

The Valley Profile

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Market memories



Peter Poeschl, left, Jiani Ranay, and Dianne and Peter McKinnon
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Thames Market has been a community-focused space from its very beginnings. As its 30th anniversary approaches on September 27, past and present owners discuss what the iconic weekly event has meant to them and the town. ALICE PARMINTER reports.

The market was opened in Grahamstown in 1995 by Dianne and Peter McKinnon. At the time, the couple were looking for some-

where to sell their produce.

Inspired by overseas farmers' markets, and noticing a distinct lack of similar spaces in New Zealand, they spent months planning and campaigning to get the council on board.

"It was definitely a huge, huge job to get it off the ground - there wasn't the awareness at all in those years that this could be something beneficial for the town," Peter said.

The market opened with only a dozen stalls. "This end of the street was absolutely dead, there were just closed shops," Dianne said.

Dianne and Peter treated the market as their "family". Their focus was on hand-made goods and small homestead produce - every stall owner was expected to have had personal input into their products. "It was all down to communication," Dianne said.

Although the couple had to contend with local businesses concerned about the market's potential to eat into their customer base, they soon found the market thriving. Dianne reached customers via word-of-mouth and media interviews, holding regular events to draw interest.

"We put a lot of effort into advertising and getting all the stories we could in the local papers," she said.

When the time came to hand over the reins, naturally Dianne and Peter looked among their regular stallholders for a like-minded successor. They found Angelika and Peter Peoschl, an immigrant couple from Germany who had been running a bread stall.

"We became acquainted quite soon," Peter Poeschl said of the market's original owners. "I was

CONTINUED ON P2

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Market marks 30 years

CONTINUED FROM P1

baking bread a lot for the family at home because New Zealand bread was not to our liking at that time... We said, we could do a bread stall."

The four sat down for coffee one day, and Dianne and Peter McKinnon asked if they would like to own the market. "[We thought] it might be a bit much to do," Peter Poeschl said. "But then we dived in there and thought that's a really good thing because we wanted it to keep going the way it was... it needs to be preserved because if it's gone, then it would be really bad for the town."

Angelika and Peter took on the market in February, 2009. "It was really mainly [Angelika's] business," Peter Poeschl said. "She really was the heart and soul of it - I was just assistant manager."

The Poeschls remained in charge until June, 2021, when they, too, began the search for a successor. And once again, they turned to the "family".

"I arrived in New Zealand in 2014, but before I came to the country I already knew Thames Market," current market owner Jiani Ranay said.

Soon she had a stall of her own, and a community around her. "In a way, the stallholders have become my family," she said.

Angelika and Peter had been looking for someone who loved the market as they did, and who would continue to run it as Dianne and Peter McKinnon had originally envisioned. Jiani fit the bill perfectly. "They hired me first as a contractor, but behind the scenes, they were teaching me how to do it," Jiani said.

"And I just carried on from there. It's challenging, but it's fun."



Dianne and Peter McKinnon at the first market in September, 1995. Photo: SUPPLIED

The previous owners still support Jiani and the market from behind the scenes. The market was a big part of their lives, they said, and it's had a huge impact on the town too.

"Through the years, there've been stallholders going on from just being a little tiny thing into good businesses," Dianne said.

"For some stallholders, the market has become the highlight of their week," Jiani added.

Nowadays, Thames Market hosts around 45 stalls in peak summer periods, and 30 or so over winter. It still receives a lot of support from the community.

"The radio station said it would only last three months," Peter McKinnon said. "It's still here, 30 years later."



Body found, man missing

A body has been found in the search for missing man Jared Sutton, Police confirmed on September 3.

The 35-year-old man was reported missing on August 26, and was last seen in Waiomu on August 24.

The body was located on the evening of September 2 near the Coromandel Peninsula. While formal identification is yet to take place, Police said it was believed to be that of the missing man.

The matter will be referred to the coroner.

Meanwhile, Police are continuing to appeal for sightings of missing Hamilton man Aydan. The 39-year-old was last seen in Chartwell, Hamilton, on August 17 and could possibly be in the Coromandel area, wider Waikato or Bay of Plenty region, Police said.

Ayden was believed to be driving a grey Mazda ute, licence plate QYA209, and Police said he may have parked up in a rural or bush area.

Contact Police on 105 or police.govt.nz with any information, referencing file number 250819/5160.

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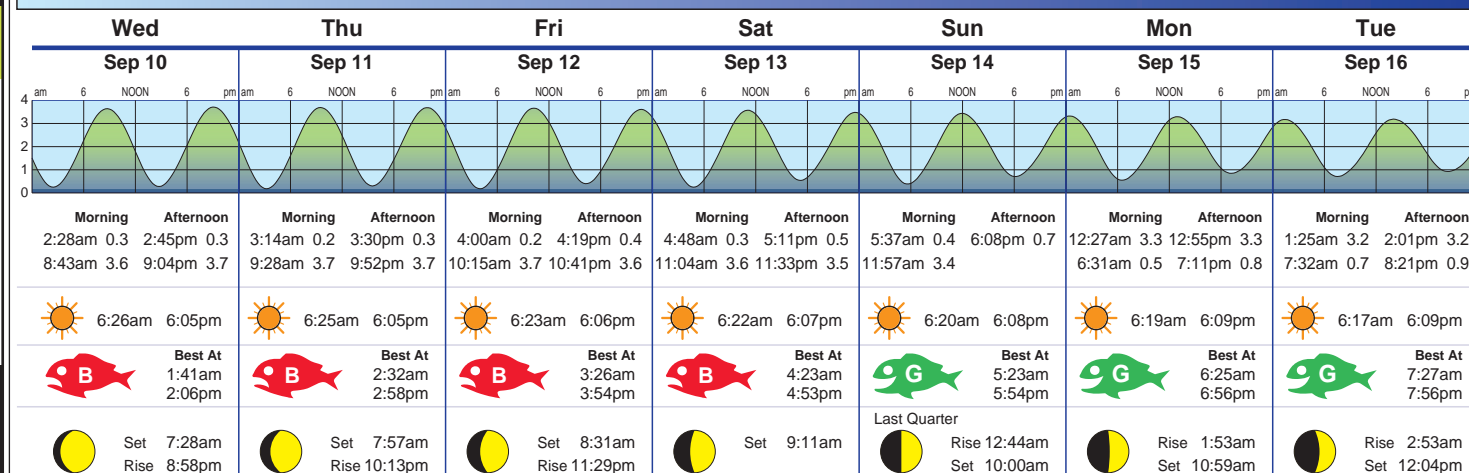
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Thames Tides



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MOON AND FISH KEYS



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

Candidate quizzed over 'enslavement' allegation

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

One mayoral candidate's "legal matters" were under scrutiny at a recent Meet the Candidates event in Thames.

Steve Hart is running for the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) mayoralty, a venture he attempted at the 2022 local body elections, and was asked about an affidavit he signed in November, 2024, in which he wrote the council's chief executive Aileen Lawrie, alongside others, had "no exemption to being sentenced to the top end of 14 years in prison" due to "servitude, serfdom, debt bondage and enslavement".

The perceived "fraudulent actions" were due to TCDC staff's intent to remove an unconsented dwelling on Hart's Puriri property.

In the affidavit, seen by *The Profile*, Hart wrote that council representatives were attempting to punish him for "not complying with their demands to apply for permission and consent to have this necessity in life. This is an action of enslavement with intent".

The affidavit continued: "I, Steven, as a living man do have the ability to create my shelter and administer my own affairs as I believe I should".

Referring to himself as a "living man" and signing the affidavit with a thumbprint were two signs of a Sovereign Citizen - an individual who claims they can legally withdraw their consent to be governed - according to a New Zealand Police pseudolaw presentation on the subject.

However, Hart told *The Profile*

after the Q&A that he was not a Sovereign Citizen - "never have been, never called myself one, never will be, and will never call myself such".

The anonymous questions to Hart at the candidate meeting on August 30 were posed ahead of time, and in light of the affidavit, asked how he would work with chief executive Aileen Lawrie in a "positive and constructive way".

"And if elected to any role in council, how would you be able to work within the legislation and laws governing all councils?"

Hart said the questions were excellent, and asked the audience if they understood them.

"There's a real dog's breakfast out there," he began. "Many of you may know of the incidents that I've been involved with recently here with TCDC and the supposed lawsuits. The question I think at the end of the day - how am I going to work with the CEO? Well, there's no option. You have to work with the CEO. Simple as that," he said.

"And I don't hold grudges. I don't hold vendettas. I put all that aside and work and focus on the job at hand. Simple as that. All those other legal matters, they're a side issue."

Meanwhile, incumbent Mayor Len Salt made a spur-of-the-moment pledge to the audience: to replace the podium at the town's Civic Centre. The centre was the venue for the candidate Q&A, but it wasn't without its technical hiccups and odd audio dropouts.

"This podium is going to be replaced. I hate it. I've always hated it," Mayor Salt told the crowd. "I'm



Mayoral candidate Steve Hart.

an audio engineer in a previous life, so we're going to get a new sound system for this hall. That's my commitment to you."

Five of the six mayoral candidates partook in the event, hosted by the Thames Business Association and facilitated by Mike Green - with a helping hand from Thames High student Annabelle Hutchinson-Wong.

The candidates had a chance to introduce themselves and their priorities if elected, and answer questions pre-submitted to convenors ahead of time.

And aside from his promise to upgrade the Civic's sound system, Mayor Salt said his vision for Thames included a "tech centre" for small startups needing good Wi-Fi, easy parking, and "most importantly, great coffee".

"We've got all that in spades," he said.

"The world is changing. Retail is moving to online shopping. We need to work collaboratively with

our shop owners, with the [business association], and community board."

Denise Messiter, the only female vying for the mayoralty, was posed the question: 'Working in the many community groups is one thing. Leading the TCDC is another. What makes you ready to take on the tougher job of mayor?'

To this, the co-founder of Te Kōrowai Hauora o Hauraki, and Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, replied that she had worked in tougher places than being Mayor.

"I understand fully the role of legislation. I know how to follow legislation. I know how to develop policy. But more so, I know what it means to create space for people so that they can participate in decisions that matter to them."

"I'm ready to be a mayor that doesn't want to take over the council but to be part of the council team."

Peter Revell, a current councillor in the Thames Ward, was asked his stance on the chief executive's "high salary". At an earlier Meet the Candidates event in Matarangi, Revell stated he would've "done it differently".

"That was a decision that was made by the previous council, and that's one of the facts of life - we end up inheriting a whole lot of decisions... and the chief executive's salary is one of those things," he clarified on August 30.

The pay bump for the council boss was confirmed earlier this year, with a 1.8 per cent adjustment bringing Ms Lawrie's annual salary

from \$362,500 to \$369,025.

"I don't believe there's anything that can be done to change that unless there ends up being a reason to change the chief executive," Revell said, "and at this point I see absolutely no reason to do that."

Retired businessman Patrick Kerr was then directed a question about the Local Water Done Well legislation.

In mid-August, TCDC voted in favour of forming a joint Water Services Organisation with Western Bay of Plenty District Council, but the latter decided in favour of forming a joint organisation with Tauranga City Council and not TCDC. According to TCDC, the proposed partner's decision reflected "concerns about ongoing Treaty of Waitangi matters involving iwi and hapū local to each area". Kerr said council now had to "get on and do the job".

"The truth of the matter is that the iwi have disrupted the planned amalgamation of Local Waters Done Well. Not our iwi as I understand it, but it's from the Tauranga side of the equation."

"We're doing it in house. So, let's just get on and do the job. And if we can in the future gain some cost savings - which have never been explained to us the public - then that's all well and done."

The final candidate James Subritzky was not in attendance.

DETAILS: Mayoral candidates Q&A midday, September 20, Thames Civic Centre. August 30 recording: find @thamesbusinessassociation on YouTube.



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John Bertrand Collectables Are Buying in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions This Week

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "This week will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 20 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

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 - Alluvial (River) Gold
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 - Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



- #### COINS
- All Gold & Silver Coins
 - Gold Sovereigns
 - Gold Half Sovereigns
 - NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 20 times face value)
 - Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
 - Australian Silver Coins to 1963
 - English Silver Coins to 1946
 - NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
 - USA Coins up to 1964
 - Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
 - Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
 - NZ Reserve Bank Sets
- *No Pennies or Halfpennies Please**



- #### BANKNOTES
- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
 - Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
 - Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
 - Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
 - Australian Pre Decimal Notes
 - Australian "Star" Notes
 - Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
 - NZ Traders Promissary Notes ('1840s)
 - NZ Government Debentures
 - NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
 - Postal Notes
 - All other World Banknotes



- #### GOLD & SILVER
- Racing Cups
 - A&P Show Cups
 - Sports Cups
 - Presentation Keys & Trowels
 - Show Pieces
 - Sterling Silver Tea Sets
 - Sterling Silver Cutlery
 - Scrap Gold & Silver
- *No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please**

- #### WRIST & POCKET WATCHES
- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
 - Any Rolex Watches
 - Omega Gents Watches
 - Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
 - Moon Phase Watches
 - Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
 - Military Watches
 - Divers Watches
 - All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)
- *No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please**



- #### TOKENS
- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
 - NZ Transportation Tokens
 - Railway Passes
 - Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
 - Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
 - Bread Tokens
 - Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
 - Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

- #### COLLECTABLES
- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
 - Old Fountain Pens
 - Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
 - Maori & Pacific Artefacts



No item too small for our consideration

- #### WAR MEDALS ETC
- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
 - 1st World War Medals
 - 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
 - Orders and Decorations
 - Korea & Vietnam Medals
 - Antarctic or other Polar Medals
 - Fire Brigade Medals
 - Lodge Medals
 - Shooting Medals
 - Military Badges and all other Military Medals
 - Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand



- #### HISTORICAL MEDALS
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Businessman stands for Mayor

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.

After nearly a decade in Whangamatā and three years as chair of the local business association, Patrick Kerr seeks to step off the sidelines and into the mayoral seat.

He told *The Profile* that having experienced some actions of Thames-Coromandel District Council “with some dismay”, he decided that instead of “just muttering about it,” he’d throw his hat into the ring.

“I am a retired businessman who has owned and run many successful businesses throughout New Zealand,” he said. “I am financially literate and have developed strong relationships with a large number of like-minded people standing for council.”

According to Kerr’s LinkedIn profile - a professional networking site - his listed experience includes Executive Chairman for Peninsula Trust Limited, a company registered to Kerr, and Director of NZ Gold Equities Limited, a former company that Kerr said held mining and exploration permits on the West Coast of the South Island.

He said not only did his fiscal knowledge set him apart from other mayoral candidates, but so did the fact that he hadn’t been “tainted by having sat at the table for the past three years, agreeing to a 36 per cent rates increase.”

He also criticised other council decisions, such as voting in Māori Wards “without consultation” yet “consulting on rubbish collection”, and changing the district’s rating system from Land Value to Capital Value.

In his speech at the candidates meeting hosted by Thames Business Association, Kerr said he believed in “one person, one vote” and would be voting against Māori

Retired businessman Patrick Kerr is standing for the TCDC Mayoralty. Photo: SUPPLIED



Wards in a separate poll being conducted in conjunction with the 2025 election.

And in a press release, Kerr said he was determined to restore financial health to TCDC and revitalise the district that had been “languishing under the current leadership”.

“Too many decisions are driven by political agendas that do not reflect the real needs of us,

the residents and ratepayers,” he said. “I want to be part of the solution, focusing

on revitalising our council in cost-effective, practical ways, getting back to basics, and ensuring our core services are fit-for-purpose. I am committed to cutting wasteful council spending, minimising rates, and tackling the council’s ever-increasing debt.”

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



Council subdivision hits the market

Fifty two residential lots in the Hauraki District Council’s Ngātea Northern Estate development are now on the market.

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams said it was a “momentous day” for council and the in-house project management team to finally cut the ribbon and declare the Ngātea Northern Estate complete and ready for sale. “It takes a bit of foresight and risk to do a development like this, so we’re really chuffed to get these sections onto the market”, he said.

The subdivision is the latest offering from the council, making it one of the largest property developers on the Plains. Mayor Adams confirmed each development funds the next one so the burden didn’t fall on the rate payer. “It’s a long tradition that continues the vision of the original Hauraki Plains County Council (1920-1989) and successive Hauraki councils since then to grow the communities and opportunities on the Plains”, he said.

Other council property development on the Plains includes the Kerepēhi Business Park; development of another 15 hectare subdivision currently underway on the south side of Ngātea and the current construction of the new Plains Library and Service Centre, due for completion in 2026.



HDC’s Ngātea Northern Estate. Photo: SUPPLIED

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HPC strikes gold and silver at festival

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

Two ensembles from Hauraki Plains College impressed judges at the recent Waikato Itinerant Music Band and Orchestra Festival, clinching both gold and silver awards.

The festival, an annual event for secondary school bands and orchestras, was held late-August at the University of Waikato's Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts.

The college's jazz band won gold, while its guitar ensemble earned silver.

Jazz band member Jaskeerat Randhawa, 17, said its 11 members - including teacher Mark Houghton - performed songs *Zoot Suit Riot*, *Respect*, *On Broadway* and *Feeling Good*, which they had been rehearsing since the beginning of the year.

Winning gold was a proud moment for the group, he said, as the college's jazz musicians had only returned to perform at the festival last year.

"HPC has won gold in the past, but we haven't for a while, so getting gold in our second year back feels really good, especially for the Year 13s, being their last year," Jaskeerat said.



The guitar ensemble performed songs *Get Up*, *Shades of Ruberto*, and *Am I Wrong*.



Two ensembles from Hauraki Plains College impressed judges at the festival.

Photos: SUPPLIED

"Mr Houghton was extremely proud of us, and we were ecstatic - so happy."

Judges' feedback for the school's jazz band was overall very positive, he said.

They enjoyed the group's dynamics but encouraged them to be more confident.

They were equally impressed by the college's guitar ensemble, liking their selection of music - *Get Up*, *Shades of Ruberto*, *Am I Wrong* - and asking them to improve on stressing less and letting "the music flow from within" - guitarist Awa Hay, 14, said.

"The guitar ensemble has nine students, and the teachers are Mr Hewat and Mr Anker. Both are itinerant teachers coming to HPC once a week," she said.

The ITM Festival featured more than 30 schools this year, with three genres of music students can be involved in: the jazz and guitar ensembles, as well as choir.

Schools don't perform against one another, but in front of judges who provide an overall grade based on the groups' showcase.

"For my first time I was really nervous because we had to wait until the last performance," Awa said. "So nerves set in, but I really enjoyed it."

"It was a fun experience," Jaskeerat added, "and seeing other college bands perform was really good."



More Than A School



Hauraki Plains College

OPPORTUNITIES ARE Growing



ACADEMIES

Services

We have joined 29 other schools across NZ in offering a life skills and leadership course delivered in a military setting at HPC. This course is primarily for Year 12 students. In 2025, Reuben Dodunski was announced the Top Student in NZ across all the academies at the Advanced Leader Course.

Agriculture & Horticulture

The aim of this course is to help students gain basic skills required in the Primary Sector. Completion of the course will gain students a Level 2 Primary Industries ITO Certificate. Students spend one day per week on work experience in an agriculture or horticulture based placement.

Vocational Pathways

This course helps students develop key skills for the Services Sector, covering Hospitality, Retail, Service standards, Food Technology, and Business. It is ideal for those interested in Hospitality, Retail, or Tourism, with one day per week spent in industry work experience.

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- Yr12 Psychology of Commerce
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- Yr12 Agriculture Science
- Yr12 Enviro Sustainability

Meeting addresses Retirement Act review

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

Retirees gathered on August 22 to hear about ongoing efforts to reform the Retirement Villages Act 2003, the legislation overseeing the relationships between retirement village operators and their residents.

The meeting, held in Bupa Tararua's community lounge, was hosted by Althea Hill, the Waikato district representative for the nationwide Retirement Villages Residents Association (RVR). The guest speaker was the association's vice president, Di Sinclair.

In 2023, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development called for public submissions on reviewing the Act. It received over 11,000 submissions, most of which came from members of the RVR.

Work to review the Act began in September, 2024, with three issues being made a priority: the maintenance and repair of operator-owned chattels and fixtures; a revamped complaints and disputes process; and quicker repayment of capital when residents move out of a village.

Residents in a retirement village usually don't own their home outright - they sign an occupation right agreement allowing them to live in the unit. There is currently no fixed timeframe in which the village operator must repay the occupant's capital funds when they die or move out - they do not need to pay until the unit is resold.

Di Sinclair said the first two



Retirement Villages Residents Association vice president Di Sinclair speaks at the meeting. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

priorities were well underway to being addressed, with the Commerce Commission saying operators charging residents for chattel repairs risked breaching the Fair Trading Act, and the Retirement Commission looking into an independent disputes resolution process.

But the issue of promptly repaying residents' capital had been a sticking point, she said.

"This review is not about village life. That has never been in dis-

pute. We all know why we moved into a village, and 99 per cent of us are very happy where we are," she said.

"This is about rebalancing the presence of power imbalance and quietly strangling the goose that has laid the golden eggs for so long... There is nothing in the present law that incentivises operators to push on and give you your money back."

Di outlined the RVR's proposed repayment structure, called the

Four Pillars, to the meeting attendees. The structure would require village operators to return 10 per cent of the residents' refundable amount within five days of the unit's vacancy or termination notice, with full repayment within four months.

"The purpose of this is that it brings certainty for residents and families, it enables bridging finance to be sought if necessary, and it supports financial planning for families," Di said.



RVR Waikato representative Althea Hill.

Michelle Palmer, executive director of the Retirement Villages Association (RVA) which represents village operators, said in a June press release that most repayments already occurred within a reasonable timeframe, and mandatory payback timeframes could disadvantage smaller operators. "Ours is a resident-funded model, where repayments to outgoing residents are generally made possible by incoming residents. There is no large pool of cash - just a carefully managed system built for the long term," Michelle said.

"We're seeking a balanced and sustainable framework that meets residents' needs while recognising the realities of operating villages."

The government has indicated that any legislative changes were expected to be made by the end of 2025, with amendments to the Act introduced in July, 2026.



Candidate profile: Greg Hampton stands for Council - Thames

Tell us about your connection to Thames
Well, I came to Thames as a young man with a young family and I've built my life in and around this community. I love this place, the environment, the people and the culture. I feel privileged to have been a part of this community for over 40 years now, and grateful for how Thames has shaped my life.

Why are you standing for Council?
I'm standing for Council because I want to use my skills, knowledge, and experience to deliver positive, practical outcomes – and ensure that we make better decisions that truly reflect the needs and values of our community.

What makes you a good candidate for Council?
I'm community minded, and experienced in local government - I've served on many local governance boards, Thames South School, The Coromandel Heritage Trust, and I was a founding member of the Thames Business Association. I care about our community.

What is your career background?
Most people know me as the owner of Carson's Bookshop, but the bulk of my career was in local government and private sector management. At TCDC I was the Parks Manager, and later the service delivery Operations Manager, where I was responsible for managing the 3waters, solid waste and parks and recreation contracts. From 2013 to 2017, I was the Thames Area Manager and advisor to the Thames Community Board. I led the delivery of key local projects, including the Jack McLean Recreation Centre, Thames Skate Park, and the relocation of the Thames Information Centre. I delivered an urban development strategy, and a visitor

strategy all within a 4-year period.
Why should people vote for you?
I have extensive background in community service and local government. I bring knowledge and experience to the table that will result in more informed discussion, better decision making and ultimately progress our vision for Thames. I know how the system works, how to navigate it, and how to get things done.

What are your main priorities in standing for Council?

1. Community Focused Leadership: Council must act with a clear mandate from community, keeping residents informed and involved throughout decision-making processes - your voice matters.

2. Rates Affordability: I support a no-frills, fit-for-purpose council that delivers essential services efficiently, while keeping rates increases to a minimum. We face real financial pressures and environmental challenges - we must live within our means and plan wisely.

3. Local Economic Development: we need a business-friendly Council focused on accelerating housing development, and environmentally sustainable growth that delivers opportunity that benefits all of community.

4. Strategic Partnerships: we can't afford Council to go it alone, and we'll never achieve our vision without working together. Partnerships with iwi, government and others is key.

5. Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness: investing in infrastructure that can withstand future environmental challenges is vital.

- Authorised by Greg Hampton, greg@greghampton.nz



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Auckland-coromandel ferry set to resume

Tourism operator Explore Group is reinstating the Auckland to Coromandel Town ferry service this summer, launching on October 24 just in time for Labour Week-end.

The new service departs Auckland's Viaduct, arriving at Hannaford's Wharf in the Coromandel, where it will be met with a shuttle bus connecting passengers on to Coromandel Town.

A shuttle bus will take passengers to and from Coromandel Town and Hannaford's Wharf, where the ferry will arrive and depart.

The service will initially operate an express Friday evening service, as well as Saturday and Sunday departures, with plans to increase the schedule with demand. The journey will take just over two hours.

"We're really pleased this is happening," Thames-Coromandel District Council economic development lead Mitch King said.

"The community has been looking for the ferry service from Auckland to be reinstated for several years now because it's such an im-

portant part of the Coromandel's hospitality offering."

The new service has been long awaited by the local Coromandel community, Coromandel Business Association chair, Jennifer Ashman said. "The local community is delighted that a ferry service has been reinstated. Positive input from the community has demonstrated local demand from businesses, locals and visitors alike and contributed to the successful reestablishment of a service that will be invaluable to connecting our community."

General manager of Destination Hauraki Coromandel Hadley Dryden said the reopening of the maritime link has much to appeal to visitors.

"The revival of the blue highway is fantastic news. Cruising the islands of the Hauraki Gulf - alongside marine wildlife, past mussel farms, with the Coromandel Ranges and city skyline at either end - is an experience not to be missed. Once aboard, visitors will understand why Hauraki Coromandel is good for your soul."



The new service departs Auckland's Viaduct, arriving at Hannaford's Wharf in the Coromandel, where a shuttle bus will take passengers to Coromandel township.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Labour workplace relations spokesperson Jan Tinetti.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Pay equity headlines at meeting

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

Around 20 people attended a public meeting at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School on August 24 to hear about changes to the Equal Pay Act.

Speakers Jocelyn Pratt from the Public Service Association (PSA) union and Labour workplace relations spokesperson Jan Tinetti took the audience through the history of workers' rights and pay equity in New Zealand.

They then spoke about the amendments to the Act, which were passed under urgency in Parliament in May.

The amendment changed the framework for assessing pay equity claims, and cancelled 33 claims which were already underway.

Jocelyn said the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions will be holding a national Women's Day of Action on Sep-

tember 20 across the country, which is billed as a "bold and visible statement in the fight for pay equity".

Meanwhile, a public oral submissions hearing, due to be held on September 10 at Kerepēhi Marae, has since been cancelled due to cost.

The in-person hearing was to be held by the People's Select Committee, a group of former female MPs seeking public feedback about the changes to the Act.

The hearing will instead be held over Zoom, from 9-11am.

DETAILS: Pay Equity Hearing - People's Select Committee. September 10, 9-11am. Email PeoplesSelectCommittee@payequity.org.nz to register to make a verbal submission. Women's Day of Action, September 20. See www.together.org.nz for more details.



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Bloat - make sure you know the signs



By Leah Wakeford, Veterinarian, Waihi

Whiskey is a 10-year-old female bearded collie cross who started panting and vomiting on Matariki morning.

Her owners rushed her to the clinic, where radiographs showed she had a gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV), which is a life-threatening emergency.

Whiskey had decompression of her stomach to allow her to breathe and was taken immediately into theatre, where her stomach was secured to prevent the rotation from happening again.

This GDV is a real emergency and can progress rapidly from vomiting through to struggling to breathe and even death. Early recognition of the signs is key to the greatest chance of successful treatment.

Affected dogs often appear bloated in the abdomen. They may be constantly retching and trying to vomit, but not bringing up any material from their stomach due to the twist. Some dogs are lethargic, while others are hyperactive and stressed.

They will often be panting, and their gums will be pale due to the pressure on their large abdominal blood vessels caused by the distended stomach.

Dogs that suffer from GDV require emergency surgery to derotate the stomach and perform a gastropexy,



Whiskey was rushed to the vet clinic with signs of GDV. Photo: SUPPLIED

which refers to the process of securing the stomach to the internal surface of the abdominal muscles to reduce the chance of this emergency happening again. Surgery also allows the veterinarian to assess the appearance of the stomach wall and spleen, both of which can have their blood supply reduced due to the twist.

Breeds that are at risk of GDV include Great Danes, German Shepherds, Weimeraners, and Saint Bernards; however, any deep-chested dog can be affected.

If your dog is at risk, make sure you know the signs of an emergency and ask your veterinarian about preventative gastropexy to reduce the risk.

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Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (123 mins) PG. The cinematic return of the global phenomenon, the Crawley family and their staff enter the 1930s. As the beloved cast of characters navigates how to lead Downton Abbey into the future, they must embrace change and welcome a new chapter.

David Gilmour Live at the Circus Maximus, Rome (150 mins) The film of David Gilmour's 2024 return to Rome's historic Circus Maximus as part of the Luck and Strange tour. Blends solo tracks from David's most recent album including Between Two Points with Romany Gilmour as well as classic Pink Floyd anthems.

The Roses (105 mins) R16. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites. The Roses is a reimagining of the 1989 classic film The War of the Roses, based on the novel by Warren Adler.

Mr Burton (124 mins) M. Set in post-war Wales, MR BURTON is the extraordinary true story of a working-class boy destined for greatness and the teacher who saw it first. When Philip Burton, a principled and passionate school teacher in Port Talbot, meets Richie Jenkins, a volatile yet gifted teen, he recognises a spark that others have overlooked. Through mentorship, discipline, and love, Philip shapes Richie's raw talent, setting him on the path to becoming Richard Burton, one of the greatest actors of the 20th century.

COMING MOVIES INCLUDE: PRIME MINISTER from 25 Sept. (going behind the scenes of the work and private life of Dame Jacinda Adern); GRACE A PRAYER FOR PEACE (about artist Dame Robin White); and three children's movies for the school holidays: The Bad Guys 2; Gabby's Dollhouse and Kangaroo.

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THAMES

ENTERTAINMENT

Director's nude awakening with *Calendar Girls*

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

As Stuart Floan steps off-stage to take the director's chair for the first time, he's discovering that not all awakenings are rude - some are nude, poignant, and full of heart.

The Thames Music and Drama [MAD] thespian has taken the helm of *Calendar Girls*, a show he says is about friendship, connection, loss, and grief - all done with a sense of humour and a small amount of - concealed - nudity.

"We kind of transitioned into it," Stuart said with a laugh.

"You get to that point when you're rehearsing where you kind of just have to say, 'Okay, we're going for it. So first we turn the heaters up and make sure the place is warm.'"

The stage show is based on the 2003 film of the same name, in which a group of middle-aged Yorkshire women produce a nude calendar to raise money for Leukaemia Research.

The motivation to put the production on for Thames audiences later this month came about after Stuart's wife and other members of MAD saw the *Calendar Girls* show roughly two years ago.

"They came back and said: 'Great show, really funny, really poignant moments. We have to do it'. So it's kind of been trucking along in the background. I thought I'd give [directing] a go, and I've had support from people



The leading ladies of *Calendar Girls*, held at the Thames Civic Centre this month. Photo: SUPPLIED

like Diane Connors and Asha Pippiatt and Hilary Rodley who've all directed lots before."

Stuart said it was essential for his six leading ladies to gel well together, not only for the vulnerable moments, but for the heartfelt moments, too.

"The whole story is about friendship, and it was really important that we got it right in terms of the group of people, making sure that they gelled together and it felt natural and looked natural and all those things, so that's been quite a lot of work," he said.

"But we've got a really good cast, so it's been - I hate to say it - it's been kind of easy in some aspects because everybody's been really open to stuff."

"When we did the auditions, we weren't sure what would happen because obviously there is nudity, but we had loads of people come out and we'd be upfront and say: 'Look, the part you're auditioning for includes nudity. You're going to get nude on stage. We'll control it, but it's going to happen' and in all honesty, I think, out of the 15, 20 people who were there, maybe one or two went, okay, that's not for me, but everybody else was into it."

The cast - plus a few additional "Calendar Guys" - have also committed to producing a calendar, which will be on sale during the production's run.

And even though Stuart joked that the photo shoot itself was

harder than doing rehearsals, all of the cast's efforts were for a good cause.

All profits made from the show will be going to the Thames Cancer Support Society.

"We've had really good support over the past however many years with big shows and little shows, and when we looked at *Calendar Girls* as a committee, we thought that any money that we raised should stay in the community, and was used for the people that have come along to our shows for years," Stuart said.

"We agreed that we would give all profits to the Thames Cancer Support Society; they do great stuff."

Thames-Coromandel District Council have also waived the cost of the Civic Hall hire so Thames MAD can maximize its donation.

"Why *Calendar Girls*?" Stuart said of his foray into directing.

"It's a story of friendship and connection. It's humorous, but definitely poignant."

"I want people to come and I want them to laugh, first of all, but I also want them to cry. I want them to walk away feeling that there was a connection there."

DETAILS: Thames MAD's *Calendar Girls* on-stage at the Thames Civic Centre, Mary St, from September 20-27. All details including ticket bookings can be found at www.thamesmad.co.



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Friendship, fellowship at Thames Probus' birthday

More than three hours of happy reunions, ongoing friendships, and entertainment amidst spring daffodils and Probus blue and gold balloon decorations marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Thames Probus Club.

Held on August 12, a varied programme included the cutting and sharing of the anniversary cake by the club's three Life Members - Pat Fargher, Gordon Bruce and June Baigent.

There was also the induction of a new member, Merl Jamieson, and an Honorary Over 90s Club member, Sidney Shepherd.

More than 50 attendees enjoyed musical entertainment, prize draws, and a two-course lunch, while a special recognition of the ongoing contributions made by founding member Pat Fargher was met with huge applause.

Organisers said visitors and new members - semi-retired and retired folk - were always welcome at Thames Probus.

The club holds monthly meetings, on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am at the Richmond Village Lounge in Thames.

Further information is available from president Shirley Murphy, Ph 027 777 1542, or secretary Pat Fargher, Ph 021 026 05455.



The 35-year anniversary cake is cut by life members. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Rural Life

Enviro projects shine during conservation week

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

A Conservation Week event at the Kauaeranga Visitors Centre just outside Thames featured a showcase of environment-focused school projects, interactive workshops and conversations to inspire children to care for nature.

The event, a collaboration between EnviroSchools and the Department of Conservation, saw 11 schools attend from across the Hauraki and Coromandel regions.

First up was the “Market Day”, where eight of the schools set up stalls explaining the environmental projects they had undertaken.

Students wandered among the displays, which featured a wide variety of initiatives.

Many of the schools spoke about efforts within school grounds to replant forest areas, develop food gardens, care for worm farms and chickens, and cultivate seedlings for planting within the community. Netherton School students chronicled their trips to a local kahikatea stand, where they study and care for the ngahere [bush].

Pūriri School students talked about their studies in their awa [river], finding leeches and learning to test soil.

At Matatoki School, their environmental learning was incorporated into the arts, with the students showing off their costumes and awards from their conservation-themed performance at the performing arts competition, Showquest, in June.



Students from eight schools shared their environmental work at a “Market Day” display at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

Hauraki Plains College students had also incorporated the arts into their environmental work, with their exhibit of foil blankets made from recycled chip packets.

Meanwhile, Waikino School displayed their hands-on learning approach with an interactive stall, where they taught other students how to whittle with knives.

EnviroSchools environmental

education facilitator Jo Buchan said she loved seeing the students sharing their knowledge and ideas for interacting with nature.

“It’s amazing to see young people taking real action to protect our environment,” she said.

“These students are the conservation leaders of tomorrow.”

The event aims not only to celebrate current achievements but

also to foster collaboration and long-term connections between schools, Jo said. “I love hearing the kids talking to other schools... being interested and wanting to learn what they’re doing,” she said.

“There’s no other space that I’m aware of that gives the schools this opportunity to share what they’ve been doing.”

The market was followed by

workshops run by local conservation groups - students were able to encounter native geckos and fish, learn about pest trapping and worm farms, plant seedlings, discover native shorebirds, practice their recycling skills, learn about native plants and kiwi, and more.



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Waihi
20 Wrigley Street

3 1 1 2

Sunny and Bright with Double Garage

Sun, space, and value, whether you're looking for a first home or a tidy investment, this is one you must see. Set on an 809sqm (approx.) flat section, this lovely weatherboard three-bedroom home is full of practical appeal.

eves.co.nz/ewa20589

Asking Price \$625,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



New Listing



Waihi
5B Thomas Place

3 1 1 2

Room for the Tools & Room for the Kids

This could be the home you have been searching for. Solid, and in an elevated position, offering functionality and space for everyone to share. Set on a generous 919sqm (approx.) fully fenced section, this property has ample room for kids, pets and fun in the sun.

eves.co.nz/ewa20626

Asking Price \$685,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
40 Evans Street

3 1 1 1

Motivated Vendor Wants Action

Positioned on a manageable 459 sqm (approx.) section, this character home needs someone handy to rejuvenate. The heart of the home is a spacious living room with a cosy fireplace, detached garage/workshop, and off-street parking.

eves.co.nz/ewa19851

Asking Price \$479,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
130 Kensington Road

4 2 2 1

Family Home Entry Level Lifestyle

This four-bedroom, two-bathroom family home is set on a generous 1765 (approx.) sqm site, offering space, privacy, and a rural outlook all in a prime location! Spacious living with fireplace extend to sunny entertaining deck. Plus a detached garage/workshop.

eves.co.nz/ewa19945

Asking Price \$845,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
11 Princes Street

3 1 1 1

A Timeless Treasure

Beautifully restored 1899 three-bedroom home blending character and comfort. Spacious, light-filled living with modern kitchen, conservatory, sleepout, landscaped gardens, extra parking, and garage. Close to schools, Waihi Beach, and Karangahake Gorge.

eves.co.nz/ewa19799

Asking Price \$850,000
Phone for viewing times
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Open Home



Waihi
342 Pukekauri Road

4 1 1 5

Family Sized with Stunning Views

Set on 5.951sqm (approx.) in a peaceful rural setting, this expansive four-bedroom home offers the space, privacy, and lifestyle you have been searching for. Large windows in the living, dining, and sunroom capture sweeping rural views.

eves.co.nz/ewa20531

Auction Thurs 18 Sept, from 1pm
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga
(unless sold prior)
View 1.30-2pm Sun 14 Sept
or by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Boundary lines are indicative only

Waihi
14B Kenny Street

Motivated Vendor Make an Offer

This sunny, centrally located section of 604 sqm (approx.) offers endless possibilities for your next big or small project. New fencing has been added, and this section has essential services, including water, power, and fibre at the site; it just needs connection.

eves.co.nz/ewa19614

Price by Negotiation
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
10 Regent Street

3 1 1 2

Charming Character Cottage

This delightful three-bedroom character cottage sits on a spacious 900sqm (approx.) section, timeless charm with modern comforts. Featuring a wood burner and a heat pump and internal entry to the double garage. Call Brooke Edwards for more information.

eves.co.nz/ewa19074

Asking Price \$680,000
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Waihi
12 Albert Street

3 1 1 2

Living Garden Oasis

This charming, solid 1940s home sits on a fully fenced 910 sqm section (approx.) and is packed with character and potential. Step inside and you'll find three bedrooms, one well-appointed bathroom, and a light-filled open plan living, dining, and kitchen area.

eves.co.nz/ewa08954

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



Open Home



Waihi
9E Colebrook Road

4 2 2 1

Riverside Privacy, Family Comfort

Tucked away for privacy on approx. 821sqm (approx.), this modern brick home features hillside views, four bedrooms including a master with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe, open-plan living, a second lounge, double garage, and low-maintenance grounds.

eves.co.nz/ewa20528

Price by Negotiation
View 11.30am-12pm Sun 14 Sept or by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
26 Hollis Road, Waikino

3 2 1 6

Sold At Auction!

26 Hollis Road, Waihi was snapped up at auction last week. We now have buyers actively looking for similar properties in the area — if you're considering selling, now is the perfect time. Get in touch today to see how we can help you achieve a great result.

eves.co.nz/ewa20520

Auction Sold
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Katikati
2 Baigent Place, Tanners Point

4 2 2 2

Room to Grow, Views to Love

Embrace coastal living in this expansive family home, perfectly positioned on a north-facing 947sqm (approx.) section with breathtaking views. This two-story residence has been thoughtfully updated with new flooring, fresh paint, and modern lighting.

eves.co.nz/ewa19092

Asking Price \$1,095,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz
Kassarndra Clark 027 328 3305
kassarndra.clark@eves.co.nz



Waihi
32 Union Street

3 1 1

Great Starter

Whether you're a first home buyer or looking to expand your rental portfolio, this property presents a smart opportunity. Tucked privately down a driveway, the home offers three bedrooms and a family bathroom, with spacious open plan living.

eves.co.nz/ewa20337

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



Waihi
20 Connell Street

4 1 2

Character, Space and Potential

This four bedroom character home could be just the opportunity you've been waiting for. Set on a fully fenced section of 2023m2 (more or less), this home offers loads of space. For sale as is where is. Zoned industrial, offers options.

eves.co.nz/ewa19870

Asking Price \$585,000
View by appointment
Lester Mullan 021 121 4940
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



SOLD



Waihi
9A Evans Street

4 1 1 2

Character Meets Comfort On Evans

Superbly positioned within a quiet cul-de-sac, this beautiful villa perfectly combines character with comfort. Recently updated with a new kitchen, fresh floor coverings, and carpet, the home boasts an open-plan living area, complete with a wood burner.

eves.co.nz/ewa18722

Sold
Lester Mullan 021 121 4940
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



Waihi
43B Walls Road

Your Dream Lifestyle Awaits

Escape to your own piece of paradise with this extraordinary 3.17-ha approx (STS) lifestyle section. Nestled in a tranquil location with flat to rolling contours, this land is a canvas for your dream home. Bordering bush and experience the serenity of nature.

eves.co.nz/ewa17279

Price by Negotiation
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
18 Silvertown Road

4 1 1 1

Restored Homestead with Style

A stunning four-bedroom character homestead with a unique, relaxed feel that promises the perfect blend of comfort, space, and style. Step inside to an inviting light-filled, open-plan dining room that flows effortlessly into a full entertainer's kitchen with ample storage.

eves.co.nz/ewa19911

Enquiries Over \$745,000
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Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



New Listing



Waihi
451 Woodlands Road

3 2 1 1

The Horizon Is Yours

This stunning lifestyle property offers a front-row seat to some of the most breathtaking sunrises you'll ever experience. Open plan living, dining and kitchen, the home spans two levels with three bedrooms plus office or media room. Being sold Plus GST, if any.

eves.co.nz/ewa20629

Auction Thurs 9 Oct, from 1pm
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga
(unless sold prior)
View by appointment
Lester Mullan 021 121 4940
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



Open Home



Waihi
56D Mataura Road

3 2 1 2

Private Rural Outlook

A generous 235sqm home, featuring open-plan living with wood burner, smart vent, and heat pump. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, office nook, and double garage provide practicality. Native plantings, stream access, and adjoining council land ensures privacy.

eves.co.nz/ewa20566

Asking Price \$850,000
View 12.30-1pm Sun 14 Sept
or by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
744 Woodlands Road

4 2 1 1

Lifestyle Beyond Compare

Set high in the pristine landscape of Woodlands Ridge, this exceptional 80ha (more or less) property is a rare opportunity to secure a luxury rural lifestyle in a setting of unparalleled serenity. Plus GST, if any.

eves.co.nz/ewa20384

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



Open Home



Waihi
12 Galbraith Street

3 1 1 1

Character and Charm

Beautifully renovated character home on a fully fenced 1,077sqm section (approx). Featuring timber floors, high ceilings, modern upgrades, and a sanctuary bathroom. Living flows to a sunny deck, gardens, and fruit trees. Detached garage with power. Move-in ready.

eves.co.nz/ewa20463

Asking Price \$695,000
View 10.30-11am Sun 14 Sept
or by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz
Lester Mullan 021 121 4940
lester.mullan@eves.co.nz



Waihi
6 George Street

2 1 1

Modern, Sunny, Affordable

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 filled with natural light and warmed by a fireplace.

eves.co.nz/ewa20477

Asking Price \$620,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
32 Galbraith Street

3 3 1 3

Big is Better

This impressive executive-style home offers three double bedrooms, including an oversized master with a walk-in wardrobe and spacious tiled shower. Detached triple garage with a utility room, currently used as a studio, provides ample space for your vehicles.

eves.co.nz/ewa17936

Asking Price \$885,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
17 Walker Street

6 3 2 3

Two Level Entertainer

Welcome to a true family masterpiece in the heart of Waihi, where space, comfort, and endless potential come together in the most exciting way. Set across two levels, offering six bedrooms plus an office space, this truly is the ultimate home.

eves.co.nz/ewa20519

Price by Negotiation
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
116 Princes Street, Waikino

3 2 1 2

Explore the Space Privacy & Views

Vendors want this property Sold. Take the opportunity to move now! This gorgeous home offers privacy, comfort, and plenty of space. Set on 8,705 sqm (approx.) of land, it features established grounds, fruit trees, paddocks, and room to add a shed.

eves.co.nz/ewa18450

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



New Listing



Boundary lines are indicative only

Waihi
290 Woodlands Road

3 2 6

A Lifestyle Above the Ordinary

Perched on 7.4ha (approx.) of countryside, this 228sqm luxury home offers serene living with 3 bedrooms plus study, open-plan design, stunning views, a sleek kitchen with butler's pantry, wood burner, double garaging, and a high-stud shed for the boat. Plus GST (if any)

eves.co.nz/ewa14580

Auction Thurs 9 Oct, from 1pm
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga
(unless sold prior)
View 2-2.45pm Sat 13 Sept
or by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
10 Richmal Street

Secure Sunny Section with Options

Located on the outskirts of town offering lifestyle living. This 1722sqm (approx.) fully fenced section features a gated entrance, private sunny position and an orchard. The services include power, water, stormwater, sewerage and fibre. Call Dynasty to view.

eves.co.nz/ewa18421

Asking Price \$425,000
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

Asking Price \$845,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
7 George Street

3 1 1 2

First Home Buyers or DIYers

Space and opportunity with this three-bedroom home, ideally suited for families, investors, or first-home buyers looking to roll up their sleeves and make the property their own. Set on a generous 686sqm (approx) fully-fenced section. Call Brooke for more information.

eves.co.nz/ewa19176

Asking Price \$499,000
Phone for viewing times
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Boundary lines are indicative only

Waihi
18 Connell Street

Industrial Land

This 4165sqm (more or less) vacant commercial site is well positioned, offering wide road frontage and accessibility. Located in Waihi's main commercial precinct, bring your vision, an excellent opportunity exists to establish or expand your business.

eves.co.nz/ehvc19984

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



Waihi
90 Kenny Street

2 2 1 1

Much More Than a Two Bedroom Cottage!

This sunny secure property is located in the heart of Waihi. The town centre, park and supermarkets are all an easy stroll away. Ramp access at the rear and detached garage offering extra storage or workspace.

eves.co.nz/ewa18598

Asking Price \$575,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
49 Poland Street, Waikino

2 1 1 1

Refreshed Cottage with Garage/Workshop

This fully refreshed home has the potential for a third bedroom or home office, offering comfort, character, and space, all set in a charming setting.

eves.co.nz/ewa20198

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



Waihi
9 Maddocks Street

4 2 1 2

Ticks All the Boxes, and Then Some

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

eves.co.nz/ewa20320

Asking Price \$895,000
View by appointment
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz

Price Reduction



Boundary lines are indicative only



Waihi
9948 State Highway 2

4 2 1

\$100k Price Drop!

This 6.2ha (approx) lifestyle block near Waihi offers fertile pasture, ideal for grazing or horses. Includes a modern 2019 four-bedroom home, garage, implement shed, disused cowshed and its own bore water supply.

eves.co.nz/ewa19033

Asking Price \$1,099,000 Plus GST (if any)
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lester.mullan@eves.co.nz
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Boundary lines are indicative only



Waihi
730 Waitawheta Road

Big Price Drop on Dream Lifestyle Block

Escape to restful rural country living conveniently on the outskirts of Waihi township surrounded by green rolling hills and expansive farmland views. Create your dream lifestyle right here. This desirable 2.3 ha. (approx.) bare block has been subdivided and is a blank canvas.

eves.co.nz/ewa15064

Asking Price \$625,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Waihi
21 Evans Street

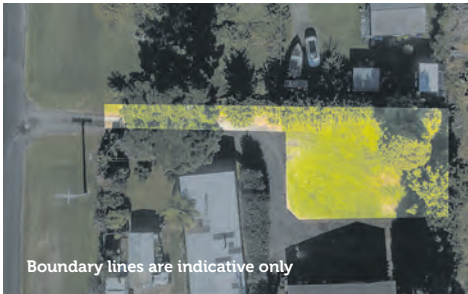
3 2 1 2

Stylish Entertainer

A beautifully designed three-bedroom, two-bathroom modern home, comfort and style flow effortlessly throughout. Once inside, you'll love the spacious open-plan living that leads to a sun-drenched deck – ideal for entertaining or relaxing all day long.

eves.co.nz/ewa20340

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



Boundary lines are indicative only

Waihi
68 Roberts Street

Private Sunny Section

A private section positioned down a ROW. A 580 sqm (more or less) flat site with established trees bordering the side. Essential services to the site include power and water. This is a blank canvas ready to go, bring your plans and create your dream home here.

eves.co.nz/ewa19936

Asking Price \$285,000
View by appointment
Dynasty Holtz 022 124 1186
dynasty.holtz@eves.co.nz



Boundary lines are indicative only



Waihi
96B Waitete Road North

Bring a Vision to Match the View

Set on 2 hectares (more or less) of elevated land, this lifestyle block offers stunning views over Waihi town and the chance to create your very own retreat. With a motivated vendor wanting action, now is the time to secure. Bring a vision, bring an offer.

eves.co.nz/ewa19516

Asking Price \$479,000
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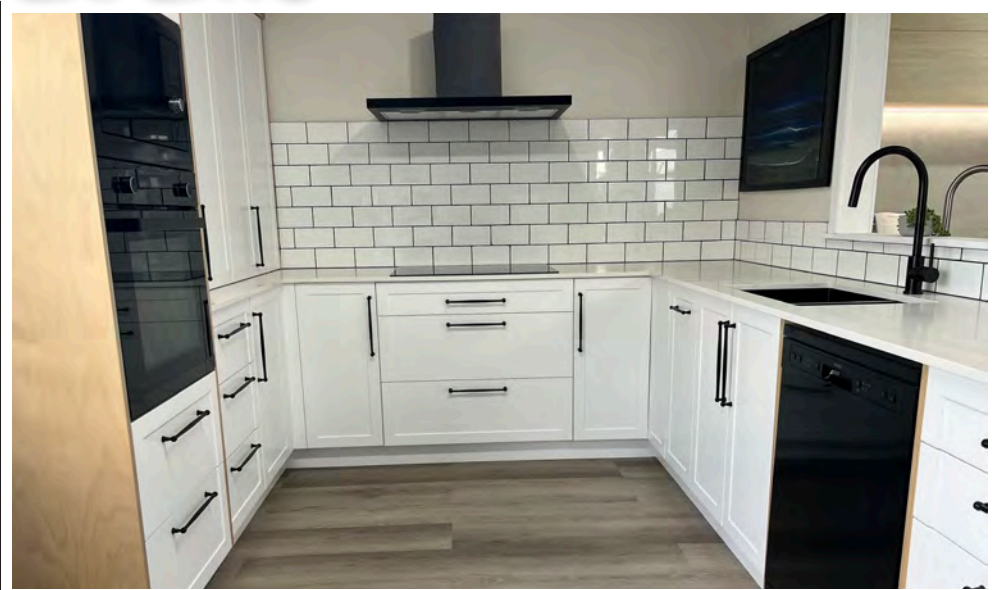
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People don't have to look far for someone to help bring their kitchen ideas to life.

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"We cover the Thames, Coromandel Peninsula, Hauraki Plains, Waikato and Auckland regions, and further afield."

The team offers free on-site measurements and consultations, assistance with selecting colours, products and hardware, as well as support throughout the planning and design

process. And their services extend all the way through to custom building, manufacturing and installation. People can rest assured Kev and the team at Peninsula Joinery are there to help. "We know the importance of providing the best possible service."

The team's craftsmanship covers a range of home fit outs in a wide variety of styles and wood options which includes: kitchen benches, kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, laundries, entertainment units, bookcase units, internal stairs, wardrobe systems and more.

"Get in touch with the team at Peninsula Joinery today to help with your project."

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Thames Women storm into final after stunning comeback

A magnificent second-half display saw Thames FC overturn a 2-0 deficit to beat Northern United Premiers 5-3 in a dramatic cup semi-final at Rhodes Park on Sunday.

Thames were handed the toughest possible semi-final draw: runaway Division One champions Northern United Premiers, who had been beaten just once all season and conceded only 10 goals.

The first half belonged to the visitors, who looked dangerous from the outset - controlling the game with ease and forcing Thames deep into their defensive third. It took just six minutes for them to draw first blood. Sasha Nelson pounced on a loose ball and thundered a 30-yard strike in off the crossbar for 1-0. With an easterly wind at their backs, Northern kept Thames under sustained pressure, pinning the hosts deep.

A brief spell of pressure gave Thames a route back into the game, as a goalmouth scramble in the Northern box resulted in a penalty. It was a key moment as Brooke Douglas stepped up, but McKenzie Claydon dived to her left, palming the ball away to safety.

Despite the scare, Northern continued to dominate and made it 2-0 with a neatly curled free-kick from playmaker Hunter-Rose Earl. Thames were hanging on as the half ended with a flurry of chances for the visitors. First, Abigail Marshall came close with a rasping drive before Hannah Jordan set up Nicola Gonzalez, whose shot hit the bar, with Thames goalkeeper Bryony Wayne pouncing on the rebound.

The half-time whistle brought some much-needed relief for Thames and a chance to recalibrate after a testing opening 45 minutes.

As the weather started to change, so did the game. Coach Xavier Brown adjusted the shape to a narrow 4-4-2 system and introduced fresh legs to reinvigorate his side. With the wind and a packed grandstand behind them, Thames began to find a foothold and work their way back into the tie.

It was captain Emma Hinds-Senior who set the

second-half tone and dragged Thames back into contention. A neat turn opened space for a low shot, which took a big deflection before finding its way into the corner of the net - a welcome stroke of luck.

Momentum was shifting, and it wasn't long before Thames drew level. There was nothing fortunate about the equaliser as Keltie McManus broke through the defence before arrowing a shot into the top corner. Northern were stunned and left to wonder how their comfortable two-goal lead had evaporated so rapidly.

Thames continued on the front foot and took the lead on the 70-minute mark. McManus's corner was initially cleared, but a follow-up cross found poacher Ariel McNab in the six-yard box. The striker steered a volley inside the near post for 3-2, sparking jubilant scenes in the crowd.

The game was far from over. Northern, unaccustomed to trailing after a season of dominance, soon hit back to level once more. Samantha Warwick drove through the Thames midfield before threading an inch-perfect pass to Nelson, who applied a neat finish into the far corner for 3-3.

The tension was high. The tie perfectly poised heading into the final 10 minutes. A moment of magic from Samantha Chamberlain edged Thames back in front. The combative midfielder burst into space before unleashing a powerful low strike that skidded off the surface and nestled into the corner.

With the 90 minutes almost up, there was just time for Thames to cap off their stunning second-half display with a fifth goal.

Chamberlain broke into the box and was clumsily brought down with the referee pointing to the spot. She stepped up and coolly converted to seal a famous 5-3 win and confirm Thames' place in the cup final.

The Rhodes Park faithful witnessed a pulsating semi-final, rich in drama and quality from start to finish. Thames looked down and out at half-time, but a spirited second-half display sparked a remarkable comeback.

Attention now turns to September 21 and the final against Waikato Unicol - with an historic league and cup double on the line.

- Jonathan Coles



Beth Powell works hard to secure the ball.

Photo: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

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Profile

Walrus swim returns

After a five-year break, the legendary Walrus swim returned to Waihi's Oceana Gold in the first week of September.

Five swimmers initially braved the 15 degree celsius water in the gold mining company's polishing ponds at the water treatment plant to swim the chilly 110 metres to glory.

Somehow six swimmers crossed the finish line when one of the organising committee swam the last 25 metres "just to show how it should be done".

The Walrus goes back around 20 years, and traditionally has been swum around mid-winter, regardless of the weather.

In some years the rain was so bad that no photos of the event exist.

The swim takes place in the less-than-two-metre deep pond where treated water is held and monitored for quality before being discharged into the Ohinemuri River.

Around 30 staff gathered to

cheer on the participants, none of whom have taken part in the event before.

Underground mine engineer Zibo Lin blitzed the field to win the race, with processing manager Thomas Trott coming in second and environmental officer Michaela Malone taking out third place.

Each swimmer was awarded a prize, and certificates were also presented for 'Best Walrus Lookalike', 'Loudest Cold-Water Shriek', and 'Most Realistic Shivers'.

Now that the Walrus is back, the organising committee said they hoped for a larger field next year.

"There are mythic stories about relay teams in previous years, that sounds like fun."

The swim participants take part in their chilly swim while onlookers cheer them on.

TOP RIGHT: The Walrus trophy is made from a steel ball like those used in the mill to grind ore-bearing rock.

Photos: SUPPLIED



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notice	For Lease	Tutoring	Situations Vacant		Public Notices	
<div><p>TAYLOR, Margaret Lily (née Selak): Passed away peacefully at Bupa Tararu Care Home on the 4th September 2025 aged 89 years. Treasured wife of Dennerly (deceased 19.12.23) loving mother and mother-in-law to Janet, Gayle and Brett, Tracey and Sam. Cherished grandmother to her 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Your passing will leave a huge hole in our lives and you will be sadly missed. A private cremation will be held in accordance with Margaret's wishes. Any correspondence to 15 Puketui Valley Road, R D, Hikuaui 3579</p></div>	<p>Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p> <p>Garage Sale</p> <p>!!!Massive Garage Sale!!!</p> <p><i>Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th</i></p> <p>4 Towers Street, Paeroa</p> <p>From: 8am to 4pm</p> <p>Bargains Galore!</p> <p>Everything must go!</p> <p>Priced rummage bins</p> <p>Great deals on furniture for restoration!</p> <p>Second hand tools and much more!</p> <p><i>See you there!</i></p>	<p>English, maths and computing tutoring or staff training. We can also assist you with administration tasks. Phone 021 474933 www.Aim4Ways.co.nz</p> <p>Storage</p> <p>Storage Unlimited</p> <p>25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames</p> <p>Clean, secure, dry Units available</p> <p>7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m</p> <p>Phone 07 868 9944</p> <p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA TE AWAMUTU</p> <p>"New Units"</p> <p>Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033</p> <p>Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Miller Avenue School Relief Teacher</p> <p>NZ Qualified Primary Teachers required to cover classroom release and day release across all year levels. Enquiries to: <i>The Deputy Principal janel@millerave.school.nz</i></p> <p>Miller Avenue School Caretaker</p> <p>Suit a handy-person who has a variety of skills. Up to 25 hrs per week all year. Enquiries to: <i>The Principal principal@millerave.school.nz</i></p>	<div><p>Nick Hoogeveen & Associates</p><p>CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT</p><p>Senior BAS Accountant</p><p>We are currently looking for a committed and talented Accountant to join the team in our Paeroa office.</p><p>If you have a good understanding of technical accounting and NZ tax knowledge and have worked in the primary sector, then this role would be a good match for your skill set.</p><p>The right candidate will be an excellent communicator, highly organized and either have completed or be close to completing their Chartered Accountancy.</p><p>We offer a competitive salary, modern systems, and great working environment and team culture.</p><p><i>To find out more about the role visit our careers section at www.nickhoogeveen.co.nz</i></p></div>	<p>TAHARUA MARAE - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>Notice hereby is given that the AGM of Taharua Marae will be held on:</p> <p>Date: Saturday 19th October 2025. Time: 10am-2pm. Venue: Taharua Marae, Paeroa.</p> <p>All descendants and beneficiaries are encouraged to attend. For further information, please refer to the Rihitoto Mataia Descendants - Taharua Marae Paeroa Facebook Page.</p>	<p>Proposed Temporary Road Closure</p> <p>Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Motorsport Rally Tarmac Sprint event organised by Thames Valley Car Club it is intended to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.</p> <p>Period of closure: Sunday 19 October 2025, 8.00am to 6.00pm.</p> <p>Roads to be closed: Golden Cross Road, Waikino.</p> <p>Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.</p> <p>It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.</p> <p>Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 19 October 2025.</p> <p>D A Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p>
<p>Church Notices</p> <p>Waihi Assembly of God Church</p> <p>"Worship & Healing"</p> <p>10am Sundays</p> <p>Scout Hall, Baker St, Waihi</p> <p>Waihi Bible Chapel</p> <p>Ph. Num 021 522 668</p> <p>Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James)</p> <p>You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn.</p> <p>Bible Study Wednesday nights 6pm</p>	<p>Gardening</p> <p>STUMP GRINDING.</p> <p>All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</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>Trades</p> <p>FENCING CONTRACTOR</p> <p>Residential & Rural</p> <p>Retaining walls & more</p> <p>High quality workmanship</p> <p>Competitive prices</p> <p><i>Call Matt 021 1727 148</i></p> <p>BURROWS ROOF CLEANING</p> <p>For moss, mould etc</p> <p>Get your gutters cleaned before winter from \$100</p> <p>Ph Murray: 027 449 5985</p>	<p>CAR GROOMER / DETAILER LINN MOTORS PAEROA</p> <p>Must have full Driver's License.</p> <p>Be neat, tidy and able to work unsupervised.</p> <p>Must have an eye for detail, be physically fit as some heavy lifting may be required.</p> <p>CV's to Reception or email to briantrebess@linncars.co.nz</p>	<p>Paeroa Business Association Inc AGM</p> <p>18th Sept 2025 5.30pm</p> <p>The Refinery, 5 Willoughby Street</p> <p><i>All welcome</i></p> <p>Builders</p> <p>Builder available Licensed Builder. Alterations / Maintenance / Decks Great rates. Ph Mark 022 344 0629</p> <p>Friendly licensed builder. 40 years exp. All aspects .No job too small. Ian 021 540 376</p> <p>Reno's, decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559</p> <p>Painters</p> <p>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</p> <p>Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312</p> <p>Rural Land Painters</p> <p>Experienced painters in all farm buildings and older homes Hauraki/Piako wide. Ph Greg 027 2142442</p>	<p>Intended Agri-Chemical Application</p> <p>Weather permitting, herbicide applications will be made to property administered by Hauraki District Council. This will include our parks and reserves, footpaths and walkways. Both Roundup and Versatill will be used between the months of September 2025 and February 2026.</p> <p>This work will be carried out by either Council's Works Team department or other contractors. All applicators will be Grow safe accredited.</p> <p>For further details please phone Hauraki District Council on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834.</p> <p>DA Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p> <p>www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz</p>	
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Be sure to watch the shadow, run the ramp

OPINION
By MICHAEL WILKES



Recently we took the chance to spend a weekend away at a friend's bach. It's been a busy season for us, so it was incredibly refreshing to simply escape with the kids and slow down a bit. Most of our time was spent riding around the town - from one playground to the skatepark, then off to another playground. The first ride started with the

two older kids leading the way to "the big playground". We ended up going in circles, heading down dead ends and making wrong turns. What could've easily become frustrating turned into a great little teachable moment. I encouraged them to watch their shadow - if it was in front or on their left, we were heading roughly in the right direction. If it was behind them, we were probably about to end up in another loop. Along the way, we stopped at the skatepark. My oldest daughter was carefully walking her bike down the ramps, but

I knew she could handle riding them. So I gave her a gentle push - figuratively. She refused at first, saying she was scared and couldn't do it. I promised to run alongside and catch her if she fell. She gave it a go. By her third attempt, she was beaming, racing down the ramp with a confident "Thanks, Daddy!" as she took off on her own. Later, at the playground, my oldest son was giving "parkour" a crack. I jumped in beside him, helped him figure out ideas, and when he said "I can't", I encouraged him with tips on tech-

nique and reminded him what he could do. By the end of the day, the kids were glowing - more confident, more capable, and with a slightly bigger world. As parents, we can't afford to be asleep at the wheel. We're seeing anxiety on the rise in our teens. Our phones - and all the apps on them - are doing everything they can to steal our attention. But we can't let them win. The cost to our kids is too high. We need to be intentional. Push them a little further - with love. Walk alongside them when

they face something scary. Be their biggest cheerleader when they succeed, and the soft landing when they don't. Because those moments - leading the way, facing new fears or cheering on parkour moves - will help shape who they believe they can become.

Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Living Well Trust, running mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa. To support local youth work or follow more stories and insights, find him on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok @michaelwilkes.kiwi. If you'd like to connect about a speaking engagement, community initiative, or supporting youth work, email michael@livingwell.org.nz.

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DOWN: 1 Corgi, 2 Barefoot, 3 Extras, 4 Naive, 5 Ties, 6 Ingrown, 7 Esteem, 8 Teams, 10 Atom, 11 Let-down, 12 Funded, 17 Prosperity, 18 Logic, 22 Relevant, 23 Plays, 24 Cleanse, 26 Owns, 28 Inkling, 29 Upkeep, 30 Bureau, 31 Astern, 33 Topic, 35 Lower, 36 Ogre, 37 Undo, 43 Laptop, 44 Gates, 46 Loud, 47 Shuffle, 48 Impure, 49 Scaly, 50 Ruminant, 51 Needle, 52 Industrial, 53 Owed, 54 Sustain, 59 Fever, 60 Over, 64 Ebony, 65 Ordinary, 67 Shuttle, 68 Saddler, 70 Become, 71 Enable, 72 Vienna, 75 Preen, 77 Eject, 78 Nomad, 79 Pact, 80 Fête.



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HPC tips cap to new rugby tradition

RUGBY

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A brand new tradition at Hauraki Plains College is set to strengthen passion and pride for the sport of rugby. College First XV captain for 2025 Andy Rogers told *The Profile* something that always remained “in the back of our minds” was the act of capping. First XV players will now be recognised with a special cap after playing 20 games - “the highest honour in school boy rugby”. “We thought it would be a cool legacy to start and will carry on as a tradition,” he said. The 18-year-old also said it was cool to be the first team in the Thames Valley to kick it off, with the first capping ceremony held at their game on August 9. Andy, alongside fellow teammate Charles Pompey, 16, who instigated the idea of the capping at the college, said the new tradition was recognition for all the “blood, sweat and tears we have put into the jersey”. The presentation involved team members and family coming together before the game on the day of the recognised player’s milestone 20th game. “The parents of the player are then given the cap to present to their son, because without our



Clockwise from top left: Hauraki Plains College First XV players initiate new tradition of rugby capping; Andy Rogers, 18, and Charles Pompey, 16; Players with their caps - Fergus Ball, left, Andy, Riley Webber, Hunter Parker, absent: Anaru Ormsby.

Photos: SUPPLIED

parents we would not be playing,” they said. The new tradition added more pride and motivation because “it makes you want to play the games and train harder” to secure a jersey and achieve the 20th cap, Charles said. “No jersey is promised, you have [to] earn it.”

It was clear the sport was important to Charles. “Seeing my team run out on to the field representing my school, not just wearing the jersey, but the caps made me feel so proud with starting a tradition,” he said. One thing he said the sport showed him was that “if you try

your best and work hard, you will achieve your best self”. Meanwhile, Andy said it has changed him into the young man he was today. “It’s given me dreams to chase and goals to achieve.” He said he made his rugby debut in year 11 and finished with more than 40 games up

his sleeve. “It was a dream come true and I am honoured to receive the first cap of this legacy,” he said. “It is something I hold close to my heart as all the years and effort I have put into the jersey was a great way to sign off my time with the First XV.”



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