

The Valley

Profile

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

Jack Groenewald's stint at the Elite Motorsport Academy set off last month, marking a key pit stop in his journey toward becoming a world-class racer.

Inspired by watching his dad's own racing, Jack's passion for motorsport took hold early. He began go-karting at age five, moved into speedway, and by age 12 he was competing in the Formula First championship.

Now a 16-year-old student at Hauraki Plains College, Jack has just completed his rookie season in Formula Ford, where he was named Rookie of the Year and placed third overall in the championship.

He's also been named in the 2025 class of the Elite Motorsport Academy, a world-renowned development programme for motorsport competitors in New Zealand, whose alumni include Shane van Gisbergen, Hayden Pad-don, Mitch Evans, Brendon Hartley, Richie Stanaway, and Marcus Armstrong.

The 12-month academy kicked off with a week-long camp in Dunedin, which Jack said included classes on nutrition and fitness, and helped prepare him for overseas travel for future racing seasons.

It's all to help him reach his goal of competing in the Castrol Toyota FR Oceania Trophy and one day, For-mula One.

"My greatest achievement would be [being the] North Island Quarter Midget Championship Winner in 2021. Getting Rookie of the Year in 2025 was awesome to achieve too because I was up against a strong field of cars and drivers," he said.

Jack named Hampton Downs as being his favourite track to drive, and ranked Kiwi NASCAR competitor Shane van Gisbergen, and Aussie Oscar Piastri - currently leading the 2025 Formula One season by nine points - among his top drivers. He thanked his mum and dad, as well as his sponsors, for helping him hone his talent on track.

DETAILS: If anyone is interested in getting in touch or sponsoring Jack, email jackgr1208@gmail.com.



Jack in pole position for Formula One dream



Jack Groenewald is aiming for a future in Formula One after being selected for the 2025 Elite Motorsport Academy.
Photo: MATT SMITH

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TCDC goes solo after partners pull plug on water plan

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

Thames-Coromandel District Council has been forced to change its recent decision to form a joint Water Services Organisation with Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District councils, after both opted for alternative models.

Back in June, TCDC voted to pursue the joint model, following what it said was months of research and discussions. However, on August 5, Tauranga and Western Bay both chose alternative approaches for managing their water services, ending the proposed partnership before it began.

As a result, TCDC will now be moving to deliver future water services via an internal water services unit, which was one of the other service delivery options taken to the public for feedback.

Chief executive Aileen Lawrie said council ran through a “rigorous process” to examine all the options, and that the prospective Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty, and Thames-Coromandel entity was the best.

“However, we’ve made it clear from the beginning that TCDC is also well



TCDC chief Aileen Lawrie. File Photo

placed to continue to deliver water services in-house. Our debt is relatively low and our assets are in good condition. Going it alone is a viable option and meets the legislative requirements,” she said.

“We recognise the challenges councils face and each of our obligations and commitments to do right by our respective communities.”

Western Bay of Plenty District Council voted 8-4 in favour of partnering solely with Tauranga City Council to deliver its local water services; however, Tauranga voted to go its own way with an in-house

model.

Tauranga Mayor Mahé Drysdale said his council intended to transition to a joint water services council-controlled organisation by 2028, or sooner, but asked for more information on the governance and financial aspects of that entity.

Western Bay of Plenty District Mayor James Denyer, meanwhile, acknowledged the time and commitment Thames-Coromandel District Council had put into the process.

“This decision wasn’t made lightly,” he said. “It’s clear from the kōrero we’ve had with our community, iwi and hapū that a focused partnership with Tauranga is the most appropriate way forward... We greatly value the hard work and good faith Thames-Coromandel has put into this process.”

TCDC is expected to make its final decision on the future Water Services Delivery Plan when it meets on August 20, prior to submitting to the Department of Internal Affairs by September 3.



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Thames Tides

Wed Aug 13	Thu Aug 14	Fri Aug 15	Sat Aug 16	Sun Aug 17	Mon Aug 18	Tue Aug 19
<div>Morning 3:38am 0.4 3:51pm 0.4 Afternoon 9:50am 3.5 10:15pm 3.6 Sun 7:04am 5:42pm Best At 3:00am 3:24pm Set 8:59am Rise 10:00pm</div>	<div>Morning 4:23am 0.3 4:38pm 0.5 Afternoon 10:36am 3.5 11:02pm 3.6 Sun 7:03am 5:43pm Best At 3:48am 4:12pm Set 9:26am Rise 11:12pm</div>	<div>Morning 5:10am 0.4 5:28pm 0.6 Afternoon 11:23am 3.5 11:52pm 3.5 Sun 7:02am 5:44pm Best At 4:38am 5:04pm Set 9:56am</div>	<div>Morning 5:59am 0.4 12:14pm 3.4 Afternoon 6:51am 0.5 7:24pm 0.7 Sun 7:01am 5:44pm Best At 5:31am 6:00pm Last Quarter Rise 12:25am Set 10:31am</div>	<div>Morning 12:44am 3.4 1:10pm 3.3 Afternoon 6:59am 0.5 7:24pm 0.8 Sun 6:59am 5:45pm Best At 6:29am 6:59pm Rise 1:40am Set 11:13am</div>	<div>Morning 1:40am 3.2 2:14pm 3.2 Afternoon 7:50am 0.6 8:31pm 0.9 Sun 6:58am 5:46pm Best At 7:29am 8:00pm Rise 2:53am Set 12:04pm</div>	<div>Morning 2:40am 3.2 3:24pm 3.2 Afternoon 8:55am 0.7 9:41pm 0.9 Sun 6:57am 5:47pm Best At 8:31am 9:02pm Rise 3:59am Set 1:05pm</div>

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon

First Quarter

Full Moon

Last Quarter

Good Fishing

Fair Fishing

Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Thames fire bell's triumphant return

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

The triumphant return of a 156-year-old brass bell from outside the Thames Fire Station has brought a boost to the brigade's morale, after the hefty piece of memorabilia was stolen last month.

The bell, located outside the fire station on Pahau St, caught the attention of two thieves on July 26, when CCTV showed them stealing it from its stand and fleeing on foot in the early hours of the morning.

It found its way home on August 1, however, when a scrap metallor recognised the bell and brought it back to Thames.

The brigade's chief, Greg Rendall, told *The Profile* the roughly 75kg bell carried a weighty slice of history.

Constructed in England in 1869 by the same makers behind the Big Ben bell, it was one of three that once rang out across Thames, alerting the local brigades to action.

But before those bells arrived, church bells sounded the alarm.

Sirens were only introduced in the mid-1950s, he said, when power reached the town.

"So it's good to get a bit of memorabilia back," Greg said.

"We were always hopeful, and humanity played out the right way."



Fire Brigade Deputy Chief Siobhan Flanigan, acting Sergeant Gareth Carter and Fire Chief Greg Rendall. Photo: NZ POLICE

Greg said Deputy Chief Fire Officer Siobhan Flanigan deserved "all the credit" for tracking down the historic bell.

She emailed scrap metal yards across Waikato and South Auckland, and it was the latter that turned up a result.

But even Siobhan wasn't

convinced the bell would ever come back.

"Honestly, we really didn't expect that we were going to be hearing anything. I know that I kind of put it in my mind that we probably weren't going to see the bell again," she said.

"So it was pretty cool [to have

it returned]. It's really lifted morale."

Greg and Siobhan said the brigade was undecided on where to put the bell now it was back home.

While it had been out in public for decades, Siobhan said they needed to protect it.

"We really have to take into consideration the safety and the security of it," she said.

"It's hard because it's still a community object, but we are also kaitiaki [guardians] of it and we have to protect it."

Police confirmed they received a report of the stolen bell on July 26.

Thames Community Officer Acting Sergeant Gareth Carter said while inquiries were being undertaken, police received information from Fire and Emergency that the bell had been located at a scrap yard in South Auckland.

It was then returned to the station on August 1.

Police have since charged a 34-year-old man with receiving stolen property in connection with the incident. He was arrested on Wednesday, July 30 after police inquiries in Thames led to a local property where several people were located on warrants to arrest.

Two people at the property were arrested in connection with a spate of shoplifting offences, while the 34-year-old man on warrants to arrest fled the property. He was subsequently located and arrested.

He is due to appear in Thames District Court on Friday.



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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Gateway students celebrated at HPC

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was “hands-on experience”, valuable insights and the opportunity to build relationships that stood out for two Hauraki Plains College students during their Gateway experiences this year.

It’s what makes a recent celebration for all college Gateway students a momentous one.

Families, teachers and Gateway providers gathered on June 26 to celebrate students at the Gateway Graduation, marking the first event of its kind at the school.

Careers advisor Pippa Lawlor, who leads the students alongside team-mates Gateway co-ordinator Lauren Scott and vocational pathways and work experience co-ordinator Amanda Sayer, said their goal was to generate a sense of pride in student achievement for students and their families.

“We wanted to raise the profile of vocational pathways. Often in schools it is the academic achievers who are rewarded and celebrated.

“However, our school motto is ‘each for all’.

“It reminds us that individual success will look different for each person and we should embrace that,” Pippa said.



INSET: Gateway graduates Catherine Remnant, 15, and Omar Arsilan, 16. LEFT: Omar, 16, focusses on conservation for Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre. RIGHT, Catherine takes care of horses through Annarehab. Photos: SUPPLIED



Everyone came together to celebrate student success over a buffet breakfast, organised by hospitality teacher Amanda Sayer, who guided her senior students in preparing the food for the event.

“Students were really proud to come and collect their certificates and have photos taken with their trainers. It was a really impactful way to acknowledge their achievements.”

The most frequent reflection from students was that they learned new skills, grew in confidence and found value in their experiences, she said.

Two of the graduates, year 11 Catherine Remnant and year 12 Omar Arsilan, told *The Profile* it was a cool way to be acknowledged and to see some of the providers there to support the students.

Catherine, 15, completed her Gateway placement at Annarehab Equine Rehabilitation And Ther-

apy, where she looked into veterinary work and horse care.

“I’d like to become an equine vet and explore the branches within the equine community,” she said.

Two things she said she learned was how to make home-made hoof poultices affordably and efficiently and also how to correctly wrap hooves. But the most important thing she learned was the hands-on experience with the horses and building relationships with people who had similar interests.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Omar,

whose Gateway placement was at Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre, said his work focussed on conservation, monitoring pest control and the wildlife census. He learned about the behaviours of certain species such as the migratory birds, he said.

Omar and Catherine’s advice for students who would like to be part of the Gateway programme was to definitely give it a go.

“Explore different avenues. Be prepared and have a good attitude along with work ethic.”

More Than A School

Hauraki Plains College

GATEWAY

Graduates

TERM ONE/TWO

A Celebration of Student Achievements!

Acknowledging our community support for the success of students on Gateway, Trades and Work Experience programmes.

Aid needed at Paeroa foodbank

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

The Paeroa Neighbours Foodbank is struggling to keep its shelves full, even as demand for aid is growing.

The foodbank, a collaborative project run under the umbrella of the Paeroa Community Support Trust, gave away 293 emergency food parcels in the past financial year. These parcels provided food for 512 adults, 280 children and numerous cats and dogs, the trust said.

The year prior saw the foodbank provide 259 parcels.

Committee president Sharon Hamilton said the foodbank was seeing more people than ever, from a widening range of society.

“There’s quite a few homeless in Paeroa now, and transients... middle income earners [who] are losing their jobs... there’s a family we know of living in a van,” she said.

Along with the rise in need, the foodbank is also contending with higher food costs, along with a drop in donations.

“Our monthly restock of the Foodbank is now in the vicinity of \$1000 per month, which is an increase of around \$200 - \$300 for a similar amount last year,” Sharon said.

“We are not seeing as many donations from the community, which I feel is also a reflection of the rising costs we are all feeling.”

A basic parcel from the food-



Sharon Hamilton says there’s been a drop in donations at Paeroa food bank.

bank contains Marmite, jam, noodles, flavour sachets, rice, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of fruit and veggies, pasta, tea bags, coffee, tinned fish, and soup.

“This is added to once the request is received, depending on how many the parcel is for,” Sharon said.

“Usually added is cereal, eggs, milk, bread, margarine, soap, toilet rolls, washing powder, dish washing liquid, any fresh produce that has been donated as well as any other things that might have been donated like biscuits, cake mixes, chips etc.

“This of course varies as to what we have in our stores at any given time.”

Along with the parcels, staff also try to engage their clients with free financial mentoring services.

“We try to help them find

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

where they might be missing out on something that they’re entitled to... it’s about helping you get out of whatever situation you’re in,” she said.

“We believe in a hand up, not a handout.”

DETAILS: Drop donations at the Hauraki Resource Centre, 2 Mackay St, Mon-Fri 10am-2pm.



Candidates announced

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Mayor: Toby Adams; Levi Burton; Roman Jackson; *Plains General Ward, 4 vacancies:* Cynthia Bates; Ray Broad; Stephen Crooymans; Neil Gray; Andrew Pickford; *Paeroa General Ward, 3 vacancies:* Grant Michael Aitken; Michelle Elizabeth Magnus; Paul Armstrong Milner; Jo Tilsley; Rino Lee Wilkinson; *Waihi General Ward, 4 vacancies:* Levi Burton; Sara Howell; Roman Jackson; Austin Rattray; Amanda May Ryan; Anne Marie Spicer; Stacie Thompson; *Te Pakikau o te Ika Māori Ward, 2 vacancies:* Elected unopposed: Rereahu Collier; Desmond Tyler.

THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL
Mayor: Steve Hart; Patrick Kerr; Denise Messiter; Peter Revell; Len Salt; James Subritzky; *Coromandel-Colville General Ward, 1 vacancy:* Robert Barry Ashman; John Reginald Morrissey; *Mercury Bay General Ward, 3 vacancies:* Tony Brljevic; Deli Connell; Rekha Giri-Percival; John Kenneth Grant; Flemming Rasmussen; Peter Haultain Wood; *South East General Ward, 2 vacancies:* Denis Beaver; Mark Drury; Neil Evans; John William Freer; Kurt Jarrett; Alison Smith; *Te Tara o Te Ika Māori Ward:* Elected unopposed: Michael Barlow; *Thames General Ward, 3 vacancies:* Steve Baker; Scott Douglas Bright; Fiona Cameron; Greg Hampton; Steve Hart; Cole Justin McDowell; Kishan Raikwar; Martin Rodley; Robyn Sinclair.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Thames-Coromandel, 1 vacancy: Warren Maher; Jason Roxburgh; *Waihou, 2 vacancies:* Lindsay Algra; Walt Cavendish; Robert Cookson; Keith Holmes; Julie Taylor.

DETAILS: Local elections will be held from September 9 until October 11. More info at vote.nz.

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Unusual deaths for Waihi family members



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

“It would be a great calamity if the disease pellagra gained a footing in this country,” warned Dr Maguire, Medical Superintendent of Auckland Hospital in March, 1914.

A 44-year-old woman, who until recently had lived in Waihi, was under treatment for the dread disease which generated the terrifying headlines of *Pellagra Curse*, *A Grave Danger*, *Horrors of Pellagra* and *The Germ of Insanity*.

Pellagra was characterised by the ‘four Ds’ - dermatitis, diarrhea, dementia, and death. It derived its name from the Italian ‘pelle agra’, meaning smarting skin. Although not contagious, it was prevalent around the world and had previously been thought to be caused by an excessive diet of corn. Recently it had been suggested it was communicated by blood-sucking insects.

The London Tropical School said the biting fly responsible for spreading pellagra was the black fly or buffalo gnat. Sandflies of a particular species were also sus-



Nicholas Toomey, of Waihi.

Photo: SUPPLIED

pected. According to Dr Beale, of Texas, the sufferers were mostly women, who were tied to housework. There were few known cases of recovery from pellagra - almost always it was fatal. The survival of the few had not been explained, and there was no known cure.

The patient in Auckland Hospital had spent most of her life

in Waihi and now lived in Newmarket.

It was a complete mystery how she contracted the disease.

The woman was Mary ‘Minnie’ Toomey. Her husband was Irishman Edward Toomey, a sawyer, and they had one son, 18-year old-Nicholas. Mary’s family, the Dunns, from Ireland, were early settlers at Ararimu.

Family members had already suffered unusual demises – Mary’s brother, mining at Kalgoorlie in 1896, fell a fatal 70 feet down a mine shaft while trying to avoid a thunderstorm.

Her father, John Dunn, had gone to Sydney in 1902 on business and planned to see the Melbourne Cup, but for unknown reasons he returned to New Zealand on the Australian passenger steamer the *SS Elingamite*.

The steamer was carrying a consignment of 52 boxes of coins for New Zealand banks which included 6000 gold half-sovereigns. In thick fog the ship struck one of the islands in the Three Kings group, sinking within 20 minutes. Forty five people were killed including Mary’s father. It was his 67th birthday.

Mary did not survive pellagra which she had suffered for months, succumbing after a few days in hospital.

In following years there were sporadic pellagra outbreaks around the world but it wasn’t until 1923 that it was discovered pellagra could be prevented by improved diet. It then took until 1937 to understand that pellagra was specifically caused by niacin deficiency. This discovery was hailed as one of the outstanding achievements of modern science.

Edward died the year after Mary. Their only son Nicholas was killed in World War I in France two years later, aged 22, having enlisted just six months before. The little family is remembered on three plaques lying side by side at Auckland’s Waikumete cemetery.

Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Maude Flanders, a former character in *The Simpsons* TV series, died as a result of being hit by a bundle of what? a) doughnuts, b) skateboards, or c) T-shirts?
2. The spice paprika is extracted from which part of the plant? a) Flower, b) fruit, or c) seeds?
3. Duodenum, ileum and jejunum are all parts of which body organ?
4. The German Dassler Brothers between them founded which two major shoe companies? a) Adidas and Puma, b) Asics and Reebok, or c) New Balance and Nike?
5. In the UK, what type of nuts are referred to colloquially as ‘monkey nuts’?
6. Which football player is the only person to have won three FIFA world cups? a) Cristiano Ronaldo, b) Neymar, or c) Pelé?
7. *Under Pressure* is a song by the band Queen and which singer?
8. The term hubris refers to someone having extreme or excessive what? a) humility, b) laziness, or c) pride/confidence?
9. Which one of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World is the only one to still exist today?
10. Which dating app has been downloaded more than any other worldwide? a) Bumble, b) Hinge, or c) Tinder?



ANSWERS: 1. c) T-shirts; 2. b) Fruit (made from ground capsicum); 3. Small intestine; 4. a) Adidas and Puma; 5. Unshelled peanuts; 6. c) Pelé; 7. David Bowie; 8. c) pride/confidence; 9. Pyramids of Giza; 10. c) Tinder (630 million downloads).

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TRITON
HEARING

Two-step intro helps new entrants thrive

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

Paeroa’s Miller Avenue Primary School has developed a gentler approach to beginning school - and it’s seeing benefits for all the new entrants.

The programme, called Te Koru, has seen the school split its new entrant class into two groups for portions of the day.

Brand-new students are taken into a separate room each morning with a teacher aide to work on basic school-readiness skills such as holding a pencil, learning letters and numbers, and getting used to structured mat time and break times.

Meanwhile, students who have been at the school for a while convene in the room next door where they undertake more traditional learning in a larger group.

The two classes reunite in the afternoons for physical education, topic studies and art.

The split-room approach has been key to a successful and stress-free transition to school, acting principal David Cooke told *The Profile*.

“What we’ve done is to establish a structure within the school in terms of classroom management... so that these new entrant children will move from perhaps what might have been a more freely based daycare or play centre environment into a more



The main new entrant class is a more structured learning environment. LEFT: One-on-one learning helps brand-new students master basic skills in a relaxed environment before integrating with their peers. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



structured school without going straight into a structured classroom.”

The programme was trialled in term two, and David said the children and their parents responded

well to the approach. Currently, the school has around six children in the transition group.

They will remain there for around four to six weeks, depending on their needs, before being fully integrated with the main class.

Teacher aide Drewe Fell, who works with the newest students, said her teaching space is about filling in the gaps in a calm and

peaceful atmosphere. “We’re just doing the basics, getting them ready to go in for the next class,” she said.

“It’s letter identification and the motor skills that they may not have picked up on... Because not a lot of the kindys now do the five-year-old plans.

“We’ve got some [kids] that we’ve already pushed through as well, if we notice that they’ve already got those basic skills.”

And teacher Andrea Adams, in the main new entrant class, said the programme was helpful for the more established students as well.

“I can extend and keep going with [the older ones],” she said.

“And then as they get a few weeks in there, we’ll see who needs to come and do some writing.

“It’s some-  work- awe- ly.”

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Mr Burton (124 mins) M. Set in post-war Wales, this is the true story of a working-class boy destined for greatness and the teacher who saw it first. When a principled school teacher meets a volatile yet gifted teen, he recognises a spark and through mentorship, discipline, and love, he shapes the student's raw talent, setting him on the path to becoming Richard Burton, one of the greatest actors of the 20th century.

National Theatre Live - A Streetcar Named Desire (197 mins + intermission) R13. Gillian Anderson, Vanessa Kirby & Ben Foster lead in Tennessee Williams' masterpiece. As Blanche's fragile world crumbles, she turns to her sister Stella for solace – but her downward spiral brings her face to face with the brutal, unforgiving Stanley Kowalski. From visionary director Benedict Andrews, this acclaimed production was filmed live during a sold-out run at the Young Vic Theatre. **Fri 15 Aug 1.30pm; Sat 23 Aug 12.30pm only.**

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

Four Letters of Love (109 mins) M. Magical, lyrical & deeply romantic. A life-affirming tribute to human folly, fate, love & destiny. Starring Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter. Based on an international best-seller. Set in the west of Ireland with stunning cinematography. A glorious, uplifting story.



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Michael Wilkes reads a chapter from *The Unschooled Life* during the book's launch in Thames. Photo: SUPPLIED

\$24k for teen entrepreneurs

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

The Living Well Trust in Thames has received just over \$24,500 in government funding as part of a national initiative aimed at supporting youth enterprise and skill development.

The funding comes from the Ministry of Youth Development's Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund, announced last week by Youth Minister James Meager, which supports young people to acquire enterprise experiences and knowledge needed to create a business.

The announcement came just after the book launch of *The Unschooled Life* by Thames-based Michael Wilkes, a youth worker for the trust who hoped proceeds from book sales would help fund the organisation's youth work. The launch was held on August 1 at the Thames Elim Church, where the book was described by its author as a "field guide drawn from a decade of front-line youth work".


Wilkes told *The Profile* he was "pretty blown away" when he learned the trust was one of only 11 organisations nationwide to be approved for the government funding.

"I am excited to have the chance to provide something that feels like an extension of what we already do for teenagers gearing up for the transition beyond education," he said. "Our focus will be first on exploring character and grit, teaching the mindset of an entrepreneur, and second, turning our focus to a pain point that the students could serve through a business idea. Being and then doing."

"We will kick off in term four with a group of 15 rangatahi and are looking forward to being able to offer this to our community."


At the book launch, Wilkes was asked what had drawn him to youth work, and he said suicide had "heavily impacted" his life, and the lives of his friends and the wider nation. "We need to flip the script and turn the tide. I don't want to see any of our young people deciding to believe the lie that they are a burden, that the world would be better without them."

"So we need to change that," he said.



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SPORTS REPORTS

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HOCKEY

Thames Valley Hockey has announced its 2025 senior competition champions after fierce finals at the sub regional facility all weather water turf at Hugh Hayward Domain Ngatea on August 1.

Thames and Waitakaruru won the women's grade, while Maramarua won the men's grade in the grand final event, which marked the end of a winter season that began on April 25. In the senior women's grade final, a tight competition all season between the top two teams didn't disappoint. A smooth road to the semis saw Waitakaruru take control of the game early against Morrinsville, coming away with a 7-1 win, and Ngatea Strikers, who were last year's finalists, struggled to dominate against a structured Thames side.

Thames headed to the grand finals for the second time in three years with an 8-2 win. The grand final saw Thames again dominate with their trademark structured play, and despite chances and the majority of possession, Waitakaruru led by one goal in the first half. Thames equalised in the second half and both sides had some strong runs towards the goal. Time ran out for both teams to get the overall win. They share the Nicholson Shield with a first win for Thames and Waitakaruru adding their name to the shield for the 19th time since 1927. The final score was Thames 1, Waitakaruru 1; umpires were Ingrid Norman and Rachael Aitchison.

In a repeat of the 2024 finals, the men's grade saw top-of-the-table Maramarua attempt to topple reigning champions Ngatea Swampies. The road to the finals was a close run affair with Maramarua just squeaking through semis with a 3-2 win against the Thames team, The XMen. Swampies beat Hauraki North's Stickmen, who had been hard on the champions' heels all season, with an impressive 5-1 win. In the grand finals, Maramarua were the first to score from a



TV Women's champions Waitakaruru (blue), left, and Thames (green).



TV senior men's champions Maramarua. BELOW: runner up Ngatea Swampies.

penalty corner but Swampies provided a late equaliser from a free hit to level it up. A frantic last 10 minutes saw both teams playing fast-paced and intense hockey. After four or five shots at goal, saved by the in-form Swampies goalkeeper, Maramarua managed to tap it in. The Maramarua team in its second year and second grand final hold the Stan Wilson Cup for 2025. The final score was Maramarua 2, Swampies 1; umpires were Cam Loft and Jeremy Cryer.

- Alison Ratcliffe



FOOTBALL

Thames FC: Title hopes alive for women as men suffer setback

Thames FC Men's first defeat since June came in a 2-0 loss to Claudelands Rovers Vets. Persistent winter rain left Rhodes Park in poor condition, forcing the match to move to the more playable Thames High School pitch. For the third game running, Thames were lacklustre out of the blocks with Claudelands starting brightly and scoring within the first few minutes. Thames failed to clear a corner that drifted to the far post, leading to a scramble in the six-yard box eventually finished by Kevin Quick. After a frantic start, Thames settled, enjoying sustained possession and several shots from Michael Kim, all saved by keeper James Andrews. Costello's run down the left produced a dangerous cross that nearly forced an own goal, the defender narrowly turning the ball past the post. From the resulting corner, Keegan Apperley found Caleb Tehoaki, who rose well but headed just wide.

Thames again played themselves into trouble by conceding possession cheaply, allowing Eli Parker to weave into the box. The ball fell to Bradley Mardon, whose shot was superbly saved by Burchell's legs to keep the deficit at one going into halftime. Injuries forced several halftime changes as Thames reshuffled their lineup to chase the Claudelands lead. Andy Buchan had the first effort of the half on goal as the right back cut inside, but his shot was handled well by Andrews. Despite sitting back on their lead, Claudelands still produced moments of danger as Dylan Gonano met a cross but headed over from close range. Parker also came close with a rasping drive, but Burchell was once again on hand to tip it over.

Thames maintained pressure late in the half but couldn't create a clear-cut chance. Xavier Brown found space on the edge of the box, but his shot was blocked before Buchan's follow-up



Jess Rendall and Natasha Cairns celebrate. Photo: MARK BROWN

was blazed over. With 15 minutes left, Claudelands struck the killer blow. A swift counter split the defence, leading to a penalty. Burchell saved brilliantly with one hand, but Rio Bennett buried the rebound to seal a 2-0 win. Elsewhere, there was much better news for Thames Women FC, as their bid for the title gained momentum with a convincing 3-0 win away to Huntly Thistle. Thames struck first in the 20th minute when Samantha Chamberlain exchanged a quick one-two with Beth Powell before finishing confidently.

Just before halftime, Emma Ratcliffe burst forward past three defenders and crossed to the unmarked Natasha Cairns, who smashed home - giving Thames a deserved two-goal lead. The second half continued in similar fashion with Thames' offensive pressure showing no signs of letting up. A well-worked corner by Chamberlain and Jess Rendall found Ariel McNab in the box, but the busy Sunette Wessels in the Huntly goal saved well. Thames wrapped up the game in style when Rendall reacted quickly to finish a team move, sealing a 3-0 victory and capping an outstanding performance. Thames Women closed the gap on leaders Northern United to just two points, with games in hand. Crucial clashes against third-placed Cambridge Rubies and table-toppers Northern United now loom, as their thrilling season heads down to the wire with a league-and-cup double still in sight.

- Jonathan Coles

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Rural Life

Farming trio show ‘girls can do anything’

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Three Hauraki teens with a passion for farming are set to begin their farming careers together after spending a week on an educational farm in the deep south.

Hauraki Plains College farming academy year-12 students Leah Richards, Marlow Frost and Niamh Sands attended Experience Week at the Southern Institute of Technology Te Pūkenga Telford Campus from July 1 to 5, funded by the Haurakian Charitable Trust.

The aim of the hands-on experience was to encourage the students to recognise new possibilities and see there were no limits.

The Telford campus is an historic rural education institution on a 921 hectare working farm based south of Balclutha in the deep south.

The week helped the keen agriculture students discover their career path, as well as forge new friendships and battling fears of being homesick so far from family.

Inspired to encourage more girls to get into the farming industry, the trio saw studying at Telford as the next step, and with an interest in beef and sheep farming - all three students applied and were accepted to study level three farming systems and equipment next year.

Something that confirmed Telford was the right place for Leah was how the people there “made us feel at home”, she said.



HPC farming academy students Leah Richards, left, Niamh Sands, and Marlow Frost, hard at work on Hayward Farm.

Photos: SUPPLIED

“I get really bad homesickness, but while I was there I didn’t.”

Sixteen-year-old Leah told *The Profile* the experience made it clear that farming was the career for her, while 16-year-old Marlow said she always knew she wanted to do something that involved agriculture, and Niamh, 17, said she always had a passion for farming.

The experience helped the keen farming enthusiasts step out of their comfort zones.

“We pushed ourselves to talk

to others instead of being in the background. Out of this we formed some nice friendships which was cool,” they said.

“Girls can do anything and there is a variety of things in farming which could lead to so many different opportunities.”

Their agriculture education at Hauraki Plains College played a part in how prepared they were for some of the activities. “We definitely had a head start on some activities, for example, on fencing

and troughs. Our work experience on Fridays also has given us more knowledge,” they said.

What most excited them about the future of farming was being outside, learning new and challenging things and “keeping the farming culture alive”.

And the things they were most excited about for their shift to Telford next year was a new chapter of independence, to “do my own thing [and] learning heaps along the way”, and “not have to do dish-

es”, they said.

But what made Telford feel like home was the people, they said.

“It was so good, it felt like we clicked and had known them for years. There was never a dull moment because everyone was so funny and cheerful.”

Their advice for others interested in the Telford experience week was to do it.

“It’s great, you learn so much - new experiences, new people, new scenery. Don’t think twice.”

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Rural Life

Back to grass roots: why pasture testing matters



By Dr Danielle Thomson, BVSc

New Zealand dairy farming has long been grounded in a simple principle: turning grass into milk. While modern farms have adopted feed pads, in-shed feed systems, and supplements, the most cost-effective and sustainable method of production remains good pasture utilisation.

To ensure optimal milk yield, farmers must assess both the quantity and quality of pasture.

While quantity keeps cows satisfied, quality drives performance. Tools like plate meters and satellite mapping offer accurate estimates of grass cover, but even experienced farmers can't determine the nutritional content just by looking. For feed budgeting, many rely on district averages - despite having specific nutrient values for every other feed component like meal and minerals.

Each type of feed offers a mix of energy, protein, fibre, dry matter, and essential minerals.

When these elements hit their sweet spot, cows enjoy high feed conversion efficiency and robust health. By understanding what pasture provides, farmers can fill nutritional gaps using supplements or mineral inputs strategically and cost-effectively. For example, pasture high in dry matter and neutral detergent



Assess your pasture for optimal milk yield.

fibre (NDF%) may leave cows feeling full before they've met their nutritional needs. In such cases, even a small amount of the right supplement can help meet production targets.

Testing pasture quality also helps spot health risks before they become serious. For instance, spring pasture samples might reveal elevated potassium levels linked to metabolic disorders and down cows. Knowing this in advance allows for timely adjustments.

Luckily, pasture testing is simple. Farmers can collect samples themselves and submit them directly to their vet or a lab - no visit fee required. Want to hit your milk-solid, body condition, and reproduction goals more consistently? Start with what's growing under your cows' hooves and discover what your grass is really made of.

- Danielle Thomson is a Franklin Vets farm vet in Paeroa



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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

<p>Death Notices</p> <p>BERNTSEN, Patricia (Pat) (nee Dufty): Peacefully at the Booms Care Home, Thames, on 8th August, 2025; in her 100th year. Loved daughter of the late Hayward and Effie Dufty. Dearly loved Mum of Greg, Katrina, and Myles. Loved Nana Pat by her many grand and great-grandchildren. Loved sister of the late Norma. A celebration of Pat's life will be held in the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames, on Thursday 14th August, at 1pm, followed by private cremation. Messages to: 89 Tanekaha Road, Titirangi, Auckland 0604.</p>  <p>TORRENS, Anthony Rowan(Tony): 10 March 1940 – 8 August 2025. Passed away peacefully, aged 85. Dearly loved husband of Angela. Treasured father and father-in-law of Hayley, Chris, Alison and Stephen. Beloved Poppa of Ashley, Sebastian, Alex and Joel. Cherished friend to many. Tony walked faithfully with The Lord throughout his life. A service to celebrate Tony's life will be held at The Presbyterian Church, Waihi, on Wednesday 13 August 2025 at 12 Noon.</p> 	<p>For Sale</p> <p>Bee keeping, full range of bee keeping equipment incls new boxes with plastic and wooden frames, extractor pots, sieves. Everything for a bee keeping exercise. Open to offers, deals etc. Ph 027 473 2727.</p> <p>Picture framing equipment. Incl's full size guillotine with new blades, under pinner approx 150 lengths long framing and a selection of picture frames, assorted sizes. A gift at \$500 ono. Ph 027 476 2727.</p> <p>For Lease</p> <p>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p> <p>Gardening</p> <p>STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</p> <p>Handyman</p> <p>Handyman Services. Waihi and surrounding areas. Building maintenance and repairs. Mobile - Grant 027 333 8331. E-waihi105@gmail.com</p> <p>Handyman</p> <p>An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com</p> <p>Pets</p> <p>KENNELS WAITAKARURU Boarding Kennels and Cattery. "A great place for your pet to stay." Shane & Sherrin Hansen. Ph: 07-867-3344, SH25 Waitakaruru, RD6 Thames</p> <p>Storage</p> <p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Storage</p> <p>Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p> <p>Painters</p> <p>Rural Land Painters, experienced in all aspects of painting, Ph Greg for a prompt & reliable service. 027 2142442</p> <p>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312</p> <p>CLASSIFIEDS Call Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885</p>	<p>Situation Vacant</p> <p>We are looking for a full time qualified diesel mechanic to join our team. For more information contact Andrew on 867 7524 or email your CV to andrew@centralmotors.co.nz Central Motors Hauraki Ltd</p> <p>Trades</p> <p>FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p> <p>BURROWS ROOF CLEANING For moss, mould etc Get your gutters cleaned before winter from \$100 Ph Murray: 027 449 5985</p> <p>Handyman Services</p>  <p>THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p> <p>Storage</p> <p>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth <small>T&C's apply</small> 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz</p> <p>PAPER DELIVERIES Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here: NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices , Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalu THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store TURUA: Turua Dairy KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy</p>
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Public Notices

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FREE EVENT

Wed Aug 27th
6.30pm to 8.00pm
Thames Civic Centre

Thurs Aug 28th
6.30pm to 8.00pm
Care House Paeroa

RSVP rewiring.nz/tour

Rewiring
Aotearoa

U3a Hauraki – Coromandel investigating Lifelong learning, shared knowledge, interests Paeroa Community Support Trust initiative

Indicate interest; see form www.pc.org.nz
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Thames Business Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th August at 5:30pm
at the Grahamstown Inn, 700 Pollen St, Thames

For information on Nominations to the Committee,
Ph TBA: 022 466 1031
or email: manager@thamesbusiness.co.nz

Public Notices

Hauraki District Council Meetings August 2025

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

Audit and Risk Committee
Tuesday, 12 August 2025, 9.00am

Community Partnerships Committee
Wednesday 13 August 2025, 9.00am

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Monday 18 August 2025, 9.00am (if required)

Finance Committee
Monday 25 August 2025, 10.00am

Council
Wednesday 27 August 2025, 9.00am

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ENTERTAINMENT

Students from years 9 to 13 will perform in the free concert. Photo: SUPPLIED

Students set to showcase

Thames High School music students are once again preparing to take the stage for their annual free Friday Thames Music Group concert at St George’s Church on August 22 at 12.15 pm.

The students are looking forward to presenting a diverse concert showcasing a sampling of what they are doing in their department, from their very newest beginners to their most senior instrumentalists and singers.

This year’s performance will include some developing new junior bands, a new group of international students, and some new instruments will be featured.

Performers will be students from years 9 to 13, including a performance by year 11 composition students.

“Thames Music Group is delighted to offer our local high school students this opportunity to perform publicly and share their joy and enthusiasm for music with our community.”

DETAILS: TMG Free Friday Concert series presents Thames High School Music Students, August 22, 12.15pm, at St George’s Church, Thames. Free entry - koha gratefully accepted.

Public Notice



Protecting native species from introduced predators in Otahu

The Department of Conservation (DOC) in Thames is going to control rats, stoats, ferrets and possums over 7,200 hectares of the Otahu Ecological Reserve. This is scheduled for the first clear weather windows between 4 August and 31 October. Otahu is situated at the southern end of the Coromandel Range, to the south of Whangamata, north of Waihi and includes privately owned Mataora Bay.

Native wildlife and forests need protection

Native species are fighting for survival due to predation from rats, stoats, ferrets and possums. Without protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity within the Otahu Ecological Area. Native fauna species being protected include kiwi, kakariki, long-tailed bats, Archey’s and Hochsetters frogs and their habitat.

Our plan to protect native species

Through sustained predator control using 1080, there is a big increase in breeding success for native birds, their food source is more abundant, and the forest canopy is healthier.

The safest and most effective method we have to control possums, rats and stoats over large areas is to use biodegradable cereal bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters distribute bait pellets across the forest area along pre-determined and monitored flight paths using technology that enables accurate placement. This is the only viable method to control predators in the Southern Coromandel Range due to the vast and rugged terrain.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets (sandy coloured). This prepares possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (dyed green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Consultation and permissions

DOC has consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. Permission has been granted for this operation. DOC has also received the required permission from the Ministry of Health. DOC ensures that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

There will be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait

WATCH children at all times

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The buffer zone is 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed, normal activities can resume. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital OR The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 OR dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals.

For more information

Please contact: Operational planner Ranger Biodiversity, Hauraki Office, 3/336 Ngati Maru Highway, Thames 0800 275 362 and thames@doc.govt.nz

OR Epro Ltd, 0800 ASK EPRO and control@epro.co.nz

Visit the DOC website: More information about DOC’s National Predator Control Programme is available on our website www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

Map of predator control area within Otahu Ecological Area

This map shows the area we are controlling rats, stoats, ferrets and possums to protect native species. You can also see operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land on the DOC website. www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries the DOC website. www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries



Life Education Trust farewells longtime chair

The Life Education Trust for Waikato East held its annual AGM and awards night in Te Aroha on July 21.

The trust manages a mobile classroom which travels across the Coromandel Peninsula, Hau-raki and Matamata-Piako districts, providing interactive lessons on health and wellbeing to schools.

“Sponsors from all over our area were invited to celebrate with us as we reflect on impact and growth, celebrate the changemakers in our community, and share a toast to the exciting road ahead,” the trust said.

The event was also an opportunity to thank and farewell outgoing chair Keith Trembath, who held the position for 15 of his 21 years on the committee. Keith was made a patron of the trust during the awards. He is succeeded by incoming chair Nicole Oliver.

“We now have several new members on the



The new committee is looking forward to the year ahead. trust and look forward to working together with our educator Leiset Gregory to fulfil our vision: ‘to enable tamariki to reach their full potential by educating and inspiring them to make positive choices for a healthy mind and body. They are our future’,” the trust said.



Harold the Giraffe with Keith Trembath and Nicole Oliver. Photos: SUPPLIED

Style Your Space

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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A bold single variety bunch on a kitchen bench can act like artwork, drawing the eye and softening hard surfaces. In contrast, small arrangements, or potted colour on bedside tables can ground a space and add intention to how a room feels.

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213

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A 13x13 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The black squares form a complex, symmetrical pattern. The grid is numbered 1 through 84, indicating the starting positions for the words. The numbers are placed in the top-left corner of the starting square for each word.

DOWN: 2 Suspicion, 3 Ailed 5 Oast, 6 Soprano, 7 Fan the flames, 8 Llama, 9 Sterile, 10 News, 11 Random, 12 Guess, 13 Adhered, 14 Revolve, 16 Tower of Pisa, 22 Spares, 23 Pitcher, 24 Flecked, 25 Wicket, 27 Nuptial, 28 Report, 30 Done, 32 Stage, 34 Dined, 36 Ruhr, 38 Axe, 42 Humid, 43 Amnesty, 44 Leek, 45 Nought, 46 Sound, 48 Abracadabra, 49 Tapered, 50 Ewe, 51 Angelic, 52 As well, 53 Congratulate, 54 Imps, 57 Kidnap, 64 Succeeded, 65 Leaflet, 66 Overdue, 68 Fiancée, 70 Parapet, 71 Retire, 72 Twist, 74 Cello, 76 Ample, 78 Stud, 79 Edam.



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