable following a recent competition.

The airborne star, who is also a year-12 Hauraki Plains College student, competed at the Competitive Age Division Tumbling Competition on June 8 hosted by Hamilton City Gymnastics, where she landed a fifth place spot for the overall competition.

However, the routine had another twist.

Not only did Teigan make it into the top five, she also qualified to compete later this year at the 2025 New Zealand National Gymnastics Championships at Auckland Trusts Arena from September 23 to 27.

"I was shocked at first and then I realised that I had actually qualified which made me really happy." But the road to



HPC's Teigan Lange, 17, is off to the 2025 New Zealand Gymnastics Championships .

Photos: SUPPLIED

the championships didn't come without its challenges. "To qualify for nationals you have to do eight flips down the mat which I achieved. It's taken me nearly seven years to finally achieve eight flips," she said. One skill the young athlete had worked on for a couple of years, and mastered, was something called the twist: a combination of a back flip and spinning around at the same time, she said. Her training sessions were at

her gym, Thames Gymsports, on Tuesdays for 90 minutes, and Thursdays for 120 minutes, she said. "I do my normal gymnastics on the bars and then I do the tumbling. I also do conditioning, which is workouts to keep me fit which is really important for both but especially tumbling."

But she didn't just train herself. "I already coach normal gymnastics for ages five to eight and eight- to 10-year-olds in Thames and I've started to learn judging for tumbling via an online course," she said.

It was clear Teigan was in it for the long haul. "I'm going to keep tumbling and apply for a scholarship for a school in Denmark, it's a gym that is mainly focused on tumbling along with your school work, so I could do my Level 3 if I was successful in gaining the scholarship that Gymnastics NZ offers," she said.

Even though she didn't currently have a role model in the sport, seeing other people do it inspired her to keep going and to improve, and the support of her parents was something she said she appreciated.

Teigan's advice for other students who want to try tumbling was that it wouldn't be easy. "It can be mentally challenging. But it's a lot of fun so give [it] a go."

NEW!

SENIOR SUBJECT SELECTION EVENING

19TH AUGUST 4.00PM - 7.30PM

More Than A School

Hauraki Plains College

NCEA

NCEA overview
Lit / Num co-reqs and CAA Exams
Endorsements
Special assessment conditions

OTHER PROGRAMMES AT HPC

Foundation Certificate
Services Academy
Ag/Hort Trades Academy
Te Kura

TERTIARY PROVIDERS

Waikato University
WINTeC
Trades
VETeL
BCITo

PATHWAYS

Gateway and Work Experience
UniStart
WINTeC Trades Academy
Apprenticeships

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Local Employers

Each subject area will have short presentations, demonstrations and an opportunity for Q and A.

Content will be repeated and staggered, so parents and students can come along to the sessions that interest them.

Illustrations of students and staff members at the bottom of the poster.

Waihi Beach welcomes bigger, better library

Te Ara Mātauranga, Waihi Beach's new library, service centre and community hub, opened last week with an aim to be a space "interwoven with community, creativity and connection".

Around 160 people gathered to mark the opening of the new \$5 million facility whose name, gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao hapū, means 'The Pathway to Knowledge'.

A blessing was performed by Reon Tuanau, of Ōtāwhiwhi Marae, together with tamariki from the neighbouring Waihi Beach Kura, with Western Bay Mayor James Denyer cutting the ribbon to declare the building officially open.

"Libraries today are important community hubs - their role is so much more than just a repository for books. They're public spaces where communities come together to learn, connect and thrive," Mayor Denyer said.

"This has been a collaborative process with involvement from elected members, council staff, mana whenua, the school, and the community centre committee.

"I want to thank all those involved for achieving such a great result, and in particular our builder, Hawkins, for delivering ahead of time and on budget."

As well as the name, Te



Tamariki from Waihi Beach Kura join in the opening celebrations for the new library. Photo: SUPPLIED

Whānau a Tauwhao gifted design elements connecting the building to Ōtāwhiwhi marae, the taiao (environment), and the coastal nature of Waihi Beach, including a kōwhaiwhai depicting the mangōpare (hammerhead shark).

Representing resilience and perseverance, the mangōpare is depicted in the steps leading

into the library, and windows throughout the building.

Reading 'cubbies' inside the library are named after different types of obsidian found on Tuhua (Mayor Island) - Tuhua, Paretao and Kahurangi - also gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao.

The new 400sqm library and service centre is four times big-

ger than the old library and is open 43 hours a week, compared to the previous 23 hours, bringing it in line with council's three other library and service centres, in Te Puke, Ōmokoroa, and Katikati.

The space includes two large meeting rooms with a moveable wall, one smaller meeting room, public computers and

free wifi, dedicated reading spaces, 'bring your own device' work spaces, and a table for activities such as crafts and puzzles.

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

Classic Pine Bunk Set

*85Kg top bed limit - *170 bottom bed limit



Single + Single with Drawer

\$899

Single + Double with Drawer

\$999

S+S with Snoozy Mattress Combo

\$1149

S+D with Snoozy Mattress Combo

\$1599

Cool Gel 'NZ MADE Cloud 9' Bedset (with Standard Base)



10 years warranty

Available in Firm, Medium or Plush

Single \$1699 King Single \$1849

Double \$2099 Queen \$2399

King \$2749 Super King \$2949

California King \$4099

MASSIVE WINTER SALE

UP TO 60% OFF

(selected bed models only)

"Removal of old beds included with delivery"

Te Aroha Acacia Timber Bedroom Set



3drw Bedside \$279

5drw Tallboy \$649

5 drw Slimboy \$499

6drw Dresser Mirror \$899

Queen Bed Frame \$899

Napnest Comfy Pillowtop Bedset



Feel Medium 5 years warranty

Single \$599

King Single \$679

Double \$779

Queen \$899

King \$1049

Natural Merino 'NZ MADE Moana' Bedset



10 years warranty

Feel Soft

Single \$1149

King Single \$1399

Double \$1499

Queen \$1599

King \$1849

Super King \$2149

California King \$2749

CHECK OUT OUR PAYMENT OPTIONS:

finance NOW



VISA

LAYBY @SPF

100% LOCALLY OWNED

SUPERPRICE FURNITURE

Where the price is always right

SPF Furniture Thames 513 Pollen Street, Thames 3500 07 2116954

SPF Bed Shop 543 Pollen Street, Thames 3500 07 2119307

SPF Furniture Whitianga 33 Albert Street, Whitianga 3510 07 2800367

www.superpricefurniture.co.nz



Waihi
116 Princes Street, Waikino

3 2 1 2

When Privacy Matters

A fabulous family-size home positioned on 8,705 (approx.) sqm of land. A private home tucked away with stunning views. Open plan lounge with heat pump extends to a spacious entertaining deck, central kitchen and dining. Double garage with internal access.

eves.co.nz/ewa18450

Asking Price \$885,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
22 Galbraith Street

3 1 1 1

Deceased Estate, an Easy Nest or Invest

Perfectly positioned just a short drive or easy walk to town, the home is an ideal choice for first-home buyers or investors alike. The property has nice street appeal. Covered carport and ramp access at rear. Two heat pumps and HRV. Plus new carpet.

eves.co.nz/ewa20292

Asking Price \$530,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
10 Moore Street

2 1 1 2

Super Sunny with Country Charm

Set in a peaceful rural location, this sunny two-bedroom home offers first home buyers or investors a great opportunity. Relocated in 2012, it features aluminum joinery, a double carport, and renovation potential. Enjoy country charm on the edge of town.

eves.co.nz/ewa20234

Asking Price \$450,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
42 Adams Street

2 1 1 1

Tired but Timeless

An exciting opportunity to secure a two-bedroom character cottage requiring extensive renovation. Set among established plantings, the property also includes a single detached garage. While the home has seen better days, it holds potential for those with vision.

eves.co.nz/ewa20287

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty
Closes 1pm, Tues 15 July *(unless sold prior)*
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
9 Maddocks Street

4 2 1 2

Ticks All the Boxes, and Then Some

Immaculately presented four-bedroom, two-bathroom home, proudly built in 2017 by Classic Builders. Set on a low-maintenance 609m² (approx) section, this spacious 188m² residence has been thoughtfully designed to suit growing families. Call Brooke Edwards for more info.

eves.co.nz/ewa20320

Asking Price \$920,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
21 Evans Street

3 2 1 2

Minimal Maintenance Easy Entertainer

A beautifully designed three-bedroom two-bathroom modern home. Spacious open-plan living, dining and kitchen lead to a sun-drenched deck ideal for entertaining. Main bedroom with ensuite and walk in robe. Double basement garage/workshop.

eves.co.nz/ewa20340

Asking Price \$725,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
32 Union Street

3 1 1

Great Starter or Rental Investment

This property presents a smart opportunity. Tucked privately down a driveway, the home offers three bedrooms and a family bathroom, with spacious open plan living. Situated on a low maintenance 501sqm (approx) section.

eves.co.nz/ewa20337

Asking Price \$570,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz
Lester Mullan 021 121 4940
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



Waihi
3 Tauranga Road

3 1 1 2

Waihi Gem on Generous Section

This charming 1930s weatherboard home blends character with modern living. Featuring three bedrooms, open plan living, a spacious rear deck, and a double garage on a 1,012sqm (approx.) section. An easy walk to town. Call Brooke for more info.

eves.co.nz/ewa20278

Asking Price \$635,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz

Matatoki shines

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's not everyday a small-town school stands toe-to-toe with much bigger schools and comes out on top. But that's exactly what happened on June 26 when Matatoki School snapped up second place in the junior section at Showquest 2025, Aotearoa's largest student performing arts competition held at Claudelands Arena, Hamilton. Around 45 Matatoki kids performed *The Stars of Matariki*, written by principal Hine Viskovich. "We had a really clear storyline, a message around conservation, which was relatable," she said. "The challenge was that everyone plays their part to nurture Tāne Mahuta and our environ-

ment, and appreciate the beauty of our natural environment, our forests and bird life. "It was a great community effort too because DOC got involved as well - they lent us some traps." That's not all. Matatoki School also won an Excellence in Culture award, Recognition in Art and Best Story. "I was just so proud of our students," Hine said. "I just wanted them to enjoy themselves and have fun and feel confident in their own performance. I just stressed to them that the most important thing is that every single one of you does your part well. And then as a collective, we're going to be amazing." Meanwhile, Hauraki Plains College also received recognition in dance and music at the event.



Ruru (Morepork) are part of the abundant bird life.



The stars of Matariki inspire the people to protect Te Taio (the environment).

Photos: SUPPLIED/ CHONTALLE MUSSON



An egg begins to hatch.



A stunning performance.



The forest animals come out to play.



AA Paeroa has moved to a new location!

NEW LOCATION



LOCATION:
6 Rotokohu Road Paeroa



HOURS:
9am to 5pm



DAYS:
Monday to Friday



SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Driver Licensing • Learner Licence Tests
- Motor Vehicle Licensing • IRD Number Verifications
- RealMe ID Verifications • SuperGold Card Image
- International Driving Permits • AA Member Services



aa.co.nz/drivers/driver-licences/locations

Hauraki Plains ADAPTATION PLAN



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

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

Come along to our open days!

TALK to us

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

Tūrūa Market
Sunday 20 July
9am-1pm
Tūrūa Hall

Ngātea drop-in session
Wednesday 23 July
2-4pm and 5-7pm
Ngātea Rugby and Sports Club
Hugh Hayward Domain

Find out more

SCAN ME



KŌRERO MAI



STORY MAP

EMAIL

You can also reach out to the Community Panel by emailing plainsadaptation@gmail.com



This project is partially funded by central government's Better Off Funding package to invest in the wellbeing of our communities.





ON SALE NOW!

Cushions and Covers



500 Pollen St, Thames - 868 8725
07 868 8725 | 029 0228 8586
christinesgiftshop@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/@christine.and.co.2025

Forsyth Barr – Expert investment advice



Contact Investment Adviser, Brett Bell-Booth, for a no-obligation discussion on how he can help you achieve your future financial goals.

Brett Bell-Booth is visiting the Thames Valley weekly. Please contact Brett to make a complimentary appointment.

Brett Bell-Booth
Investment Adviser
brett.bell-booth@forsythbarr.co.nz
DDI: (07) 577 5725
M: 021 825 504

forsythbarr.co.nz

 **FORSYTH BARR**



The Waihi Lions Book Fair was well-supported by the community. Photo: SUPPLIED

Book fair raises \$11k for community

The popular Waihi Lions Book Fair held over King’s Birthday weekend raised thousands for community causes. Event co-ordinator Doug Longdill said the event was very well supported by the community, who donated their unwanted books and turned out to purchase books during the annual fundraiser.

The book fair, which was held in the Waihi Memorial Hall, raised just over \$11,000, which was slightly lower than the previous year.

“We want to thank the local community for supporting us so well again this year,” he said.

“The result was a solid one, given the challenging economic conditions that many in our community are facing. We also had some challenging weather to deal with, particularly on the Friday evening, and this may have deterred some book lovers from attending at that time.

“As we do every year, we will review this year’s event with the aim of making it even more successful next year.”

All funds raised will be used to contribute to various community causes that approach Waihi Lions during the year.

“We want to especially thank our local businesses such as BP Connect, Mobil Waihi, Caltex Paeroa and Waihi Beach Home and Hardware for allowing us to use their premises as drop off points for our books.

“As is the case every year, at the conclusion of the event we are left with a quantity of books to deal with. Those that are assessed as being saleable are retained for future events. Those that are deemed to be unsaleable are disposed of in a sustainable way. This involves removing any plastic material and hard covers. Once this has been done, this then allows them to be included in the council recycling facilities.”

Thames Autos

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A Division of Takahini Motors Ltd R.M.V.T.

HOME DEMONSTRATIONS AND DELIVERIES AVAILABLE WE CAN COME TO YOU

– www.thamesautos.co.nz –

<p>2007 Holden Commodore SV-6 Auto, Good Kms, In Top Condition</p>  <p>\$11,990</p>	<p>2006 Honda CRV 2.4 Ltr Auto, 2WD, Superb Condition</p>  <p>VALUE \$6,990</p>	<p>2005 Nissan Fuga 350GT Auto, Low Kms, Superb Condition</p>  <p>ONLY \$8,990</p>	<p>2012 Holden Colorado Auto, 2WD, Diesel</p>  <p>\$15,990</p>
<p>2011 Nissan Navara Diesel, Manual, 4x4, GREAT VALUE</p>  <p>\$11,990</p>	<p>2010 Subaru Legacy 2.5 Ltr Auto, Fully Optioned Model</p>  <p>NOW \$8,990</p>	<p>2014 Holden Cruze 1.8 Ltr Auto, Arriving</p>  <p>\$8,990</p>	<p>2009 Mitsubishi Colt Auto, Low 84 Kms, One Owner</p>  <p>JUST \$7,990</p>

LEYLAND STOWE
Mob: 027 355 5152 Ph: 07 868 8981
or 0800 868 898
609 Pollen St, Thames RMVT
thamesautos@xtra.co.nz



No Deposit Finance
available on all vehicles.
Full workshop servicing & repairs available including Auto Electrical service

Model bungalow attracts attention at gala



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.

1933

Waihi High School's second annual gala and prizegiving featured an exhibit of a model bungalow cottage, the handiwork of a special building construction class recruited from all forms of the school, under the supervision of Mr Caradus. The programme included a tug of war, a haka, a hangi, folk dancing, eurhythmics, and battles on the greasy boom. There were stalls, side shows and competitions galore. Arts and craft, posters by the commercial students, pastel, brush and pencil work and skillfully made woodwork articles were on display. Afternoon tea consisted of strawberries and cream, ice cream, soft drinks and lollies. For the convenience of visitors seating was arranged around the grounds and in the corridors of the buildings, where fine views were had of the activities in progress. The bungalow



The model bungalow built by students of Waihi High School. Photo: SUPPLIED

low attracted much attention. In Miranda, the lime works situated alongside the wharf suddenly burst into flames while four men were bagging lime. The men dashed from the blazing building and escaped uninjured. The inflammable bags burned fiercely, and within three minutes the 80ft tower was alight. Nothing could be done to save the works, which were soon reduced to ruins. Fortunately there was no wind otherwise two scows lying at the wharf would also have been destroyed. The men continuously poured water on them to prevent them from being

charred. The cause of the sudden outbreak was thought to be a fault in the electrical installation or an explosion occurring in the oil fuel. About 12 to 14 men were thrown out of work as the result of the fire, as well as the crews of the scows and three or four men employed in handling lime at the Thames Wharf. Meanwhile, a meeting of Thames Coast residents and the Thames Valley Power Board and the Thames County Council was held at Thornton Bay to discuss a proposal to extend the power supply line from Thames to the coast as

far as Waiomu. The area had 49 permanent residents and 103 non-permanent residences. The cost of construction was estimated to be £3800 for a total route length of 8.75 miles, including the necessary low tension mains and four transformer stations. Because of the relatively large number of permanent residents it was proposed to interview each of them to see what could be done further in the matter. Over at Paeroa, Captain Brake, of Tauranga, who had been visiting Thames in his Avro bi-plane, landed for a few minutes to telephone to Hamilton to make a business appointment. He also picked up a passenger and returned him early in the afternoon. When the biplane landed in Mrs Nicholl's paddock Captain Brake, a flying instructor, was approached by two men inquiring about forming a flying club in Paeroa. Captain Brake suggested that if four or five people wanted to learn to fly they could become associate members of one of the existing clubs and he could arrange to visit Paeroa on one day a week. When Paeroa became sufficiently air-minded the formation of a club could be launched. Flying was being taken up very enthusiastically in many centres, and there was no reason why it should not become popular in Paeroa.

Chris' Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter
1. What percentage of the resident population of Queensland was born in New Zealand? a) 0.4 per cent, b) 4 per cent, or c) 14 per cent?
 2. Florence Nightingale died at age 90 in which century?
 3. Stuntman Evel Knievel had which surname at birth? a) Anderson, b) Kennedy, or c) Knievel?
 4. The Logie Awards, often shortened to the 'Logies', is an annual TV Awards event held in which country? a) Australia, b) UK, or c) USA?
 5. In Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, what type of animal is Baloo? a) bear, b) panther, or c) tiger?
 6. The Lemonade citrus plant, thought to be a cross between a mandarin and a lemon, was developed in which country? a) Italy, b) New Zealand, or c) Spain?
 7. Which 1997 musical historical fantasy film about the Russian royal family featured voice actors Meg Ryan, John Cusack, Christopher Lloyd, Hank Azaria, Angela Lansbury and Kirsten Dunst?
 8. Which New Zealand rock band changed their name to Pacifier in 2002, primarily due to negative connotations that their previous name sounded too similar to the term 'Jihad'?
 9. How many PSI (pounds per square inch) is normal atmospheric pressure? a) 14.7, b) 147, or c) 1,470?
 10. Neapolitan refers to anything relating to which Italian city?



ANSWERS: 1. b.) 4 per cent; 2. 20th Century (1910); 3. c.) Knievel; 4. a) Australia; 5. a) a bear; 6. b) New Zealand; 7. *Anastasia*; 8. Shivel; 9. a) 14.7; 10. Naples.



AUTHENTIC ITALIAN RESTAURANT

OPENING JULY 18

SIMON GAULT'S MENU OF WARM, DELICIOUS & MAXIMUM FLAVOURED FOOD

THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 5 - 9 PM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL AS SPACES ARE LIMITED



705 Pollen St Thames

P: 021 648 699

w:theaviator.co.nz

COURSES AVAILABLE AT VALLEY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Would you like to upskill or change the direction of your career?

We hold a range of courses that are free of charge and available to all age groups.

- **Foundation Skills L1, 20 weeks**
- **Mechanical Engineering L2, 25 weeks**
- **Agriculture L2, 26 weeks**
- **Retail L2, 15 weeks**
- **Agriculture, Te Mahi Whenua L3, 15 weeks**
- **Horticulture L3, 21 weeks**

All our courses earn credits, helping you to gain NCEA Levels 1 and 2

We offer short courses, Barista, Learners, and Defensive driving, at a charge.

For more information, get in touch.



Valley Education

free courses • free transport

07 868 7892

027 314 1577

www.valleyeducation.co.nz



FranklinVets

Fresh Breath Happy Pet!

Give your furry friend the gift of a healthier smile.

Get 20% off
all dental procedures
under anaesthetic
throughout August!

Book now and keep those tails wagging and those paws kneading.

Call your local clinic to secure a spot!



Waitakaruru 07 868 9030 | Kopu 07 868 5007
Paeroa 07 862 7295 | Waihi 07 863 8684
Waihi Beach 07 863 7387

Rural Life

Uncover hidden issues during Dental Month



By Asse Bosch BVSc BSc

As Dental Month for Pets approaches, it's crucial to highlight the importance of early dental care and the often-overlooked signs of dental disease in pets.

Many pet owners are unaware that their furry friends may be suffering from dental issues, which can lead to significant health problems if left untreated.

Case Study: Max's journey to a healthy smile. Max, a seven-year-old Labrador, had been experiencing bad breath for a few months and developed swelling under his eye, accompanied by pus. He appeared sore when chewing his food. His owner was concerned about a possible grass seed under his skin. However, during a check-up at our Waihi Vet clinic, it was discovered that Max had a broken tooth in the back of his mouth, resulting in a painful tooth root abscess that had burst through the skin under his eye.

He hadn't used that affected side for some time, leading to significant tartar buildup on adjacent teeth.

The veterinary team immediately scheduled a comprehensive dental procedure for Max. Blood tests were done to check his overall health and ensure he could safely have an anaesthetic. Using their state-of-the-art dental suite, they performed a thorough cleaning, extracted the damaged tooth, and treated his gums. The transformation was remarkable.

Max's bad breath disappeared, and he was able to eat comfortably again. His owner was relieved but felt bad about not noticing the issue earlier. We reassured her that some pets make it tricky to have their teeth checked, and in Max's case, the other side of his mouth looked healthy.

What you can do at home to keep your pet's teeth healthy includes: regular brushing, dental chews and toys, a healthy diet, and routine check-ups. If you are unsure about your pet's dental health, book an appointment with your vet for an examination. Most pets are seen annually, and during the health check, their teeth are also inspected.

- Supplied by Franklin Vets





Power and performance



TS 114
38" cut, Hydrostatic Transmission, Husqvarna Series Engine

\$5,290



Z242E
42" cut fabricated mower deck, 21.5hp V-Twin Kawasaki Engine

\$8,990



R 214TC
94cm mulching deck, Hydrostatic Transmission, V-Twin Husqvarna Series Engine

\$8,690



Shaun Prescott, Sales Manager
021 285 4870 / 07 864 7801
1 Hikuai Settlement Road, Hikuai
www.prescottsgarages.co.nz



5 YEAR DOMESTIC WARRANTY*
* Terms and Conditions apply, see HUSQVARNA.COM for details.

We sell and service Husqvarna's huge range of product.
We also demonstrate and deliver.

Visit husqvarna.com today



PAEROA FARM SERVICES LTD
118 Normandy Rd, PAEROA, 3000
Ph: 07 862 8263

We specialise in Milking Machines & Equipment, Effluent & Irrigation Systems, Filtration & Purification, and Water Pump Supplies & Installations.

To cover all your dairy needs.

Email: shop@paeroafarms.co.nz
web: www.paeroafarmservices.co.nz
PaeroaFarmServices





NO BULL, REAL WORLD PRICING.
THE SMART FARM CHOICE.



☒ ZERO DEPOSIT ☒ ZERO REPAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS ☒ 5.95% P.A. FIXED RATE*

Central Motors

Hauraki Ltd



YAMAHA
Revs your Heart

60 Orchard Rd, Ngatea
867 7524
www.centralmotors.co.nz
Andrew - 027 285 0349
John - 027 279 6799

ENTERTAINMENT

Thames artists feature in Matariki exhibition

The Morrinsville Gallery is presenting an exhibition celebrating the spirit of Matariki this month, and includes the work of two Thames artists.

The first, *Khordashi the Dragon*, is a sculpture designed by Marti Wong.

Gallery director Gina Barreto said Marti, a member of the Vessel Cooperative in Thames, brought his dragon, Khordashi, to guard the exhibition space and oversee the Matariki show.

The second piece on display is *Te Kete Aronui* - a carving by artist Ben Whitaker.

"I have been surrounded by art," he said.

"My mother was an educator and arts advisor. My father was a shearer and holder of whakapapa. My nana shared our whakapapa. Getting to know who I am has given me grounding and security."

Ben took part in the Ngākau Carving Symposium, held in Thames in April, and Gina said she cherished the gallery's new connection with "two inspiring art initiatives operating in Thames, namely Vessel and The Ngākau Carving Symposium".

"Vessel is a gallery located at 752 Pollen St, packed with work from their talented collective. We are so grateful that many of these artists have contributed to our exhibition that celebrates the spirit



Artist Ben Whitaker with his carving, *Te Kete Aronui*. Photos: SUPPLIED

of Matariki.

"The Ngākau Carving Symposium has generously made some of the incredible carvings and stonework created during their April 2025 event for sale.

"The symposium is a two-week, live-in workshop for sculptors and carvers, held at Thames South School to foster sculptural creativity and to fundraise for them. Now in its third year, it continues to grow and thrive."

DETAILS: *The Matariki in Morrinsville art exhibition is running until July 20 at Morrinsville Gallery.*



Khordashi the Dragon is a sculpture by Marti Wong.

SPORTS REPORTS

BOWLS

Kerepehi Bowling club's Martyn Barriball Memorial optional fours results: 1st 3.5 wins 19 points 20 ends (Kerepehi/Thames Coast) Kaye Burns, Ross, Amanda, Aaron; 2nd 3 wins 21 points 21 ends (Waihi) Earle White, Ann Murray, Jenny Loveridge, Gavin Hobbs; 3rd 3 wins 11 points 17 ends (Paeroa) Colin Demler, John Ridings, Anne Cleveland, Pat Riding.

Gordon O'Brien Memorial optional fours results: 1st 4 wins 18 points 21 ends (Hauraki) Grant Sharpe, Mike Cavanagh, Chris Bull, Andy McCowatt; 2nd 3 wins 34 points 22 ends (Waihi Beach) Bev, Sian, Ritchie, Loz; 3rd 3 wins 22 points 22 ends (Kerepehi) Shaun Harrison, Ian Smith, Jace, Boozy; 4th 3 wins 19 points 18 ends (Kerepehi) Lorraine Putt, Tracy Harrison, Glenda Brackenridge, Robin Povey. Booby Prize: Trish Roberts, Diane,

Joan, Kevin.

Club Championships 24-25 Ladies: Singles – Tracy Harrison R/u Glenda Brackenridge. Junior Singles - Glenda Brackenridge. Pairs - Tracy Harrison, Glenda Brackenridge. Triples - Lorraine Putt, Tracy Harrison, Glenda Brackenridge. Mens: Singles - Doug Topine. R/u Shaun Harrison. Junior Singles - Fatu Tausi. R/u David Danillo. Pairs - Shaun Harrison, Duane Harrison. R/u Doug Topine, Fatu Tausi. Triples - Arthur Thorburn, Fatu Tausi, George Morehu. R/u Doug Topine, Richard Crosland, Graham Pyke. Fours - Shaun Harrison, Arthur Thorburn, George Morehu, Dave Sutherland. R/u Duane Harrison, Ian Smith, Jason Tutaki, Stew Watts. Taylor Shield Team - Grant, Piddles, George, Andrew, came 2nd. TV Jnr Open Women 1st Glenda Brackenridge and Philippa Garrett. Coming up: Sunday July 20, Brian Tunnicliffe Nissan.



Clockwise from top left: 1st Hauraki, 2nd Waihi Beach, 3rd Kerepehi, 4th Kerepehi. Photo: SUPPLIED



\$9,995

2ND HAND
OUTBOARD
MOTORS

YAMAHA F100, 2009,
25", very tidy, low hours
MERCURY 90, 2016,
25", low hours

Phone or come in
to enquire.



\$3,995



Hauraki Plains Motors

1 Pipiroa Road, Ngatea • Ph 07 867-7021

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

ONYA AWARDS

The OnYa Awards celebrate everyday people doing extraordinary things – the quiet achievers, the helpers, the ones who roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Past winners were nominated by someone who simply thought, “You know what? They deserve to be recognised.”



Award Categories and previous recipients...

ONYA for caring about your community

Celebrating individuals who consistently give their time, aroha and energy to help others.

AWARDS

Peter Young (2022)

Peter Young has dedicated over 34 years to serving the community through his roles with St John, including pioneering the Paeroa Ambulance Station and mentoring countless volunteers. His unwavering commitment has made a lasting difference to the well-being of many in the rohe.



Sam Morrison (2023)

Sam was extremely proud to receive the award, which was for his volunteer work at the Paeroa Library every week for the past 8-9 years.



Divyash Swamy (2022)

Divyash (on the right) was a driving force behind countless service initiatives at Waihi College and in the community. His dedication and generosity have made a lasting impact on his school and community.

Ian Bradshaw (2023)

Ian Bradshaw has devoted over 30 years to Waihi environmental and service organisations in which he played a key role in establishing walking tracks, leading numerous native planting projects, and mentoring others in conservation efforts.

Mairi Jay (2021)

Mairi was a driving force behind the Paeroa Stream Care Trust, leading restoration efforts for Paeroa’s waterways and native environments. Her work gained funding, school and community involvement, and ongoing care to projects like the Millennium Forest and Ainslie Road Stream.

Tu Meke for going above and beyond

Special award for outstanding service to the community.

Krishna Buckman (2022)

Krishna has given countless hours to honouring our service men and women in Waihi. She has helped organise ANZAC and Armistice commemorations, created a remarkable poppy cloak with the names of 100 Tunnellers, and led the Cross of Crosses project with local school children. Krishna’s tireless efforts also supported local environmental work and community care through Team Beanie, and has been an active member of HELP Waihi Incorporated for over 25 years.



Bill & Ngaire Tissingh (2021)

“Ngaire and I were both humbled and encouraged to be recognised at this time. It means a great deal to us to have the community we have been part of for over 40 years value not only what we have been involved in and achieved, but more importantly, who we are as people and the values we have sought to live by”.



ONYA

for working together
to make a difference

*Community Group Award –
recognising groups who’ve made
a real impact.*

Together today,
tomorrow and in
the future, we say

GOOD
ONYA



ONYA for knocking it out of the park

Celebrating achievement or service in sport or recreation.

Julie-Ada Tana (2023)

Julie-Ada Tana has been a tireless volunteer in Paeroa’s sports community, coordinating and managing netball and touch rugby programs and playing a key role in reviving the Hauraki Tigers Rugby League Club. She approaches every task with a positive attitude and unwavering commitment, ensuring smooth running of sports for youth and seniors alike.



Bree McCowatt (2021)

Bree’s earned multiple Surf Life Saving regional awards, is a competitive swimmer, and is a talented netball player and committed coach. She received the prestigious Tania Dalton Foundation Scholarship and was selected for the national Pinnacle Programme, recognising her leadership, community spirit, and outstanding achievements both in and out of sport.

Kyla Walker (2021)

Kyla Walker made a lasting impact as a passionate netballer, leader, umpire, and coach who often stepped in to help wherever needed. She led student councils, championed wellbeing programmes, and was an energetic supporter of community events and causes.



Te Au Pounamu Warren (2022)

Te Au Pounamu (Tap) is a passionate kickboxer who, in his first year, proudly represented New Zealand at the World Kickboxing Championships.

“Being nominated was such a surprise, but it meant the world. It reminded me that even the little things I do are noticed. Not everything we do gets recognised, so that moment really stuck with me – it made me feel proud, valued, and seen.”

ONYA for enhancing and enriching our lives

Recognising service or achievement in arts or culture - the people who bring life, connection, and colour to our communities.

Pauline Germon (2021)

Pauline’s dedication to ballet and contemporary dance has inspired many students to achieve national and international success. Her passion and commitment have brought outstanding performances and opportunities to the Ngātea and Tūrua communities.

“The OnYa Award meant a great deal to me. I had been teaching dance to children in the area for 18 years and was heartened to have my contribution recognised. Many thanks—keep up the good work.”



Sheryl Krissansen (2023)

“It was a very humbling, rewarding, and truly grateful experience to be recognised by those around you and your community for your efforts to enrich people’s lives to the best of your ability.”

Luke van Vliet (2023)

Luke’s passion and energy has grown the Kerepēhi Brass Band from 6 to 27 members. As President, he inspires players to achieve more than they thought possible and his strong leadership and great relationships strengthened both the band and the wider community.



Naelene Donaldson (2023)

Naelene was a passionate leader of Te Ao Māori at Waihi College, serving as the primary rangatira and kaiako for the Kapa Haka Rōpū. She brought mātauranga Māori, mana, and commitment to the group, raising their performance to an exceptional level and inspiring students.

Do you know of
someone making
a difference?

Nominate them for this year’s
ONYA Awards

Entries close 4pm, Sunday 27 July

Take a moment to say
Good OnYa!
We appreciate you.

To submit your nomination scan the
QR code or go online to
[https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/
community/onya-awards](https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/onya-awards)



Photos courtesy of the Valley Profile

ENTERTAINMENT

Musical duo to play St George’s

Musical husband and wife duo, Andrew Atkins (piano) and Caitlin Morris (cello) are leading the way, in the Wairarapa, combining performance, education, and community leadership with remarkable energy.

They are bringing their magic to the Thames Music Group for the Sunday concert series on July 13 at 2pm.

Andrew, a graduate of the New Zealand School of Music with a Master of Musical Arts in Classical Piano, has built a reputation as both a soloist and conductor.

He’s performed concertos by Grieg, Beethoven, and Rachmaninoff with orchestras across New Zealand, and held the role of Assistant Conductor with Orchestra Wellington.

Now Head of Music and Drama at St Matthew’s Collegiate, Andrew co-founded the Wairarapa Youth Orchestra with Caitlin in 2021, aiming to make music more accessible to young people in the region.

Caitlin, a cellist and composer, has performed major concertos with orchestras including the Nelson Symphony, Kapiti Concert Orchestra, and Marlborough Civic Orchestra.

She has also composed for film and theatre, with her work featured in award-



Andrew Atkins and Caitlin Morris. Photo: SUPPLIED

winning films such as *A Girl Called Elvis*.

Currently studying cello performance at postgraduate level, she teaches strings across the Wairarapa, bringing music into schools and rural communities.

Put this concert date in your diary as Andrew and Caitlin come north to the Coromandel to share their love of the piano and cello with us.

DETAILS: Thames Music Group’s Sunday Concert series presents Andrew Atkins (piano) and Caitlin Morris (cello), July 13 at 2pm, St George’s Church, Mackay St, Thames. Entry: Members \$15, Adults \$20, under 18s free Contact: thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz.

Sisters in Country to perform

Get ready for an afternoon of unparalleled country music as the acclaimed duo Sisters in Country, featuring New Zealand music legends Jodi Vaughan and Aly Cook, take the stage at the Whangamata RSA.

They will be joined by special guest and fiddle player extraordinaire, Marian Burns, for a not-to-be-missed event on Sunday, July 13, at 4pm.

Sisters in Country brings together two formidable talents: Jodi Vaughan, a household name who graced TV screens across New Zealand in the 80s on *That’s Country*, and Aly Cook, an award-winning songwriter and artist. Individually and collectively, their music has consistently topped Australian and New Zealand charts, earning them a devoted fanbase.

This dynamic collaboration promises an enchanting afternoon filled with your favourite country tunes, alongside their own incredible original songs.

The performance will be further elevated by the addition of Marian Burns, whose exceptional fiddle playing is sure to captivate the audience. Expect an unforgettable blend of rich female harmonies and some truly hot fiddle playing that will get your toes tapping.

“We are incredibly excited to bring our show to Whangamata and share the stage with our dear friend Marian Burns,” Jodi Vaughan said.

Aly Cook adds, “It’s going to be a fantastic afternoon of music, stories, and genuine country spirit. We can’t wait to connect with everyone.”

This is a unique opportunity to witness three of New Zealand’s most talented female musicians come together for an intimate and powerful performance.

DETAILS: July 13, 4pm at Whangamata RSA. Tickets: www.eventfinda.co.nz.



Sisters in Country, Jodi Vaughan and Aly Cook, with guest artist, fiddle player Marian Burns. Photo: SUPPLIED

It helps to talk

Kia ora and Hi

I’m an experienced registered psychologist working in Thames.

I can provide FREE counselling to children / families and young people up to 25.

Plus FREE counselling for people on benefits.

Contact me on 0277800033 or talking.helps.Thames@gmail.com. Mauri Ora.

Beryl Riley

TradeZone

Thames

Industrial supply specialists that work for your business.

Contact us today:
admin@readbros.co.nz

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Key Cutting • Sharpening
- Wire Rope Swaging • Rope Splicing
- Cut-to-length Extrusions
- Dive Cylinder filling & testing on site

SEE US AT: READ BROS. HARDWARE
308 Pollen St, Thames
www.readbros.co.nz • 07 868 6608

A1Motorcycles

Servicing and Repairs

Workshop or On Farm

Road, Farm, MotoX

Ph : 027 2166867

Graham Cornes

A Grade Motorcycle Mechanic
graham@a1motorcycles.co.nz

Parts and Accessories

Road, Farm, MotoX

Ph : 027 2166860

Alison Cornes

parts@a1motorcycles.co.nz

www.a1motorcycles.co.nz

- Cowsheds • Feed Pads
- Rolling Feed Bin Lids

“Over 30 Years Experience”

QUINN ENGINEERING

Ph.(07) 867-6712
S/H 2, Kerepehi
info@quinn.co.nz
www.quinn.co.nz

Paeroa Auto Electrical

- Auto Air Conditioning
- Latest Diagnostic Tools for your European Car
- Range of Batteries for Cars, Trucks, Tractors, RVs and more
- On Farm Auto Electrical Service

Ph: 07 862 8565 Email: unipoint@extra.co.nz
3 Belmont Road Paeroa

BATTERY TOWN
NATIONWIDE BATTERY SPECIALISTS

Slick showdown leads to Boulton Cup victory

NETBALL

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

After an 11-year wait, the Hauraki Plains College A netball team have brought home the Boulton Cup, competing in wet conditions against the hosts.

In a final clash against Matamata on June 12, the girls triumphed 17 to 13, sealing the win despite being a player down.

The last time Hauraki Plains College won the cup was back in 2014.

“We were so proud. Absolutely buzzing,” team manager Bre Barker said.

“We had lots of stand-out moments, but one in particular was when we were a player down in the final at the defensive end, and our Goal Defence, Amber, worked so hard to make sure they didn’t score and got a beautiful intercept. It just showed how much our girls wanted to win for each other.”

Held annually, the Boulton Cup location alternates based on the previous winner, and this year’s tournament took place in Matamata.

“Torrential” rain during the pool games added to the matches’ intensity, but despite



After an 11-year wait, the Hauraki Plains College A netball team have won the Boulton Cup.

Photo: SUPPLIED

the weather, Bre said the squad had a great day.

“Leading up to Boulton it was a little concerning what the weather was going to do,” she said.

“I know it is a winter sport, but it was not looking great and we had some torrential rain

during some of the pool games leading up to the semis and finals which made for tricky conditions for our girls to play in.

“[Coach] Sarah Perry is amazing and we are so grateful to have such a great bunch of girls and can’t wait for the rest of the season,” Bre said, “especially

our pinnacle of the year which is the Upper North Island Secondary Schools Competition.”

Hauraki Plains’ A team represents the top netball talent from the college, made up of Year 11 to 13 students.

They currently compete in the Hamilton City Netball Cen-

tre’s Secondary Senior Prem Grade, playing every Saturday.

They’ll be at the 2025 UNISS tournament, hosted at Auckland Netball Centre, from August 25-29, 2025.



“Where quality meets community”

- One stop grocery store
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Competitive prices
- Convenient location
- Daily use items
- Pies
- Coffee to go
- 10% off for orders of \$100 or more



07 862 7979



022 081 0000

OPEN 7 DAYS
8am to 7pm



Harkirat Singh, Harsameep Kaur and Harjot Singh are ready to serve the community.

Paeroa’s produce hub

The number one thing the new owners of Paeroa Fresh Fruit and Veg Shop want people to know is they are ready to serve the community with the freshest produce around: “That’s our motive - fresh food for the community”.

Owners and brothers Harjot and Harkirat Singh kicked off their tenure on June 19 and told *The Profile* things started off on a good foot with lots of support from people in the community so far.

“We are liking it very much to be honest. The customers and the community, the local people coming here are very happy with our efforts.”

With repeat customers already, the Singh brothers said they aimed to match the enthusiasm and support with the quality and pricing of their products.

But they also want customers to know, if there’s a product people want but it isn’t currently stocked - they’ll do their best to

source it, customers just need to have a chat with them.

“We’re trying to break the monopoly that’s here in town with the supermarkets.” But fresh fruit and veggies aren’t the only things on the shelves.

The store is a one-stop shop for other goods too from herbs, spices, cereals, canned foods, snacks and confectionery to personal care, spreads, hot pies, drinks, and soon takeaway coffee.

If customers need to have their groceries delivered, that’s another option to talk to Harjot and Harkirat about too.

Something the community can look forward to is a free community barbecue breakfast put on by Paeroa Fresh Fruit and Veg Shop from 10am on July 10 outside the store.

“Anybody can come. There’ll be bacon and sausages, so come down for a bite.”

- By Davidda Hikatangata

ADVERTORIAL

SPORTS REPORTS

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

CLUB RUGBY

REPLAY LOADING - WAIHI v PAEROA
Club Wrap Semi-finals: July 5
Tighthead Ted Reports
And just like that, there were two. A replay of last year's final is on the menu, Waihi Athletic, the playing through champions taking on the much improved Green Machine of Paeroa. It'll be a cracker of a match too, the clinical structure of Waihi versus the Barbarian style of Paeroa. The hard track at Whitianga will encourage both games to play to their strengths, so it's going to be a match for the ages.
But how'd the teams get there, well, we'll head to the swamp that was Centennial Park first, where Paeroa went into extra time to beat Mercury Bay. A fantastic match, with skill levels off the charts in the wet. The home team led at the half, thanks to the boot of Bitner Johansson and three successful shots at goal from the depths of the mud. Mercury Bay's usually reliable kicker, Tom Larke, on the other hand had serious problems with his range finder, and would have had trouble kicking over a sandcastle, let alone a rugby ball from the depths of a Thames Valley swamp.
The second half was a try apiece, and the boot of Larke with two penalties brought the match to the deadlock after 80 minutes. Every supporters dream - more rugby, every coach's nightmare, who's got gas left in the tank, what do we do! On this occasion, where scoring was at a premium, Mercury Bay received the kickoff, and proceeded to shoot themselves in the foot. A silly penalty, Paeroa take the kick to the corner option, phase after phase of accurate attack, and boom - Tyrone Keith, like a thief in the night, stole the match winner, and the spot in the final.
In a match that turned into a tight forwards dream, there were a few backline highlights, none more so than the Green Machine's Johnasson diffusing a Mercury Bay bomb, than proceed-



Hot favourites Waihi had little trouble beating Waihou for the third time this season.

Photo: SUPPLIED/TVRFU

ing to step, swerve and slide through half the defending team's players before putting in a kick through for Rimu Alexander to score from - great play in any conditions, and an example of what Waihi will be battling next week - their defensive lines will have to be connected, or whatever the modern day terminology is!
For the Green Machine, converted flanker Oshea Te Oka-Cox had a whale of a game, revelling in the tight battle with some hits that could be measured on the Richter scale - I'm sure there'll be a few Bay boys with bumps and bruises after running down his defensive channel. In close support was big number eight Tala Moli, who has carried hard all season and leads from the front like all good number eights

should. Skipper Johnson McKain, who is built like all tighthead props should be - a square with ears, was also immense, a non-stop immovable force for 100 minutes. The backline, Keith was a tackling machine, anything wearing yellow and black that moved within two feet of him was dropped like a pint in Tinsey's hands. Johnasson, Alexander, Hendrix Beazley - in fact, the whole backline was dangerous every time they touched the ball. Mercury Bay also had a team of hard workers, as they have all season. Regan Crossland at fullback, Tom Larke once he got over his kicking hiccups, and flanker Miller Vincent were the pick of a good bunch. All in all an epic match in atrocious conditions worthy of a final - but still a week to

go before anyone picks up any silverware, and they'll have to go through Waihi to get there.
Which segways nicely into the Waihi versus Waihou semi final (that's a new word ole Tighthead Ted learned, hopefully used right, if not, pretend that it was). Hot favourites Waihi had little trouble beating Waihou for the third time this season, their pace and precision being too much for the steady Waihou side, who tried hard, but just lacked the cutting edge needed to upset the home team. Waihi were their usual polished selves, forward power getting over the gainline, before the backline being unleashed. It's pretty to watch, even for this old frontrower who'd happily watch rolling mauls for 80 minutes. Not that Waihou didn't go

down swinging, a nicely taken driven try to hooker Scotty Day early in the second spell put a bit of light in the eyes of the visitors, but Waihi replied quickly, and the game was safe.
Waihou camped in the Waihi 22 for the final 15 minutes - much to me old mate Bart's disgust, he was camped down at the other end of the field waiting for Waihi to cut loose - but were unable to pierce the staunch Waihi defence.
Waihi's best on the field were lock Dylan Horne, the loose trio of Kenan Gillson, Isaac Seili and Lesen Huairangi. All carried the ball with venom, Horne and Huairangi in particular, all power and leg drive as they took the ball to, and beyond the advantage line time and time again. Quinn Collard at first five as per usual controlled field position with his radar like kicking, and his midfield duo of Ish Leilua and Dylan Bower were hard to contain.
Waihou's best was Chad Bracey at flanker, non stop all day on attack and defence. Aply supported by Scott Day at hooker, halfback Jake O'Connor along with hard working locks Tim Erceg and Laisenia Tevita. At the end of the day, Waihou needed to drag Waihi into a battle and knock them off their stride, which they failed to do, hence the result.
Highlight of the day though, as ole Ted arrived to see the C semi final, Ngatea v Waihi, was watching the Ngatea goalkicker make a mound of turf to kick his team's first points of the match. Even better, with the ball toppling off the mound, his team-mate grabbing it and placing it back on to the mound - with the finger on the top of the ball, kicker one stepped in and slotted the goal. Any older school, and he'd have done it bare-footed ala Bob Scott (look that one up kids, one of the greats).
Next week will be a fascinating final. How will the teams handle the travel logistics? How will last year's result play on Paeroa's minds? Will the easy semi final help Waihi? Five sleeps to go!

HG LEACH CLUB RUGBY

FINALS 2025

Saturday 12th July - Moewai Park, Whitianga

Premier Men McClinchy Cup Field 1 - 2pm Kick Off	Senior B Men Lawrence Memorial Cup Field 2 - 11.30am Kick Off
 	 
Senior C Men McDonald Cup Field 3 - 11am Kick Off	Womens Competition Karly Forsyth Memorial Cup Field 1 - 12pm Kick Off
 	 



\$5 Entry - Under 18 FREE - CASH ONLY
• Food and Drinks Available for Purchase

LEFT BANK THEATRE

Ph: 07 868 3142 www.leftbanktheatre.co.nz 659 Pollen St, Thames

Movies from Thursday 10 July to Wednesday 16 July
For times, see our website, pick up a brochure by the cinema doors, or email or phone us.

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

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

Kōkā (100 mins) M. Māori elder Hamo and local delinquent Jo form an unlikely bond on a road trip. Confronting their demons and traumas, they begin a journey of healing, community and reconciliation.

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

The Great Lillian Hall (110 mins) M. A Broadway actress, has never missed a performance throughout her long career. Yet people and events conspire to take away her ability to do what she loves most.

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

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

OCEAN with David Attenborough (97 mins) PG. Stunning, immersive cinematography showcases the wonder of the seas and exposes the challenges facing our ocean, yet the story is one of optimism.

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.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f [scottsimpsonmp](https://www.facebook.com/scottsimpsonmp)



Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

It's worth the effort to line up the shot

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

I was recently at church, taking photos for Mother's Day.

And mate — good photos in dimly lit rooms?

That's a job for professionals with proper flash gear.

But as I was fiddling with settings and chasing light, I start-



ed thinking about... plastering. Yeah, weird link — I know. But hear me out.

Back when I did a bit of plastering at home, I used to slap it on thick.

Just load it up and figure I'd sand it smooth later.

But then I hired a professional and I quickly learnt the secret from the pros: it's all about small, consistent layers.

You get it as close to perfect as you can before sanding. Because otherwise, you're in for hours of dusty regret and a finish that still doesn't look quite

right. And as I was taking photos that Sunday, I had the same thought.

The more effort I put in now — lining up the shot, getting the light right — the less fixing I'll have to do later.

And of course, that got me thinking about family. Parenting. Work. All of it.

The more intentional we are now — the more heart, focus, and excellence we put in up front — the less "sanding back" we'll need to do down the track.

Now, don't get me wrong — it's not about perfection.

Progress beats perfection every time.

But we do need to aim for excellence. Because what we invest now saves a heap of clean-up later.

So keep going. Don't give up. It's worth the effort.

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.



Style Your Space

ADVERTISING FEATURE



The Owens Flooring showroom has one of the largest floor covering displays in the area. Photo: SUPPLIED

We have your floors covered

Owens Flooring is a very well respected and recognised business based in Waihi Beach.

They happily cover the Western Bay Of Plenty, Hauraki, Coromandel and the surrounding areas.

Owens Flooring has a spacious 240m2 showroom, the largest in the Waihi Area.

They have in-store stock specials of carpets and vinyls with extensive ranges of both solution dyed nylon and 100 per cent wool carpets, the latest options in European vinyls as well as laminate and engineered timber planking.

Specialising in both residential and commercial flooring coverings and installation – one of their latest commercial projects was the supply and installation of the floorcoverings to the new Waihi Beach Library and to the renovations at the adjoining Community Centre.

Owner-operator Bill Owens has more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of floor coverings. He stands behind all of his products and installation services 100 per cent.

Call in and see his friendly sales team including their inhouse floor-

ing colour consultant.

Owens Flooring are proud members of The Flooring Foundation and FloorsNZ.

Phone them to discuss your flooring requirements and for a free measure and quotation.

Phone 027 233 7277, or visit our showroom at Unit 5/57 Wilson Road, Waihi Beach, visit our website: www.owensflooring.co.nz, or email: sales@owensflooring.co.nz.

Covering floors from the Hauraki basin, Coromandel Peninsula, Waihi, Waihi Beach, Katikati and beyond.

Owens Flooring

We Have All Your Flooring Needs Covered
Flooring Sales & Installation
Domestic & Commercial

"EXCLUSIVE"... "SUPER SPECIAL PRICES"
on Solution Dyed Nylon
Carpets Available in 36oz, 45oz, 55oz, 65oz
in 12 of the latest trend colours

• Carpets • Vinyls • Floor Sanding
• Laminate & Timber Flooring

Showroom: 5/57 Wilson Road at Waihi Beach
07 863 5723 / 027 233 7277
sales@owensflooring.co.nz • www.owensflooring.co.nz

insider

Interior Design Service

Complete design, planning, and furnishing services for new builds and renovations.

Window Treatments

Custom-made curtains, blinds, and shutters.

Shop online or in-store for our full range:
The Depot Lane, 715 Pollen St, Thames
M 021 509 952 www.insider.net.nz

Join our monthly *Style Your Space* page and receive a feature article about your business and a listing on the *Coromandel App*

Contact Davidda - 022 174 3988
davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz
or Nikki - 022 130 3885
nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

Carpet Court
Curtain Studio

Cosy Comfy
Winter Sale

217 Pollen Street, Thames
07 777 4994

50% off*
making & lining on selected custom lined curtains

Up to **25% off***
all **Rhino** carpet*

*Offers are valid until 31/07/25 on selected ranges & selected colours, while stocks last. See instore or online for full details.

Make every day beautiful with

Flowers on Pollen

512 Pollen Street, Thames
Ph: 07-8689891 E: flowersonpollen@gmail.com
W: flowersonpollen.co.nz

CALL THE EXPERTS

ARBORIST

TREE SHAPES
Qualified Arborists

- Treework Large & Small
- Stump Grinding • Hedge Trimming
- Fruit Tree Pruning • Chipping

For a free quote call
07 868 3985 or 0274 726627

ARBORIST

STUMP & GRIND

- Stump removal experts for tree stumps of all sizes
- Coromandel, Franklin and Waikato
- Experienced and fully insured
- Owner operated, local business

Call now for a free quote **021 539 779**
luke@stumpandgrind.co.nz
www.stumpandgrind.co.nz

ARBORIST

HAURAKI TREE SERVICES

Qualified and insured arborists. 20+ years experience

- Large tree removal specialists
- Pruning and hedge trimming
- Height / weight reductions
- Land clearing and reclamation
- Stump grinding - Scrub mulching
- Advice and consultancy

Get in touch with us today for a free quote.
info@haurakitrees.co.nz
0800 HTS tree (0800 487 8733)

ARBORIST

We solve your tree problems
Tree Removal • Stump Grinding • Pruning
• Land clearing and hedge trimming
• Storm Clean Up

Qualified, experienced, fully insured

Trusted treework for over 25 years
Call today
SHORT BACK'N'SIDES LTD
027 439 0367
shortbacknsides.co.nz

AUTOMOTIVE

wenzlick AUTOMOTIVE

- Repair
- WOF
- Service
- Diagnostic

Professional Friendly Service

Call us on **07 868 6799** or visit
www.wenzlickautomotive.co.nz
306 Mary Street Thames



Smart offers a variety of bin sizes from 80 litre wheelie bins to 30 cubic metres. Photo: SUPPLIED

Smart Environmental – Expanding with the times

For more than three decades, Smart has played a significant role in waste and recycling services within the Coromandel and Waikato regions.

We've been proud to do that, and we continue to grow and expand our offerings. As our regions continue to grow, rest assured that Smart Bins commercial services will continue to be your trusted local waste business, proudly owned and operated, with people who live in your communities.

Our team is working diligently to provide the community with a reliable, friendly, and hassle-free rubbish and recycling collection service for your home or business, come rain, or shine.

Our commitment to serving our customers remains unwavering. Whether you're a household or a business, we will continue to provide a comprehensive range of services. We understand that the council services may not meet everyone's needs, so we continue to offer flexible, cost-effective, customised collection times, and a variety of bin sizes ranging from 80 litre wheelie bins to 30 cubic metres.

DETAILS: If you would like to explore the range of services we provide, please contact our friendly customer support team today at **0800 424 990** or email **sales.support@smartenvironmental.co.nz**.

BUILDER

FRAMED UP BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

Nothing too big or small.
Honest & Professional Workmanship

Call us today **021 393 467**
framedup.co.nz

- New Builds
- Renovations
- Kitchens
- Landscaping

BUILDER

CAIRD CONSTRUCTION LTD

- New home builds
- Renovations and extensions
- Decks, fences, and outdoor areas
- Any building work, big or small

Shaun 021 389 198 | **admin@cairdconstruction.com**

BUILDING SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL BUILDING | ELECTRICAL | PLUMBING TRADE SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL - House Renovations - Kitchens Bathrooms - Pergolas - Fencing - Decks Gibbing - Tiling - Landscaping - Painting General Home Maintenance and Much More

COMMERCIAL - Body Corporate Maintenance Programmed Maintenance - 24/7 Emergency Callouts

CONSENTS - Required Building Consent work lodged with Councils

DESIGN - CAD Design for Extensions - 3D Room Design (see how your job will look like when completed)

INSURANCE - Preferred Insurance Provider Flood / Earthquake / Cyclone / Electrical Plumbing Work

Ph 0800 088 001 (Call for a **FREE Estimate**) **www.ptsnz.com**
Office & Showroom **3 Coronation Street, Paeroa**

BUILDER / CARPENTER

QUALIFIED & LICENSED LBP.

Many years experience.

Ph Peter
027 496 5241

CARPET

Carpet Court

FREE underlay & installation* on selected **Rhino** carpet

217 Pollen Street, Thames | 07 777 4994
Open Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm, Sat 8:30am - 2:00pm

*T&Cs apply. See instore or online for full details.

Make your home pet friendly

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

HOPPER CONSTRUCTION

TRACTOR MULCHING | PILE DRIVING | RETAINING WALLS
DRAINAGE | ROADWORKS | DEMOLITIONS | DRAINAGE

EMAIL: SALES@HOPPERCONSTRUCTION.CO.NZ
PHONE: 027 446 3119

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

Crawford Civil & Landscape
Owner Excavator/Truck/Labour Hire

Eli Crawford

Earthworks, retaining walls, fencing, concreting, drainage, rock work, landscaping, demo & more

Servicing Paeroa & Surrounding areas
021 186 3620
crawfy81@gmail.com

CLEANING

A J CLEAN UP CREW

- Lawn mowing
- Weedeating
- Hedge & tree trim
- Section clearing
- Gardening
- Rubbish removal
- Interior house clean
- New build clean/clear
- Odd jobs considered
- One off jobs welcome

0800 464 898
Alaine Hedges
027 242 7268
John Hedges
027 457 2018
Email: **info@ajcleanupcrew.co.nz**

DRIVING ACADEMY

DRIVING COURSES

Driving lessons
Learner Licence courses
Defensive Driving courses

Book now 027 314 1577 (text or phone)
admin@valleyeducation.co.nz

Valley Education
07 868 7892

EARTHWORKS

MEARES EARTHWORKS

TAKING CARE OF ALL YOUR EARTHWORK NIGHTMEARES

- General Earthworks & Digging
- Housepads • Farmlane Raceway
- Tree Removal • Demolitions
- Driveways & Retaining Walls plus much more...

Ph: 027 269 7144 or 07 863 8208
E: mearesearthworks@gmail.com
www.mearesearthworks.co.nz

EARTHWORKS & CARTAGE

Digger, Bulldozer & Truck Hire

- Mulching
- Cartage of Metal, sand, fertiliser, palm kernel, hay & maize silage

PHONE TIM 027 278 5384
T & A MCWATTERS LTD

ELECTRICIAN

Electrical Laser

For All Your Electrical Needs

"Totally Dependable"

- New Builds
- Alterations
- Quotes
- Lighting Plans
- Heat Pumps
- Service and Maintenance
- Commercial
- Fire Systems

Ph: 07 863 7746 Email: **waihi@laserelectrical.co.nz**

FERTILISER

Avoca

nutrients for soil health

Supplier of fast acting Lime and Fertiliser

P: Rev 021 503 029
P: Gill 021 532 903

FLOORING

OWENS FLOORING

Flooring Sales and Installation
FREE MEASURE & QUOTATION

Carpet, Vinyl, Wood & Laminate Flooring

SHOWROOM: 5/57 Wilson Road, Waihi Beach
Open 8.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday
Saturdays By Appointment

Phone: 027 233 7277 / 07 863 5723
Email: sales@owensflooring.co.nz
www.owensflooring.co.nz

Government signs first MOU kickstarting city and regional deal

The government has signed the first Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to negotiate a City and Regional Deal with Western Bay of Plenty – marking a significant step towards delivering long-term growth and development opportunities for the region, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson says.

“City and Regional Deals are designed to boost economic growth, unlock housing, and better manage local infrastructure. They bring central and local government together to agree on priorities, plan and implement the projects that will bring the most value to our region,” he said.

“This is about backing our region’s potential. We can now negotiate a 10-year strategic partnership between local and central government for the Western Bay of Plenty – focused on driving growth, cutting red tape, and investing in what matters most to our communities.”

A significant portion of the

southern part of the Coromandel electorate was covered by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, he said.

“This is a major opportunity to get real traction on the infrastructure and development the region needs – bringing real benefits to our local towns and communities like Waihi Beach, Katikati, and Omokoroa. We’ll have a stronger voice at the decision-making table and better co-ordination with central government to get things built.

“This is a great opportunity to shape the region’s future – attracting investment, growing jobs, and delivering better services for local families.”

The government and local councils will work together to agree on priorities and deliver projects – including transport, water infrastructure, housing, and other services – that will support economic growth and improve quality of life.

Negotiations are now underway, with the first City and Regional Deal expected to be finalised by the end of 2025.

Garden Ramble brings comfort to residents

Money raised at last year’s Garden Ramble, organised by the Lions Club of Waihi, has now brought comfort to residents at Hetherington House, with the donations going toward new La-Z-Boy Easy chairs.

The purpose of the Ramble was to raise money for the community - and altogether the net proceeds from the event were in excess of \$12000.

Hetherington House and Waitawheta Camp both received a donation of just more than \$6000. The Lions Club applied to the Lions District Banking Trust for extra funding which enabled Hetherington House to buy four of these very comfortable additions to its lounge furniture.

Hetherington House resident Margery McEwen relaxes in one of the new chairs while members of the Waihi Lions Club David Parish, Duncan Smeaton and Hetherington House Manager, Michelle Wilson.

Photo: SUPPLIED



CALL THE EXPERTS - Continued

FLOORING

Supply & Installation for Domestic & Commercial

- Carpet • Vinyl
- Laminate • Polyurethane

Contact us for your free Measure and Quote
Phone : 021 020 47027
Email : dan@thefloorman.co.nz

HIRE CENTRE

THAMES HIRE CENTRE
Jellicoe Crescent, Thames
Perrin Newland
Telephone: 07 868 9350
Email: hire@thameshire.co.nz
www.thameshire.co.nz
HOME HANDYMAN AND COMMERCIAL HIRE

HOMEKILL

Hunts Home Kills
For all your meat and game processing needs.

- We are dedicated to you, the customer.
- Hygienic, vacuum packed products.
- Professional facilities.
- Smoked meats are our speciality.
- 12 - 14 days hung on the bone, minimum
- Game orders over 10kg
- Premium custom orders to meet your needs

Ph: 0800 250 939 • Mob: Mike - 021 411 210
E: huntshomekill@gmail.com
W: huntshomekills.nz • Follow us on FB

KITCHENS

KITCHENS
Scullery, Wardrobe, Laundry units etc
Quality Product - Competitively priced
No obligation FREE measure & quote

PENINSULA JOINERY LTD
THAMES P: 07 868 6323
E:office@peninsulajoinery.co.nz
We cover Thames, the Coromandel Peninsula & Waikato wide

PAINTER

That Painter Ltd.
Residential & Light Commercial
We paint like Picasso only cheaper

- Interior & Exterior • Residential & Light Commercial
- Fully Insured • Workmanship Guarantee

Contact Stan on 0223137911
to discuss your project.

PLASTERER

TWINWOLF PLASTERING SERVICES

- Exterior Plastering specialist.
- 30 years experience
- All aspects of plastering including. Gib stopping, fireplaces, steps, foundations, patios, block walls and renovations.
- Specialising in exterior repairs & modern finishes.

Shannon: 022 428 2239
Twinwolfservices@gmail.com

RUBBISH REMOVAL

Smart Bins
Skip bins, Wheelie Bins, Farm Bins
Phone us or book online
0800 4 MY BIN or
www.smartbins.co.nz

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

ALLENS UNITED
Paeroa (2015) Ltd
LIQUID WASTE SPECIALISTS
0800 862 720 | 027 442 0067

SCRAP VEHICLES

CARS WANTED CASH PAID
Any unwanted car, ute, van or 4WD No warrant, No WOF, Deregistered, not going?? NO PROBLEM
PH/TXT KEVIN 027 299 6165

SCRAP METAL

Scrappy Vorns
Buyers of all scrap metal & cars
Farm clean up specialists
Top prices paid
Phone Vern • 021 621 437

TOWING

THAMES TOWING & WORKSHOP
24HR Breakdown • AA Towing • WOF
Full mechanical workshop
MTA & AA Approved
Ph: 07 868 7685 - 24/7
thamestowing@gmail.com
29 Queen Street, Kopu

TYRES & BATTERIES

HAURAKI TYRE and BATTERY

- Stockists of all major tyre brands
- Exide Batteries with extended warranties
- Wheel Alignments.

314 Pollen St, Thames
Ph 868 8182

WASTE REMOVAL

SKIP BIN HIRE
For Household, Business, Building and Farm
Rubbish Disposal
Ph: 0800 754 724
Paeroa Skip Bins (2017) Ltd

WATER BLASTING

HOTSY WATERBLASTING
“Old school service”
We turn up on time + Do a great Job + Clean up = HAPPY customer
Housewashing, Roofwash + Treatments. Gutter cleaning.
Decks, Paving + Driveway scrubbing. Fences + Balustrades. Solar Panel cleaning
Residential – Commercial
Contact Peter for free quote
info@hotsy.nz 021618384

WINDSCREENS

PRECISION WINDSCREENS
We come to you!
Chip Repairs - Windscreen replacements - Insurance claims
PH: 0272127750
www.precisionwindcreens.co.nz

WINDSCREENS

Katikati Glass WINDSCREENS

- Windscreen Replacements
- Stone Chip Repairs

Ph: 07 549 3399
110 Main Road, Katikati
(Behind the Caltex Service Station)
www.katikatiglassandwindcreens.co.nz

SPORTS REPORTS

Situations Vacant

Authorised by H Howard, 91 Makino Road, Feilding

Youth centre thriving after renovations

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

Since reopening its doors in late 2024, the Thames Youth Centre has been a hive of activity.

Board members Jacinda Karaitiana and Kesian Paymani said the response from the community since last year's call for assistance has been substantial.

The Kirkwood St building underwent a renovation under the new board, after being closed for a year due to a lack of leadership.

Now with a fresh coat of paint, new heat pumps, comfy sofas, a basketball hoop, and a wall-length mirror, the space is bright, airy, and perfect for youth-based activities.

And it has seen a lot of use already.

Kesian and Jacinda estimated the building has been booked an average of two times a week.

Among the groups making use of the space are local youth-focused clubs; youth workers and the families they work with; kapa haka groups; and various youth-oriented social organisations.

The centre has hosted cupcake making parties, an escape room, disco and karaoke events, and even a graduation dinner.



A Ngā Wai Tāpara Rangatahi graduation dinner was just one of the events the space has been used for.

“It’s quite a nice place. And it’s actually used by youth now,” Jacinda said.

“[And] it’s been used for personal development stuff - we’ve had training days and stuff here for people who work in this space as well.

“So, it’s been cool for that kind of thing.”

The youth centre’s board is

also quite diverse now, Jacinda said, composed of seven community leaders with ties to various youth-related organisations and aspirations of making the centre a real hub for Thames’ young people.

The board is keen for youth-based groups to continue to reach out and make use of the space, Jacinda said.

“It’s just a good general neutral space that anyone could use if it’s to do with youth,” she said.

DETAILS: Contact the youth centre for more information or to enquire about the hall, email: thamesyouthcentre@gmail.com.



The Youth Centre before renovations. BELOW: During and after renovations. Photos: SUPPLIED



SPORTS REPORTS

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

THAMES FC

Thames FC battle to beat Claudelands Rovers in the wet

A spirited team performance capped off with a touch of magic from Michael Sogo, saw T&R Interior Systems Thames FC Men return from a wet outing in Hamilton with all three points. A period of heavy rain before kick-off left the players battling a tricky surface from the outset. The game began with a squelch, as the standing water made ball retention problematic. A promising spell of pressure produced the game’s first opportunity, with Reagan Winslow reacting well to a loose ball. The onrushing James Andrews smartly smothered the young winger’s low shot.

The slippery conditions contributed to the opening goal, with the hosts taking the lead. A long cross into the box from right-back Jacob Mardon was mishandled, and Oliver Bell was on hand to tap the ball into an empty net. Thames responded admirably, shaking off the error and drawing level just three minutes later. Fernando Bassem Souilem expertly controlled the ball and set up Michael Kim, who delivered a perfectly timed through pass to Michael Sogo. The Solomon Islands winger skillfully rounded the goalkeeper and slotted the ball into the net, bringing the match back to level terms.

Thames then had their own storm to weather, with some brilliant defending keeping the game level.

Riyan Ratten made a crucial goal-saving clearance following a chaotic goalmouth scramble before Mathew Burchell pulled off a magnificent right-handed save after a long pass skimmed off the greasy surface. Burchell was called into action again moments later, palming away a powerful near-post strike from Bradley Mardon following a failed clearance, with captain Keegan Apperley stepping in to make a crucial clearance. With Thames under the cosh, the half-time whistle was a welcome relief.

While Claudelands had the better



Michael Sogo, pictured earlier this season, scored twice to seal the win.

chances in the first half, Thames enjoyed greater control after the break, becoming more patient with their build-up and maintaining possession with ease.

Kim and Yusuke Koizumi combined effectively on the left, leading to a melee in the box that was eventually cleared. It was Sogo who produced a moment of quality that gave Thames the lead. Kim’s header found Sogo on the left; he jinked into the box and powerfully fired a left-footed shot into the near post for 2-1.

Claudelands pressed hard to get back into the game, but Thames kept creat-

ing chances. Sogo nearly completed a hat-trick when the goalkeeper parried Kim’s shot; his follow-up hit the post. Thames showed a level of control following the goal that had been lacking in recent weeks, calmly keeping possession and running down the clock. The match ended in a flurry of cards, with both sides losing discipline after a combative contest. Reagan Winslow and Bradley Barton-Reese were dismissed after receiving second yellow cards, and with tempers flaring, the referee brought proceedings to a close.

“This result felt like it was coming - a

MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

true old-school-style slog in the wet,” Captain Keegan Apperley said. “The boys showed a lot of character: working our way back into the game, taking our chances, and defending strongly when it mattered.”

It was wins all round for Thames, as the Women’s side also secured three points in a tough away fixture. They edged out Northern United Women 4-3 in a thrilling contest, with Ceyda Nemburt, Beth Powell, and Emma Hinds-Senior x2 all getting on the scoresheet to cap off a brilliant weekend for the club.


- Jonathan Coles



Jessica Rendall with the corner kick for Thames FC Women’s.



Man in form - Yusuke Koizumi moves forward.



DIRECT CREMATION within 15kms of Thames: \$3100.00


DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: \$3345.00


DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: \$3445.00

Outside all of these areas: \$3445.00 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.







Please advise your Vet of your wish to use Forever Pets Crematorium

Visit the website: foreverpets.co.nz for further information.

CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

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





SUDOKU

208

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

208

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

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

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

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

228

- ACROSS**

1 Squander (5)

4 Make a mean or unfair attack (3,5,3,4)

14 Learner (5)

15 School (5)

16 Intentional (10)

17 Tale (5)

19 Metal container (3)

20 Work build-up (7)

21 Tactical (9)

22 Uncouple (6)

25 Not lasting (9)

27 Esteem (6)

28 Hallowed (6)

33 Mutinous (10)

35 Brim (3)

36 Needlework (6)

37 Break (4)

39 Allow (3)

41 Deny responsibility or support for (7)

42 Seasoned sausage (6)

43 Henceforth (4,3,2)

44 Main (5)

45 Gemstone (8)

50 Mother (2)

51 Argued for (8)

55 Path (5)

58 Spine segments (9)

59 Smother (6)

60 Mimic (7)

61 Owns (3)

63 Stringed instrument (4)

64 Hole (6)

65 Goal (3)

66 Retrace one's steps (6,4)
- 68 Submissive (6)

69 Small glass ball (6)

71 Talents (9)

76 Parentless child (6)

77 Bed end (9)

79 Ocean bird (7)

81 Sum total (3)

84 Banishment (5)

85 Incapable of error (10)

86 Pilot's badge (5)

87 Body organ (5)

88 Complete quickly (4,5,4,2)

89 Takes a break (5)
- DOWN**

2 Antenna (6)

3 Ruse (5)

5 Conception (4)

6 Skin bubble (7)

7 Room to manoeuvre (6)

8 Big mammal (5)

9 Taking note (7)

10 Finest (4)

11 Undo (6)

12 Era (5)

13 Intended (7)

14 Sleepwear (7)

18 Mandatory (10)

23 Wilt (5)

24 Siphon (4,3)

26 Dignified and graceful (7)

27 Copy (7)

29 Took up again (7)

30 Average (6)

31 See-through (5)

32 Earnings (6)
- 34 Reach across (4)

36 Narrow band (5)

38 Yearned for (5)

40 Leg joint (4)

45 Smithy's block (5)

46 Fitful (7)

47 Foot back (4)

48 Story in instalments (6)

49 Aggressive (5)

50 Communication (7)

52 Ancestry chart (6,4)

53 Worthy of attention (7)

54 Lure (6)

55 Musical performance (7)

56 Diaphanous (5)

57 Delighted (4)

62 Browbeat (5)

67 Fast sailing ship (7)

68 Fiasco (7)

70 Stain (7)

72 Obstacle (7)

73 Yacht harbour (6)

74 Concave (6)

75 Predicament (6)

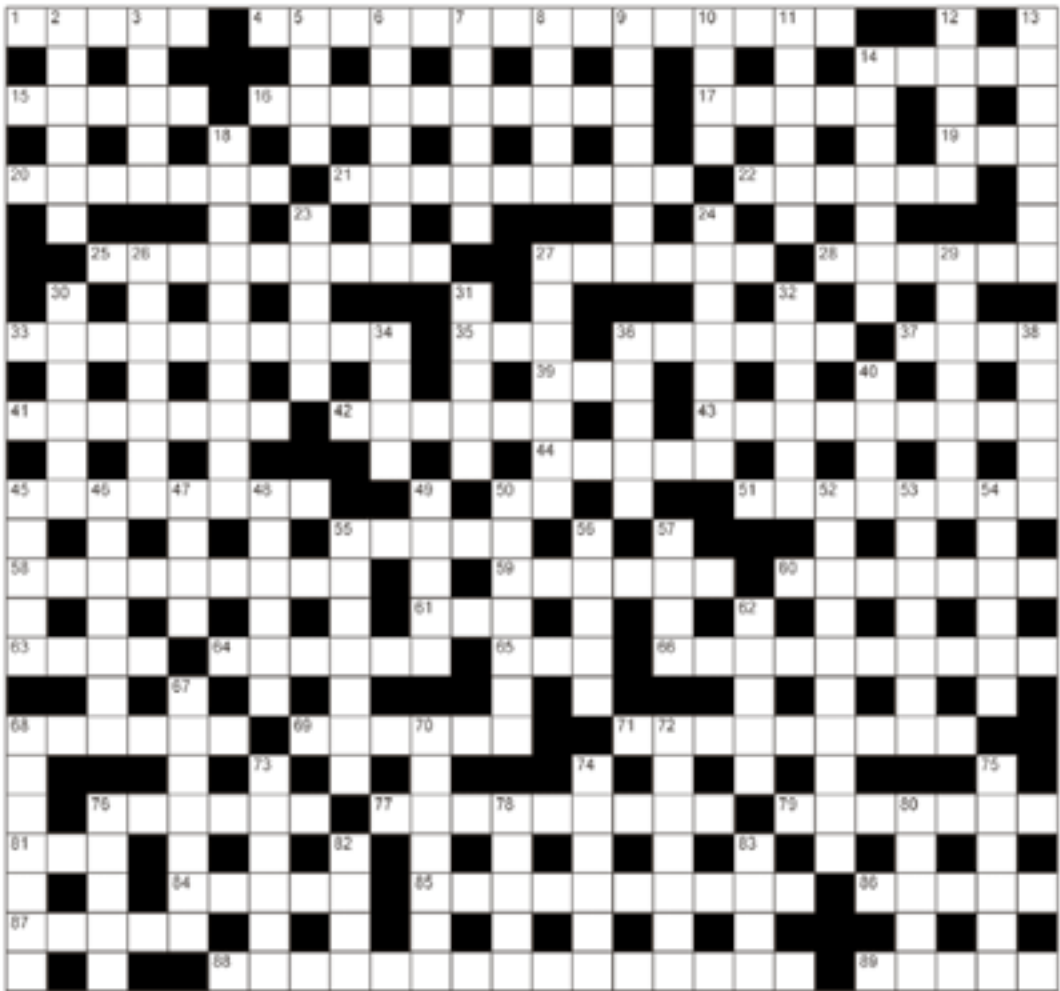
76 Oily fruit (5)

78 Postpone (5)

80 Steer (5)

82 Carnival (4)

83 As well (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Stage, 4 In a little while, 11 Expel, 14 Snail, 15 Dismantling, 16 Vendetta, 19 Lengthy, 20 Vague, 21 Efficient, 24 Addiction, 26 Select, 27 Reward, 31 Brick, 32 Proclaim, 34 Immaterial, 38 Quarrel, 39 Senior, 40 Trough, 41 Harm, 42 Gasmask, 45 Archbishop, 50 Evident, 54 Adds, 55 Circus, 56 Arrest, 57 Baffled, 60 Sweatshops, 61 Downturn, 62 Coped, 65 Caller, 66 Gather, 67 Stability, 72 Startling, 73 Flair, 74 Unhappy, 79 Horrific, 80 Typewriters, 81 Pilot, 82 Dense, 83 Get out of the way, 84 Lever.

DOWN: 2 Tunnel, 3 Going, 5 Nail, 6 Lumbago, 7 Tongue, 8 Lull, 9 Windfall, 10 Eyelid, 11 Endangered, 12 Pity, 13 Loathed, 17 Chain, 18 Nincompoop, 22 Story, 23 Navigate, 25 Decorum, 26 Samurai, 28 Trauma, 29 Radish, 30 Bangle, 33 Cheer, 35 Limit, 36 Lens, 37 Itch, 42 Grass, 43 Suddenly, 44 Knight, 45 Acceptable, 46 Cash, 47 Boarder, 48 Strewn, 49 Onset, 51 Veal, 52 Defrost, 53 Needed, 58 Utter tripe, 59 Bribe, 63 Thank you, 64 Plant, 65 Crushed, 68 Thistle, 69 Trying, 70 Claret, 71 Oppose, 75 Alike, 76 Grin, 77 Hero, 78 Area.



Pukorokoro/Miranda 149C Rataroa Road

A lifestyle worth slowing down for

Looking to escape the noise and reconnect with nature? This unique 13.13 hectare (more or less) Miranda hillside property blends privacy, space, and stunning views. Featuring a Custom Kit-built home with two bedrooms and open-plan living that flows to wrap-around decking, it's perfect for relaxing or entertaining. A converted garage adds extra sleeping quarters, while two containers and a lean-to offer storage. With a mix of bush and usable pasture, there's potential for hobby farming or future development. Close to thermal springs, schools, and outdoor adventures, this serene retreat offers lifestyle, flexibility, and opportunity.

bayleys.co.nz/2630101

13.1316 ha 2 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 17 Jul 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View by appointment
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Paeroa 26 Cadman Road

Thoughtfully renovated - Comfort and rural charm

Set on a beautifully maintained 3,892sqm (more or less) lifestyle block, this well renovated home offers stylish comfort and country charm. Enjoy double glazing, a premium kitchen, open-plan living, and wraparound deck ideal for entertaining. The home includes three double bedrooms, a modern bathroom, and year-round warmth via heat pump and fireplace. Outside, the property features four fenced paddocks, raised veggie gardens, and a large 16x7m shed with expansion potential. Located just 4.7km from Paeroa, it combines peace and privacy with easy access to schools, shops, and local attractions. Call us to view today!

bayleys.co.nz/2630099

3,892 sqm 3 1 1 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 17 Jul 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Waitai retains title with unanimous win

BOXING

Hauraki boxer Francis Waitai has walked away with a unanimous decision title win at the recent BX-9 Super Fight.

Held at the Due Drop Event Centre in Auckland on June 29, Francis defended his IBO Asia Pacific Super Middle-weight title against the undefeated Michael Helg.

“Helg is a tough power puncher,” historian and former boxing judge Benjamin Watt said.

“However, Waitai throughout the fight was slick, using his height and reach advantage. He was well-prepared and extremely fit.”

Benjamin said Francis won almost every round, and walked away with the unanimous decision win as he dedicated his victory to his late father.

“I know what this fight means,” Waitai said before the battle.

“There’s rankings on the line, legacy, and a real chance to put Waikato boxing on the map. I’ve been active, I’ve been tested - now it’s about making a statement.”

Waitai is riding a major win streak with victories over Kiwi legends Robert Berridge and



PBCNZ International Champion Sheilla Yama, left, and IBO Asia Pacific Champion Francis Waitai.

Adrian Taihia, and most recently defeating former world-ranked Tej Singh. He remains the most active Super Middle-weight champion in New Zealand — and holds titles across WBC Australasian, Pro Box NZ, and IBO regional belts.

Another talked-about fight was between Papua New Guinea-born Waikato boxer Sheilla Yama, who took on undefeated Australian boxer Louise Creaven.

The fight was for the International (PBCNZ version) Super Lightweight title, Benjamin said, with Yama winning her first-ever professional boxing title.

Richmond Villas

LIFESTYLE VILLAGE

Living the lifestyle, loving the choice...

RVA
NEW ZEALAND
Retirement Villages Association

A Lifestyle Village In Thames on the Coromandel

2 AND 3 BEDROOM VILLAS NOW AVAILABLE

We now have a variety of villas to choose from - and all are within walking distance to Thames' shops, cafes and walkways. The perfect location to enjoy your fun-filled retirement

Our spacious villas provide you with plenty of warmth and light and garden patios to enjoy.

There are a variety of layouts to choose from including 2 and 3 bedroom villas. All residents enjoy the use of the Village Community lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure.

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME, VIEW OUR VILLA OPTIONS TODAY!

82 Richmond St, Thames

0800 868 5484

www.richmondvillas.co.nz

PHONE US
to view
by Appointment!

Come and
experience
the difference!