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New voices, new mahi

They've taken different paths, but Michael Barlow, Des Tyler, and Rereahu Collier now represent an historic step for tangata whenua as the first Māori Ward councillors for Thames Valley. Elected unopposed, their roles face uncertainty with a binding vote set to decide the wards' future. KELLEY TANTAU reports



Rereahu Collier, top, Des Tyler, and Michael Barlow are the first Māori Ward councillors for Thames Valley, but their roles face uncertainty. Photos: SUPPLIED

'E' is not for 'Excellence'. That was according to Michael Barlow's school report.

One teacher described him as "a law unto himself". The label stuck and, for a while, he was just another number.

Des Tyler grew up like many Kiwi boys, chasing dreams of pulling on the black jersey. Winter meant playing rugby and league; summer was for athletics. But his career was cut short after a serious injury.

Ironically for Rereahu Collier, his first semesters studying politics and public policy led him to discover he was too honest to be a politician. It wasn't until later when a Māori and Pacific Development lecturer challenged him to think bigger: if he wanted to make an impactful change, it had to go beyond the individual.

The three men took a different path, but all have arrived at an historic moment.

For the first time in the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts, they will represent their respective Māori Wards at the council table.

It ensures that for the next three years, tangata whenua will have a voice.

But while the local body elections are underway, there is also a "critical" crossroads - a binding poll that threatens to overturn the very representation just gained. As part of recent legislative changes made by central government, all councils with Māori Wards are required to hold a poll asking voters whether those wards should remain or be removed.

The question will appear as part of the regular ballot, arriving in letterboxes

across the rohe; the results of which will be legally enforceable at the 2028 election.

Michael calls it a "critical moment", one that he, Des, and Rereahu all hope will result in a positive outcome.

"Māori Wards are not just a mechanism for representation, they reflect our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, ensuring genuine partnership," he tells *The Profile*. "Māori Wards ensure that tangata whenua not only have a seat, but a voice at the decision-making table, where underpinning values and lived experiences are heard to help shape the future of our communities."

Michael was there when Thames-Coromandel District Council unanimously voted to establish Māori Wards in 2023.

The chamber was at capacity, full with community members, iwi, and Māori leaders from across the rohe. At least a dozen people spoke in support of establishing the Te Tara o Te Ika Māori Ward.

"This role isn't just about being a voice, it's about ensuring our people are heard, our tikanga is respected, and our values are woven into the everyday decisions that affect our lives," Michael says.

"It's a privilege to have a seat at the table and to represent our people in a way that's grounded in kaupapa Māori and practical outcomes."

For Michael, [Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hikairo and Ngā Puhī], the 'E' that once meant failure in school has since been replaced

CONTINUED ON P2

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"Mā whero, mā pango, ka rapa te whai," Rereahu says. "With co-operation, work will be easily completed."



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Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun		Mon		Tue	
Sep 17		Sep 18		Sep 19		Sep 20		Sep 21		Sep 22		Sep 23	
Morning 2:29am 3.1 3:12pm 3.1 8:41am 0.8 9:31pm 0.9		Morning 3:38am 3.0 4:20pm 3.2 9:53am 0.8 10:36pm 0.9		Morning 4:47am 3.0 5:18pm 3.2 10:58am 0.8 11:32pm 0.8		Morning 5:48am 3.1 6:08pm 3.3 11:52am 0.7		Morning 12:21am 0.7 12:38pm 0.6 6:40am 3.2 6:53pm 3.4		Morning 1:05am 0.6 1:19pm 0.6 7:25am 3.3 7:34pm 3.4		Morning 1:45am 0.6 1:58pm 0.6 8:06am 3.4 8:14pm 3.4	
6:15am 6:10pm		6:14am 6:11pm		6:12am 6:12pm		6:11am 6:13pm		6:09am 6:13pm		6:08am 6:14pm		6:06am 6:15pm	
Best At 8:24am 8:52pm		Best At 9:18am 9:43pm		Best At 10:07am 10:30pm		Best At 10:52am 11:14pm		Best At 11:35am 11:56pm		Best At 12:16pm		Best At 12:36pm 12:56pm	
Rise 3:41am Set 1:14pm		Rise 4:21am Set 2:23pm		Rise 4:53am Set 3:30pm		Rise 5:20am Set 4:34pm		Rise 5:44am Set 5:36pm		New Moon Rise 6:06am Set 6:36pm		Rise 6:28am Set 7:37pm	

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MOON AND FISH KEYS			
New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES			
PLACE	Hr	HIGH Mn	LOW 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

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

50 years of motorsport and saving lives

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

Grant Hirst never intended to become a paramedic.

The then-25-year-old had taken a day off work to see a movie, and happened to park outside a St John building in Auckland. They were hiring, and he popped in for a look out of curiosity.

"Then I got a phone call: 'Can you be at [the station] on Monday?' 'Oh, yeah, what's that for, a medical or something?' 'No, no, that's when the training course starts,'" he said. "That's the way it was those days."

That was in 1975. On August 30 this year, Grant was awarded his 50-year gold service medal for ultra-long service at Thames' Hato Hone St John service awards ceremony. The accolade is reserved for the organisation's longest-serving and most dedicated members.

Grant has served in a multitude of roles at St John over the years - Pukekohe station manager, area committee, events officer, Central East events operations support officer and paramedic, national motorsport team leader, and health shuttle driver. In 2002 he was also admitted to the Order of St John, where he currently holds the title of Commander.

Grant has seen a lot of changes in his half-century with St John.

"When I first started, it was, 'here's your keys'... My first shift on the road was the 11pm-7am night shift that I rode single crew," he said.

"So, straight out of training school, wet behind the ears and



Grant Hirst, front left, with the motorsport medical team at the Supercars rally in Pukekohe in 2022. Photo: SUPPLIED

you're working by yourself in the truck. I'm pleased those sort of things don't happen today."

Throughout Grant's many roles in St John, one constant has been his love of motorsport. Working in the organisation gave him the opportunity to combine his passion with his career.

Grant would regularly give up his weekends to volunteer as an on-site first aid responder at motorsport events across the country.

"I was working at Pukekohe one day and there was a big crash... I said, I've got to do this better," he said.

"I talked to the chief ambulance officer about [forming] a specialist team in motorsport. And he gave me the okay to call for a meeting and see who would be interested."

This was the late 90s, and in 2000 the motorsport medical team was made official. All their training was done on their own time; their time at events was still volunteered. But the team was well-recognised as being very good at what they did, Grant said.

In 2019 he took on a full-time role as the national motorsport team leader, and advocated hard for his team. By the time Covid-19

was over, his team was getting paid for attending most events.

It had been really special working in events, he said. "Motorsports was very good to me."

It's not just events work that's kept Grant in St John over the years, though.

For him, the main reason to stay was the people - both his colleagues, and the wider community they served. "The people that work with St John's are friggin' amazing. Especially in the early days when I started, everybody knew everybody," he said.

"But the biggest impact is the



Grant recently received his medal.

[patients] that you work with. It's not the big headline-grabbing things that get you. It's turning up in the middle of the night because Granny slipped going to the loo and can't get back up off the floor.

"And you sit there and you make her a cup of tea and she gets you the scone that she made the day before and stuff like that."

It was a privilege to be let into people's lives during their most vulnerable moments, he said.

"You have to turn up in the middle of the day or the middle of the night to their private address and they're actually inviting you into their property, you know?"

Grant left St John in November, 2024. But now, 50 years after his time with St John began, he's still involved with the organisation as a volunteer health shuttle driver.

"I still do my bit... I think [the shuttle's] a pretty cool service," he said. "It's been a pretty cool life. Some really good stories, some bad stories, but there's been more ups than downs. I've met some really nice people."



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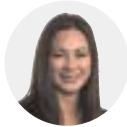
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Mayoral hopefuls a no-show as election nears

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

It was a packed house at Paeroa Rugby Club for the Meet the Candidates public meeting on September 10 - except at the table on stage.

At the meeting, which was hosted by Paeroa Lions, incumbent Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams sat alone in the spot reserved for the mayoral candidates. His opponents, first-time candidates Levi Burton and Roman Jackson, did not turn up, leaving Adams to hold the floor unchallenged.

The scene was to repeat at the Ngatea ward's meeting, hosted by the Hauraki Plains Community Hub at the Hauraki RSA on September 11.

Organisers from both events said they had reached out multiple times with invites, but did not receive a response from either man.

Burton addressed his decision not to attend on social media, saying, "I did not agree to attend this meeting. Rather, I chose to spend my time out in the community listening to rate payers and finding real solutions".

Adams was cheerful about his lack of competition at the Paeroa event, and praised the candidates who did attend. "It's not an easy task putting yourself out in front of everybody, and once you get to the council table, you realise just how hard it is when you get all sorts of those names called at you, which I get frequently," he said. "Everybody thinks that the Mayor's got this massive axe that they can just come in there and swing and make all these decisions."

Adams is seeking a third term as Mayor. He was comfortable at the mic, beginning his speech with a run-down of his achievements to date and preemptively addressing contro-



Paeroa ward candidates from left, Jo, Paul, Grant, Michelle. RIGHT: Incumbent Mayor Toby Adams. ALICE PARMINTER

versial topics like the council's heavy spending on water infrastructure.

"We get criticised because we've got debt, but we've been investing in our waters and wastewater network. Most of our water drinking plants are up to standard... our Waihi wastewater plant is fully compliant and up to scratch, and we're investing \$40 million here in Paeroa," Adams said.

"We [the council] make decisions based on what is right for our community, not what's going to get [us] voted in or voted out."

He was also eager to engage directly with the crowd, encouraging questions. "Somebody ask me about rates," he said. "I want to give some interesting facts about rates."

The other speakers in Paeroa were more subdued, but still had plenty to

say. Paeroa general ward candidates Michael Aitken, Michelle Magnus, and incumbents Paul Milner and Jo Tilsley spoke for five minutes each before fielding questions from the crowd. Many of the questions revolved around council spending, with voters wanting to know candidates' opinions on "nice to haves" versus necessary spending.

Aitken and Tilsley emphasised the community's role in deciding what was necessary. "It doesn't matter what I think personally, because I don't sit in chambers to represent myself... [feedback and] consultation feeds into our decision-making," Tilsley said, while Aitken commented, "it is important that we do look very carefully at the services that we offer to make sure that all members of the

community are being serviced".

"[Swimming pools, libraries and sports fields] are the things that makes our community a great place to live," Milner said.

"We have basic core services that fits our community and is affordable. The reason such big rates increases have come is the cost of compliance with water and wastewater."

Magnus, meanwhile, was directly challenged with questions asking what she considered to be council "vanity projects". She pointed to the Placemaking initiative on improving the town centres, along with upgrades to Paeroa's Railway Reserve, and planned murals on Wharf St.

"Until we can keep our rates under control, let's just put a hold on it."

Milner told the audience the Place-



making initiative was mostly funded by separate government funding. Incumbent candidate Rino Wilkinson was unable to attend due to illness.

Meanwhile, Plains general ward candidates Cynthia Bates, Andrew Pickford, and incumbents Ray Broad, Stephen Croymans and Neil Gray took their turns at the mic in Ngatea, to an equally crowded house.

Both events also heard from the Waikato Regional Council candidates. The five candidates, Lindsay Algra, Walt Cavendish, Keith Holmes, Julie Taylor and incumbent Robert Cookson, are contesting two seats in the Waihou ward. Taylor was unable to attend the Paeroa meeting, while Holmes was absent for the Ngatea meeting.

A third public meeting, hosted by Grey Power Waihi, is scheduled for September 26. It will feature the candidates for the Waihi general ward, regional council and mayoral seats.

There are four Hauraki councillor vacancies in the Plains ward, three in Paeroa and four in Waihi. Voting closes on October 11 at noon.

DETAILS: Waihi Meet the Candidates, September 26, 9.30am, Waihi Baptist Church.

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It's a small village, but that's the beauty of it.

Libin Baby and a Ohinemuri resident out for a stroll.

When you sit down with Libin Baby, the Village Manager at Ohinemuri Village in Paeroa, you quickly understand why people here speak so fondly of the place. He has cared for the village for more than eight years and says the appeal comes down to three simple things: quiet, affordability, and community.

“This village has been part of Paeroa for over 35 years, Libin reflects. Many of our residents, or their families, helped build it through fundraising, volunteering or lending equipment. That history still lives here. You feel it in the way neighbours look out for one another.

Every day begins the same way: a walk through the community centre, a chat in the car park, a glance at the garden requests book. “It’s not about having an office,” he explains. “It’s about being seen. If someone wants to talk, they can.”

The rhythm of village life is gentle but connected. Residents enjoy Friday happy hours, the occasional line dancing class, or gathering to watch a game together on the big screen. “It’s relaxed,” Libin says. “Not busy or overwhelming. Just enough to feel connected.”

He leans forward slightly. “People are often surprised by the affordability. We meet all the same standards as bigger villages, but our price point is very competitive. That’s one of the reasons people travel from out of town to see us.”

What truly sets Ohinemuri apart, he explains, is its scale.

“Most providers have a big village with a small care centre. We’re the opposite, only eight villas, with a large care centre beside them. That balance means independence with peace of mind.”

For one fortunate new resident, there’s now a rare chance to join this community. When conversation turns to the vacant villa, Libin’s expression brightens.

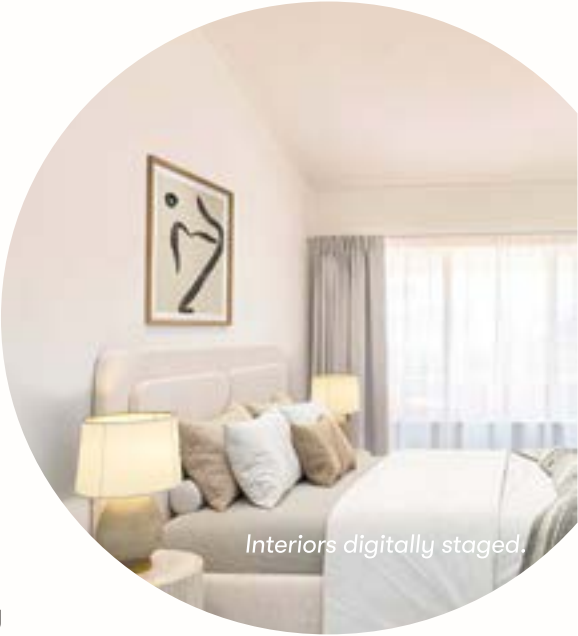
“This one’s special. It’s fully refurbished, new floors, walls, wardrobes. It even has a dedicated mobility scooter park and charger tucked around the back. And the view out across Paeroa, it’s pretty hard to beat. People walk in and say, ‘I didn’t expect it to feel this light and sunny.’”

Yet what matters most, he insists, isn’t the buildings, but how people feel once they’re here.

“What I hear most often from residents is, ‘I should have made the move sooner.’ They still have their independence, but with the ease and peace of mind they didn’t realise they were missing.

And in true Ohinemuri spirit, the invitation isn’t just from Libin. Residents themselves often show visitors around, eager to share the life they’ve built.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Artist finds ‘something poetic’ in new exhibit

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A step into the world of art was inevitable for Erica Soman. The creative from Thames said her hometown in the 1960s to 70s was “art-centric” and called herself lucky for the strong art teachers she had at Thames High School. Once she realised that art-making engaged an “infinitely broad range of skills” and intellect, plus her excitement for knowing she could go to art school: “I knew that becoming an artist was my path”, she told *The Profile*. She grew up on land that four generations of her family lived on, in a house that had a view over the Firth of Thames toward Miranda, she said. It’s what makes her upcoming art exhibition in Miranda so significant. *Sustain/ing* will showcase works on paper by Erica and fellow artist, friend and Elam School of Fine Arts lecturer Christine Hellyar at Miranda Farm Gallery on September 20 to October 13. It will be a mix of large graphite botanical drawings and large tissue paper artworks. “The exhibition also plays tribute to the network that holds us as artists. Christine Hellyar has been my lecturer, employer, friend and beacon of hope since I went to Elam Art School. “Christine’s fluid, vibrant yet delicate, alive yet mysterious drawings are a part of this show.”



Artist Erica Soman will show her graphite botanical drawings and tissue paper artworks at Miranda Farm Gallery from September 20 to October 13. Photo: SUPPLIED

Erica said gallery owner Annie Wilson had shown Christine’s work before, as well as that of Warren Viscoe, two highly respected artists. “Sadly Warren Viscoe is no longer with us but I vividly recall his works shown at Miranda Farm Gallery.” The artist said there was “something poetic” about showing her

works in the landscape she used to draw so often. “I have been working on an ongoing series of botanical drawings based on the seasonal blooms of my garden since 2019. “The blooms I focus on are grown with love in my own sprawling, vintage seaside garden on a tidal estuary,” she said. Her drawings pay tribute to the persistence of nature in the face of humanities disconnect from Earth, she said. “These works are either in graphite on large sheets of Hahnemuhle paper or made with tissue paper, which I cut to form geometries and then carefully glue together, followed by working on top with

watercolours and ink. There’s one thing Erica hopes people will take away from the exhibition: “Plants give so much to this planet, to our towns, and to our neighbourhoods to our ecology.” These works honour the biological role of a flower in our continuation as a species,” she said. “I hope that these works contribute to an awareness of the generosity of the biological.” Something Erica highlighted was that “artists do not make work in isolation”. “For this show I wanted to acknowledge that concept, and specifically acknowledge Christine Hellyar’s support. She has worked with Annie and myself to release a number of her drawings for the exhibition. “There are areas of crossover in our artworks, as well as areas of difference. Both have a core dedication to the botanic world, its mysteries, science and import.” After *Sustain/ing*, Erica plans to head to the Garden Festival in Taranaki, where she will show work with contemporary New Zealand artists Karl Maughan and Jeff Thomson. “I’m really looking forward to showing botanic-themed works in the context of a large country homestead and garden.” **DETAILS: *Sustain/ing* is open to the public from September 20 to October 13 at Miranda Farm Gallery, 1107 Miranda Road, Miranda. Phone 021 0256 7264 to find out viewing times.**

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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. A reimagining of the 1989 classic film The War of the Roses.

Grace A Prayer for Peace (95 mins) E. A portrait of one of Aotearoa’s greatest living artists (Dame Robin White) by one of our greatest documentary filmmakers (Gaylene Preston). Something special.

The Bad Guys 2 (104 mins) PG. The Bad Guys are struggling to find trust and acceptance in their newly minted lives as Good Guys, when they are pulled out of retirement and forced to do ‘one last job’.

Gabby’s Dollhouse (98 mins) G. Gabby and Grandma Gigi’s road trip takes an unexpected turn when Gabby’s prized dollhouse ends up with eccentric cat lady Vera. Gabby embarks on an adventure to reunite the Gabby Cats and retrieve her beloved dollhouse before it’s too late.

NEW NEXT WEEK: KANGAROO, a heart-warming family comedy with orphaned joeys in the beautiful Outback, and PRIME MINISTER - behind the scenes of the work and private life of Dame Jacinda Ardern.

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Authorised by Greg Hampton, Thames. greg@greghampton.nz

Wrapping up winter with aroha

Staff and residents at Oh-Sinemuri Care and Village have once again shown just how big their hearts are – and this time, they did it in their pyjamas.

In true winter spirit, the team held a special Pyjama Day to support the Jammies in June campaign. It wasn't just the staff who joined in but the residents also dressed down for comfort.

While staff led the way with the biggest contribution, residents and their whānau also gave generously.

Together, they donated 75 pairs of brand-new pyjamas, ranging from newborn sizes to options for older tamariki.

Nathalie Visser, who started the Jammies in June campaign in the Hauraki District in 2023, said the Ohinemuri team “managed to outdo themselves” each year.

“It's no surprise when you see the aroha they pour into their daily care. Their warmth doesn't stop at the door – it's radiating into the wider community.”

This year, all collected pyjamas were handed over to the Hauraki Māori Trust Board, who distribute them through their Family Start and Social Workers in Schools programmes, ensuring these warm gifts go straight to the tamariki who need them most.

Nathalie said this year the campaign took on a life of its own. “While I anticipated running this year's campaign on a



Ohinemuri Care and Village staff and residents with their stack of donated jammies.

Photo: SUPPLIED

much smaller scale due to other commitments, I was blown away when donations started rolling in. It's really heart-warming to receive these kind donations from members of the public, without even being asked – thank you to everyone who made it happen and to Ohinemuri Care and Village, what a stand-out effort.”

This is the third year Nathalie's Jammies in June has warmed up tamariki across the Hauraki district whose whānau may be facing a tough winter, and she has 2026 firmly in her sights.

“It doesn't take much to make a big impact – just kindness, community, and a pair of jammies,” Nathalie said.



Youth work moves to Thrive Trust

Thames Baptist Community Ministries has announced a structural change that will see it split into two separate trusts at the end of the month.

Its current youth work will transition to a new entity called Thrive Trust, while the existing organisation will continue under the name Living Well Trust.

“Over the last five years, our youth work has thrived under the umbrella of the Thames Baptist Community Ministries. It's been a beautiful partnership,” spokesperson Michael Wilkes said.

“As both ministries continue to grow, the demands upon them also increase, calling us to consider our governance structures. The aim here is to ensure resources are focused on enabling each mission to be equipped with the support needed to accomplish its purpose.”

“To give both the youth work and the broader ministries space to flourish, we've made a big step forward. As of the end of this month, we're officially becoming two separate trusts.”

Wilkes said day-to-day operations would remain largely the same, with the new Thrive Trust continuing to work from the same office, share resources, and operate alongside Living Well Trust.

He said the change was aimed at creating a clearer vision for each ministry, establishing specialised governance focused on their distinct missions, and improving access to funding to support long-term impact. “We're all genuinely excited for what this change unlocks,” he said.

DETAILS: To view the new youthwork website visit www.thrivetrust.co.nz.

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Voters face full field in Thames ward race

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

With only three seats earmarked for Thames around the council table, the run for the ward in this year's local body elections is hotly contested.

Voters will be weighing up familiar names and fresh faces in the race for Thames councillor - and they got a good look at both at the August 30 Meet the Candidates event hosted by the Thames Business Association.

Sitting councillors Martin Rodley and Robyn Sinclair are both hoping to return for a third term, while their colleague Peter Revell has set his sights higher, throwing his hat in the ring for Mayor. Kishan Raikwar, currently sitting on the Thames Community Board, is now contesting a seat on the council.

The six other candidates are former council Chief Financial Officer Steve Baker, Kopu local Scott Bright, Creative Coromandel chair Fiona Cameron, Carson's Bookstore owner Greg Hampton, 27-year-old electrician Cole McDowell, and ecology architect Steve Hart, who is also running for community board and Mayor. The candidates were thrown an anonymous question each, with the most pointed being directed to Sinclair, in regards to a council meeting held last month.

"Having seen your verbal attack on the Mayor at the August 5 council meeting and prior to this, how will you, in the best interests of the community, support the elected leader if they are not the leader of your choice?"

Sinclair took to the podium to say she did "challenge the accuracy of a report that came to council" that day, in which the mayor's activities were listed. *The Profile* watched the recording of the August 5 meeting; in it, Sinclair asked that it be noted that incumbent

Mayor Len Salt was "late" to a regional land transport committee meeting. She also asked for increased commentary and transparency around his listed mayoral activities.

Mayor Salt said there were "technical issues" that delayed him from joining the committee meeting, and providing additional commentary alongside his Mayoral Reports was unfeasible. "There will be times when there simply isn't the time and the capacity to do that. There are minute takers for these minutes. The minutes are fully recorded. There are recordings online. So, yeah, I'm not convinced that I'm going to be doing reports on all of these meetings," he said. "I simply don't have time."

"With respect," Sinclair followed, "I did email you five weeks ago asking for an update about something that had appeared in one of these reports and I'm still waiting for a response."

She suggested they discuss the matter further offline, but Mayor Salt said because the issue was raised online, the full picture needed to be heard.

"I spent a good part of that time in hospital, so I'll get to it when I'm feeling well enough to do it. But that needs to be noted," he said. "If you're going to make those comments then also fill out the picture by saying that the mayor was in hospital at the time."

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

The core of the problem was a combination of hip and spinal issues, but the incumbent earlier told *The Profile* voters could be "absolutely confident" in his ability to perform the mayoral role if re-elected.



Robyn Sinclair.

Addressing the audience and the anonymous question on August 30, Sinclair assured she could work "with anyone". "I am very happy to work with a wide range of different elected members, and you can look at the two councils that I've worked quite successfully on for the last two terms and see a wide range of political and personal views," she said. "I think I have very good relationships with almost everybody on council at the moment and extremely good relationships within the community board."

Meanwhile, other candidates fielded questions on sporting facilities, the new Thames Pool, and arts and culture - with a minor detour as a couple weighed in on whether Thames should indeed be called a 'gateway'.

"I feel I struck a nerve on the gateway thing," McDowell said with a laugh near the meeting's end. He was earlier asked if he believed Thames needed to be "the strong economic hub of the Coromandel".

He answered: "A way we could potentially grow economic growth for Thames as a region is focusing more on being the gateway for the Coro-

mandel, and this would then help the rest of the Peninsula as well. So doing simple things like making it super easy to get off the main road, get fuel, get groceries, get all your bits and bobs while you're on your way to your holiday destination."

In his final pitch to the crowd, current councillor Martin Rodley said he thought "we had put the whole 'Thames being the gateway thing' to bed".

"We did a lot of work with Explore Thames with some recovery money from central government, and I feel that we've really boosted the offering and the awareness of Thames actually being a destination, not a gateway. Please stop calling it a gateway."

Fiona Cameron was asked how her three decades of arts and business background would be beneficial around the council table.

"I'm really proud of the work I've done in my life. I'm proud of what I can take to the council," she said. "If I'm on that council table, I will bring my business experience. I'll bring my connections and those creative industries with me, which is a huge part of who we are here in Hauraki-Coromandel."

Bookshop owner Greg Hampton was asked how he would progress upgrades of Pollen Street while mitigating disruption to businesses.

He replied that any work should be done in stages, block by block, and in the off-season "between April and August".

"Our community is on a knife-edge economically. You walk down the main street now and we've got a dozen or more empty shops and a lot of businesses are walking a very tight line.

"We need to support local businesses. We need to buy local. We need

to circulate our money within the district."

Scott Bright was asked: 'What improvements to the natural environment would you support council to do?' Bright, who in his candidate profile said he'd had 43 years in business across food production, mechanical, and construction, said he believed everybody had a responsibility to be environmentally friendly.

"I would support - and I'd expect - the council to do everything that's necessary to look after our environment."

Former council chief financial officer Steve Baker was quizzed on his focus for sporting facilities in the Thames area, to which he recalled a "precedent" being set when Whitianga was building a sports ground and asked the rest of the district to help pay for it.

"We put a very firm message back to Whitianga: it is your sports stadium, you will pay for it. I'm pretty sure Whitianga will remember that conversation," he said, "so our pool will be our cost. We just need to pick one we can afford."

Steve Hart is covering all bases in this year's local elections, standing for mayor, councillor, and community board member. He wasn't directed a pre-composed question during the councillor stand-up, so asked the audience one in return: 'How can we [Thames] stay alive?'

Gastronomics Restaurant owner Kishan Raikwar was pressed about his tenure on the community board, but his closing address to the crowd perhaps best captured what voters looked for in a candidate.

He said he was not a rocket scientist. "Just a normal person with common sense."



Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

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Spirited spook causes great excitement, fear



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.

1893

At Turua, a ghost was at large causing great excitement. The spirited spook was seen jumping fences, swimming in rivers, and heard knocking at doors and windows. Nervous women and children, and men too, were very frightened. All attempts to capture the phantom had proved futile. In days of yore the local parson would have been called upon to exorcise the spirit. In these more sceptical times the spirit would be pulled up before a magistrate and fined, with seven day's gaol as an alternative. Meanwhile, an excursion to Miranda promised to be a big success and tickets sold smartly. Many excursionists were anticipating a dip in the hot springs, believing that great good would result from the waters. The trip was recommended for several reasons. First it



A 'ghost' with wings and springs on its feet shock a couple of concert goers. was a short voyage, secondly, 11 hours could be spent in the interesting district; thirdly, the medicinal properties of the hot springs were unrivalled; fourthly, sports and horse races could be watched, and fifthly, those interested in coal mining could view some of the vast seams of coal found there; sixthly, the landing was a good wharf and there would be no getting stuck in mud, and lastly excursion-

squall of wind and rain, which lasted an hour. Chimneys were blown down, sheets of iron stripped off roofs, houses shifted from their foundations, with one or two blown over, while fences and outhouses were levelled to the ground. Two ladies in a spider buggy sheltered in some stables, the wind and rain being so bad that they dared not venture out all night. They remained there until daylight shivering in their wet clothes, as they could only cover themselves with some corn sacks. The gale also saw off a plague of caterpillars at Waihi, the arrival of which had puzzled residents as there was nothing for them to eat but stunted fern and quartz boulders. After the gale they departed to places unknown. Meanwhile at Paeroa a young lad, aged 10, having got tired of rural existence, saved up his money, and boarded a steamer bound for Auckland in order to see life. The amused captain took the boy's pound note for passage money and held on to it, cutting off his financial resources. On reaching Auckland the captain communicated with the police, and telegraphed the boy's father. Acting-Detective Mahon put the boy on a steamer, and sent him back home again. The lad was very much disgusted, as he had planned on having a good time.

Chris' Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter
1. Which planet in our solar system is known as the Red Planet?
 2. What type of pastry is used in a croissant?
 3. What is the national sport of Japan?
 4. Doha is the capital city of which Middle East country?
 5. Bluebell Madonna Halliwell is the daughter of which former girl group member?
 6. Which of these countries is the only northern hemisphere team to win a Rugby World Cup Championship? a) England, b) France, or c) Wales?
 7. Who was the New Zealand Prime Minister at the time of the 9/11 terrorist attacks? a) Dame Jenny Shipley, b) Helen Clark, or c) Sir John Key?
 8. Petals on the flowers of citrus plants are which colour? a) Blue, b) white, or c) yellow?
 9. As outlined in the Valley Profile's September 9 edition, which town recently celebrated the 30 year anniversary of its Saturday market? a) Paeroa, b) Thames, or c) Waihi?
 10. What is the name of the French meringue-based confection in the photo below?



ANSWERS: 1. Mars; 2. Puff pastry; 3. White; (sometimes tinged with pink); 9. b) England in 2003; 7. b) Helen Clark; 8. a) Ginger Spice of the Spice Girls; 6. Sumo wrestling; 4. Qatar; 5. Geri Halliwell

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Rural Life

‘Leaf’ your mark at community planting day

The Te Mata Reserve at Waihi Beach is being brought back to life with thousands of native plants, and Western Bay of Plenty District Council is inviting people to get involved at a Community Planting Day this Saturday.

More than 19,000 plants, including kahikatea, puriri, ti kōuka (cabbage trees), harakeke (flaxes) and carex species are being planted as part of a wider restoration effort to improve stream health and replace vegetation removed during earlier erosion protection works.

Weed control and site preparation was carried out in July, including re-shaping streambanks, and planting began last month.

“This restoration work will help protect the stream, improve local biodiversity and create a more natural space for the community to enjoy,” council’s Water Services Project Engineer Divesh Sami said.

“The Community Planting Day is an opportunity for locals to come together, roll up their sleeves and contribute to the long-term care of Te Mata Reserve. It’s a chance to give back, enjoy the outdoors and make a positive difference to the place where you live.”

DETAILS: Te Mata Reserve Community Planting Day (with a bite to eat afterwards), this Saturday, September 20, 10am-12pm. Meet at Te Mata Reserve, in the car park accessed between 6 and 10 Hillview Road, Waihi Beach. Bring a water bottle, a warm layer, decent shoes, a spade and some gloves.



Western Bay of Plenty District Council is inviting people to get involved at a Community Planting Day this Saturday at Waihi Beach.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Muster to provide valuable insight

The annual Matuku Muster has returned for its second year, and it’s set to provide more valuable insights into one of New Zealand’s most elusive wetland birds – the critically threatened bittern (matuku-hūrepo or kautuku).

This year’s muster coincides with the recent launch of DOC’s Always Be Naturing campaign – during Conservation Week – encouraging all New Zealanders to take action for nature.

A nationwide initiative run by Love Bittern – a charity organisation and community group promoting protection of the matuku-hūrepo – the Matuku Muster calls for volunteers and community groups to count and observe the cryptic and rare birds in wetlands across New Zealand.

There are estimated to be less than 1000 matuku-hūrepo nationally.

The particular focus is listening for the distinctive booming sound made by males. The muster helps identify and address gaps in the known matuku-hūrepo environment and how the birds use those spaces.

DOC Science Advisor Harry Caley says the contribution of volunteers involved in the first muster provided valuable data on the matuku-hūrepo population.

“The first Matuku Muster helped us understand more about the shape of matuku-hūrepo populations and how they use their wetland habitats so we can help keep their homes healthy, and so they’ve got space to thrive,” he said.

“We want matuku-hūrepo populations to shift towards and beyond not being threatened by making sure their wetlands are healthy now and into the future.”

Last year more than 500 volunteers across New Zealand counted 223 male birds at 462 sites. Finding females requires an entirely separate method still



Matuku in flight. Photo: VANESSA KENNARD

being developed by researchers. However, they can sometimes be seen paired flying with males at sites across the country during the Muster.

“The muster is a way people can take action for nature. With more people involved we can reach more wetlands, count more birds and protect wetlands into the future – not just for bittern but for the animals that call them home.

“The previous Matuku Muster data helped us identify and address gaps in the known matuku-hūrepo environment,” Harry said. “Our aim is for the species to survive in locations for several generations by providing optimal matuku-hūrepo habitats within each wetland network, maintaining those sites indefinitely, and adding or enhancing addition/enhancement of new sites for the birds.”

Harry said repeating observations of matuku-hūrepo at sites also meant scientists could model the birds’ abundance and determine their population status.

The first Matuku Muster revealed knowledge of the birds is more widespread than anticipated. Many matuku-hūrepo habitats observations are not on land managed by DOC.

DETAILS: More info www.lovebittern.com/thegreatmatukumuster



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Rural Life

Hayward Farm: lessons in the field



Hannah van der Struy, left, and Tamzin Forsyth-Lees round up the cattle to be weighed.

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's not often I need to wear gumboots for an interview. That's because it's not often I get to visit a school that operates its classes on a farm. Hauraki Plains College is the exception, and the classroom in question is Hayward Farm. The sun is out on August 21 as I drive down Kaihere Rd. Dozens of students, some in overalls and gumboots, scatter along the 300 metre stretch of riverbank footpath from the college to the Hayward Farm entrance. The farm was purchased by the Hauraki Charitable Trust in 2018. The trust was created in 2004 by a group of past students from Ngatea District High School and Hauraki Plains College, with a purpose to provide additional resourcing and opportunities to strengthen the educational, social and wellbeing outcomes for young people of Hauraki Plains College and the community. The farm was subdivided and 8.8 hectares was left for Hauraki Plains College to teach agriculture and horticulture to its students. As I turn right into the farm's entrance one thing is clear to me: this is not a regular farm. Students bound down the driveway ready for the final block of the day. Teacher in charge Primary ITO (Industry Training Organisation) Ag/Hort Trades Academy and Agriscience Bronwyn Dyer greets me as we walk to the clearing, where I can see different sections of the farm. There's a fruit orchard, chickens, stockyard, old milking shed, big barn, native trees, and a swarm of students ready to get to work. Bronwyn tells *The Profile* the point of Hayward Farm is to teach students skills

that can be transferable to either an agriculture or horticulture environment, whether it's on a farm or used to support people in the primary sector. The New Zealand economy is "crying out" for young people to work in these areas, Bronwyn says, so the farm helps inspire and pique that interest for students. "It is also a place to give students a chance to learn something that they may never have had the chance to do without the farm." All the students gather around us before they split into clusters at different stations. We follow a group who are working with cattle alongside Agriculture teacher and Primary ITO AgHort trade academy teacher Brett Harris. The squelch of cow splats beneath hooves and students' gumboots is the only reminder I need to position myself at least three feet away from the stockyard. Students round up the cattle and prepare them to be weighed. "They're very, very good at doing it. They don't need a lot of guidance from the teacher now because they've been doing it for so long," Bronwyn says. Their focus is to measure the animal's mass and mean weight, and check how many kilos it's gained in the past two weeks. "They do that to make sure the animals are putting on weight and they might separate some that need a little bit of extra care." There is currently extra land adjacent to Hayward Farm which the school uses to graze 120 dairy replacement R1s (rising one-year-olds) for the trust's new farm in Waitakaruru. The students and teachers look after the stock from a vulnerable age until they are ready for mating, she says.

CONTINUED ON P13

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Chelsey Collett drives the tractor around the orchard. Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

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Rural Life

CONTINUED FROM P12

Students vaccinate, apply zinc boluses for facial eczema, weigh them to check their progress and drench them for worms, she says.

Students also help raise the school's 20 mixed age beef steers to R3 stage, which helps contribute to the running expenses of Hayward Farm, she says.

Bronwyn points out that Brett is also a trained chainsaw tutor and teaches year 12 and 13 students how to operate the piece of machinery.

"He just had a student that got a job straight out of school on \$45 an hour working with chainsaws."

It goes without saying, there is certainly a need for sectioned areas on the farm. That's why students are also equipped with the skills to build fences - they learn how to tie fence knots, put in posts and hang gates.

At the next station, Hayward Farm manager and Primary Industries assistant Chris de Beer helps a student tie an end knot, while others watch and learn until it's their turn on the tools. Safety goggles, concentration and patience are a must.

When the students graduate from school, Bronwyn says they'll be able to work for a fencer or do their own farm work.

Next to the fencing students, another group takes turns learning how to drive in the two little orange tractors. One student carefully maneuvers around the orchard and loops back for the next person to have their practice.

We toddle along to the fruit orchard by foot and see the next group of students with horticulture and sustainability teacher



Clockwise from top left: Chris de Beer teaches a student how to tie an end knot; Olivia Taaffe and Abby Cruse thin, prune and harvest the lemon trees; Bronwyn Dyer, right, and Chris are proud of Hayward Farm.

Yotam Kay. The orchard is home to around 240 fruit trees made up of stone fruit, pip fruit, citrus, feijoa and the latest addition: kiwifruit.

"We have just established a Gold Kiwifruit orchard thanks to the kind help from Owen Ruddell, who gave up his time to help the school, and KVH [Kiwifruit Vine Health] who gave us [a] kiwifruit licence," Bronwyn says.

The kiwifruit will be used to teach students how to manage a small, commercial-style orchard through the seasons from the establishment stage.

Students learn how to prune, thin and harvest all of the trees in the orchard. It's something I get to witness as the students use secateurs to tend to the lemon trees.

Four buckets full of the citrus-bounty will be donated to teachers, students and different departments to be used for hospitality.



Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



One thing Yotam says he loves about being in the orchard is when students ask if they can eat the fruit.

"Of course you can have some fruit. That's what it's all about."

But the farm just keeps on giving, with more opportunities

everywhere I turn, including mini projects such as poultry raising, landscaping and plans for cowshed alterations.

One new project in the works was a market garden. On the other-side of the orchard boundary line, near the kiwifruit rows, they

plan to grow a market garden with vegetables such as potatoes, cabbages, carrots and pumpkins.

They will be used for hospitality, but also to donate and sell at cost so students will get to experience everything from development to maintenance to harvest, Yotam says.

Every year, a soil professional visits the farm and teaches students and teachers how to take and read a soil test.

"We then make decisions on what to apply to the orchard," Bronwyn says.

"We are working on a no-pesticide spray programme and try to only use organic type fungicides."

"This year we will trial pheromone spirals to find a way to reduce the need for insecticides."

There are also plans to establish a wetland area for students to learn about wetland management, and also to develop a running and cycling track around the farm for outdoor education, Bronwyn says, where horticulture students will plant native trees.

I can see her passion for the subjects and students she teaches.

It's something that makes this term a challenge for Bronwyn as she prepares to leave her role at Hauraki Plains College at the end of term three after almost a decade of service to the school and students she loves.

Bronwyn will take on a new role to promote horticulture at Massey University as the stakeholder development officer for horticulture.

"My hope is to encourage people to look deeper at the exciting careers in horticulture with its many different avenues."



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Authorised by Paul Milner, PO Box 55, Paeroa

ENTERTAINMENT



Pianist David Selfe and percussionist Jeremy Fitzsimons will bring Charlie Chaplin films to life in Thames next week.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Silent movies to entertain

The magic of 1920s picture houses where silent films were brought to life with live musical accompaniment will be brought to Thames next week.

Thames Music Group presents *Silent Movies Live* at 7pm on September 22 at St George's Church.

Pianist David Selfe composes the original scores, arranged by percussionist Jeremy Fitzsimons, who performs using a rich array of percussion instruments, sound effects, saw, and ukulele.


Together, they create a vibrant soundscape that enhances the emotional depth and humour of Charlie Chaplin's timeless films and bring a fresh and playful energy to the golden age of cinema.

Featured Charlie Chaplin films will include *The Kid* (1921) - a poignant blend of comedy and drama, this film helped define the genre of the "dramedy", and *A Dog's Life* (1918), in which Charlie Chaplin's beloved Tramp teams up with a stray dog named Scraps to survive the hardships of urban life.

David Selfe is an internationally experienced pianist, composer, and producer, who worked for many years as a "keyboard nocturnalist" in West End shows, is a recording artist for Universal Records, Rajon Records, Rimu Records, and New Frontier Records, with music currently streaming on 82 platforms. He has produced 142 commercial album titles.

Jeremy Fitzsimons is a freelance percussionist based in Thames. He was Principal Percussionist of Orchestra Wellington and performs regularly with the NZSO, Auckland Philharmonia, and the Pink Floyd Experience. He has toured extensively as a marimbist for Chamber Music New Zealand and is a founding member of both Strike Percussion and Gareth Farr's Drumdrag. He has been a member of the duo Double Shot since 2015.

DETAILS: Tickets: \$20, available from Carson's Bookshop (cash only) or cash at the door. More info: thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz.



Hato Hone St John Thames

Youth program

Our St John youth programmes continue for the year. We have the Penguin Programme that caters for the 5 to 8 year olds to introduce these young people into fun and adventure in a controlled and supervised environment. The Cadet Programme is for the 8 to 18 year olds and provides a focus on first aid, healthcare, leadership and general life skills.

Both are popular and aid with increasing community resilience.

- > make positive impacts on todays youth
- > developing leadership, life skills and fun
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- > build self-esteem and confidence
- > provide exciting leadership development

If you have children looking for fun and development, there are currently some vacancies on each programme.

Youth Leader vacancies

We are also keen to expand our Youth Leadership team to assist our Youth Divisional Manager run these programmes. If you are 18 years or older and keen to assist, we would like to hear from you.

St John - local people serving the needs of our community.

For further information phone Shane Deverill on **021 955 860**

History made at kids' rugby league carnival

RUGBY LEAGUE

By ANDREW CONNAUGHTON

Saturday marked a special day for the Hauraki community, as hundreds of kids came together to celebrate sport, friendship, and create a little bit of history.

The Hauraki District Rugby League competition made its long-awaited return to Ngatea and Waitakaruru with a huge carnival day hosted across two venues – Ngatea Domain and Hauraki North RFC grounds, affectionately known as the Waitakaruru International Stadium.

From the early morning, teams streamed in from all corners of the region, with players travelling from as far as Mercury Bay and Katikati.

In total, more than 50 junior teams – from Under-5s right through to Under-15s – took part.

This saw more than 1200 children lacing up their boots to play rugby league, supported by more than 1000 enthusiastic whānau, friends, and community members.

The turnout was so incredible that Ngatea Domain alone couldn't fit everyone. In true community spirit, Hauraki North RFC opened their grounds to share the load. In doing so, history was made – it was the first time in the club's proud 120-year history that competitive rugby league was played at their ground.

A club spokesperson said they were proud to support youth sport in all its forms: "Kids' sport knows no code. Whether it's Union or League, our focus is on giving young



Ngatea Tohora and Tairua Taniwha teams made history. BELOW: Players participate at Ngatea Domain. Photos: SUPPLIED



people the chance to be active and to belong". Both venues were alive with excitement as players ran, tackled, and scored tries cheered on by family and friends. The atmosphere was

one of joy, pride, and togetherness. It wasn't just about sport – it was about creating memories and building a stronger community.

Off the field, Ngatea Rugby League volunteers kept the crowd well fed, with mussel fritters proving a runaway hit alongside a fundraising cake stall generously stocked by parents' home baking. The smell of food, the sound of cheering, and the sight of kids running free made for a truly carnival atmosphere.

For club president Adam Matete, the day was about more than just games. "For me, the realisation was that we had succeeded in creating a place for the kids to play our sport," he said. "The smiles told the story – hundreds of smiles everywhere. There were a few tears from the hard work, but as always, the smiles shone through. It was a very successful day with hundreds of happy kids."

Saturday's carnival was more than just a one-day event, it was a milestone for youth rugby league in the Hauraki District. It highlighted the passion of volunteers, the generosity of local clubs, and the power of sport to bring people together. It also reminded us that history can be made not just in big stadiums, but in local fields when communities step up for their kids.

As the sun set on a day filled with laughter, competition, and camaraderie, the legacy was clear. The Ngatea Rugby League carnival day didn't just bring sport back to the community, it proved that the spirit of the game, and of the people who love it, is stronger than ever.

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vs
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We are a reflection of what surrounds us

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Recently we had a young mum jump up at church to say a heart felt thanks to her church family. She had been through some major health complications and was feeling absolutely at the end of her rope. It was too hard; things were piling up and she was emotionally wrecked. It may not be a health issue, but I am sure you know the feeling.

And yet on this particular Sunday, while still nursing the wounds of recent operations she jumped up to celebrate those who had supported her, both those who knew of her struggle, and those who simply reached out because she was on their 'heart', completely unaware of her situation. And it got me thinking about community and the power of it when done well. I have seen people absolutely transformed. I remember a lady who was struggling with addictions and a family that was falling apart.

She showed up out of a sense of desperation for support. What she discovered instead was a family. One that she could turn to whenever things got bad. Within a matter of months she was working, healthier, fitter, and glowing with fresh hope for her future. See the people we surround ourselves with are often a direct reflection of who we are becoming. We begin to talk like them, act like them, and think like them. Its part of how we are wired. In our Res-Kids program we

ask students to consider this very thing. As we have explored resilience and wellbeing we invite them to think about how they can build on and grow their learning. Maybe it looks like joining St John Youth (first aid), the Scouts, a sports team, a local youth group, or volunteering at Kauaeranga Valley Christian Camp (KVCC). The idea is simple, find a group of people that reflects the kind of person you want to be, and join them. And so, as we face an epidemic of loneliness, where we con-

nect online and yet feel more alone than ever, maybe it is time to look in and look out. If you are feeling isolated, as a family or an individual, maybe its time to explore the groups in your community and join one that reflects the kind of person you want to be.

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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Kaimai Brewing & Distilling triumphs at prestigious 2025 World Gin Awards

Kaimai Brewing & Distilling, nestled in Waikino's historic Waikino Hotel, clinched a gold medal and the title of New Zealand's Best Contemporary Style Gin at the 2025 World Gin Awards earlier this year. This prestigious accolade was awarded to their signature Eliza's Claim Gold Gin, a testament to the distillery's dedication to quality and innovation. Founded in 2020 by Wayne and Kathy Chowles, Kaimai Brewing & Distilling draws inspiration from the rich gold mining history of the Karangahake Gorge. Their gins are crafted using 50,000-year-old artesian spring water from the Coromandel Ranges, infusing each bottle with a unique taste of the region. Eliza's Claim Gold Gin, the distillery's inaugural release, previously secured a gold medal at the 2021 New Zealand Spirits Awards. Its recent recognition on the world stage underscores Kaimai's commitment to excellence and the growing global appreciation for New Zealand's craft spirits. This achievement not only highlights the distillery's prowess but also places New Zealand firmly on the international gin map, celebrating the fusion of local heritage and artisanal Craftsmanship.

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Kaimai Brewing & Distillery wins gold and the title of New Zealand's Best Contemporary Style Gin at the 2025 World. Photo: SUPPLIED

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SUDOKU

218

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

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

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HARD

218

HARD

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EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

238

- ACROSS**

1 Portly (5)

4 Affairs of state (8)

9 Pamper (6)

14 Porcelain (5)

15 Special job skills gathered from experience (6,2,3,5)

17 See-through, thin (5)

18 Self-image (3)

19 Fighter (7)

20 Ill-considered (9)

21 Mountain top (6)

24 Gradually louder (mus)(9)

25 Espionage (6)

26 Holds responsible (6)

29 Not kindly or courteous (10)

31 Amazement (3)

32 Muslim sovereign (6)

33 With the addition of (4)

35 Permit (3)

37 Blood vessel (4)

39 Income or property bequeathed (9)

40 Citrus fruit (9)

41 Wear away (5)

42 Country's money (8)

47 Against the current (8)

51 Smell (5)

55 Racing craft (9)

56 Meal break (9)

58 Articulates (4)

59 Muck (3)

60 Lose footing (4)

61 Prescribed allocations (6)

62 Cereal crop (3)

63 Cosmetic lacquer (4,6)

66 Obstinate determined (6)

67 Ban (6)

69 Restore to former position (9)

72 Body cloth (6)

73 Break up and vanish (9)

75 Not thorough or detailed (7)

77 Printing fluid (3)

80 Unpleasantly vivid (5)

81 Don't tell anyone about it (4,2,5,5)

82 Mournful poem (5)

83 Fled (6)

84 Reflected deeply on (8)

85 Wins over (5)

DOWN

2 Rainproof cover (9)

3 Stomach lesion (5)

5 Dolts (4)

6 Cruel and barbaric (7)

7 Questioned closely, aggressively (12)

8 Rise (5)

9 Any cell (anag)(7)

10 Winner's ribbon (4)

11 Balance (4,2)

12 Metal joiner (5)

13 Likes better (7)

14 Wrinkle by crushing (7)

16 Concealing ruse (11)

22 Agreement (6)

23 Blow up (7)

24 Death investigator (7)

25 Gracefully slender (6)

27 Illness (7)

28 Short sleep (6)

30 Stitched (4)

32 Backless seat (5)

34 Water vapour (5)

36 Pause for relaxation (4)

38 Big bird (3)

42 Expenses (5)

43 Staggering (7)

44 Small whirlpool (4)

45 Occurs (anag)(6)

46 Pilot's badge (5)

48 Somnambulist (11)

49 Settle (7)

50 Whichever (3)

51 Train stop (7)

52 With red or flushed complexion (6)

53 Continuity break (12)

54 Dilute (4)

57 Cities (anag)(6)

64 Cheerfully careless (4-5)

65 Gaily (7)

66 Splits up (7)

68 Briefly shut the eyes (7)

70 Trespass (7)

71 Paper size (6)

72 Clay target shooting sport (5)

74 Farm animal (5)

76 Hurlled (5)

78 Check and correct (4)

79 Doing nothing (4)

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Coach, 4 Take a second look, 14 Suave, 15 Stops, 16 Harbours, 17 Crest, 19 End, 20 Handgun, 21 Traveller, 22 Felled, 25 Put on show, 27 Saturn, 28 Notion, 33 Balloonist, 35 Tea, 36 Assign, 37 Beer, 39 Rib, 41 Biscuit, 42 Tablet, 43 Consulted, 44 Upset, 45 Bad dream, 50 Up, 51 Tabulate, 55 Scrim, 58 Blackmail, 59 Biased, 60 Allowed, 61 War, 63 Ergo, 64 Sermon, 65 Apt, 66 Skateboard, 68 Caddie, 69 Rescue, 71 Out of date, 76 Seller, 77 Stopwatch, 79 Ostrich, 81 Tot, 84 Nests, 85 Arithmetic, 86 Goods, 87 Egypt, 88 By hook or by crook, 89 Stack.

DOWN: 2 Outlaw, 3 Cupid, 5 Afar, 6 Embargo, 7 Scurvy, 8 Chill, 9 Neglect, 10 Lack, 11 Obeyed, 12 Dazed, 13 Deadpan, 14 Stilton, 18 Automobile, 23 Astir, 24 Trisect, 26 Unlaced, 27 Start-up, 29 Inertia, 30 Marina, 31 Still, 32 Agenda, 34 Team, 36 Abyss, 38 Ridge, 40 Guru, 45 Bible, 46 Dragged, 47 Rake, 48 Abates, 49 Crown, 50 Umbrage, 52 Balderdash, 53 Lookout, 54 Theory, 55 Slimmed, 56 Paste, 57 Sees, 62 Canon, 67 Violent, 68 Clutter, 70 Catwalk, 72 Unclear, 73 Measly, 74 Cathay, 75 Acidic, 76 Stays, 78 Prior, 80 Roost, 82 Oslo, 83 Silo.

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Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Public Notices	Situation Vacant
<div><p>University 3rd Age Hauraki Coromandel 10am, 6th October 2025 "Expression of interest" Paeroa Co-Operating Parish Hall Corner Mackay St, Opposite library Lifelong learning, challenging, stimulating, interest groups, shared knowledge. Email: admin@pc.org.nz Phone: 07 862 6110 Complete form at: www.pc.org.nz See you there</p><p>Paeroa Pipe Bands Tattoo Committee Inc Notification of a Special General Meeting. To adopt a new incorporated society constitution. 3pm Sunday 28 September 2025 Paeroa Athletics Club Room Paeroa Domain</p></div>	<div><p>THAMES MARKET EVERY SATURDAY 8am - noon GRAHAMSTOWN PH: 07 868 7213 30th Anniversary 27th Sept.</p><p>CLASSIFIEDS Call Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885</p></div>	<div><p>Rating Information Database</p><p>The Rating Information Database for Hauraki District Council is available for public inspection during office hours 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday at the Council offices at William Street, Paeroa; Orchard Road, Ngātea and Rosemont Road, Waihi.</p><p>The Rating Information Database is also available on Council's website - www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/property-rates</p><p>Ratepayers may object to information in the Rating Information Database where information is incorrect or has been omitted.</p><p>Objections must be in writing and posted to:</p><p>Rating Information Database Hauraki District Council PO Box 17 Paeroa 3640</p><p>or email to info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz</p><p>D Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council</p><p>www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz</p></div>	<div><p>Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School</p><p>EVA HAMMOND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST AWARD</p><p>Eligibility Any past student who is about to commence a course of tertiary education including students who are within 6 months of leaving the school for that purpose.</p><p>Purpose of Award To give financial assistance to eligible current or past students, of the school in respect of any recognised course of tertiary education but with priority given to university education wherever possible. The assistance should benefit students on a basis of financial need and such other deserving qualities as the Trustees may elect.</p><p>An application form is available from the Principal's PA email: tracevreed@thameshigh.school.nz</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">The closing date for applications is Friday 10 October 2025 (12.00 pm)Written applications <u>only</u> are acceptable.All information is confidential to the selection committee.<p>Michael Hart Tumuaki / Principal</p></div>	<div><p>Nick Hoogeveen & Associates 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>To find out more about the role visit our careers section at www.hoogeveen.co.nz</p></div>
<div><p>PAEROA COLLEGE Mahi Tahī Kia Kaha</p><p>Parents and Whānau are invited to attend the Paeroa College End of Year Prizegivings for 2025</p><p>Sports Awards Assembly Wednesday 15th October 1.00pm – 3.00pm</p><p>Senior Prizegiving Wednesday 29th October 6.00pm – 8.00pm</p><p>Junior Prizegiving Wednesday 10th December 10.00am – 11.30am</p></div>		<div><p>Te Pai o Hauraki Marae AGM</p><p>Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Te Pai o Hauraki Marae will be held at Te Pai o Hauraki Marae starting at 10am on Sunday 12 October 2025.</p><p>Agenda:</p><ol style="list-style-type: none">1 - Karakia Whakatuwhera and Mihi2 - Apologies3 - Receiving any minutes of the previous Marae's Meeting4 - The Chairman's report;<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year overview• Strategic plan progress• Annual plan progress5 - The Treasurer's report on the Annual Financial Statements6 - Election of Trustees to replace trustee vacancies left by resignation (note: nominations can be received on the day. All beneficiaries, 18 years and over are entitled to vote at these elections. Voting will be by show of hands. If there are more nominations than vacant positions a secret ballot will be held. No proxy voting.)7 - Committee progress8 - Motions to be considered9 - General Business10 - Karakia Whakakapi11 - Kai o te ahiahi (Lunch)</div>	<div><p>NEED STAFF? GOT SOMETHING TO SELL? Advertise in The Valley Profile and get results!</p><p>Phone Nikki: 022 130 3885</p><p>Phone Davidda: 022 174 3988</p></div>	<div><p>Situation Vacant</p><p>Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School</p><p>Accounts Assistant / Payroll Officer (Permanent Part-time)</p><p>We seek an Accounts Assistant / Payroll Officer to support the Finance Office.</p><p>This role covers a variety of tasks including debtors/creditors, payroll, cash handling, and general administrative support. A sound understanding of accounting is essential, and experience with school-based financial systems would be a strong advantage.</p><p>We promote a collegial and supportive work environment where teamwork, respect, and culturally responsive practices are valued.</p><p>Hours: 15 hours per week, 3 days per week (during term time only). Hours are negotiable.</p><p>Start date: Monday 6 October 2025 (First day Term 4)</p><p>Applications close: Thursday 11 September 2025 (4.00 pm)</p><p>For a role description and non-teaching application form, please visit our website, www.thameshigh.school/vacancies</p></div>
<div><p>Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings – October 2025</p><p>Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during October 2025.</p><p>Committee Meetings</p><p>Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting Thursday 2 October 2025 09.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames</p><p>Please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/meetings for copies of Agendas and Minutes.</p><p>A Lawrie CHIEF EXECUTIVE Thames-Coromandel District Council</p><p>www.tcdc.govt.nz</p></div>				
<div><p>EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – LEASE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY AT 200A MARY STREET, THAMES</p><p>The Council invites Expressions of Interest from community groups or commercial enterprises interested in leasing a two-storey building which was originally the caretaker's cottage for the Memorial Hall</p><p>The property is suitable for a variety of uses, including office space, community services, or light commercial activity. Please note no carparks are provided.</p><p>Viewing can be arranged by contacting the Lease Specialist on 07 868 0200.</p><p>EOI Requirements Interested parties should provide:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">• A brief overview of your organisation or business• Proposed use of the property• Any fit-out or modification requirements• Preferred lease term• Contact details<p>Closing Date EOIs must be submitted by 5.00pm, 17 October 2025 to:</p><p>Lease Specialist Thames-Coromandel District Council Private Bag Thames 3540</p><p>Following the closing date, the Thames Community Board will consider all applications and make a recommendation to Council for approval. The successful applicant will then be advised.</p><p>A Lawrie Chief Executive Thames-Coromandel District Council</p><p>www.tcdc.govt.nz</p></div>		<div><p>PHOTO SALES</p><p>Photographs taken by the <i>Valley Profile</i> are available for purchase, contact us today! editor@valleyprofile.co.nz 0204 0944 853</p><p></p></div>	<div><p>PAPER DELIVERIES</p><p>Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:</p><p>NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy</p><p>PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub</p><p>WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalu</p><p>THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak’N’Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson’s Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store</p><p>TURUA: Turua Dairy KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy</p></div>	<div><p>NEWSPRINT</p><p>Roll ends for sale 800mm wide, varying lengths, \$10 ea Available at the <i>Valley Profile</i> office: 2 Queen St, Paeroa Call first to check availability: Ph 0204 0944 853</p><p> <i>Perfect for school holidays - art and craft, moving, table coverings and more</i></p><p></p></div>

TradeZone Thames takes home award

One store that aims to look after the ever-changing hardware needs of Thames and the Coromandel is TradeZone Thames, also known as Read Bros Hardware. It should come as no surprise, the family-owned business recently snapped up an award at the TradeZone New Zealand Annual Awards on August 24. In only their second year as a member of TradeZone Industrial New Zealand, TradeZone Thames was awarded the Business Development Award - a category that reflects the very essence of what it means to grow, evolve, and lead within the TradeZone network. General Manager of TradeZone New Zealand David Morris, who presented the award, said it recognised a store that demonstrated outstanding business development through consistent growth, strong supplier relationships, and a collaborative approach with the TradeZone support office. "It's not just about numbers, it's about vision, execution, and the ability to turn opportunity into sustained success. "This year's winner has shown exceptional commitment to these values. Their performance has stood out across the board, and their contribution to the TradeZone



TradeZone Thames owners John and Nicola Read, left, with TradeZone NZ general manager David Morris.

group has been both strategic and inspiring," David said. Award winners and owners of TradeZone Thames John and Nicola Read joined the TradeZone group in 2023 with


the goal of growing their business through diversification, Nicola said. "We saw an opportunity for a local industrial supplier to provide quality products and

service to the vast number of industries on the Peninsula and Hauraki Plains including manufacturing, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and engineering.



John and Nicola Read of TradeZone Thames win the Business Development Award for 2025. Photos: SUPPLIED/@dillonphotonz

"It has been a few busy years working on the business, upgrading systems, processes and our mindset to make the most of being a TradeZone store, as well as still maintaining our existing levels of service to our local and online Read Bros Hardware customers." Nicola said at times it felt overwhelming, but having made the commitment, "you just push on and the opportunities opening up have been exciting and rewarding". Their team was "absolutely key" in helping them through the changes, she said. "Every single member of our team has met the challenges of learning new computer systems, suppliers and processes head on and positively. "We have been so impressed and this award is a reflection of what you can do with [a] great team alongside you."



VOTE

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✓ Cut consultant costs & drive efficiencies

✓ Keep rates at or below inflation

✓ Balancing economic growth with environmental responsibilities

✓ I stand for strong leadership and governance with a common sense approach

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RATES CONTROL TEAM

PROFILE

I care about the Coromandel Peninsula that I have worked and raised my family in over the last 35 years.

My experience over the last 3 years in Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has been in Chairing the Key Committees of Strategy & Policy, Hearing Committee for Dams and the Submissions Sub-Committee. I also sit on 3 other Council Committees as well as 3 District Council working groups focusing on Community adaption and future planning.

Outside of my WRC roles, I have my Commissioners Accreditation and hold the positions of: Trustee of the NZ Youth Ocean Trust, Vice President of the NZ Sports Fishing Council, Co-Chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum which is currently tackling ocean and coastline issues such as the invasive Exotic Caulerpa seaweed.

My leadership and governance approach is results driven with strong local knowledge and a commitment to being fiscally responsible to the rate payers. I am an experienced leader committed to Coromandel Peninsula's growth and sustainability.

✓ Protecting our future on land and sea.

✓ Fiscal responsibility and environmental protection.

✓ Working for Communities and ensuring Community engagement with the Waikato Regional Council.

✓ Strong leadership and a voice you can trust for a sustainable Waikato future.

✓ Results driven that is locally focused.

✓ Smart decisions for you the rate payers.

✓ Supporting the sustained future of Aquaculture.

✓ Retain control of fresh water.

VOTE

WARREN MAHER

027 473 4835

w.maher@xtra.xo.nz

Authorised by Warren Maher



Whakatiwai 9 Mylindas Road

Modern family living by the coast

This solid brick and linea home on 1,861sqm (more or less) blends comfort with modern practicality. Featuring four bedrooms and two bathrooms, it's well-suited to family living or welcoming guests, with the main suite enjoying its own bathroom. The open-plan lounge, dining, and kitchen flow seamlessly, with stone benchtops, quality appliances, and a walk-in pantry. Large windows invite natural light, while a ranch slider opens to a 60sqm deck with covered entertaining. Modern construction includes double glazing, insulation, and a heat pump. The section is flat and easycare, with room for sheds, parking, and future personalisation.

bayleys.co.nz/2630137

1,861sqm 4 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 2 Oct 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
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& 12.45-1.15pm Sun 28 Sep
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seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
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Kaiaua 10 Rua One Place

Beachfront brilliance – sophistication, style, and space

Anchored on a no-exit road, this elevated 1,557sqm (more or less) beachfront home boasts breathtaking Firth of Thames views. Built for strength, the three-bedroom, three-ensuite + toilet home features an upstairs kitchen, downstairs kitchenette, and durable materials. Expansive windows frame uninterrupted ocean vistas, while a rimu benchtop adds warmth. Solid concrete walls and native timber details ensure character and longevity. A dumbwaiter aids convenience, and a Dolomite filtration system with 75,000L water storage boosts practicality. With direct water access, subdivision potential (subject to council approval), and Airbnb appeal, this coastal gem shines.

bayleys.co.nz/2630046

1,557sqm 3 3

Asking Price \$1,375,000
View 4-4.30pm Sun 21 Sep
& 12-12.30pm Sun 28 Sep
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OPEN HOME



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Ideally located, it's just a flat stroll to the wharf café or into town, where a vibrant mix of cafes, boutique shops and services await. With our vendor already securing their next home, this much-loved property is seriously for sale.

bayleys.co.nz/2180835

4 2 1 1 2

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NEW LISTING



Thames 415 Parawai Road

Exciting opportunity in the heart of Thames

Rarely do you get the chance to secure a substantial property in a central residential location you can put your mark on. Built in 1978, this 240sqm (more or less) Lockwood building has served as a community church for 45 years and is now surplus to requirements. On a flat 1,581sqm (more or less) residentially zoned section, the single-level property provides two large interconnected open-plan areas, a kitchen, office, two toilets and ample parking or future development space.

Close to schools, a local grocery store and just minutes from town, this versatile property will appeal to investors, developers or community groups seeking opportunity in the heart of Thames.

bayleys.co.nz/2180839

1,581

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SPORTS

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Hometown support for Stag’s shield success

RUGBY

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

When Southland Stags’ Fletcher Morgan ran in a try during the squad’s Ranfurly Shield win over Waikato in Hamilton, it was a proud moment, though one that came with split loyalties among his local supporters.

The left winger grew up in Waihi, but has been living down south for a few years and was named in the Stags in June. This meant there were a few torn allegiances during the August 31 match - “one foot in each camp” - but they nonetheless rooted for the player they knew best.

“It was super special,” Fletcher said. “It’s essentially my home province, so I had a massive support crew there... On the TV broadcast, I don’t know how they did it, but it panned straight to my older brother who was up cheering with a crew of my family, so when I dotted down it was pretty cool. They were stoked that I could be doing them proud.”

The Stags took the shield back down south for the first time in more than a decade, and despite losing it to Canterbury a week later, the shine was not dulled.

For Fletcher, holding the shield was a pinch-me moment, having grown up remembering the excitement surrounding the trophy.

“Jokingly, at the start of the year I said I wanted to win the Ranfurly Shield, and I remember



Fletcher, right, holds the Ranfurly Shield with teammate, former Paeroa man, Nic Souchon. Photos: SUPPLIED



Fletcher Morgan with proud parents, Paul and Denise.

“Southland hasn’t won four games in a season in quite a long time, and we’ve won three [this season], so if we can focus on the game in front of us and pick up a victory then we’re already rewriting the script on what we’ve done before.”

And though the NPC fixtures have kept him busy on-field, Fletcher thanked his hometown supporters who managed to cheer for maroon and gold - even if they bled red, yellow, and black.

“I certainly feel it and hear all the messages,” he said, “and when I get nervous going out to a game or anything like that, I just think of all the support that I’ve got behind me, and I just want to do everyone proud.”

“It makes it a lot easier knowing that I have the people in my corner that I do.”

as a young fella when Southland last had it and what a buzz it was around Southland,” he said.

“Being part of it and being just a contributor in a small way, it was a pinch-me moment, and the cherry on top was for [the game] to be in Waikato.”

Involved with the Rugby Southland High Performance Group, Fletcher, 25, was part of the Heartland Championship-winning Thames Valley side last

season. He played for the Highlanders Bravehearts earlier this year and trained with the All Blacks Sevens team.

He said contributing to the Stags and playing at a national level had been a long-time dream of his, and he was proud of how far he’d come.

“This year for the Stags it’s been about rewriting the script and being a different team to what Southland has been the last few

years, so to get an opportunity to go and play for the shield - number one, that was huge. Then to go up and win it, it was extra special.

“To everyone down here in Southland,” he said, “it was incredible.”

Fletcher spoke to *The Profile* ahead of the Stags’ NPC home game against Counties Manukau on Sunday, but said the squad’s goal was to keep progressing and focus on one match at a time.



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