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Profile

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As five Supreme Court judges consider quashing the convictions of the man jailed for killing Swedish couple Heidi Paakkonen and Sven Urban Höglin, Russell Dwyer continues searching for one of their remains. KELLEY TANTAU reports

Convicted murderer David Tamihere spent three days in the country's highest court last month, where five judges heard arguments over whether or not he suffered a miscarriage of justice. They will now take time to decide whether to overturn his convictions for the 1989 killings of Heidi and Urban in the Coromandel bush. Urban's body was found near Whangamatā in 1991, but Heidi's remains are still missing, and Russell - an Australian father-of-three - is determined to change that. "I cannot really give an answer as to why I became so invested, other than the obvious tragic circumstances of the case," Russell told *The Profile*. "I just really felt I wanted to help find Heidi's remains for her family. "This is the only time I have done something like this, but I do have that trait of having to finish something I've started." Together with search partner Alan Ford - who in 2017 found a plastic bag containing three pairs of women's leggings in the bush north of Whangamatā and handed them into Police - Russell has undertaken a range of volunteer searches. In October, 2024, and again in March this year, they searched long and hard at a farm in Parakiwai, near Whangamatā. Russell then received a tip that Heidi's remains might be in an offal hole beside a woolshed on a farm in Ohui, near Oputere.

Aussie dad keeps Heidi search alive

Russell Dwyer and his volunteer team are searching for the remains of Heidi Paakkonen who, alongside her boyfriend Sven Urban Höglin, vanished near Thames in 1989. Photos: SUPPLIED

Believing it to be the strongest lead yet in his search, he's eager to investigate the site but the landowners were hesitant to allow access without official police involvement, he said. "We are just hoping this search can be done in any way possible. "We have people with excavators, metal detectors, who are all willing to donate their time to get this location searched at no cost. "We understand Heidi may in fact not be in this location, but from the nearly three years we have been working together, Alan and myself believe this is the strongest lead from credible people that we have ever had." Russell said he and Alan would not give up, and launched a petition urging the New Zealand Police to search the farm at Ohui for Heidi. It has amassed more than 1600 signatures from people across the globe. "Finding Heidi Paakkonen and

CONTINUED ON P3

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I feel sick.

I need to go to the toilet.

Sophie farted!

I want to go home.

Ethan's biting me!

I've got a headache.

How long until we get there?



Remembering why you avoid long trips.

The team has searched for Heidi in a number of locations in the Coromandel bush.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Aussie dad keeps Heidi search alive

CONTINUED FROM P1

returning her to her whānau in Sweden would be such a great thing to do, and I believe will put thousands of locals at peace after so many years of hoping she would be found,” Russell said.

“The searchers of 1989 also deserve to have that peace at the very least, after what they went through searching the Thames bush back then.” On April 8, 1989, Urban and Heidi went into the bush near Thames. The couple vanished and were reported missing in May.

Police, local residents, search and rescue, and military personnel carried out the largest land-based search undertaken in New Zealand, performing grid-searches centred on Crosbie’s Clearing, 12km inland from Thames township.

While Urban’s body was found a few years later, Heidi has never been located.

Tamihere was convicted of murdering the couple and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1990. He was released in 2010 and continues to maintain his innocence.

“This case is so tragic in many ways,” Russell said. “I believe it’s so wrong that we cannot search for Heidi, or that the New Zealand Police don’t have the time or resources to search for her. That just keeps driving me and our team to keep going, no matter what barriers are put in front of us.”

DETAILS: For more information: www.change.org, and search for ‘Ohui’ or ‘Heidi’.

Information sought

Police are seeking the public’s help in locating Jared, who was reported missing from the Thames area on August 26.

The 35-year-old was last seen leaving his home address on Waiomu Valley Rd on the morning of August 24. Jared was heading towards the Coromandel, but he never returned home, Police said. “Thames-Coromandel bach owners, hunters, trampers and campers, might see Jared or his vehicle,” they said.

Jared is thought to be driving a black 2018 Mitsubishi Triton, registration number: LKK544.

Police and Jared’s family have serious concerns for his welfare and would like to find him as soon as possible. “If you see Jared or his vehicle, or have any information that might help us find him, please contact 111 immediately and reference file number: 250826/7445.”

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Thames Tides

Wed Sep 3	Thu Sep 4	Fri Sep 5	Sat Sep 6	Sun Sep 7	Mon Sep 8	Tue Sep 9
<div><div>Morning</div><div>2:29am 2.8 3:27pm 2.9</div><div>8:49am 1.1 9:32pm 1.2</div><div>6:36am 5:59pm</div><div> Best At 8:12am 8:39pm</div><div> Set 3:37am Rise 12:49pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>3:28am 2.8 4:26pm 3.0</div><div>9:56am 1.1 10:29pm 1.1</div><div>6:35am 6:00pm</div><div> Best At 9:06am 9:32pm</div><div> Set 4:24am Rise 1:54pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>4:30am 2.9 5:18pm 3.1</div><div>10:55am 0.9 11:21pm 0.9</div><div>6:34am 6:01pm</div><div> Best At 9:59am 10:25pm</div><div> Set 5:03am Rise 3:02pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>5:29am 3.0 6:05pm 3.3</div><div>11:47am 0.8</div><div>6:32am 6:01pm</div><div> Best At 10:50am 11:15pm</div><div> Set 5:37am Rise 4:12pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>12:09am 0.7 12:33pm 0.6</div><div>6:22am 3.2 6:49pm 3.4</div><div>6:31am 6:02pm</div><div> Best At 11:40am</div><div> Set 6:07am Rise 5:23pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>12:56am 0.6 1:17pm 0.4</div><div>7:11am 3.4 7:33pm 3.6</div><div>6:29am 6:03pm</div><div> Best At 12:04am 12:28pm</div><div> Full Moon Set 6:34am Rise 6:33pm</div></div>	<div><div>Morning</div><div>1:42am 0.4 2:00pm 0.3</div><div>7:57am 3.5 8:18pm 3.7</div><div>6:28am 6:04pm</div><div> Best At 12:52am 1:16pm</div><div> Set 7:01am Rise 7:45pm</div></div>

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Min	High	Low
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12

New Waihi ambulance station opens

Waihi residents will now see ambulance crews and Community Health volunteers working out of the newly built Hato Hone ki Waihihi (St John Waihi) ambulance station following a blessing of the property.

In the early hours of August 23, Hato Hone St John employees, volunteers and local iwi me te whānau whānui came together at 21 Johnston St to mark the operational opening of the Waihi station.

The blessing included the gifting of the name Hato Hone ki Waihihi by local iwi representatives. Known as Waihi today, the town's name was shortened over time from Waihihi. Given Hato Hone St John's long-standing history with the community, the name Hato Hone ki Waihihi maintained a connection between the past, present, and future, St John said.

The formalities also included a blessing of three Mauri stones, which have been gifted the name Te Mauri o Waihihi.

"In te ao Māori, blessing a new building clears the spiritual energy of the space, acknowledges the land and tipuna, and ensures safety and wellbeing to those who use it," national Māori health and equity lead Cam Rota said.

"It restores balance (tapu/noa), provides protection, and connects people to welcome the whare into use."

The original Waihi ambulance station, which was built in the 1970s, was aging and no longer fit-for-purpose. It was taken



The new facility was supported by donations from the Waihi community.

Photo: SUPPLIED

down at the end of 2023 to make way for a new "home away from home" for local ambulance crews. Waihi ambulance operations temporarily relocated to 32 Hazard St during the rebuild.

The new facility was supported by donations from the Waihi community and the general public across New Zealand. Most recently, funds were raised during Hato Hone St John's 2024 and 2025 "Light the Way" Annual Appeal

and a "111 Challenge" that saw donors commit to an activity, such as cycling 111 kms or baking 111 cupcakes.

A St John spokesperson would not disclose how much the station rebuild cost because they said it was commercially sensitive, and the final amount raised for the project was not yet available.

Group operations manager for Coromandel South Julia Te Huia said the organisation was incred-

ibly grateful to have achieved its end goal.

"The support that we have received throughout this project has been amazing and we are truly thankful," she said.

"This includes the Gatland family, who provided our temporary station and went above and beyond to accommodate us, and the support, donations, and hours put in by our past and present area committees, volunteers, staff

and managers over the past 15 to 20 years. We now have sunlight beaming in with no bars on the windows and no more leaking during wet and windy weather. This building provides our hard-working crews with a comfortable place to rest, recharge, and study – which all benefits our communities."

The new station will also be a space for the local Hato Hone St John Area Committee members and the volunteer-led Waka Ora Health Shuttle community service.

Waihi Area Committee chair Kris Purden said her team was looking forward to moving in and collaborating in one unified space.

"We are so pleased to see the new station completed after many years of fundraising. It has been a primary focus for us, and for the Area Committees before us," she said.

"Knowing how difficult shifts are at times for our frontline teams, it is rewarding to see that they now have a safe, healthy, and modern base to return to."

"Our Area Committee works hard to support both ambulance personnel and community health volunteers in Waihi and will continue to do so."

Hato Hone ki Waihihi will host a community day on November 1, when its doors will be open to the public. This event will give donors, supporters, whānau, and the people of Waihi the opportunity to meet their local Hato Hone St John team and tour the station. Details are yet to be confirmed.



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4 1 1 5

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eves.co.nz/ewa20531

Auction Thurs 18 Sept, from 1pm
247 Cameron Road, Tauranga
(unless sold prior)
Phone for viewing times
Brooke Edwards 027 435 5905
brooke.edwards@eves.co.nz



Waihi
56D Mataura Road

3 2 1 2

Rural Outlook with Modern Comforts

Set on an 897sqm section (approx) at the town's edge, this 235sqm home offers peaceful rural living. Open-plan living with a wood burner, heat pump, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, double garage, office nook, native gardens and stream walkway.

eves.co.nz/ewa20566

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New Listing



Waihi
20 Wrigley Street

3 1 1 2

Sun, Space and Serious Value

Sunny and bright home on a spacious section. Perfect for families or first-home buyers, this property offers plenty of room to grow, enjoy the outdoors, and make your own. A warm, inviting home with endless potential! Plus a detached garage/workshop.

eves.co.nz/ewa20589

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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
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Boundary lines are indicative only

Waihi
17 Walker Street

6 3 2 3

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Set across two levels, this is the ultimate home for large or extended families, entertainers, or smart buyers looking to secure a property with serious potential. Bring your vision and get stuck in, as there are renovations you could do to give this home a fresh new chapter. Spacious living and dining extend to a covered entertaining deck and a private backyard. Triple garaging offers storage and a covered space to work.

eves.co.nz/ewa20519

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Auction Thursday



Waihi
26 Hollis Road, Waikino

3 2 1 6

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Set on a sun-drenched one-hectare (approx) block in peaceful Waikino, this modernised home offers three bedrooms, a sunny deck, wood burner, and heat pump. Extensive shedding incl. high-stud shed with bathroom/kitchenette, own septic.

eves.co.nz/ewa20520

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247 Cameron Road, Tauranga
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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.

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Adams aims for re-election in Hauraki

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.

Hauraki’s two-time Mayor Toby Adams is ready for another term. Over the 2024 Christmas break, he mused over whether he could commit “100 per cent” for a further three years. He decided he could. Adams was elected Mayor following the 2019 local body elections. Prior to that, he had been the district’s deputy. He said a number of factors tipped the scales toward restanding, including changes in central government, the appointment of a new council chief executive, and positive feedback from the public. “The current government is making a lot of changes to the landscape of local government, with Local Waters Done Well, and the RMA reform - which I’ve been heavily involved with for the last three or four years - so trying to navigate a new council through that process requires some good leadership and some good stability,” he said. “Also, I had good feedback from current elected members and community members asking whether I was going to run again, so I spent some time over the last Christmas break to see whether - because it’s a job that I’ve always put over 100 per cent into - I still had four years of giving 100 per cent, and I did.” When asked what made him stand out against his competitors, Adams said it was his approachability. “I consider myself one of the most accessible, approachable Mayors in New Zealand,



Incumbent Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams is seeking re-election. File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

and I get that from a lot of people,” he said. “And I don’t have different personalities for different meetings. I’m the same person every meeting I go to. “So whether it’s a meeting with a ratepayer that’s having an issue over a rates bill or a water bill or a tree in their backyard, to having a meeting with the Prime Minister, I’m the exact same person.” The approachability was evident when *The Profile* called unannounced at 4.27pm on a Tuesday afternoon. The current Mayor pulled his car over in Waikino, in the Karangahake Gorge, for the

interview. He was returning to Paeroa from a meeting with the Waihi Fire Service, which was working on a funding application for a new shed to house a water tanker. Adams, a volunteer firefighter himself, said he quite often attended call-outs, but admitted people were “not as surprised as you would think” to see their Mayor suited up. “I just think that’s what makes you do a job like [mayor] and is why you get into local government anyway - because you care about your community,” he said. When reflecting on his past term, Adams said there were “multiple things” achieved collectively as a council - rather than any one individual accomplishment. But he was adamant he’d built good relationships with neighbouring and national councils, and pointed to his role as chair of the Waikato Mayoral Forum, which advocates to central government on behalf of Waikato councils. “There’s lots of things that we’ve achieved as a council, and I’ve played a role in that, but I’ll never take credit for any one decision because it’s not done solely by me,” he said. “You can’t work in a silo around New Zealand. You’ve got to build relationships with your neighbouring councils, your Waikato councils, the rest of New Zealand’s councils, and different ministers, and those relationships don’t come on day one. “Just because you become the Mayor, you don’t automatically get relationships that are built over a number of years,” he said, “but I’ve built those.”

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



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District progresses despite ‘frightful’ roads



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.

1876

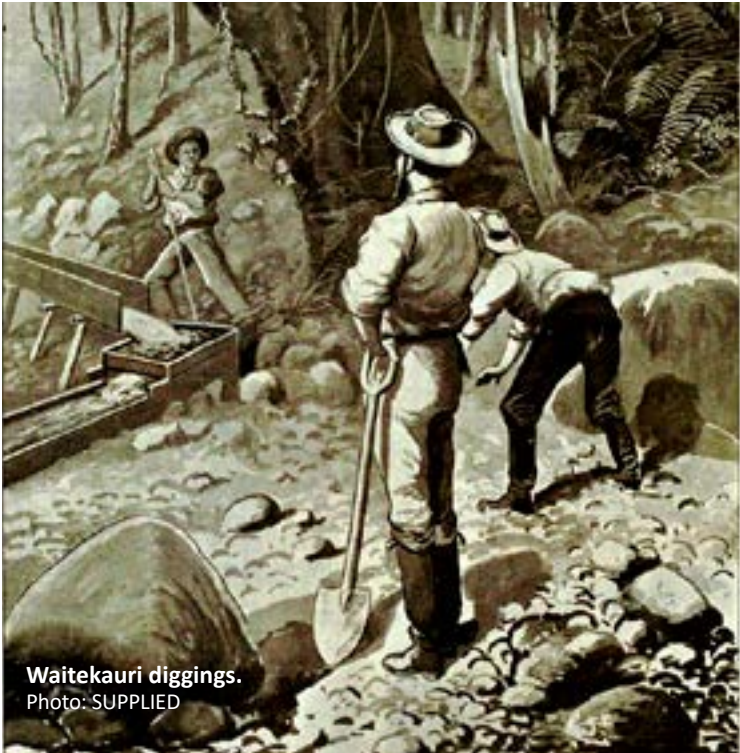
Advancements were being made at Waitekauri. Mr Snodgrass, baker, of Paeroa, was building a branch bakery and store there. The miners were applying to the postal authorities asking that a branch post office be established.

Altogether the whole district was progressing but the roads through the bush to the diggings were in a frightful condition, the mud in places being feet deep.

An old track had been discovered leading direct from Mackaytown to Waitekauri, which was rapidly being cleared, so that going from Mackaytown to the Waitekaui diggings it was no longer necessary to go round by Paeroa.

Cartloads of furniture were passing daily through Mackaytown on their way to Waitekauri, as well as mobs of cattle for the same place.

Meanwhile, a terrific thunderstorm passed over Paeroa having been preceded by a heavy downpour of rain. The rain cloud was so dense that it caused a deep gloom as though the sun had set. Flash-



Waitekaui diggings.
Photo: SUPPLIED

es of lightning followed in rapid succession. Mr Jackson, blacksmith, was walking along the road when he received a shock which felt as though somebody had struck him in the face, causing him at the same time to spring up and then fall to the ground. Kate Watson and her husband Te Watene were standing near the slaughter yard, Te Watene having a tomahawk in his hand, when both were knocked down. The electric current forced the tomahawk from Te Watene's hand.

At Tapu, settlers assembled for a concert and dance. The hall was

decorated from floor to ceiling with flowers, ferns, and flags. Miss Murray presided at the harmonium; she and Mrs McIlroy singing several songs and duets in such magnificent style as to produce storms of applause. Several gentlemen also sang, and were vigorously encored. Mr Henry Moss Jacob gave a reading entitled *Please to Ring the Bell*. The applause was so deafening that Mr Jacobs had to humour the audience by giving them *Richmond's Address to his Soldiers*. Led by Miss Murray, the school children also sang some lively airs, with noisy effect.

The first part of the musical programme was brought to a close by Mr Murray singing *I won't get drunk anymore*, which was boisterously applauded. After a 10-minute interval, the concert was resumed and later a liberal supply of tea, cakes, and buns was duly disposed of, after which the hall was cleared for dancing.

Two bands were in attendance, one consisting of wind and the other of stringed instruments. To avoid crushing, not more than 30 couples were allowed to be dancing at once.

The only sour note was the carriages, which were ordered at 4am, but failed to put in an appearance until a much later hour.

At the Auckland Police Court, eight-year-old Alfred Dare, a Thames orphan, was charged with escaping from the Industrial School for the third time.

Mr Stickley, the school master, informed the court that the boy had been a great trouble to him and the tricks he played were very remarkable. On one occasion he had picked the lock with a nail and on another had taken some of the sideboards down by the window.

On the boy's third attempt Mr Stickley, hearing a noise, went into the room just as Alfred popped into bed, closing his eyes as though asleep. The next afternoon Mr Stickley found the fugitive under a gooseberry tree with only his shirt on. He had got through a thick fence in the most marvellous manner but how he got out was still a mystery. His Worship gave the boy some kindly advice and persuaded him to go back to the Industrial School with the master.

Chris' Quiz

1. Which children's book stories are set in the fictional location of 'Hundred Acre Wood'?
2. What does a tachometer in a vehicle measure?
3. Place these North Island East Coast bays in order from north to south: Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, Bay of Islands.
4. Cerebriform refers to something that is shaped like what? a) a brain, b) feet, or c) kidneys?
5. Canis familiaris (sometimes referred to as Canis lupus familiaris) is the taxonomic name for which type of pet? a) Cats, b) dogs, or c) mice?
6. Which 1955 animated film features a scene where two dogs lock eyes whilst consuming a meal of spaghetti and meatballs?
7. True or false: fungi are related more closely to animals than plants?
8. What does the character Joey Tribbiani do for work in the TV sitcom *Friends*?
9. Which of the following is considered a 'healthy' blood pressure for an adult human? a) 120/80, b) 180/120, or c) 200/110?
10. As outlined in the *Valley Profile* August 26th edition, Hauraki Plains College student Ruby Green was able to attend the Vogue College of Fashion Summer School Programme in which city? a) Milan, b) New York, or c) Paris?



ANSWERS: 1. Winnie the Pooh; 2. RPM (revolutions per minute) of the shaft in an engine, also known as revs.; 3. Bay of Islands; 4. a) A dog; 5. b) Lady and the Tramp; 6. Bay of Plenty; 7. False; 8. He's an actor; 9. a) 120/80; 10. b) New York

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

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Grant Hirst, left, with Scott Simpson. Grant, who joined St John in 1975, has been awarded his 50-year service bar. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

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One bolt at a time - you've got what it takes

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

So my truck's been running with a blown head for the last six months.

I was quoted five grand to fix it, which just wasn't realistic. I've done the job before, pulling it apart with a mate, but this time around, I just haven't had the hours in the day.

Life's full on.

So I've been limping it

around, just using it when I've absolutely needed to tow something.

Stopping every so often to top up the water and hoping I can squeeze one more trip out of it. I even thought about selling it at a loss.

But then I'd be stuck, because replacing it with something equally reliable and capable? That'd cost even more.

At athletics last week, I shared my dilemma with another dad. He said something that stuck: "Mate, just park it up and commit to half an hour every second day. You'll have it

sorted in no time".

That landed hard. Because it's true.

We've all got stuff like this - things we put off, not because they're impossible, but because they feel too big. We park them in the "too hard basket," waiting for a magical stretch of free time that never comes.

But most things don't need more time. They need consistent time. That pep talk flicked a switch. A few days later, I'd stripped the engine, filled the garage with parts, ordered a new head, and even a few extras to make sure it's solid for

the long haul. Was I nervous? Yep. Second-guessing myself? Definitely.

But then I remembered the phrase we use with our kids all the time: "Once I start, I know I'll be okay". And I was.

Once I got moving, momentum kicked in. The parts arrive this week, and soon the truck will be back in action - ready for family adventures once again.

So what about you?

What's your "truck"? That job, goal, or dream you've been avoiding?

Maybe it's time to stop wait-

ing. Not to fix it all today, but to commit - half an hour, every second day.

Because it's not about how much you do - it's about how often you show up. One bolt at a time. And once you start, you might just realise - you've got what it takes.

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.

LETTERS

Send your letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

WATER WORKS BILL

The Hauraki District Council would have known about this \$300,000 bill for the water works in the pipeline (Valley Profile, August 5). To me someone on the council, or most of them, knew about the water works bill, including the Mayor, and just left it and carried on spending money cycleways like the one from Silverton Rd to Victoria St. The council and the Mayor want to get their priorities. Also as for the water, it is shocking - it either taste of too much chlorine or mud.

- Christopher Harvey

MAYOR'S RESPONSE

Thank you for your letter. I want to reassure readers that water is a ring-fenced activity. That means the costs are covered by those connected to a

water supply and are not mixed with rates that fund other services. Investments in cycleways, on the other hand, benefit everyone in our community. They provide safer options for locals, encourage healthy living, and also support tourism which brings real economic benefits into our district. You are right that council is aware of changes coming from central government around drinking water standards. What is not always clear is the timing. The particular standard you mentioned may in fact be delayed, and it is likely to be addressed in partnership with six other councils through the Waikato "Water Done Well" collaboration.

I understand people's concern about the taste and quality of water. Our team works hard to balance safety with keeping the water as pleasant

as possible. Please know that every decision we make aims to keep our community safe while also looking after the future needs of Hauraki.

- Toby Adams, Hauraki District Mayor

DAFFODIL DAY THANK YOU

To the Coromandel community, I want to express my deepest thanks for all you have given to Daffodil Day, with Particular thanks to our local volunteers and area co-ordinators. While it may be our biggest fundraising event of the year, Daffodil Day carries special meaning and to many of us it is about connection, compassion, and hope.

The daffodil continues to stand as a figurehead for the one in three New Zealanders who will face a cancer diagnosis. When we come together

each August, we are reminding those on the journey that they are seen, supported, and surrounded by a community determined to make a difference. It was truly an honour to witness so much of our region painted yellow.

Over the past year, the Waikato/Bay of Plenty area has accommodated 2696 guests at the Cancer Society's Lions Lodge; contributed \$252,583 to cancer research; driven 104,657km taking our clients to their cancer treatment; provided 19,289 direct client services.

These figures reflect the scale of the need - and the importance of your role in helping us meet it. As cancer rates rise, our resolve to be here for every person who hears "you have cancer" only grows stronger.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to every

donor, volunteer, business, school, community group and staff member who contributed to Daffodil Day this year. Together, we are not just tackling cancer. We are building a future where no one faces cancer alone, and where hope grows stronger with every year.

I hope we'll see you again for Daffodil Day, 2026. Ngā mihi nui

- Helen Carter, chief executive, Cancer Society Waikato/Bay of Plenty



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Service to honour lost loved ones

A group “no one wants to qualify for” is helping Thames locals through their grief.

Each month, those mourning the loss of a loved one gather at the Thames Community Centre for a bereavement support group run by Hospice Waikato, with stories, tears and often - laughter.

Hospice Waikato delivers specialist community palliative care, looking after those who have terminal or life-limiting illnesses, but it also provides more than medical care.

Its psychosocial team includes social workers, kaiāwhina, and counsellors who work throughout the Waikato region, including regularly visiting Thames and the surrounding district.

At the heart of this work is a monthly bereavement support group held at the Thames Community Centre.

Counsellor and facilitator Adam Bruce said he never underestimated the bravery it took for someone to walk through the door.

“Courageous is the word I use when I welcome new members,” he said.

“I honour people’s bravery to attend a group that no one wants to qualify for. But once stories begin to flow, there’s a sense of recognition - nodding, empathy, tears, and often



Hospice Waikato psychosocial team members Candida Monkley, left, Adam Bruce, and Gaylene Yates. SUPPLIED

laughter. Each person discovers they’re not alone in their grief.”

This sense of community is also reflected in the annual Hospice Remembrance Service, now in its third year in Thames.

The ceremony brings families

together to honour loved ones with music, poetry, and reflection.

A poignant moment comes when photographs of loved ones are displayed, celebrating lives well lived.

Candles are lit to symbolise love, loss, and the enduring

bonds that remain.

DETAILS: The next remembrance service will be held at 2pm on October 19 at St James Church, Pollen St, Thames. Those wishing to attend either the support group or the remembrance service are asked to register by phoning Hospice Waikato on 07 859 1260.

Māori ward panel presented

A speakers’ panel about Māori Wards will take place in Thames and Whitianga this week, with former New Plymouth Mayor Andrew Judd and Wāipa Māori ward councillor Dale-Maree Morgan in attendance.

The event has been organised by Keep Our TCDC Māori Ward - a local community campaign collective, and Catherine Delahunty, from The Basket Hauraki, said it was “vital” for people to be informed about how the wards work.

“With a new Māori ward and a referendum on whether we keep it coming up, we are holding these meetings to give the public information about what these wards are and how they add value from some great speakers,” she said.

“It’s vital that people make an informed vote and that’s why Andrew Judd - who is the former Mayor of New Plymouth - is coming to talk about why local government needs Māori representatives at the Council table, and Dale Marie Morgan, as a Māori ward councillor can share her experiences as one of those representatives.”

DETAILS: The panel will take place on, September 6 firstly in Thames between 11am-1pm at the St George Anglican Church Parish Hall, 602 Mackay St, and then in Whitianga between 4pm-6pm at Whitianga Hall, 24 Monk St.

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Pre-loved catwalk for community patrol

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

A fashion show is set to hit Paeroa later this month, with every outfit on the runway sourced from local second-hand shops.

The fundraiser aims to support the Night Owls of the Paeroa Community Patrol, a volunteer patrol that are the “eyes and ears” who work closely with local police.

Event organiser and emcee Sybil Woolmore told *The Profile* she and Longridge Country Estate’s Jenny Wilson decided to put on the fashion celebration to give something back to the patrol, and with all clothing showcased being repurposed, reused, or upcycled, it proved sustainable fashion could be just as stylish as it was meaningful.

“We decided that maybe we could use the second-hand shops because there’s so many in town, and when I went around them all, everybody was so enthusiastic about it,” Sybil said. “So I thought, this must be a good idea.”

The theme of the runway is ‘Fashion from yesterday to today, re-used and redesigned’ and there will be six models strutting their stuff, including a mum-and-daughter duo.

With three outfit changes per model, and a number of different outfit categories including casual and eveningwear, Sybil said the event would be a “very colourful, fun afternoon”.

“I have done quite a few fashion shows, and I’ve been in quite



Paeroa Community Patrol's Lyn McHugh and Martyn Jones. RIGHT: Fashion show organiser Sybil Woolmore. File Photos

a few fashion shows, but I’m not, like, a big fashion-conscious sort of person,” Sybil said with a laugh.

“I just enjoy putting on events and things like that. And I think a lot of people probably don’t realise that the [patrollers] are out every night looking after their community.

“They’re volunteers, so they give up their time and they go right up to Mackaytown and through the gorge, so it’s an amazing job they

do.”

CPNZ Paeroa chairperson Gary Wells-Lakeland said they were very grateful for the support of the community, and thanked the organisers of the Fashion Show and all the participating charity shops and businesses.

“We are a volunteer organisation dedicated to preventing crime in our local community. We work in partnership with police, acting as eyes and ears patrolling

and reporting any criminal behaviour we witness to the police.

“The Paeroa patrols have been very reliable and successful at deterring incidents in the past,” he said. “We patrol in pairs, one driver and one observer.

“We are always looking for volunteers to join us. CPNZ in partnership with police run a Pathway to Police Programme. This programme is a starting point for anyone interested in joining the



police force.”

Meanwhile, there was a leadership change for Paeroa Community Patrol recently. Martyn Jones has stepped down as chairman/patrol leader after two years of helping to re-establishing and growing the patrol. Gary Wells-Lakeland was elected as new chairman/patrol leader at the recent AGM.

Martyn will continue with the patrol as a committee member taking on the Health and Safety and Training role.

“We are committed to serving the community and appreciate your support. Volunteers are always welcome.”

DETAILS: Fashion Show for Paeroa Community Patrol, September 21, 2pm at the Paeroa Baptist Church, Wood St. Tickets \$20, available from SPCA Op Shop; Arkwrights; Upstairs Treasures; St Johns Op Shop; St Pauls Op shop; or on the door, cash only. Afternoon tea provided. For more info about the Paeroa Community Patrol, phone Lyn on 0276818610 or email: paeroa@cpnz.org.nz.



MĀORI WARDS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Join us to hear from an experienced panel on Māori wards



Andrew Judd
In 2013, Andrew was elected Mayor of Ngāmotu/New Plymouth. In the process of trying to adopt a Māori ward in his district, Andrew experienced first hand the conflicting positions in his community about fair Māori representation.



Dale-Maree Morgan
Ngāti Raukawa ki Wharepūhanga, Ngāti Maniapoto
Dale-Maree has been the Māori ward councillor in Wāipa since 2022 and has seen Māori wards improve representation, inclusive decision making and social cohesion.

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100-year milestone celebrated in style

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Every year the family of Amy Miles gets together to celebrate her birthday.

But there's something significant about this year's milestone - it's her 100th.

Family members from Hamilton, Auckland, the South Island and as far away as Australia packed into One3One Restaurant in Paeroa on August 24 to wish the centenarian a happy 100th birthday.

Daughter Christine Stanley told *The Profile* Amy Miles (née Jessop) was born on Niue Island in 1925 to Charles Jessop and Fiela Rex.

She later moved to New Zealand where she studied general and karitane nursing, married husband Alan Miles, had five children and later on welcomed eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mrs Miles also cared for more than 15 foster children, who recognised her as their second mother, Christine said.

She is also related to New Zealand Olympic runner Sir Peter Snell, who is Alan's first cousin, and is the aunt of former All Black Frank Bunce.

Something Mrs Miles used to do every Wednesday morning for many years was attend a bible study at the Birkdale Radio Chapel on the North Shore of Auckland. While she was never able to drive, it didn't stop her from attending church services at the Brentwood Ave Seventh Day Adventist Church in Mount



Amy Miles celebrates her 100th birthday with loved ones, who gathered in Paeroa recently to cheer on their centenarian.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Eden, which was two bus rides away, Christine said.

But Saturday afternoons were always set aside for helping to make soup for the homeless at the Auckland City Mission.

"If she was unwell she would organise young men from church to deliver the soup, making sure the many who attended didn't go hungry for the day," Christine said.

It was clear Mrs Miles had achieved a variety of things across her lifetime, including earning a degree in nursing and teaching, becoming a teacher, and working as a floor manager for the Mid City Theatres in Auckland City.

When she was in school, she received the Dux award for excellence in academics and sports. She was also awarded

the only electric iron on the island, which she donated to her uncle, Sir Robert Richmond, who was the first Premier of the Pacific island state of Niue, Christine said.

One of her passions is music. "If you were fortunate enough to be doing dishes with her, she would teach you how to harmonise."

Mrs Miles lived with her fam-

ily in Birkdale, Auckland for 50 years and shifted to be with her eldest daughter in Waihi five years ago before moving into Athenree Life Rest Home, where she now resides.

A woman of faith, she gave all credit to the love of her "heavenly father" for her longevity and keeping her mentally capable of communicating with her friends and family, Christine said.

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The Roses (105 mins) R16. Comedy. 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.

When Fall is Coming (103 mins) M. Smash hit from the French Film Festival. An evocative drama-thriller. Follows a loving grandmother who enjoys her peaceful retirement in a small village in Burgundy. When her terse daughter drops off her grandson for the school holidays, nothing goes to plan.

Jaws 50th anniversary (124 mins) M. When the seaside community of Amity finds itself under attack by a dangerous great white shark, the town's chief of police, a young marine biologist and a grizzled shark hunter embark on a desperate quest to destroy the beast before it strikes again.

The Outrun (118 mins) M. After living life on the edge in London, Rona attempts to come to terms with her troubled past. She returns to the wild beauty of Scotland's Orkney Islands (where she grew up) hoping to heal. Adapted from Amy Liptrot's bestselling memoir.

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.

Rural Life

Lace up for the Shorebird Coast Run

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Flocks of people will gather to take their marks at Rays Rest, Kaiaua for the second ever Shorebird Coast Run event on September 14.

For the second consecutive year, the event will see people taking part in the traditional 5km or 10km run along the Hauraki Rail Trail, or step up to the challenge with the new 21.1km half marathon option.

Event organiser Tim Ashby-Peckham told *The Profile* not only was the Shorebird Coast Run an opportunity for people to get active and learn something new, it was also a way to give back.

Last year the event was able to donate \$1000 to the Pūkoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, which advocates for shorebirds with research, habitat restoration and education, he said, and this year they would follow suit and donate part of the proceeds to the centre again.

The centre is run by the Pūkoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

"Without them we probably wouldn't know how special the coast and the wildlife that call



Shorebird Coast Run punters soar in the 2024 event. Photos: SUPPLIED

it home are," Tim said.

Guided tours will also be available on the day for people who wanted to explore the coast in depth.

While Tim said it was tough to turn people away from the event last year as the capacity was set for 200 people, this year's Shorebird Coast Run was

set to cater for up to 400 participants.

"That's the good thing about this year," he said.

"I'm thinking hopefully everyone that wants to do it will get to do it because we have the extra capacity."

Alongside the general races, there will be a kids race, spot



Good food and company at last year's event.

prizes, a bird costume competition, food, ice cream and coffee carts on site.

It was important for Tim to try and keep the event affordable and accessible for people, and he said one of the ways to do that was to make the finisher medals for the racers themselves.

"I've become quite proficient at making moulds and plaster casting that I could probably run a bit of a workshop after the event."

There was something else

people could look forward to.

"The Godwits arrive in September and if you're lucky you'll get to see them while you're out there," Tim said.

"You might even get to see them touch ground for the first time in their nine-day journey from Alaska."

DETAILS: To register for the Shorebird Coast Run on September 14 at Rays Rest, Kaiaua, visit: theshorebirdcoastrun.weeblysite.com. Entry prices: \$79 for 21km, \$35 for 10km and \$25 for 5km, Kuaka kids game is \$5.



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Rural Life

Home-made coffee fuels Tararu author

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

Neil Coleman is a man of many hobbies.

The semi-retired Tararu man is a self-published author; a coffee grower; a part time EAP (employee assistance programme) councillor. His back garden houses a variety of exotic cooking plants including curry and kaffir lime trees, lemongrass, yacon, and different types of bananas. It also sports a six-year-old coffee plant.

Neil has been experimenting with the fruit of the coffee tree for a while, and chronicling his efforts on social media.

“I’d go past and be munching away [on the berries], and I thought, I wonder if I can do something with that,” he said.

“So I picked them all and got a big container, maybe a kilo... I’d sit out there and squeeze the beans out from the cherry, and I’d put the cherry skin in one container and the beans were all slimy in the other.”

Some research and experimentation later, Neil had worked out a process of washing and drying the beans over a number of weeks. Roasting was another learning curve, and it took three years for Neil to get the beans to a state he was happy with.

“You can do it in a very heavy frypan but you’ve got to watch it... you’re waiting for a cracking sound, and they start changing colour unevenly,” Neil said.



Neil Coleman with his coffee plant. INSET: The dried coffee bean skins are used for cascara tea. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

“I did it until I thought they were dark enough but they weren’t... it was still okay, it would have been as good as an instant coffee.”

Now, Neil uses a rotisserie air frying machine to roast his beans. “The whole house filled with

smoke. It was very dark and I thought I burnt it,” he said of his first time using the machine.

“But I put them in the coffee grinder on a fine espresso setting... I got the milk froth in and I thought, oh, this is good.”

Neil also keeps the discarded fruit skins, which he dries and steeps in hot water to make cascara or coffee cherry tea.

The tea and coffee come in handy when Neil has writing to do. He’s a self-published author;

his latest novel, *Voices in the Mist*, was released earlier this year. It’s his sixth book, and it’s set in two different time periods in Thames.

“It’s got a rainbow theme. Split over two generations, a gold-rushing period and post-Covid.”

Neil was inspired to write the story after taking a walk alongside the river. “It was on a misty day and of course there was grey warblers going... it sounded like a flute and I shivered,” he said.

“I somehow wove that into the story - this [spirit] woman appears all the time to all the characters in both places but then disappears.”

Writing is a hobby Neil shares with his household - his housemate has also released a book, *Quest for the Lumenstone*, under the name S Mario.

“The way he writes is a fantasy, full of hope, friendship and riddles,” Neil said.

“Whereas mine is more chatty - there’s quite a bit of foodie stuff in mine, but there’s always a kind of a story going through, kind of therapeutic.

“I love writing because it keeps the brain going. And I’ve got stories. Everywhere I look, there’s a story.”

DETAILS: *Voices in the Mist* is available at Carson’s Bookshop; and online at amazon.com.au along with *Quest for the Lumenstone*.



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Thames FC Women reach cup semi-final

FOOTBALL

The newly crowned Division Two champions once again showed their quality, booking a place in the cup semi-finals with a 3-0 win over the West Hamilton Wanderers.

Conditions were far from ideal at Rhodes Park in Thames, the turf already worn after a long season and freshly soaked by heavy morning rain. It made for a tricky surface as Thames welcomed a strong West Ham side who had stormed to the Division Three title without losing a game. Despite the gap in divisions, the game began evenly as both teams took time to adapt to the uneven surface.

It wasn't long before Thames made their mark, scoring with the first clear-cut chance. Jessica Rendall pounced on a loose ball, darted into the box, and fired a strong shot against the post.

The rebound fell kindly to winger Emily Ratcliffe, who calmly side-footed into the far corner for 1-0. With Thames camped high up the pitch, West Ham found themselves penned into their defensive third, struggling to break out, as chances for Thames started to come thick and fast.

Brooke Douglas carried the ball out from defence and let fly from a distance, her shot flashing just wide with the keeper well beaten. Samantha Chamberlain showed neat footwork on the edge of the box to create space, her strike drawing a strong save before Lydia Mahon's follow-up drifted just wide of the corner. With Thames holding a high line, the counterattack always posed a risk.



Captain Emma Hinds-Senior makes it 3-0.

Emma Waite broke through with pace and bore down on goal, but Bryony Wayne stood tall and saved superbly with an outstretched leg, preserving the precious lead. The pattern of play continued, Thames dictating possession high up the field while West Ham looked to break. Five minutes before half-time, Thames doubled their lead. Chamberlain jinked past defenders before drilling a low shot which zipped off the greasy surface and under the keeper for 2-0.

Lydia Lester nearly added a third before the break after a defensive

mix-up left her with a sight of goal, but her curling effort drifted wide as the whistle blew for half-time. Thames started the second half in cruise control, dominating possession as the rain continued to saturate the ground, making simple passes problematic.

Chamberlain slalomed through the opposition and slipped a pass to Keltie McManus. A clever turn and flick found Rendall, but her finish was straight at the keeper. Thames soon put the result beyond doubt with a flowing move.

Photos: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

Chamberlain, once again the architect, started the attack and fizzed a pass wide to Rendall. The winger found Emma Hinds-Senior with a delicate pass, and the captain rifled a shot into the near corner for 3-0. With a three-goal cushion, Thames played with freedom, confident that the excellent defensive pairing of Louise Hinds-Haye and Douglas would snuff out any West Ham attack. Rendall broke down the left and crossed for Lily McCarthy, whose header flashed just wide.

Soon after, a Douglas corner found



Beth Powell comes close.



Lily McCarthy bursts forward.

Hinds-Senior unmarked at the back post, but her volley flew over. Hinds-Senior then popped up on the right wing, tricking her way into the box before finding Mahon at the far post, but the shot curled wide.

The final whistle underlined Thames' professionalism, as they followed last week's league triumph with another comprehensive victory. This week's draw will determine Thames' next opponents, with no easy fixture at this stage of the competition, ahead of the semi-final on September 7.

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TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE

Conservation Week

1-7 September 2025

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Spring into action for Conservation Week

Spring is in the air this Conservation Week, which is the perfect time to celebrate the power of community and the beauty of nature in the Hauraki-Coromandel.

As the days grow longer and the whenua (land) begins to bloom, the sights and sounds of spring remind us of the resilience of nature and the importance of protecting it.

Whether you're planting a tree or volunteering for a local conservation group, every action counts.

From Moehau at the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula to Te Aroha in the south, Hauraki-Coromandel is home to diverse ecosystems and native species.

Predators, habitat loss and climate change put pressure on ecosystems but when we take action, nature bounces back.

Our rohe (region) hosts a strong network of conservation groups, many working alongside tangata whenua and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to protect te taiao (environment) so our taonga (treasured) species can thrive.

Our actions help protect and restore te taiao and we're grateful to our communities and tangata whenua for their mahi and ongoing dedication.

This Conservation Week, which runs from September 1-7, let's celebrate spring by taking action for nature – together.

Take action for nature by: giving



Clockwise from top left: Eva and friends at the Pinnacles; a kotare/kingfisher captured on a trail cam at Waemaro-Kopuatai wetland; Whangamatā Harbour Care members, with support from DOC Hauraki and Predator free Hauraki-Coromandel Community Trust members.



shorebirds space on the beach; keeping dogs leashed near wildlife and follow local dog restrictions; building a catio (cat enclosure) to protect your cat and native birds; volunteering for a community conservation group or joining citizen science surveys like 'The Great Matuku Muster' (head to www.lovebittern.co.nz).

Have fun with your whānau or colleagues and take the daily Conservation Week Quiz - build team knowledge while connecting with nature and each other. **DETAILS: Conservation Week, September 1-7. For more information, visit: www.doc.govt.nz/events/conservation-week.**

- Supplied by DOC

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Conservation Week


1-7 September 2025

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Of wet and of wilderness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.'*

From Inversnaid by Gerard Manley Hopkins



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Health Ngatea is pleased to share that we have Nurse Practitioner Emma Hedgecock available for consultation appointments in Health Ngatea every Friday.

Nurse practitioner Emma Hedgecock is originally from West Auckland, where she completed my Nurse Practitioner Training at the end of 2018.

"I had 15 years of experience as a Registered Nurse prior to becoming a Nurse Practitioner and have also completed a Certificate in Māori Health in 2021," she said. "I have a special interest in older adults and palliative care. I also worked for many years in Oncology and Haematology, specialising in chemotherapy - this took me on travels throughout the world in my 20s."

Emma moved to the Waikato with her husband for a lifestyle change three years ago. "We enjoy looking after many animals including Highland Cows and Alpacas," she said. "I am excited to join the team and look forward to meeting everyone who attends our clinic."

Save the date for Emma's presentation "Living With Life Limiting Illness", relevant for those with a diagnosis of; COPD, Heart Failure, Dementia, Parkinson's Disease and Cancer. Held at Health Ngatea on September 15 at 6pm. Door charge donation proceeds to Ngatea's Care & Friendship Group.

- Team Health Ngatea



Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki is the regional provider of ACC's 'Te Ara Tūhono' Navigation service.

Supporting whānau with ACC

As a kaupapa Māori organisation, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki is the regional provider of ACC's 'Te Ara Tūhono' Navigation service, known as Te Kawaurua here in the Hauraki rohe.

This service was established in 2023 to provide free, independent manaaki, āwhina and tautoko for whānau accessing ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation), which provides support and assistance for those injured as the result of an accident. Te Kawaurua is here to deliver this support to any whānau who need it, pēpi to kaumātua, throughout the Hauraki rohe.

With whānau at the forefront of their mahi, Te Kawaurua aims to act as a kaiārahi (navigator) for those in need of ACC services, working alongside whānau to support and guide them on their ACC journey.

Sometimes it can be quite a challenge to understand the language of ACC, leaving whānau feeling unsure of which way to turn.

We engage kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face), get to know the whānau, and we take their queries and concerns back to our navigation escalation team within ACC. Together, with whānau

alongside, we bring together a plan for the whānau and determine the next steps needed to achieve the best outcomes.

Our service name, Te Kawaurua is a symbolic reference to our manu and currents (au) that supported the navigation of waka from Hawaiki to Aotearoa. The significance of Kawau to our kaupapa is for their well-known attributes of patience, awareness and purposeful action – all of which help influence and guide this kaupapa.

Our aim is to give our whānau a voice and let them have the space to show their vulnerability and relieve a bit of stress onto us that we can help with and support with.

Whānau can self-refer or be referred from other health and/or community services. Sometimes it's just simply a kōrero. Anyone needing ACC-related support can contact us directly and ask for help.

DETAILS: For more info: whakapā mai – contact our team on freephone: 0508 835 676 – option 4 email: accnavigator@korowai.co.nz, website: www.korowai.co.nz.

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This service is available to all whānau, from pēpi to kaumātua, residing in the Hauraki rohe.

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

216

216

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

236

ACROSS

1 Leafy vegetable (7)

4 Instrument (anag) (10)

9 Barn attic (7)

13 Uncommon (4)

14 Down tools (6)

15 Fancy cake (6)

16 Decaying (7)

19 Incensed (10)

20 Went past the target (8)

21 Intimidated (5)

24 Decide on (6)

25 Grave, unsmiling (6)

27 Style of jazz (9)

32 Answer (8)

33 Swimming shorts (6)

34 Facial hair (7)

38 Woman's garment (8)

39 Taste (6)

40 Public houses (4)

41 Woollen cloth (5)

42 Mournful poem (5)

45 Appearance-changing medical practitioner (7,7)

52 Presses (5)

55 Malice (5)

56 Dancer's skirt (4)

57 Sacred songs (6)

58 Unnecessary (8)

61 Kitchen appliance (7)

62 Fight (6)

63 Writer (8)

66 Gathered (9)

68 Surgical stitch (6)

69 Practice (3,3)

73 Variety show (5)

74 Still closed (8)

76 Wholehearted faithfulness (10)

81 Depict (7)

82 Spoken (6)

83 Watching (6)

84 Heat (4)

85 Souvenir (7)

86 Loving word (10)

87 Irked (7)

DOWN

1 Small dog (5)

2 Unshod (8)

3 Minor actors (6)

4 Unworldly (5)

5 Affiliations (4)

6 Problem toenail (7)

7 High regard or respect (6)

8 Sides (5)

10 Tiny particle (4)

11 Disappointment (3-4)

12 Financed (6)

17 Wealth (10)

18 Science of reasoning (5)

22 About the matter in hand (8)

23 Competes against (5)

24 Enlaces (anag)(7)

26 Has (4)

28 Vague notion (7)

29 Maintenance (6)

30 Writing desk (6)

31 Aft (6)

33 Subject (5)

35 Inferior in rank, status (5)

36 Monster (4)

37 Rescind (4)

43 Portable computer (6)

44 Swung barriers (5)

46 Booming (4)

47 Intermix (7)

48 Contaminated (6)

49 Flaking (5)

50 Reflect deeply on a subject (8)

51 Provoke (6)

52 Lurid stain (anag) (10)

53 Had debts (4)

54 Keep up (7)

59 High temperature (5)

60 Completed (4)

64 Dark wood (5)

65 Normal (8)

67 Airport bus (7)

68 Horse equipment supplier (7)

70 Turn into (6)

71 Make possible (6)

72 Capital of Austria (6)

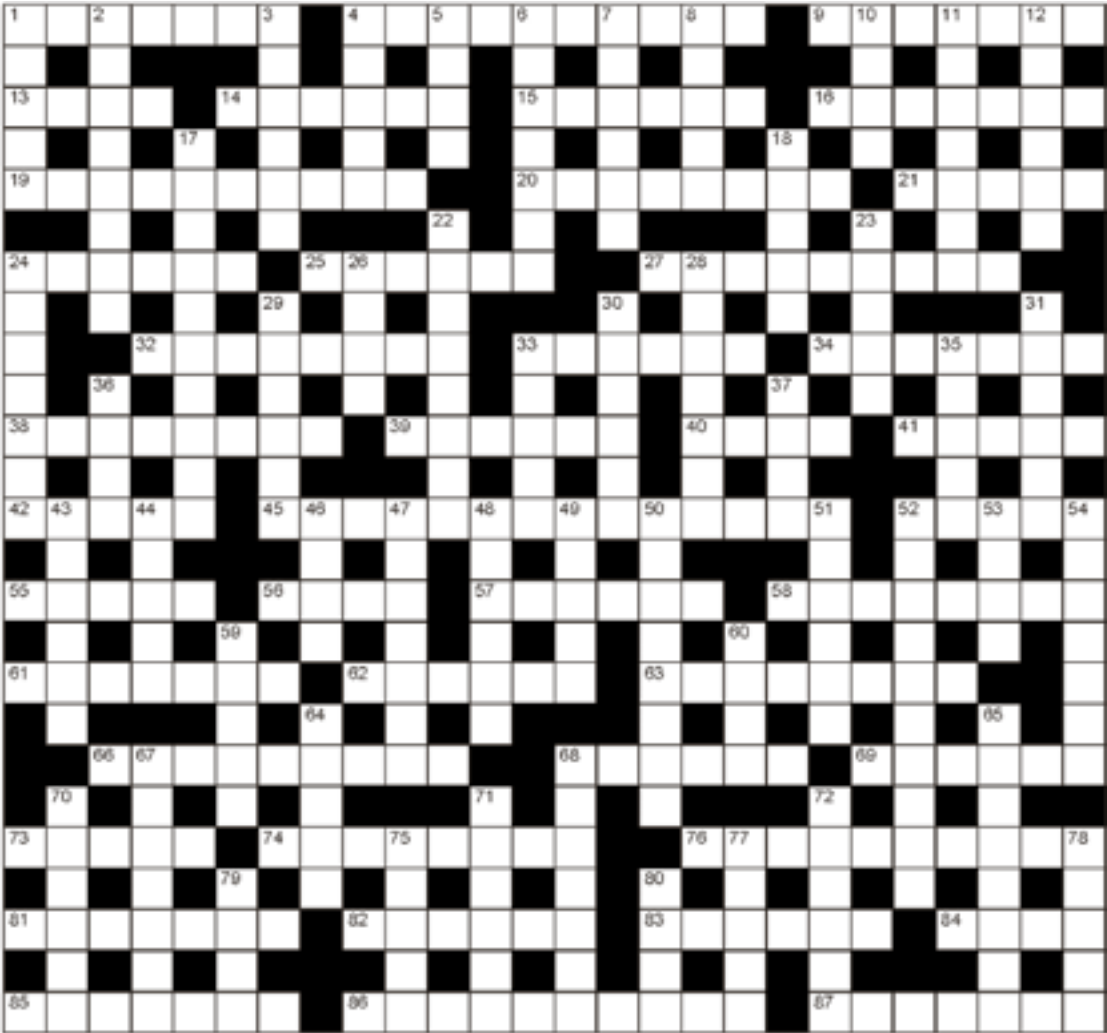
75 Groom oneself (5)

77 Oust (5)

78 Wanderer (5)

79 Treaty (4)

80 Carnival (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Assay, 4 Poaching, 9 Adroit, 14 Needs, 15 Double-edged sword, 17 Paste, 18 Eve, 19 Swerved, 20 Confusing, 21 Usurer, 24 Spaghetti, 25 Prepay, 26 Estate, 29 Wheelchair, 31 Imp, 32 Shifts, 33 Spat, 35 Pat, 37 Club, 39 Insurance, 40 Alchemist, 41 Ducat, 42 Cottages, 47 Hospital, 51 Reefs, 55 Stipulate, 56 Contralto, 58 Sire, 59 For, 60 Sets, 61 Beauty, 62 Ire, 63 Goalkeeper, 66 Hudson, 67 Carpet, 69 Preferred, 72 Bottom, 73 Surprised, 75 Skyline, 77 Err, 80 Chant, 81 Gulliver's Travels, 82 Upset, 83 Hangar, 84 Together, 85 Frays.

DOWN: 2 Stopwatch, 3 Amber, 5 Odds, 6 Cheroot, 7 Insufficient, 8 Gloss, 9 Andante, 10 Rope, 11 Insist, 12 Sewer, 13 Essence, 14 Nearest, 16 Eye-catching, 22 Shears, 23 Habitat, 24 Sherbet, 25 Popped, 27 Appoint, 28 Stucco, 30 Rare, 32 Stuck, 34 Total, 36 Help, 38 Loo, 42 Cases, 43 Twisted, 44 Agree, 45 Elated, 46 Beefy, 48 Stockbroker, 49 Instead, 50 Air, 51 Regular, 52 Script, 53 Enterprising, 54 Brag, 57 Leader, 64 Eternally, 65 Contact, 66 Hopeful, 68 Plunger, 70 Element, 71 Sonata, 72 Brass, 74 Pilot, 76 Lover, 78 Stag, 79 Isle.

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SPORTS

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Olympic rower visits Hauraki students

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of young Hauraki students were inspired by a recent school visit from an Olympic ambassador.

New Zealand rower and Olympic ambassador Lucy Spoors was welcomed to Ngatea Primary School on August 13 to speak to the years five to eight students.

Lucy competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and achieved a silver medal, and again at the 2024 Paris Olympic, where she snapped up a gold medal in the women's double sculls final with Brooke Francis.

Deputy principal Melissa Taaffe said Lucy spoke about her career and journey into rowing, her experiences, the wins and losses and how she made it to two Olympics.

"Students got to hold her gold and silver medals and ask her lots of questions," she said.

Greta Joynes, year-8, and Andi Austin, year-11, told *The Profile* they were both interested and inspired by Lucy's story.

The students learned Lucy's regime at an Olympic level consisted of early starts, a big breakfast, long training sessions and then another big breakfast.



New Zealand rower and Olympic ambassador Lucy Spoors visits Ngatea Primary School. Photos: SUPPLIED

Even though Greta, 12, was a swimmer and had never rowed before, she said most of the things Lucy talked about were relatable not just for swimming, but most sports. Andi, 11, had seen rowing

on the television and said it looked like fun so "I might do rowing in high school", she said.

Something that surprised the students was the Olympic medals. Andi said they passed the silver

and gold medals around the class.

"They were a bit heavy but they looked so cool and amazing, they had on them the Olympic logo and an angel on the back of the medals."



Greta said she held the gold medal and it had a piece of the Eiffel Tower in it. "It was heavy."

"I expected it to feel lighter, and I thought it was going to be all gold, but it's just gold plated."

Something that stood out to the students about Lucy's message was her perseverance.

They said it was important and interesting how Lucy thought it would take four years to qualify for the Olympics, but it took her more than eight years to get there.

"She was happy when she got in."

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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Dianne Patterson, who found Pete in the August 5th edition in the Anexa advert.
Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notices

TYRRELL, Ronald Seymour (Ron):
Peacefully, at Thames Hospital on Sunday 31st August, 2025; aged 89 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret for 63 years. Loved Dad of Denise and Ian, Linda and David, Kay and Dave, and Karen. Adored Grandad of James, Mark, Taehg and Chontelle.
A Memorial Service for Ron will be held at a later date. Communications to romaty4@gmail.com



Church Notices

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday September 7, 2pm
Grahamstown Hall.
Speakers: David Foster & Vicki Grace

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AGM

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All Welcome

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the team at Thames Toyota for servicing my car on the 29/8
very much appreciation for the job well done
- Patricia

Paeroa Business Association Inc AGM

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The Valley Profile

Festival colours Thames with joy

Thames' Grahamstown Hall was awash with colour as the Thames Indian Community put on its inaugural Teeyan Da Mela festival. The Punjabi festival on August 24 was a celebration of women - and the atmosphere in the building was one of joy, togetherness and excitement with everyone dressed up to the nines. Two hours of performances were followed by DJ Kiwi Beats, as the floor was cleared for dancing. While women and children danced under the pulsing lights and thumping bass, others perused the shopping stalls, ate Indian delicacies, or got their faces painted or henna applied to their hands. "This is just the beginning," the organising committee later said. "Here's to many more celebrations of culture, sisterhood, and joy."

ALICE PARMINTER joined the festivities.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



In collaboration with the Thames Music Group, The Nukes will perform a new show called 'A Road Trip in Song' at St George's Church this Friday.
Photo: SUPPLIED

The Nukes launch spring festival

The Artbeat Spring Festival is just around the corner, and kicking things off this year will be a performance by West Auckland ukulele "legends" The Nukes.

In collaboration with the Thames Music Group, The Nukes will perform a new show called 'A Road Trip in Song' at St George's Church this Friday.

The launch performance will blend The Nukes' signature songwriting with a fresh twist: the inclusion of war-era classics that showcase the group's warm four-part vocal harmonies. And, at the heart of it all, will be the humble ukulele.

Expect toe-tapping tunes, classic ballads, and moments of musical magic as The Nukes promise to take attendees on a tour

of Aotearoa, one story and song at a time.

As part of the Artbeat Spring Festival, the band will also be running a ukulele workshop at the Monkey House in Whitianga.

The workshop aims to be "informative and interactive, and suitable for all abilities".

The Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival is a line-up of creative events taking place across the district, and runs for three months each year from September to December.

The event's organisers said in 2024, 30,629 people attended the festival, with \$229,390 garnered from ticket sales.

They said the festival's aim was to draw more visitors to the Coromandel by pro-


moting arts events from across the region; strengthen and reinvigorate businesses and communities after the negative economic effects of Covid-19 and several severe weather events; and help enable the local arts sector to achieve its creative potential and thrive.

New events are added regularly to the online platform. For more information, check out the Artbeat website coromandelartbeat.nz.

DETAILS: The Artbeat Spring Festival launches with The Nukes, Friday, September 5 at 12.15pm, St George's Church in Thames. For those unable to attend the launch concert, The Nukes will also be performing a 2-hour show at Whitianga's Monkey House Theatre at 7.30pm, Saturday, September 6.

August news & entertainment

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

As we arrive in September, I look back on the biggest news in entertainment from August.

Taylor Takeover - Taylor Swift made a grand return last month, with a surprise announcement of her brand new 12th studio album *The Life Of A Showgirl*, live on fiancée Travis Kelce's sports podcast. The podcast episode amassed millions of views, and quickly became the podcast's most viewed episode ever, in just a day. Swift revealed the album will release on October 3 this year, featuring 12 songs, including a collaboration with pop star Sabrina Carpenter.

Denim Duel - who would have thought that in August we would get a high-profile jean battle between two giant jean companies - American Eagle and GAP. It started when American Eagle dropped an ad starring American actress Sydney Sweeney, posing in their jeans. However, what caused the controversy was their double-meaning of the word "jeans". In the ad, Sweeney says that having blue eyes and blonde hair are "good genes". This caused a stir online with many criticising the ad saying it was tone-deaf, and racist. A few weeks later, GAP, another famous jean brand, dropped an ad with global girl group KATSEYE, which featured them dancing to the Milkshake song, with the tagline being "Denim your way". Both brands have seen a spike in sales.

Meanwhile, new music has been released by Sabrina Carpenter, Sombor, Conan Gray, JID, Gunna, Renee Rapp, and Chance the Rapper, just to name a few. We also got new music from Doja Cat, Chapelle Roan and Ed Sheeran. Big artists including Tyler The Creator touched down in New Zealand for his Chromokopia World Tour, saying we have a "beautiful place". Doja Cat also announced she will kick off her VIE Would Tour here in Auckland, and Kid Cudi was announced as the headliner for this/next year's Rhythm and Vines.



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SPORTS

Rugby greats inspire young Paeroa leaders

RUGBY

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's not everyday students get to learn from and interact with notable New Zealand athletes.

That's why it was a "special opportunity" when a group of students from Paeroa College got to do just that at a leadership event in Rotorua last month.

A group of Paeroa College students, including year 11 students Finn Casey and Rianna Muraahi, attended the Isport Foundation Leadership Day on August 14 at the Government Gardens Unison Arena.

The Isport Foundation was founded in 2009 by ex-All Blacks Dan Carter and Richie McCaw, with a focus on inspiring youth through sport, and at the leadership event students were able to hear from the two founders as well as paralympic swimming great Dame Sophie Pascoe.

Paeroa College year 11 student Finn Mason Casey told *The Profile* Dan Carter's message about perseverance stood out to him. The 15-year-old also said it was "surreal" to meet Dan in person as he was his favourite All Black.

"He talked about how once he became an All Black, all he dreamed of was to be in a winning World Cup team. However, despite going through mas-



Inspired students meet rugby legends Richie McCaw, left, and Dan Carter at the leadership event.



Photos: SUPPLIED

sive setbacks when he tore a muscle in his groin whilst kicking balls at practice, ruling him out of the 2011 World Cup, he persevered through to 2015 and ended up getting man-of-the-match," he said.

"It taught me to push hard through everything I do and just get to that end goal, whether that be getting through school assessments, persevering on the hockey field or even just getting out of bed in the morning."

Meanwhile, 17-year-old Rianna said Dame Sophie Pascoe's message stood out to her.

"She gave me a clearer insight into how to take on a good load every day and not stress out too much about certain activities."

But the highlight of Rianna's day was "definitely" when she met Dan Carter and Richie McCaw.

"I got to listen to both [of] their stories and how they became the best of the best in the

world."

When it came to leadership qualities, Rianna said an important one she valued was making people feel included and creating a safe environment.

"It's important to me not to judge people but to build people up."

"I've learned the value of commitment and discipline in everyday challenges through life and want to inspire others with these values."

Meanwhile, Finn believed although he was a keen listener and pretty decent when analysing situations, he said he needed development in the area of communicating his ideas.

His advice for students who would like to take part in a leadership day was simple: make the most of it.

There are so many opportunities to meet people and listen to life and leadership advice, he said.



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