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The children of Netherton and Goldfields Schools resembled abstract works of art after their annual colour fun run. ALICE PARMINTER captured the action

MORE PHOTOS: P8

Oaklyn Steedman enjoys the slippery slide. From top right: Kayden Wineera, Dani Magon and Jack Flint join the fun. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

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**DETAILS:** Public meeting on pay equity, August 24, 1-3pm, Te Kura o Te Kaaeranga | Thames South School. People's Select Committee oral submissions hearing, September 10, 9am at Kerepēhi Marae. Pōwhiri 3.30pm on September 9.

**PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT/ADVERTORIAL:** Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, [nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz); Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, [davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz).  
**NEWS/EDITORIAL:** Managing Editor/Owner Teresa Ramsey, Ph 0204 0944 853, [editor@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:editor@valleyprofile.co.nz); Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau, Ph 022 619 4889, [kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz); Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, [alice@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:alice@valleyprofile.co.nz).  
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Wed Aug 20		Thu Aug 21		Fri Aug 22		Sat Aug 23		Sun Aug 24		Mon Aug 25		Tue Aug 26	
Morning 3:47am 3.1 10:05am 0.7	Afternoon 4:33pm 3.2 10:46pm 0.9	Morning 4:56am 3.1 11:10am 0.7	Afternoon 5:34pm 3.3 11:45pm 0.8	Morning 6:00am 3.2 6:28pm 3.4	Afternoon 12:07pm 0.6 6:28pm 3.4	Morning 12:38am 0.7 6:57am 3.3	Afternoon 12:57pm 0.5 7:16pm 3.5	Morning 1:26am 0.6 7:46am 3.3	Afternoon 1:42pm 0.5 8:00pm 3.5	Morning 2:11am 0.6 8:30am 3.4	Afternoon 2:23pm 0.5 8:42pm 3.5	Morning 2:52am 0.5 9:11am 3.4	Afternoon 3:03pm 0.5 9:23pm 3.4
6:56am	5:48pm	6:54am	5:48pm	6:53am	5:49pm	6:52am	5:50pm	6:50am	5:51pm	6:49am	5:52pm	6:48am	5:52pm
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Rise 4:56am Set 2:13pm	Rise 5:42am Set 3:24pm	Rise 6:20am Set 4:34pm	New Moon Rise 6:51am Set 5:41pm	Rise 7:17am Set 6:46pm	Rise 7:41am Set 7:48pm	Rise 8:03am Set 8:49pm							

\*Not for navigational purposes.  
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## MOON AND FISH KEYS

 New Moon
  First Quarter
  Full Moon
  Last Quarter

### 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	HIGH		LOW	
	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
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



# AI use questioned in Burton’s mayoral bid

As this year’s local elections approach, reporter KELLEY TANTAU continues to put the spotlight on the mayoral contenders, and asks why they think they’re fit to wear the chains.

A Hauraki man running for Mayor of the district is using social media to fuel his campaign, but amidst allegations of Artificial Intelligence and his refusal to speak to media, questions are being raised over the transparency of his bid.

Levi Burton, who goes by Levi Phoenix on his social media accounts, has already listed himself as Mayor of the Hauraki district on his profile on LinkedIn, which is an online professional networking platform.

He is standing for the top job as well as councillor in the Waihi ward, and in a press release announcing his candidacy, promised a “transparent and inclusive” future.

However online Burton has been accused of “hiding behind a computer” and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to write his answers.

On August 5, *The Profile* contacted Burton via email with a series of questions to gather information for an article ahead of the October local body elections.

Two days later, he replied.

That same night, Burton’s responses to *The Profile’s* questions were published in full by another media outlet; therefore, a phone interview was requested.

But Burton said he’d prefer email, and acknowledged he shared his responses - composed for *The Profile* - with another reporter. “I wanted to be upfront with you about something that’s been on my mind. I recently replied to your set of questions, and while I also shared my responses with another reporter, I hadn’t anticipated they’d



Levi Burton, who goes by Levi Phoenix on his social media accounts, has already listed himself as Mayor of the Hauraki district on his LinkedIn profile. Photo: SUPPLIED

publish them ahead of you. That wasn’t my intention at all - it was simply a misstep on my part in managing communications during a busy campaign, and I absolutely recognise that it wasn’t ideal,” the email said. “It’s been a good learning moment for me, and I genuinely appreciate your understanding.”

After running this response through several AI checkers, *The Profile* discovered most of his response was likely to have been written by AI.

For that reason, *The Profile* again pushed for a phone interview, but Burton responded: “It’s all good. I think I’ve won already”.

This belief is reflected in his LinkedIn profile, which is complete with council logo, entitled: ‘Levi Phoenix, Mayor at Hauraki District Council’, and where he states he works “full time” as Mayor.

*The Profile* made a final attempt to speak with Burton over the phone, asking why the man running for Mayor was not happy for a chat to local media. He was also asked whether or not he had used AI to formulate all or part of his social media posts and responses, or his responses to *The Valley Profile*, and if he would be attending any in-person meet-the-candidate events.

Burton did not respond.

This is Burton’s first official quest for mayoral chains.

In 2023, he posted on a West Coast community Facebook page announcing his candidacy for Mayor of the Westland District Council; however, the local body elections had already taken place in October the year before.

In an email, he said he was a former Waihi College pupil and communication was one of his “greatest strengths”.

“My background spans a wide range of industries, from construction to finance, from policy writing to physical labour. I’ve worked with my hands, my mind, and my heart, and I’ve learned how to connect with people from all walks of life, whether it’s a lawyer, a farmer, a rangatahi, or someone on the autism spectrum.

“Communication is one of my greatest strengths,” he wrote, “and I believe it’s exactly what’s missing from local government right now.”

**DETAILS: Voting for this year’s local government elections opens on September 9 until noon on October 11. Progress results are published October 11; preliminary results on October 13 and official results on October 17. More info at vote.nz.**





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## Changes to your Rates

### What's new for 2025/2026?

#### Property rates instalment due dates

Following community feedback about receiving three rates invoices in October last year, (HDC rates, HDC water rates and WRC rates), we've changed the property rates instalment due date months to September 2025 and March 2026.

#### Wastewater rates move to water invoices

From 1 July 2025 the wastewater rate you pay will move from your Property Rates invoice to your Water Rates invoice. If your property uses a septic tank, you won't see any change.

#### Water rates invoicing schedule

We've made some changes to our water meter reading and invoicing schedule. Check the billing months to see if your location has changed at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates/water-rates-instalment-dates](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates/water-rates-instalment-dates)



### View your rates for 2025/26

Use our online address search tool to check your property rates and water rates for this financial year at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-search](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates/rates-search)



### Paying your rates

#### Have a Direct Debit with us?

If you're already set up with direct debits for rates and/or water, there is no immediate change to them. Your payments will continue as normal. We'll notify you once our annual Rates direct debit recalculation process is complete.

#### Have an Automatic Payment set up?

You'll need to update these yourself through your bank. Contact us if you need help in working out what you will need to pay to cover your rates and/or water to 30 June 2026.

## Water Invoices

Your water bill now consists of three charges.



#### Water Connection

A fixed charge of \$243.36 per water connection per annum.

This pays towards the cost of infrastructure and maintenance to bring water to your water meter. It also includes water meter readings and water meter renewals.



#### Water Consumption

Covers the cost of treating the actual water used, with stepped levels of pricing based on consumption:

- Up to 200 cubic metres = \$4.27
- 200-400 cubic metres = \$3.07
- Over 400 cubic metres = \$2.61



#### Wastewater Connection

A fixed charge of \$847.56 per pan/toilet per annum. A residential property is considered 1 pan.

This covers the cost of infrastructure and treatment of the wastewater coming from your toilets, so it can be safely discharged back into the environment.

## Waikato Waters Ltd

Te Mana o Te Wai, Te Mana o Te Tangata – Healthy Water, Healthy People

It's official! Hauraki District Council, along with six other Waikato councils formally signed the Shareholders' Agreement for Waikato Waters Limited (WWL) on Monday 25 July. This marks the company's official incorporation as a joint council-controlled organisation (CCO), making Waikato Waters Ltd the largest joint water CCO in New Zealand.

Hauraki District will transition into Waikato Waters Ltd on 1 July 2027. Until then, it's business as usual. The only change you'll see for now is the Wastewater Rate included on your water bill rather than your land rates bill. Stormwater management remains with HDC.

## Waikato Waters: your top 5 questions answered

**1 Who owns Waikato Waters?**  
Hauraki, Matamata Piako, Ōtorohanga, South Waikato, Waipā, Waitomo and Taupō, district councils jointly own the company on behalf of their communities.

**2 Why is a waters CCO needed?**  
Pooling resources gives our councils the scale and investment power needed to meet tougher water standards, plan for growth, and protect our waterways for future generations.

**3 Will my water bills change?**  
In the short term, pricing will remain consistent with each council's current plan. Longer term pricing will be set by Waikato Waters.

**4 What about iwi involvement?**  
The agreement commits to building strong, strategic partnerships with iwi, reflecting Treaty settlement obligations. In addition, each council maintains its own unique relationship with iwi and hapu in their rohe.

**5 What is the status of Taupō District Council?**  
Taupō District Council is a Stage 1 shareholder having chosen for now to go with a stand alone water services delivery model. They will review this position within the next two years. However they remain a shareholder of Waikato Waters Ltd and will be using shared services such as procurement.

For more information about Waikato Waters visit [www.waikatowaters.co.nz](http://www.waikatowaters.co.nz)

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

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

Are you a SuperGold Card holder\*? If so, then your income threshold is higher.

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

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

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

# Health leader Messiter joins mayoral race

As this year’s local elections approach, reporter **KELLEY TANTAU** continues to put the spotlight on the mayoral contenders, and asks why they think they’re fit to wear the chains.

Denise Messiter says she’s running for Mayor to represent everyone - not just the loudest voices in the room.

The co-founder of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, and Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit said listening had played a big part in her decision to stand for the Thames-Coromandel district’s top job.

“I’ve been hearing from people who feel their voices haven’t been included enough in council decision-making,” Denise told *The Profile*.

“We have a very diverse district, and everyone deserves to be part of shaping our future.

“I want to be a mayor who sits alongside people, listens to their hopes and ideas, and works with them to build thriving

communities and a stronger Aotearoa.”

Denise said a recent Whitianga meet-the-candidates event highlighted the need for “more inclusive and welcoming formats” that gave space to all voices.

More than half of the audience at the event were older women, she said, who came with important questions about local issues, yet there was limited time for everyone to be heard.

“I want to create spaces where people feel welcome to share their views and know they will be listened to.

“Smaller, more focused gatherings can give everyone the chance to speak.

“Older women, our rainbow and takatāpui whānau, tangata whaikaha, and others whose voices are sometimes missing from public debates will be at the centre of these conversations,” she said.

Denise said she would be announcing a series of smaller meet-and-greet events across the district in the coming weeks, which would “be open

“People are tired of being spoken at and overlooked. They want leadership that listens, responds, and reflects their values.”

- Denise Messiter



Co-founder of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, and Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Denise Messiter, is standing for TCDC Mayor.

to all and designed to give everyone the chance to be heard”.

She said her campaign was beginning to ramp up.

“Things are getting very busy now, with lots of positive encouragement from communities right across the district,” she said.

“We’ve had strong engagement, plenty of invites to events, and my team of volunteers are well organised and active on the ground.”

Denise (Ngāti Pukenga, Ngāti Maru) has spent decades in leadership and advocacy roles.

She co-founded Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, leads Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki, and was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community.

She said she was standing for Mayor of Thames-Coromandel to build a council that was “present, transparent, and grounded in the needs of its people”.

“People are tired of being spoken at and overlooked. They want leadership that listens, responds, and reflects their values.

“That’s exactly what I’m here to offer.”

**DETAILS:** Denise’s smaller meet-and-greet events will be posted on the ‘Denise Messiter – Nin For Mayor’ Facebook page as each event is locked in.



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# Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



20 August 2025

## Get to know your candidates

Our Council has offered all candidates running for Councillor positions and the Mayoralty the opportunity to be filmed answering key questions such as why they think they are best for the role they are standing for. The finished video will be on our election web page (below), as well as candidate profiles and election events.

Sat 30 Aug, 12–3.30pm: Candidates' Forum (organised by Thames Business Association) Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 200 Mary St, Thames

Sat 6 Sept, 11am-1pm: Māori Ward Referendum Panel St George Anglican Church Parish Hall, 602 Mackay St, Thames

Sun 14 Sept 2-5pm: Meet the Candidates, Thames (organised by The Basket Hauraki) Thames High School Auditorium, 300 Sealy St, Thames

Fri 3 Oct, 10am-12pm: Meet the Candidates Community Centre, 109 Wilson St, Tararū

[tcdc.govt.nz/elections](http://tcdc.govt.nz/elections)



### Boundary Creek Bridge

NZTA has awarded contracts for the replacement of Boundary Creek Bridge on SH25 Thames Coast, with work due to start in early October. A new, safer two-lane bridge and slow traffic passing bay at the southern bridge approach will be in place well ahead of summer holiday traffic.

The road will be closed for up to seven days, beginning in the week immediately after Labour Weekend, to allow for the demolition of the old bridge deck and installation of the new one. The bridge deck is being pre-fabricated and work hours extended to keep the closure to a minimum. Emergency services have been involved in the project and will have plans in place for the closure period.

The road is expected to be open to two-lane traffic from early December. For more information, visit [nzta.govt.nz](http://nzta.govt.nz) and search 'Boundary Creek'.

### CAREERS ROADSHOW

Our Council's district-wide Careers Roadshow got underway at Thames High School on Monday 11 August, bringing together students, local employers and training providers for an inspiring day of career exploration. Students had a great time engaging with interactive displays, hands-on activities and informative talks, learning more about the wide range of career opportunities available both within our district and beyond. The event sparked plenty of curiosity, conversations and ideas for their future pathways.



### CLIMATE CHANGE

Our Council adopted two key documents in August.



The Climate Change Strategy sets out what Council will do to adapt and protect our assets and services, and our approach to working with communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE  
THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Greenhouse Gases Emissions Reductions Plan identifies our current emission volumes and how much we need to reduce them to achieve Council's long-term emission reduction goals.

### Creative Communities Scheme funding open

Apply by Friday 29 August

Funding for creative projects and events that increase community participation in the arts.

Projects will need to include at least one of the following outcomes:

- Creating opportunities for local communities to engage and participate in the arts
- Support diverse art forms and cultural traditions of local communities
- Enable and encourage young people (under 18) to participate in the arts.

[tcdc.govt.nz/ccs](http://tcdc.govt.nz/ccs)



Artist's impression of Waikawau toilet.

### Boat ramp toilets

Installation of new public toilets for Kōpū and Waikawau boat ramps started in mid-August and should be completed by late September. Kōpū has been funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) through the Tourism Infrastructure Fund. Waikawau has been funded partially by MBIE and also through the Waikawau Boat Ramp Society.

Both toilets are pre-fabricated allowing for a quick installation of 2-3 weeks.

### TŌTARA VALLEY NEWS

Geotechnical investigations began in mid-August on the Tōtara Valley Road Services Extension Project, to enable residential housing development in the area. These investigations are a key step ahead of engineering design and construction planning for proposed road widening and water services extension work (stage 2 of the project), which is expected to start in October 2026.

We will be sharing further details with the community as plans firm up. In the meantime, find out more about the project at [tcdc.govt.nz/totaravalley](http://tcdc.govt.nz/totaravalley)

OUR NEXT THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 10AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THAMES

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# Burton's bacon worth waking up for

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

In a country where bacon is both a Sunday morning staple and the crown jewel of a Kiwi burger, a local Thames Valley butchery is proving that tradition still matters - and has the awards to show for it.

Burton's Butchery attended the NZ Bacon and Ham Awards last month and brought home two accolades, a silver for its loin bacon, and bronze for its streaky.

It's proof the Matatoki-based butchery makes bacon worth getting out of bed for.

"Bacon is still one of the top sellers, especially when people hear we make our own," Elliot Burton told *The Profile*.

"It's the classic Sunday morning breakfast or the extra piece to make your Friday night burger something special."

The butchery makes its own bacon using traditional techniques and a wood-fired smokehouse.

Because there's no fillers added, this created a "good-tasting product that doesn't shrink or leave the pan full of moisture," Elliot said.

"And using 100 per cent New Zealand pork allows us to know the meat is already the best quality, and supports our New Zealand farmers. We also



Elliot and Kris Burton celebrate at the NZ Bacon and Ham Awards.

Photo: SUPPLIED

have Burtons on Pollen Lunch Bar and Catering, along with Waiomu Beach Cafe, that use it."

The NZ Bacon and Ham

Awards had 254 entries from 44 butchers around the country, all using 100 per cent NZ pork.

The judges commended Bur-

tons' loin bacon for its faultless retail look, while its streaky bacon was noted as having a fresh aroma, even thickness and portion size, a balanced meat-

to-fat ratio, appropriate moisture level, and good curing and smoking techniques.

Elliot said he and the team were "proud as punch" for the achievement and thanked his staff and loyal customers, especially over the last few months as they moved their business from Paeroa to Matatoki, where they are the only retail store.

"Our move has been a big task... but it has started to settle and feel like home now," he said.

"It has allowed us to increase our processing capability and make improvements in our business, and with renovating the building, it has made compliance for our dual processing license easier to manage."

Elliot said they were now focusing on business as usual, but had sent four of the butchery's products off to the Great NZ Sausage Competition for judging. The competition is one of the premier events for New Zealand smallgoods producers and searches for the best sausage in the country.

The team was also getting a head-start on Christmas hams, which Elliot said would be limited this year, "so best to order them early".



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The store is our retail community door. If you require a First Aid kit, need to pay a St John subscription or transport account, you can do that at our stores as well. And you are welcome to make donations or look for a bargain from an extensive range of clothing and household goods.

Do you have time to spare?

We have vacancies for volunteers to join our great team here in Thames. There are roles available for front of house, the backroom, and for our pick-up/delivery team as well.

**St John - local people helping meet the needs of our community.**

To find out more information pop into the store or contact Anca on: **(07) 869 0179** or email [anca.binedell@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:anca.binedell@stjohn.org.nz) or check us out on Facebook @**St John Thames Store**



# Wet and wild colour run fun

The Netherton School colour run on August 13 saw junior students take to the field first, along with visiting students and staff from Goldfields School. Then the senior students took to the field for what was by then a drenched, slippery and messy course. The event is one of the highlights of the school year for students, who relished the chance to go wild and cut loose. Photos: **ALICE PARMINTER**





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# Paddle steamer sinks near old Puke wharf



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.

1932

At Paeroa, the Northern Steamship Company's paddle steamer, *Kōpū*, mysteriously sank near the old Puke wharf.

She came to rest with her bow on a sandbar and her stern in deep water. When the company's salvage gang attempted to raise the stern by attaching a punt at low tide and letting the tide do the lifting, they discovered the punt was not quite sound, and it leaked and eventually capsized. The punt was then brought to the river bank alongside the old wharf and a pump was rigged with which to pump it out. It was thought that boys had opened the sea-cocks on the *Kōpū*.

Meanwhile, the new *Kōpū* Station Hotel opened on a day of brilliant sunshine, the ladies' bright, colourful dresses adding to the festive scene. It was also sale day and it had been a long time since so many



The *Kōpū*, in the foreground.

Photo: SUPPLIED

people gathered at *Kōpū*, the number of cars on view being surprising. The original hotel had burned down the year before and Mr Larsen, new licensee, who was an architect by profession, had drawn up the plans for the new building.

The official opening of the hotel took place at the end of the sale. Mr Larsen invited everyone to be his guest at a

light lunch, remarking that he would be very disappointed if there was any food left.

Over at Ngātea, the first of a series of 'Irish stew' evenings was held by the Ngātea Church of England in the hall. The programme comprised dancing, card games and competitions in hat making and potato peeling. So successful was the function that it was agreed that an-

other be held the next month.

While in her kitchen at Matatoki, Mrs Heaton heard a loud explosion from the dining room where she had lit a fire. On rushing to the room she was driven back by flames leaping through the door.

She ran outside, calling for her husband, who was in the milking shed. He and neighbours were unable to quell the blaze and nearly everything was destroyed. It was thought that there may have been a detonator in the coal.

The explosion was heard by a linesman working in the Turua power sub-station, across the Waihou River.

Thinking it had something to do with the power he promptly shut off the current.

Over in Waihi, Mr Mounsey's Snappy Syncopators were led by a Waihi boy, his orchestra brightening many Thames Valley entertainments. When the Waikino Women's Institute held a dance their novelty invitation read: "The officers and crew of *HMS. Institute*, which is berthed at the Victoria Hall wharf, Waikino, are holding a 'flannel' dance on the quarter-deck. Free buses from Waihi.

"Music by the ship's orchestra - the Snappy Syncopators. You may board this ship of dreams by paying at the gangway. Euchre in captain's lounge. Supper will be served in the dining saloon."

## Chris' Quiz

1. What was Superman's real name at birth (on the planet Krypton)? a) Clark Kent, b) Kal El, or c) Krypton?
2. Which New Zealand-born scientific researcher has been featured on the back of the New Zealand \$100 note since 1992?
3. Which band collaborated with Apple in 2014 to automatically add music from their new album onto user's devices? a) One Direction, b) The Rolling Stones, or c) U2?
4. Which rank did Harland Sanders (founder of KFC) reach in the US army? a) unranked, b) Colonel or c) Major General?
5. What is the name given to both a large algal growth and a flower or group of flowers?
6. Who is the only musical artist to have had a number one single on a Billboard Chart in seven consecutive decades?
7. Van Diemen's Land was an early colonial name given to which island?
8. The name "Le Corbusier" is best known from which field? a) design, b) politics, or c) sport?
9. Other than Hawaii, in which US state do more than half the population live on an island? a) Massachusetts, b) New York, or c) Rhode Island?
10. Which of these plants is in the same family as Pohutukawa? a) Kawakawa, b) Manuka, or c) Totara?



ANSWERS: 1. b) Kal El; 2. Sir Ernest Rutherford; 3. c) U2; 4. a) unranked. He was employed by the army as a Waggoner "Colonel" was given an honorary title only, later in life; 5. Bloom; 6. Cher; 7. Tasmania; 8. a) design; 9. b) New York. 50.8 per cent of New York State's population live on the islands that make up the borough of New York - namely Manhattan, Staten Island, and Long Island; 10. b) Manuka.



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Rural Life

# Planting, composting for sustainable future

Over recent months, Kopuarahi School students have been getting their hands dirty - in the best way possible.

The small rural school has been involved in three environmental and sustainability-focused projects over the winter months, each connected to its curriculum and strategic direction.

In July, tamariki joined Trees for Survival, Moanataiari School, Hauraki Plains College, and Thames Rotary for a major riparian planting day in Hikutaia, adding 1750 native plants to the landscape.

The plants had all been nurtured from seedlings in shadehouses at both Kopuarahi and Moanataiari Schools, making the planting day a satisfying 'full circle' moment for tamariki. "This is one of the most satisfying things I have done outside. Planting for the future is amazing," 10-year-old DJ said.

"One day I can come back and see how tall the trees are," Oakley, six, added.

Back at Kopuarahi School, the school's maara kai (food garden) and fruit forest received a major boost with a tunnel house, garden shed, raised beds, new fruit trees, and refurbished plots - supported by Oke (Fisher Family Trust), Fonterra, Ngatea Lions, and the community.

Along with practical gardening skills, the students worked on their financial literacy as they budgeted and planned for the up-



The school had plenty of help from volunteers and community organisations to grow and plant seedlings, and make garden beds. Photo: SUPPLIED

grade.

And a new community composting station was installed this month at the school, in partnership with Air New Zealand and the CarbonCycle Company.

"I love measuring the temperature of our compost every day. It's getting hotter quickly. Today there

was steam coming out when we moved the sacks," seven-year-old Maverick said.

"The worms love the leaves and horse poo and chicken poo. They're making good compost for us," Mikaylah, eight, said.

With a large site and strong community partnerships, Kopuar-

ahi School was set to keep growing its role as an outdoor classroom and hub for kaitiakitanga, school principal Chris Patel said.

"Trees for Survival, Oke and CarbonCycle Company all bring an abundance of energy to what they are doing - they have worked in partnership with our kura to

help build our own understanding of our role as kaitiaki, guardians of the future in an engaging and meaningful way," Chris said.

"We are very grateful for the support we have been given. We are at the beginning of an amazing journey. Small steps really can lead to great things."



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Rural Life

# Bingo night breaks records

Bogan Bingo, the annual fundraiser for Thames Coast Kiwi Care, was a sell-out at Thames Civic Centre.

With 75 businesses and individuals donating auction items, plus rock-solid support from all the 'bogans' attending, the previous fundraising records were smashed.

Chairperson Moira Coatsworth said the community support was "a wonderful boost".

"We can buy more traps and provide resources our volunteer trappers need. We want kiwi and other native species to thrive in this special place.

"Thanks to everyone who makes that possible."

Thames Coast Kiwi Care's 60 volunteer trappers have saved the local kiwi population through 155,000 trap checks and the removal of 30,000 predators of kiwi in the past 20 years.

Now the group is also using the latest AT220 selfsetting traps to target possums and rats to protect other native species.

As well as celebrations in Tapu when kiwi are being released, it is expected that the Civic Centre will be rocking again next year for the charity.



Punters rallied to break fundraising records.



Bogans turned up in droves to celebrate Thames Coast Kiwi Care.

Photos: SUPPLIED



A big crowd and bogan antics all for a good cause.



Bingo MC Greg Cato starts another round: "A hairbra for me, number 83".



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The Thames Indian Community is preparing to host a colourful celebration of womanhood.

Photo: SUPPLIED

# Celebrating womanhood at cultural festival

The Thames Indian Community will be hosting its first Teeyan Da Mela festival on August 24, with all women of the community invited to attend.

Teeyan Da Mela is a festival for Punjabi women, celebrating joy, sisterhood, friendship, and the strength of women.

“Traditionally, it is the time when married women return to their parents’ home during the monsoon season to reconnect with their mothers, sisters, and friends, sharing laughter, music, and cultural traditions,” committee member Jaspreet Kaur said.

“In Punjab, this time is filled with joy, singing giddha songs, swinging on decorated swings tied to trees, and enjoying traditional food.

“The celebration is really about reconnecting with one’s roots, reliving the carefree days of girlhood, and strengthening bonds of sisterhood.”

Jaspreet said the Thames event was expected to carry that same spirit, encouraging women and families to come together and celebrate connections and cultural heritage.

The festival runs from noon until 6pm in the Grahamstown Hall.

It will feature entertainment, including singing and dancing performances, games, a face painter, and later in the day an open DJ floor for everyone to dance and celebrate together.

Food and clothing stalls will also be on site.

**DETAILS: Teeyan Da Mela, August 24, 12-6pm at the Grahamstown Hall, Thames. All welcome.**

# Energy talks planned for Hauraki-Coro

Rewiring Aotearoa founder Mike Casey is coming to Hauraki Coromandel later this month to share ideas about how Coromandel households can save thousands on their energy bills each year.

At the free community meetings, Mr Casey will focus on electric cooking, heating, hot water heating and transport and powering them, where possible, with solar panels and household batteries.

“It’s the smartest, cheapest and healthiest way to power our lives,” he said.

“Solar and batteries also mean more self-sufficiency in case of power cuts or natural disasters.”

A Cromwell horticulturalist, Mr Casey has totally electrified his cherry orchard, generating power on site with 300 solar panels, which are used to fuel electric forklifts, tractors, golf carts, pumps, mowers, cars and more.

EVs include an old 4x4 Hilux ute that has been modified to run on a Nissan leaf battery.

Rewiring Aotearoa was an independent, non-partisan organisation so the community meeting was an opportunity to get expert advice, he said. The event is run by Coromandel Resilient Communities Trust, with Rewiring Aotearoa’s support.

**DETAILS: Community meetings will be held on August 27 at the Thames Civic Centre at 6:30pm and August 28 at the Carehouse Paeroa, also 6:30pm. Register at events.humanity.co.nz.**

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# Presenters drive home positive speedway shift

MOTORSPORT

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

What began as an online simulation racing group has grown into one of New Zealand motorsport's most passionate media voices, and now, it's earned national recognition.

Kokpit Media, which shines a spotlight on speedway and other forms of motorsport across the country, claimed two accolades at the recent Speedway NZ Awards: Best Online Presence and Best Media Show.

Presenter Rino Wilkinson, from Paeroa, said the group had humble beginnings as a simulation racing community, where drivers predominantly raced speedway cars on New Zealand tracks.

Founder Craig Booker then came up with the idea to start a media show, and the pair quickly became co-presenters, creating an online interview platform where tracks, event organisers, and drivers could promote themselves.

Since then, they have conducted numerous interviews and travelled extensively across the country. Beyond media coverage, they have also organised fundraising events, raising close to \$70,000 combined for the NZ Cancer Society, Heart Kids NZ, and Cystic Fibrosis.

Throughout it all, Rino said, Kokpit Media's main focus has been to "be positive" - and this



Rino Wilkinson, centre, with Craig Booker, right, and Stu Russell of Palmerston North Speedway at the recent Speedway NZ Awards.

ethos even led them to launching an anti-bullying campaign.

"Like many other sports, the negative side that we read on many social media platforms saw us both decide that we'd had enough.

"We thought: 'let's put our sport in a great spotlight and celebrate everyone - from the track committee, promoters, volunteers, drivers, crews, families, emergency services, photogra-

phers and live-streaming companies'."

Kokpit Media was nominated for two categories at the recent Speedway NZ Awards, and ended up being finalists for Best Online Presence and Best Media Show.

Rino said he and Craig were up against some tough competition, including CRC Motorsport, and were "blown away" when they were announced the winners.

"Craig - and he'll hate me for saying this - got emotional in his speech as he's never ever experienced anything like this before," Rino said. "The applause and handshakes, the congratulations, were overwhelming. It was a brilliant night. We were both over the moon."

Rino said the awards were a proud moment that recognised the pair's hard work behind the scenes.

"We do all of this off our own backs and out of our own pockets which shows - to me - the passion we both have for our sport."

For Rino himself, speedway has been a big aspect of his life since the late-80s, and he recalled days "watching from behind the fence at the original Baypark".

He, alongside his wife or his family, have travelled to attend the NZ Superstock Teams Championship in Palmerston North for the past 37 years in a row.

"Next season we're off to Christchurch," he said. "Talk about being addicted to the racing and speedway hot dogs."

Overall, Rino - who is also a commentator at Huntly Speedway - told *The Profile* he enjoyed everything about the world of speedway - from the racing, to the people.

"It's something I count down to during the off-season and can't wait until October comes around."

"What's next for Kokpit Media?" he said.

"It's to keep promoting our sport, continue doing our weekly interviews with everyone, and still keep enjoying ourselves."

**DETAILS: Kokpit Racing and Media has a show every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm on Facebook and YouTube.**



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# Travel Through Time for town’s anniversary

September marks the 150th anniversary of Ulster Irish settlers in Katikati, and the town is celebrating with a weekend of entertainment and family-friendly events for all ages.

The settlement of Katikati was established by Irishman George Vesey Stewart, who led two groups of settlers to New Zealand. The first came aboard the ship *Carisbrooke Castle*, with 34 families from Ulster, Northern Ireland, arriving at ‘The Landing’ on the Uretara Stream in Katikati on September 16, 1875.

A second group of settlers arrived in 1878 aboard the *Lady Jocelyn*. Both names live on in local street names.

Māori and the new settlers worked closely together, withstanding early economic problems to develop Katikati into a thriving town based around farming and agriculture.

The town has always had a vibrant community with more than 80 volunteer groups providing activities, entertainment and support for the locals.

The 150th anniversary celebration will take place on September 12-14, with the theme *Travel Through Time*.

The weekend kicks off on September 12 with ‘Rugby Reminders’; rugby players will reflect on various tours and how rugby has evolved over time.

Western Bay Museum will have a display of Gallaher memorabilia on loan from the Ponsonby Rugby Club collection.

This will be followed by an evening of Irish Music and song



Katikati 150th Anniversary organising committee members get kitted out in period dress in preparation for the big event.

Photo: SUPPLIED

at Katikati Folk Club, in the Arts Junction.

September 13 sees a full line-up with plenty of activities planned. There will be music in the market square, a market in the Hub, a photographic display from the archives at the library and as well as rugby memorabilia, the Museum has several exhibitions on display, including the Katikati timeline.

Vintage cars through to the modern age will be in and around town and no festival is complete without a parade from

Moore Park into the town centre. Food and drink will be available.

A Settlers’ Dance in the evening will round off the day - an event not to be missed. Entry is by koha/donation and a plate of finger food (nothing that needs heating).

On September 14, Athenree Homestead will be open with tea and scones and activities for children. Period costumes (optional) will be in abundance throughout the weekend.

**DETAILS: visit [www.katikati150celebration.co.nz](http://www.katikati150celebration.co.nz) for more info.**



One of the many murals in Katikati is *The Longest Journey*, depicting the voyage taken by Ulster settlers on the *Lady Jocelyn* in 1878.

## Pest plant removal marks first stage of track reinstatement

The removal of pest plants across the reserve surrounding Waimata Gemstone Bay marks the start of work to reinstate the track to the picturesque beach.

Waimata Gemstone Bay was one of several Coromandel locations impacted by extreme weather events in 2023 which damaged Department of Conservation (DOC)-managed tracks.

In July, DOC announced it would be reinstating tracks to Waimata Gemstone Bay, following news in May the Hahei Beach Short Walk would be rerouted and repaired.

DOC’s Mautohe Cathedral Cove sustainability project manager Michael Sparrow said work to remove the weeds at Waimata Gem-

stone started recently.

“It’s a small but important first step on this project. We’ve arranged for four kaimahi (workers) from Coromandel iwi Ngāti Hei to remove these weed species from the reserve,” he said.

The Ngāti Hei team spent a week at the site clearing woolly nightshade, gorse, pampas grass, cherry, pine, moth plant and any other undesirable plant species identified.

This will be followed by planting native vegetation to enhance the site’s biodiversity and mauri, with underplanting included to suppress weeds and reduce ongoing maintenance. Local businesses, the community and tourists have donated close to 300 trees, which

will be planted at the location as part of Destination Hauraki Coromandel’s ‘Good for your soul’ initiative. “They’ll focus on around two hectares of land in total, spread along both sides of the track,” Michael said.

Ngāti Hei conservation representative Shelley Balsom welcomed the shared environmental improvement initiative and efforts at Waimata Gemstone Bay.

“Ngāti Hei support this kaupapa,” she said. “It is in alignment with Ngāti Hei values as restoration is a priority for us. We thank the tourism industry for this initiative.”

The repair to the Waimata Gemstone Bay track will see the track rerouted and an extra 40 metres

constructed. Reinstating the track will restore land access to a popular snorkelling destination within Te Whanganui-O-Hei Marine Reserve enjoyed by educational groups and the local community.

The Hahei Reroute and Gemstone Bay Track projects are part of the wider Mautohe Cathedral Cove Sustainability Project, a long-term initiative focused on enhancing the visitor experience, managing visitor impacts and safeguarding the cultural and environmental values of this iconic site.

Meanwhile, with visitor numbers returning to pre-Covid-19 levels, long-standing challenges like littering, graffiti overcrowding, marine safety, and environ-

mental pressures have resurfaced.

In response, DOC, Ngāti Hei, and community partners are working together to develop a Visitor Management Plan and sustainable operating model that addresses transport links, visitor flow, site maintenance, and infrastructure resilience, while supporting local businesses to thrive.

Nature was vital to New Zealand’s economy, and a significant proportion of tourism is based in, on or around our unique natural environment, DOC said.

Tourism on public conservation land is worth \$3.4 billion each year. More than 50 per cent of international visitors and 80 per cent of New Zealanders visit protected natural areas every year.

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**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.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

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Set high in the pristine landscape of Woodlands Ridge, this 80ha (approx) property is a rare opportunity to secure a luxury rural lifestyle in a setting of unparalleled serenity. Framed by a native bush backdrop and capturing sweeping harbour and ocean views, the architecturally designed new-build home is the centrepiece. Expertly positioned to embrace its surroundings and elevate everyday living. Plus GST (if any).

Price by Negotiation  
View by appointment  
Lester Mullan  
021 121 4940  
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



[eves.co.nz/ewa20384](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20384)

New Listing



Waihi

26 Hollis Road, Waikino

3 2 1 6

Lifestyle, Shedding and Space

Set on a one-hectare (approx.) block in peaceful Waikino, this modernised home offers the perfect rural entry point for families, hobby farmers, or horse lovers seeking space, shedding and serenity. Inside, the home is warm and inviting, with three well-appointed bedrooms, a bright living area with wood burner and heat pump, and seamless flow to a sunny deck. A 108sqm shed with bathroom and office with kitchennette gives many options to the new owner.

Auction Thurs 4 Sept, from 1pm  
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga  
(unless sold prior)  
View by appointment  
Brooke Edwards  
027 435 5905  
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



[eves.co.nz/ewa20520](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20520)

Auction Thursday



Waihi

12 Galbraith Street

3 1 1 1

Dont Miss This!

Welcome to your new beginning – where charm, character, and convenience come together. Positioned on a fully fenced 1,077sqm (approx.) quarter-acre+ section, this beautifully renovated home captures all the warmth and elegance of yesteryear, blended seamlessly with the comfort of modern living. From the classic bullnose verandah and soaring high ceilings to the rich native timber flooring underfoot, this home is a true character beauty – lovingly brought back to life.

Auction Thurs 21 Aug, from 1pm  
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga  
(unless sold prior)  
View by appointment  
Brooke Edwards  
027 435 5905  
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz  
Lester Mullan  
021 121 4940  
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



[eves.co.nz/ewa20463](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20463)



Waihi

17 Walker Street

6 3 2 3

Packed With Potential

A true family masterpiece in the College area. Set across two levels, this truly is the ultimate home for large or extended families, entertainers, or smart buyers looking to secure a property with serious potential. Bring your vision and get stuck in, as there are renovations you could do to give this home a fresh new chapter. Spacious living and dining extend to a covered entertaining deck and a private backyard. Plus detached garaging.

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty  
Closes 1pm, Tues 26 Aug  
(unless sold prior)  
View by appointment  
Dynasty Holtz  
022 124 1186  
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



[eves.co.nz/ewa20519](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20519)





**Waihi**  
8 Ridge View Place

3 2 1 2

**Modern Living With Rural Charm**

This beautifully presented home, built in 2014, blends modern living with peaceful rural charm on a 1006 sqm (approx.) section. Open plan living extends to a sunny north-facing deck offering great entertaining and private views. Detached garage/workshop.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20420](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20420)

**Asking Price** \$785,000  
**View** by appointment  
**Dynasty Holtz** 022 124 1186  
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



**Waihi**  
49 Poland Street, Waikino

2 1 1 1 1

**Sunny on a Good-Sized Section**

This fully refreshed two-bedroom home has a potential third bedroom or office space. The living room has a fireplace and a heat pump. Wake up to breathtaking views from the main bedroom through French doors.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20198](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20198)

**Asking Price** \$690,000  
**View** by appointment  
**Dynasty Holtz** 022 124 1186  
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



**Waihi**  
6 George Street

2 1 1

**Modern Comfort, Easy Living**

Built in 2017, this modern two-bedroom J2 home offers a smart design and relaxed living all set against the peaceful backdrop of Gilmour Reserve. Step into a sunny, open-plan living space. The spacious lounge is warmed by a fireplace and extends to a front deck.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20477](https://eves.co.nz/ewa20477)

**Asking Price** \$620,000  
**View** by appointment  
**Dynasty Holtz** 022 124 1186  
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**Waihi**  
90 Kenny Street

2 2 1 1

**Cosy, Central and Convenient**

A sunny, secure home with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, plus a sunroom or office. Spacious lounge room with heat pump, renovated kitchen with island bench. Fully fenced, with detached garage/workshop.

[eves.co.nz/ewa18598](https://eves.co.nz/ewa18598)

**Asking Price** \$575,000  
**View** by appointment  
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**Waihi**  
12 Albert Street

3 1 1 2

**Family Living in the College Area**

This charming home sits on a fully fenced 910 sqm section (approx.) and is packed with potential. Inside, there is a spacious open-plan living, dining, and kitchen area. Fireplace and heat pump. Renovated bathroom.

[eves.co.nz/ewa08954](https://eves.co.nz/ewa08954)

**Asking Price** \$639,000  
**View** by appointment  
**Dynasty Holtz** 022 124 1186  
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



**Waihi**  
117 Bulltown Road

4 2 1 2

**Privacy & Views Plus a Studio**

Private family home positioned on 4044 sqm (approx.) of established grounds and gardens. Spacious living, dining, and kitchen. Fireplace, heat pump, and heat transfer. Detached double garage/workshop.

[eves.co.nz/ewa19638](https://eves.co.nz/ewa19638)

**Asking Price** \$845,000  
**View** by appointment  
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# Be sure to dream while you build: let it fuel you

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

Over the past 12 months, I started dreaming big. Not just the “wouldn’t it be nice” type of dream, but real, bold, vision-filled stuff.

I wanted to fund meaningful youth work, build a charity that changes lives, and have the freedom to take my kids on holidays without checking the bank balance first.

But I wasn’t chasing money for money’s sake. I wanted to

build something — something that helps people and creates a future I believe in. So I threw myself into writing a book, designing an online course, and building a platform that aligned with my purpose.

And man, at the start, I felt unstoppable. The motivation, the buzz, the sense of mission — it was like rocket fuel.

Then the grind kicked in — motivation waned — and progress began to die.

Here’s something I’ve learned — and it’s backed by brain science.

Our emotional brain (the same one that reacts to real-

life events) can’t always tell the difference between reality and imagination. So when we start dreaming, visualising success, picturing the impact — our emotional brain feels it as if it’s already happening.

That’s why the start feels so good.

You’re living the dream emotionally, even if it hasn’t materialised yet.

But shifting from dreaming to doing? From vision to execution? That’s where the buzz starts to wear off.

Suddenly, it’s 4:30 mornings — writing and recording before the kids wake up. It’s every spare

evening, grinding. It’s skipping other healthy habits just to make room for progress. And it’s heavy. Consistent, yes. But the emotional fire? Gone.

That’s what happened to me. I got stuck in the doing. I stopped visiting the dream. Stopped imagining the freedom and impact I was aiming for.

So I returned to the vision. I let myself feel it again. I pictured the lives changed, the legacy built, the life of purpose and presence with my family. And it fuelled me.

Because here’s the truth: if you’re pursuing a dream and the excitement has worn off, revisit

your “why.”

If your why isn’t stronger than the grind, you’ll likely throw in the towel.

So here’s my reminder for us — don’t forget to dream while we build.

Revisit it. Feel it. Let it fuel you.

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 @michael-wilkes.kiwi. If you’d like to connect about a speaking engagement, community initiative, or supporting youth work, email michael@livingwell.org.nz.

Foodies

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Get your culinary creations noticed by more food lovers through the monthly Foodies feature. File Photo: PIXABAY

## Foodies: a place for culinary connoisseurs

Food has a quiet way of bringing people together. It’s more than just nourishment — it’s a shared experience that connects people.

This is what the *Valley Profile*’s monthly Foodies feature is all about: a dedication to all things culinary in our community.

Whether you’re on the hunt for the latest food trends, hidden gems, or local favourites, Foodies keeps our readership in the loop about the best dining experiences in the area.

Each month, a different Foodies advertiser has the opportunity to showcase who they are and what specialities make their establishment stand out.

But for many restaurants, cafes, pubs, food trucks and eateries there’s more than just food on the menu.

Activities such as quiz nights, pool, karaoke, live music, community gatherings and more are key factors that draw people back again and again. Some food places also offer their venue for hire, catering for functions, cooking workshops, and even portable food or coffee carts for events. With spring just around the corner, it’s the perfect time to spotlight fresh flavours and seasonal bites with a spot on the foodies page.

Get your culinary creations noticed by more food lovers through the Foodies page where locals go to find their next favourite spot.

**DETAILS:** To find out more and to join the Foodies page, call Davidda on 022 174 3988 or email: Davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz

- By Davidda Hikatangata

Join our monthly Foodies page and receive a feature article about your food business and a listing on the Coromandel App



Contact Nikki  
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nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz

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

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# SUDOKU

214

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

214

**HARD**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**EASY**

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

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company  
[www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)

# JUMBO CROSSWORD

234

- ACROSS**

1 Got up (5)

4 Like sugary foods (4,1,5,5)

14 Assess (5)

15 Vote in (5)

16 Written works (10)

17 Boredom (5)

19 Stitched edge (3)

20 Lawlessness (7)

21 Orbiting communication device (9)

22 Glowing with heat (3-3)

25 Dangling (9)

27 Conclusion (6)

28 Winner's award (6)

33 Guidelines (10)

35 Consume (3)

36 Punches to the ground (6)

37 Confront (4)

39 Bitterly regret (3)

41 Blue (7)

42 Continent (6)

43 Recent arrivals (9)

44 Famous (5)

45 Showed up (8)

50 In attendance (2)

51 Allay the doubts and fears of (8)

55 Fling (5)

58 Fare-payer (9)

59 Whole (6)

60 Time off (7)

61 Used to be (3)

63 Informal conversation (4)

64 Crams full (6)

65 Night bird (3)

66 Pull (10)

68 Unlocked (6)

69 Small wave (6)

71 Decontaminating (9)

76 Pressing (6)

77 Mysterious (9)

79 Roading material (7)

81 Fled (3)

84 Female relation (5)

85 Punctuation mark (10)

86 Core (5)

87 Item (5)

88 Celebrate uninhibitedly (5,3,4,3)

89 Severe (5)

**DOWN**

2 Skill (6)

3 Take place (5)

5 Dry (4)

6 Raise (7)

7 Afraid (6)

8 Peer (5)

9 Gave medical care (7)

10 Comply (4)

11 Bicycle for two (6)

12 Rectify (5)

13 Smokestack (7)

14 Shrivels (7)

18 Retailer (10)

23 Rage (5)

24 Rickety (7)

26 Ignorant (7)

27 Contestant (7)

29 Level highland (7)

30 Short sleep (6)

31 Danger (5)

32 Window-shop (6)

34 Strongbox (4)

36 Exploits (5)

38 Follow on (5)

40 Deprivation (4)

45 Meat jelly (5)

46 Corridor (7)

47 High cards (4)

48 Rowing teams (6)

49 Sketches (5)

50 Breathtaking (7)

52 Hugely violent event (10)

53 Cheese (7)

54 Think logically (6)

55 Deal in illegally (7)

56 Fence steps (5)

57 Opera solo (4)

62 Of sedate character (5)

67 Pleading (7)

68 Perform surgery (7)

70 Flag (7)

72 One-horned animal (7)

73 Girl's name (6)

74 Design in skin (6)

75 Warning devices (6)

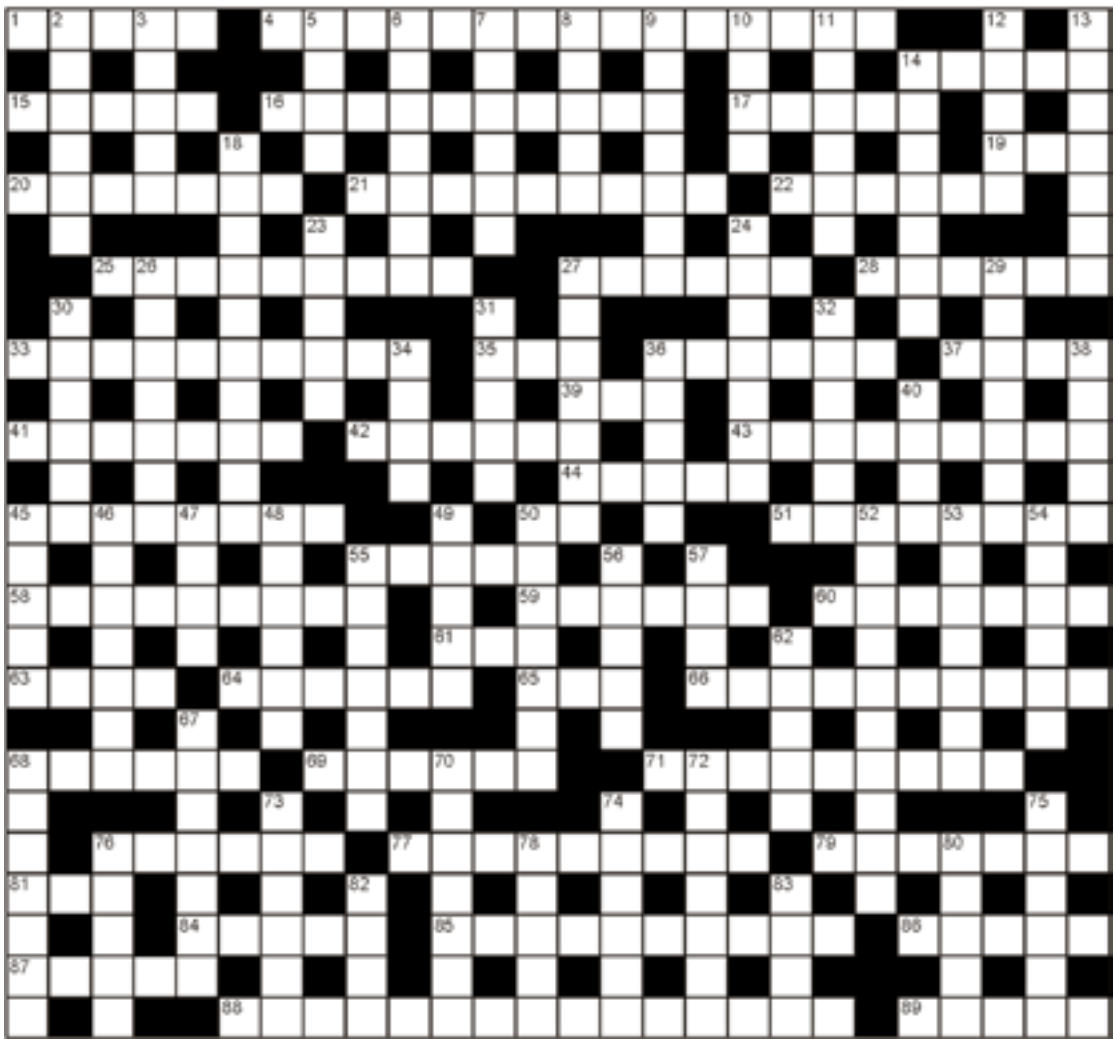
76 Dark (5)

78 Feel one's way (5)

80 Doglike scavenger (5)

82 Stitched (4)

83 Foot cover (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Twirl, 4 Four-leaf clover, 11 Check, 14 Fiend, 15 Poltergeist, 16 Capacity, 19 Hemlock, 20 Marry, 21 Pirouette, 24 Commander, 26 Squash, 27 Furore, 31 Hasty, 32 Broccoli, 34 Gregarious, 38 Foresee, 39 Unsung, 40 Onions, 41 Sill, 42 Unclear, 45 Nasturtium, 50 Awaited, 54 Gale, 55 Surges, 56 Gratis, 57 Decided, 60 Sentiments, 61 Utensils, 62 Hinge, 65 Fleece, 66 Varied, 67 Advisable, 72 Willpower, 73 Regal, 74 Missing, 79 Protocol, 80 Handwriting, 81 Began, 82 Rules, 83 Street musician, 84 Close.

DOWN: 2 Writer, 3 Renal, 5 Oboe, 6 Retrace, 7 Errors, 8 Flew, 9 Luscious, 10 Reaped, 11 Coastguard, 12 Evil, 13 Keyhole, 17 Scamp, 18 Consortium, 22 Snarl, 23 Motorist, 25 Oatmeal, 26 Snigger, 28 Maroon, 29 Robust, 30 Uganda, 33 Conga, 35 Salad, 36 Beta, 37 Yogi, 42 Urges, 43 Cylinder, 44 Roused, 45 Negotiator, 46 So-so, 47 Unglued, 48 Thawed, 49 Units, 51 Weep, 52 Initial, 53 Emerge, 58 Circuitous, 59 Claim, 63 Literate, 64 Cabin, 65 Flipper, 68 Drastic, 69 Blooms, 70 Debris, 71 Kneads, 75 Steal, 76 Coal, 77 Adam, 78 Anna.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Fungi composition to premiere

Paeroa is one of four stops for the internationally acclaimed New Zealand String Quartet – Te Rōpū Tūrū o Aotearoa (NZSQ) on its North Island tour this September, featuring the world premiere of a brand-new piece of music by a young, emerging New Zealand composer.

*Universal Veil* is a composition drawing inspiration from the hidden, interconnected world of fungi, tracing its strange and wondrous lifecycle.

Its composer, Mika Cornelius, was the recipient of the 2024-25 NZSQ SOUNZ Turling Trust emerging composer commission, an award designed to support early-career New Zealand composers.

“This is an amazing opportunity to compose for one of New Zealand’s most prestigious chamber ensembles, and I’m truly honoured to have been selected,” Mika said.

“The fungi kingdom has long been an interest of mine; I’m thrilled to learn more about it and express our country’s love and connection with te whenua through this composition.”

Alongside *Universal Veil*, the quartet will also present Haydn’s *Lark Quartet* and Borodin’s *String Quartet No 2*.

The tour will begin in Mt Maunganui before heading to Hauraki House in Coromandel Town on September 12, and Paeroa’s The Refinery on September 13.



The New Zealand String Quartet’s North Island Tour will stop in Coromandel on September 12 and Paeroa on September 13. See [www.nzsq.org.nz](http://www.nzsq.org.nz) for more information.



Operation Coverup volunteers will soon hold displays at Goldfields Mall. Photo: SUPPLIED

Charity calls for wool donations

Operation Coverup is calling for donations of wool for volunteers to create woollen blankets for the needy.

The organisation has donated 250 blankets so far this year, to keep people warm in Eastern Europe.

The group of volunteer knitters extended their thanks to everyone who knitted and crocheted for the blankets, organisers said. However, they now had a need for balls of wool, and would gratefully receive supplies.

The volunteers will be displaying some knitted goods at the Goldfields Mall in Thames on September 4 and November 20, from 10am-3pm, along with a raffle.

**DETAILS:** Contact Carol on 021 265 8215 to donate wool or find out more about Operation Coverup.

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SPORTS

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Rugby Remembers - shared milestones last the test of time

RUGBY

By STEVE GRAVESON

Celebrating a milestone is always a special thing, but celebrating 150 years is a very special event, which is what the township of Katikati will celebrate next month.

What makes this also special is that the Katikati Rugby Club is able to share a similar milestone, with it achieving 145 years this year.

When the Irish settlers arrived in 1875, they were Katikati's second arrivals to leave a mark.

They were to bring with them new cultures, religions, customs and lifestyles, and these new settlers were very keen to establish those life beliefs in their new homeland.

For the Ulster settlers, their main focus was to establish their homes, schools and churches, and of course their sport teams.

So it was to be no surprise the game of rugby was soon to become part of the community for the next 145 years.

Though it was surprising it was rugby, and not football that the early settlers would enjoy and support.

Even though times were hard, money was tight and the infrastructure we take for granted now, were still years away, the



The 1931 Katikati senior team.

Photo: SUPPLIED

community needed something they could enjoy, use to unwind and take their minds off the tough times - and also something that would bring them together every Saturday afternoon, and rugby was the winner.

Sports have always been a great tool for bringing people together, no matter who you are or where you have come from.

For Katikati, the local rugby

club in its various forms has been one of those tools that's been part of this community.

The club has shared in the community's highs and lows, the tough and good times, and it's brought the community together on occasions.

We remember the 1920s though until the 1950s, when Katikati was one of the leading clubs in the Thames Valley Un-

ion, before moving to the Bay of Plenty Union in 1965, where its greatest achievement was winning the Baywide Championship in 1986.

The club has endured economic changes, survived wars, a depression, and even a global pandemic.

It has given the community numerous heroes and players to cheer for and support every Sat-

urday, and it has lasted the test of time.

Another role the club has been able to create is the ability to bring cultures together.

It very quickly became obvious that not only the Irish men were passionate about rugby, but also the original settlers, the tangata whenua males who took to rugby like they were born to play it.

There have been generations of both Māori and Pākehā whānau that have contributed to the history of the club.

This has now also included a new culture that has arrived in our community, the arrival of the Polynesian community, who bring a new and exciting passion to the game.

The club congratulates the Katikati community, and looks forward to sharing and supporting the community of Katikati for the next 150 years. The 150 anniversary of the arrival of the Katikati Ulster settlers kicks off on Friday, September 12 with *Rugby Remembers*.

**DETAILS: For more information visit: [katikati150celebration.co.nz](http://katikati150celebration.co.nz) or contact [john@johnclements.co.nz](mailto:john@johnclements.co.nz).**

- Steve Graveson is co-author of *Seven Thousand Two Hundred & Eighty Saturdays: the 140 year history of the Katikati Rugby Football Club*

FOOTBALL

Rendall hat-trick fires Thames Women FC to title's edge

Another crucial step in Thames Women FC's season came with a 6-2 victory over Cambridge Rubies, leaving them on the brink of title glory.

If there were any nerves on this critical day, Thames didn't let them show. A fast start set the tempo and produced the opening goal. Jess Rendall was alert to intercept a pass before bursting forward to outrun the covering defenders and applying a neat finish for 1-0.

Fifteen minutes later, the lead was doubled. Rendall again underlined her potency in front of goal, firing in her second after an inch-perfect through ball from Beth Powell, capping off a brilliant opening half-hour for the visitors.

Cambridge began to settle and started to pose a threat on the counterattack. One sweeping move down the right found Anna Waddell in the box, but her shot was well saved by Bryony Wayne in the Thames goal.

After withstanding a sustained spell of pressure, Thames grew back into the game and ended the half in the ascendancy. A swift passing move between Megan Jamieson and Keltie McManus found Rendall in the box, but her shot was pulled just wide of the near post.

The second half continued in a similar vein, with Thames creating chances at will. A long clearance from Taimania Hinds was well controlled by Ariel McNab, who turned neatly but fired over the bar. McManus was next to come close when a Cambridge goal kick was intercepted, but her snapshot rebounded off the post and back into play.



Lily McCarthy takes possession of the ball for Thames Football Club.

Photos: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

Thames added their third and fourth after a series of slick passing moves. First, Rendall weighted a pass to McManus, who powered through the defence and applied a trademark finish. Then a throw-in from Adelle Brown found McNab, who played a neat one-two with Rendall before dinking the ball superbly over Ariana Hawker in the Cambridge goal for 4-0.

Thames had defended astutely all afternoon, but Cambridge pulled one back from a wide free kick to give themselves a flicker of hope. However, that was soon extinguished as Thames added their fifth to put the result beyond doubt. McManus drifted in a cross

from the left, finding Rendall in the box. Her initial shot was well saved, but Powell reacted quickest to finish smartly.

Another defensive mix-up gave Cambridge their second goal with just minutes remaining, but it was Rendall who had the last word.

The winger had been a thorn in Cambridge's side all afternoon, involved in every promising attack, and she capped off the day by sealing her hat-trick. Another through ball sent her racing clear and, for the third time, she slipped the ball neatly into the net-capping a wonderful player-of-the-match performance.

The title could be sealed next

week as Thames welcome Northern United to Rhodes Park.

United sits one point behind in second, meaning a win would secure the championship ahead of Thames' cup campaign.

"That was a fantastic win against third in the table," coach Xavier Brown said. "Now it all comes down to next week against Northern United - it's the title decider, and we can't wait for it."

Elsewhere, it was a dismal day for Thames Men FC, who were comprehensively beaten by a slick and efficient Northern United Debacles side. Misdirected defensive passes gifted the opening three goals, with the hosts capitalising



Jess Rendall seals her hat-trick.



Spirits are high in the Thames Camp.



Ben Taylor spots a gap.

to put the game beyond reach inside 20 minutes. Northern went into half-time 4-0 up with well-taken games from John Togher and Jordan Goodrich. A more resilient Thames emerged after the break, with damage limitation the priority.

Despite their efforts, Northern comfortably protected their clean sheet, with Thomas Horrox rarely troubled in goal. Michael Pouwels added a fifth later on to seal Thames' heaviest defeat of the season in their penultimate match. They now welcome title-chasing Waihi to Rhodes Park next week for the season finale.

- Jonathan Coles



# Waihi Beach lifeguards take top honours

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc has been named 2025 Coromandel Club of the Year at the Surf Life Saving New Zealand Eastern Region Awards of Excellence - with swimmer Simiosi Tukia among the standout individual recipients.

A former member of Thames Amateur Swimming Club, Simiosi now trains with St Paul's Swim Club in Hamilton. He was awarded U15 Surf Lifesaving Sport Athlete of the Year after a season of standout results in both the surf and the pool. In July, he represented New Zealand at the Queensland Pool Rescue Championships, bringing home eight podium finishes as part of the SLSNZ Youth Pathway Team.

"It's been a great season," he said. "I'm proud to have been part of the Waihi Beach team and grateful for all the support that's helped me get here."

The club also celebrated a string of major regional honours.

Nick Wagstaff from Katikati was awarded Patrol Captain of the Year and DHL Surf Lifeguard of the Year.

Luc Rochat from Waihi Beach was awarded Paid Lifeguard of the Year. Waihi Beach's Andrew Cochrane received the BP Powercraft Contribution of the Year, recognising his leadership and expertise in IRB and



Overall Club of the Year for the Coromandel Area, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services.

Photos: SUPPLIED

rescue craft operations.

Donna Pfefferle from Hamilton and Maddie Scown from Waihi Beach were awarded Distinguished Regional Service Awards.

The club was also well represented among the finalists, with Zac Armstrong a finalist in the Rookie Lifeguard of the Year category, Chiara Woodford in the Instructor of the Year category, and Fiona Swain in the NZ Lottery Grants Board Volunteer of the Year category.

Club chair Donna Pfefferle

said the Club of the Year title was a true team achievement.

"From our Junior Surf whānau to our volunteer lifeguards, coaches, and instructors - this award recognises the collective effort and dedication that makes our club so strong," she said.

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services is preparing for its 90th anniversary in November and welcomes new members from across the region.

**DETAILS:** Visit [waihbeachlifeguards.co.nz](http://waihbeachlifeguards.co.nz) to find out more.



Nick Wagstaff



Simiosi Tukia



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