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They may be "couch potatoes" but once a year, greyhounds across the globe unite for a walk that helps highlight the hounds' humour, hijinks, and house-pet potential. **KELLEY TANTAU reports**

The annual Great Global Greyhound walk is taking place this Sunday, and among the group will be Koda, a six-year-old retired race dog who resides with her owners in Wāihi Beach.

Now living the good life, Koda had a short-lived racing career, having run just five times before being retired following a string of last or second-to-last finishes.

But it's her owner Marianne Hindley who says they are lucky to have her.

"We fell in love with greyhounds about 15 years ago when we lived in Matamata. There was a couple who lived around the corner from us who had two, and every time they went past our place we were just: 'Wow'," she said.

'It wasn't until after Covid, though, that the time was right for us to adopt a dog.

In December last year, Cen-Government's Racing Minister Winston Peters announced that greyhound racing would be banned in New Zealand by the end of July, 2026.

In August, lawyers for the Greyhound Racing Association argued to the High Court that the ban should be stopped until a judicial review of the legislation was heard.



But last week that bid was denied.

"Greyhounds that come from racing life have had a very structured routine," Marianne

"They have not had exposure to a household environment so need plenty of time to adjust.

When we adopted Koda we were told it is like moving to a foreign country without knowing anything about the place or the language.

Marianne said greyhounds all had different personalities, but were generally "couch potatoes", and as they were sprinters, not marathon runners, they got tired pretty quickly.

The breed was also particularly stubborn, she said.

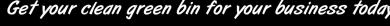
"[They] won't run unless they **CONTINUED ON P2**

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full name & postal address, and the business name and page number of the ad by the following Monday to go in the draw to win a Lotto ticket. Last issue it was in the Waikino Hotel

Greyhounds step out for global walk

want to. We have greyhounds in our group who have never raced because they couldn't be bothered and are adopted to a pet life early.

The group - Hauraki Hounds - is made up of greyhounds and whippets and their owners, who meet for walks each month.

Marianne took over organising the walks about a year ago, and said the group consists of dogs and their owners from Katikati, Athenree, Wāihi Beach, Wāihi, Whangamata, and Paeroa.

She will be co-ordinating the local Great Global Greyhound Walk, setting off from Paeroa Park, Belmont St, at 10am this Sunday.

Originally started in the United Kingdom in 2010, the Great Global Greyhound Walk is now a global affair. In 2024, 13,383 greyhounds and other sighthounds attended 511 walks in 42 countries.

According to organisers, New Zealand had 455 hounds taking part in more than 55 walks last year, with Christchurch's Hagley Park having the highest number at 77 and Cambridge coming in second with 66 hounds.

"And as much as we owners love to socialise, the dogs love seeing other greyhounds," Marianne

DETAILS: The Hauraki Hounds meets for monthly walks in locations between Katikati and Paeroa. The Great Global Greyhound Walk: September 28, meeting at Paeroa Park at 10am. The event is free for all to join in and is an opportunity to



Marianne Hindley says she's lucky to have Koda.

Photo: SUPPLIED **FIND US**

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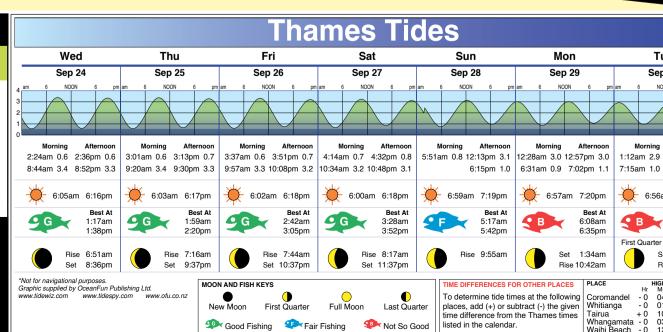






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Medical centre proposal causes concern

resident living near the pro-Aresident living near the project fa-cility in a quiet Waihī Beach street is concerned over the project's impact on the local area.

Pinnacle Incorporated, a not-for-profit primary healthcare organisation, has applied to West-ern Bay of Plenty District Council to lease a section of the Beach Rd Recreation Reserve to build and operate a medical centre. The proposed building and associated parking will occupy around 30 per cent of the reserve, between Beach Rd and Marine Ave.

But Peter Bullock, who moved to Marine Ave in 2022, fears the development will significantly disrupt the peaceful character of the area. Currently averaging between 20-30 vehicle movements per day, he said the street could see a 400-500 per cent increase in traffic, with estimates of at least 120 additional trips daily from staff, patients, and service vehicles

"This is a quiet street without footpaths and little through-traffic," Peter said. "With a medical facility in the street, I would estimate a minimum of 100 cars per day up and down here, parking all up and down the street." up and down the street

He also expressed disappointment that the proposed building would take up space on a recreation reserve that he said he and others used regularly year-round.

"We use it every day, sometimes trained beity as a reconstituted post."

twice daily, as a recreational park to throw balls and shells to our dog. We also walk through it most days as [it's] much nicer than



Site plan of the proposed medical facility on Marine Ave.

walking down the road when going he said. "Others use it fairextensively as well. In the school holidays, a number of families va cationing use it for games, football. and cricket in the summer.

Peter also argued that a more central site would better serve the town's ageing population, but according to a report presented to council's Projects and Monitoring Committee last month, the "sec-ondary street" would offer "easier

accessibility". Primary Health Care Ltd, the parent company for Pinnacle Ventures - the owner of the Primary Health Care Ltd group of general practices - said 20 car parks would be required, a mix of angled street parks and some off street parks for staff parking and patient vehicles.

"The proposed centre's central

location ensures easy walking and cycling access for residents and those working in the area.

The report said Pinnacle's Waihī Beach Medical Centre had around 3500 enrolled patients, and that the current facility on Wilson Rd was "no longer fit for purpose".

The organisation was seeking

council's support to use the reserve land with a long-term lease under a Community Impact Partnership agreement. "The medical centre agreement. "The medical centre has been designed with careful consideration of its visual impact, maintaining a profile that aligns with neighbouring buildings," the report said. "The proposed devel-opment prioritises the conservation of open space, with approximately two-thirds of the reserve land remaining undeveloped for ongoing community amenity.

A letter from Waihī Beach Com-

munity Board chair Dani Simpson said "after careful consideration, the majority of board members" were supportive of the proposal to expand onto the reserve land.

"We do acknowledge there are diverse views within our community and among board members regarding the use of reserve land," Simpson wrote. "In particular, one member expressed concern that a previous proposal to site elder housing on the same reserve was not supported by council. We be-lieve it is important to reflect the range of perspectives and the value placed on reserve land for various community needs.

In a letter of support, Hato Hone St John area operations manager Matt Delaney said he could see merit in the proposed location.

"Having previously been a member of the Waihī Beach community, I am also conscious that I did not often see high usage of the reserve area in question, and think that the proposal by primary healthcare to utilise this particular space is reasonable," he said.

The Projects and Monitoring Committee voted to move forward with the proposal, but council will make the final decision following a

two-month consultation process.

The public will have an opportunity to submit, and that is something Peter said he would be doing, though he hoped the notice period would be extended to allow for out-of-towners' points of view.

"Neighbours are just being made aware of the potential situa-tion, and so it's very hard to gauge response apart from shock when I am relaying the news," he said.
"Most have also said we need a

medical centre, but it needs to be centrally-located for the ageing population. Not stuck up the end of the beach.

The Profile contacted Primary Health Care Ltd and asked if traffic and environmental reports had been completed, and raised Peter's concerns.

Business manager Mark Taylor said the organisation was working closely with Western Bay of Plenty Council and "will be guided by their plans and processes".

"Our next step is to hold a community meeting and we would encourage these types of questions at that time"

at that time.













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Sir Keith's legacy lives on

There is now an "iconic" permanent tribute to Thamesborn hero Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park at the Thames Airfield.

Unveiled despite high winds in front of more than 300 VIPs and guests, the memorial is the vision of Michael Kemp, who as a very young boy in Cleadon Village, Sunderland, endured the trauma of the Battle of Britain. Michael and his wife Christine have been significant supporters of the project, both emotionally and financially.

The 2.3m bronze statue of Sir Keith was crafted by Joanne Sullivan in her Helens-

President of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Geoff Furkert said his initial focus in the project was on Sir Keith's 'extraordinary record of achievements in both war and peace times"

"Through the project, I have come to understand that his legacy is so much more. An auspicious legacy based on the characteristics of leadership, integrity, courage, commit-ment, yet humanity and compassion.

This is the legacy that we should be teaching to all the young of New Zealand.'



Lt Col Stewart Dines, UK Defence Advisor to NZ, carries a wreath.



Lesley Park speaks to attendees.



Chris Penk and Coromandel MP



Gp Capt Brett Clayton, Base Commander, Auckland, left, and Chief of Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Darryn Webb.

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Break away from screens this spring

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

Anew initiative is calling on people to unplug from the digital world for a spring detox.

Spring Screen Break runs from September 21-28, encouraging schools, families and workplaces to step away from screens and reconnect in real life.

Waikino-based wellbeing consultant Vanessa McHardy developed the initiative after seeing the harm being done to children through early social media access and excessive screen time.

"We've sort of sleep-walked into our norm. Tech just got given to us [and] we're 15 years down the track and it is now an appendage that sort of appears on everybody's body. And we never had a moment to go, actually, what's the cost of all of this?" Vanessa said.

"I was at the select committee hearing about the Digital Harms for Children bill and somebody reported something like there's been a threefold increase for mental illness for children in New Zealand.

"Smartphones came along in 2010, Instagram came in in 2012... and all the charts plummeted off for mental health and well-being. We just need to break that norm because actually, we're missing a lot. It's



Vanessa McHardy, top right, developed the initiative after seeing the harm being done by excessive screen time. File Photo

costing us a lot as humans."

The solution Vanessa came up with was a digital detox, inspired by movements like Dry July. She's hopeful that it will become a yearly, nationwide event.

"Spring is when we have a

spring clean of everything why don't we use that energy to just have a break from our screens and have a reset because they're not going anywhere. Tech can be part of our lives, but we need to reset our relationship with it." Vanessa has also developed a series of free resources to complement the initiative. They include toolkits for schools and workplaces, talking points for starting conversations, pointers for filling time away from devices, and fun activity ideas



for families to do at home and outdoors.

The resources are filled with positive messaging, and are all about reframing relationships with technology, Vanessa said.

"The whole idea is, what can you be doing offline? How can you engage and make real life more engaging than smartphone or gaming or whatever's holding focus at the moment?" she said.

"You don't have to be dogmatic about it. It doesn't have to be a big deal. "As adults, we role model so

"As adults, we role model so much and our kids are looking to us... most adults don't have a great relationship with tech. And our children are suffering immensely."

DETAILS: Spring Screen Break runs from September 21-28. See www.springscreenbreak.com for information and free resources.





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Mining deaths prompt dust-free rock drill invention Henri, too, had often heard George complain of short and



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

eorge Robertson was woken George Robertson was worken around 3.30 on a Saturday morning in June 1896 by George Mills knocking on his bedroom door and asking for brandy. Robertson had none but offered him brandy and port wine mixed which he refused. Mills then asked him to fetch the doctor.

Mills had complained to Robertson occasionally of pain and was treating himself, Robertson thought, for indigestion. Richard Darby had come off shift with George Mills at Waihī's Martha mine at midnight and accompanied him home to Robert-son's boarding house. Mills had also occasionally complained to him of chest pain, but had not mentioned it more than usual that night. But George Mills, a 44-year-old bachelor who had moved to Waihī from Thames about a year previously, was now obviously unwell.

Henri de Clifton, hearing a stir George's room, went to investigate and found George lying on his bed, struggling to breathe. George complain of chest and stomach pain and knew he was taking medicine for indigestion.

He offered to go for a doctor but George said, "Someone has gone, don't leave me". Henri helped George into a sitting position and thumped him several times on the back, thinking it might help. But it was no use and Henri also offered to get some brandy but George replied "Don't go, I'm cooked".

Henri asked another man to stay with George until he returned with some brandy. While Henri knocked at the door of Stevens' Hotel, Dr Wright and George Robertson appeared. The doctor told Henri he would get brandy if necessary. Dr Wright found George lying fa-tally ill on his bed. He said he could do nothing for him but give him a little brandy, which he then sent for. George died within a few minutes of the doctor's arrival.

Dr Wright could assign no cause for death, and Constable Clifford was called in. He took charge of George's belongings, and as soon as possible wired to the Coroner at Paeroa to arrange an inquest. But Mr Nathan could not come, so the constable wired Mr Bruce, of Thames, for his services or those of a deputy. No reply came until later that day, and in the meantime Mr Gilmour was appointed to act as Coroner.

At the inquest, Dr Wright said George's lungs contained several small pieces of some kind of stone. Small particles of dust from mining had accumulated into hard lumps in the lungs.



The Edgar rock drill at work, Karangahake, 1913.

This was known as miner's disease or miner's complaint. Death was due to failure of the heart's action, stomach ulceration and the state of the lungs.

Miner's phthisis (silicosis) was one of the most terrible trials which underground miners had to contend with. A familiar sight on goldfields was unfortunate men struck down by the disease, literally dying on their feet, at a time when they should be full of robust vigour and manhood.

The men, in order to keep the men, in order to keep themselves and their families, had to keep working, but their stamina was significantly reduced. They would become unable to work fulltime, adding the anxieties of poverty to their lot.

They were forced to stop work,

becoming dependent on charity. When the scourge had completed its deadly work, dependents were left destitute.

In 1911 Hans Edgar, of Karangahake, had invented a new rock drill to combat miner's disease. The machine had many features which made it far more efficient than other drills.

It solved the dust problem by pumping water through the drill simultaneously with the action of the piston. It was much lighter than any other drill on the market, and its driving power was greater. Hans had been assisted by Mr Nodwell, chief engineer to the Talisman mine, in perfecting his idea. A small syndiperfecting his idea. A small syndicate was formed to bear the initial expenses of putting the machine

been secured in New Zealand, the Commonwealth, England, America, Africa, and other countries where rock drills were used.

Price Bros of Thames were en-

gaged in making the first drill.

Two years later the official trial of the Edgar patent rock drill took place at Karangahake. Hans said the drill would ganake. Hans said the drill would to a large extent prevent miner's complaint. The machine drilled rapidly and well in various grades of rock without creating the slightest dust. The machine's rapid drilling action was dem-onstrated when nearly 15 feet of boring were drilled in 33 min-utes. This time included all nec-essary setting and changing of the various drills. Spectators closely inspected the rock drill and the work done, and were loud in their praise and congratulations to Hans on the achievement of such success.

The Edgar Rock Drill Syndicate met regularly over the next few years. In 1919, Hans met the Minister of Mines to demonstrate to Parliament the possibilities of eliminating the dust nuisance and reducing miner's phthisis. A month later the syndicate called a meeting advising "As business

a meeting advising. As business is most urgent, your presence is requested". No more was heard of the Edgar rock drill.

George was buried at Waihī's cemetery. Through mismanagement no clergyman was present and a man on horseback had to be digretabled healt into town for be dispatched back into town for Mr Stanway, a local reader, who immediately came out and performed the burial service.



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OPINION

On the pulse: who cares about local elections?

ALICE PARMINTER took to the streets to ask two questions: are you voting, and what is the issue you are most concerned about?

VOTED: Still deciding. I'm really undecided, it's a bit of a mixed bag at the moment. It's about who will make the most impact, and keep to their word. I just want to make sure everyone's opinion is heard, really. It's not just my vote. It's my kids' votes, it's my parents' votes. - Kate, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.



VOTED: Still deciding.

Interest rates, and rates rises.
- Anonymous, Plains ward/Hauraki.

VOTED: Yes. My main concern is probably

contingency.
- Marlene, Tairua/Thames-Coromandel.



VOTED: Yes. Safety and crime.

- Anonymous, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

VOTED: Still deciding.

I haven't really met most of the candidates yet but I've been keeping up on the paper. The way things are going at the moment everything's pretty dodgy, a bit touch and go, but good luck to all of them. Simon, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.



Keeping the place tidy, which they are doing very well, I

- Shirley, Thames/Thames-Coromandel,

VOTED: Yes.

You can't bitch about something if you haven't had your say. I want to see the town clock [fixed], and the alleyway where we access Pollen St from Queen St-keep it clean. It's bloody disgusting.

Jenny, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

VOTED: Still deciding.

They all get paid too much.
- Anonymous, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

VOTED: Yes.

Consistency. If it ain't broke, don't fix it, pretty much. People want to do all this extra stuff rather than core business... in times of crisis and low money you want core

- Anonymous, Ngatea/Hauraki.

VOTED: Yes.

Having realistic candidates who actually are aware of the fiscal restraints of council. Yes, we need to save rates, but we also need to be realistic about how much that costs as well.

Anonymous, Ngatea/Hauraki.

VOTED: Yes.

I stuck with the incumbents, didn't like the other candidates. I'm not saying the ones that are there are any good, but the alternative is pretty flaky.

- Anonymous, Waihī/Hauraki.

official results on October 17.

VOTED: Yes.

I'm concerned with rates increases and ensuring there's enough infrastructure.

- Andrea, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

Voting for this year's local government elections opened on September 9 and runs until noon on October 11. Progress results are published October 11; preliminary results on October 13 and

VOTED: Still deciding. I don't feel involved- I haven't paid much attention to [elections]. But definitely drugs, I think. That's the main thing that I notice a lot. But I'm not sure how that would get changed.

- Lucy, Thames/Thames-Coromandel



VOTED: Yes.

I'm just looking for nice, honest people to go in- not big spenders.

· Suzie, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

VOTED: Yes.

They need to keep a lock on rates in general. But I think that they do things pretty good.

- Noel, Paeroa/Hauraki.



VOTED: Yes.

Drainage is one of my issues - I've got a lifestyle block. - Anonymous, Plains ward/Hauraki

VOTED: Yes.

Trying to sort out the sea level rise and the flooding situation. It's really also getting the other side of the peninsula on board to help Thames pay for the swimming pool. Rangitahi need somewhere to go... and it would benefit them as well. And I just think we need fair representation. We need women

we need Māori, we need Indian, we need whoever's in town. We need decisions to be made for everybody, not

just the rich white guys.
- Kirsty, Thames/Thames-Coromandel.

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONED

The Mayoral candidate who believes councils aren't legal Kudos to the Valley Profile for spotlighting Steve Hart's spectacularly absurd bid for Mayor. Claiming he's not a Sovereign Citizen is cute—if only his "manifesto" and court affidavit weren't dripping with the exact pseudo-legal nonsense that movement is infamous for.

According to Hart's documents, the Council is a "corporation" with no authority, he has "absolute dominion" over himself, and a birth certificate is an evil plot to enslave him; all straight out of the sovereign citizen playbook. Somehow, in this alternate universe, being Mayor of a council that doesn't exist makes perfect sense.

Hart insists he's a team player yet wants to imprison TCDC's CEO for 14 years and calls her a "pawn" who used "coercion and deception." The Mayor and Councillors are "spineless," and community board members "incompetent." Nothing says "let's work together" like attacking everyone in the room.

Financial wizardry? Hart promises to miraculously reduce wastewater charges by 17,000%, fund an Olympic-sized swimming and diving pool in Thames, revamp every town centre, and cut rates: all at once. Either he's discovered a secret money tree or thinks voters are mathematically impaired.

And the funhouse of conspiracy theories: fluoride "rots your bones and pushes your brain backwards. Electromagnetic fields and chemtrails are slowly killing us, and climate change is a hoax; so presumably Thames and other towns won't get any flood protection.

From someone claiming fifteen university degrees, this is next-level absurdity

Our district deserves serious leadership, not a one-man circus of pseudo-law, impossible math, and delusions.

- Denis Tegg, Thames

RESPONSE

ACIDIC VITRIOLIC ABUSE..nothing more nothing less. No absurdity just very practical reality from many years engaged in the professional arena of many of the fields with built experience. Spectacular, yes. There is no claim at all anywhere, ever that I am or claim to be a sovereign citizen . There is no pseudo-legal nonsense at all. Nor any such movement. Just people waking up. People beginning to question. Searching for solutions to fix the system which is clearly broken. www.stuff.co.nz/ nz-news/360821851/new-zealandbroken-and-youredumb-stay.

All my affidavits state NZ law, Acts. Fact not fiction My manifesto will show you the cause of our ever-decreasing standard of living, it will also show how you can turn it around. It very clearly shows how our Coromandel can be enriched for our children and children's children.

Only, if one has the intellect to interpret that. What is the 'sovereign citizen playbook'. Can you please send me copy. It doesn't take much research to find the truth of such words.

Also TCDC is a registered NZ Business with a NZBN...go find it if you have the ability to do a simple search. Many people across Coromandel support the manifesto and aspirations visions and ideals I share. The council does exist but just not in the form we want, need, expect or have been accustomed to. It has been stolen. We need to take it back. It is our vehicle.

We need to drive it. The management of such an entity is what I am more than capable and more than qualified to do. I repeat, we pay for the services council provides.

Would you in your right mind pay bungling incompetent muppets for the provision of well below par and horrendously expensive services? I don't know anyone in their right mind that would...why should you? I have been invited and have lead teams very successfully by direct professional skill sets and an open frank blunt and honest approach. When elected to Mayor the first meetings with all representatives will put reality firmly on the table openly discussed evaluated with meaningful reality and purpose out the end. Our community have had a guts full of the spineless and incompetent.

In Wastewater management the word is efficiency. I can very srccessfully debate this arena proving significant cost savings of highest efficiency. While exposing the corruption theft and abuse that we all suffer by the vultures feeding off all of us. Our incompetents spent \$147,000 on a report that told them the best place to build a swimming pool was within Thames High School

Tell me if that was value for money. Then build a new pool for M\$26... come on...pull the wool over my eyes, stab me in the back and rob me blind at the same time.

Urban Design combined with Landscape Architecture is another highly passionate skill set I have, the focus in my two Masters degrees with practical models and templates.

Reducing rates is very simple when we get rid of all the vultures, hyenas, maggots and parasites feeding off us. While cleaning out the bureaucracy deadwood. All needing to go

through a very serious KPI exercise annually to prove their worth, ability, performance, community value, competence and diligence. Fluiride questions. Start here: www.youtube. com/watch?v=rFeP0zw2c0Q and fluoridefree.org.nz/new-zealand-documentary-fluoride-on-the-brain.

Flood protection is always needed and has nothing to do with the Climate Change hoax. Instead of being lead blind-less, deceived tricked and lied to. WTFU. Before you need to attend a workshop on H2BO&KYAG.

Nothing absurd about pursuing academic challenges. I don't apologies to anyone for being an overachiever. A designer of solutions and a visionary. One with any degree of intelligence and respect for our community can go through my manifesto with a fine tooth comb, add it all up and very soon recognize it has consid-

erable value in every statement. It is visionary. That in itself is something we have not seen for a long time. The system is broken and we need to fix it.

Right across our community we have incredible talent, expertise, qualifications, experience, will, wisdom can-do and know-how. You will become part of weekly open public forums to debate, discuss, argue and lay out your needs, wants, desires, demands and then collectively we will design the solutions.

Envision, manifest, create, act, build, maintain. Similar programmes will run in all the schools right across the district inviting all students to be-come enthused in their communities creatively, genuinely. I hope that satisfies your acidic vitriol and your anger that you probably feel unempowered to find the solutions to.

- Steve Hart, Mayoral candidate,

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

- 1. Who was the lead singer of the band Queen?
- 2. In which sport is playing with the left hand not allowed? a) Baseball b) Fencing, or c) Polo?
- 3. According to Buzz Aldrin, what was the first liquid to be consumed on the moon? a) Beer, b) Coca Cola, c) Communion wine, or d) water?
- 4. Wanderlust is defined as a strong desire to a) form relationships, b) travel and explore the world, or c) walk long distances?
- 5. True or false: Walt Disney was cryogenically frozen following his death in 1966?
- 6. The annual Academy Awards are more often known by which man's name, beginning with O?
- 7. The so called 'Emu War' was a military operation in 1932 fought to address public concerns over large numbers of emu. Which country did
- 8. Did the band The Beatles ever tour New Zealand?
- 9. Put these New Zealand headlands in order from North to South Cape Farewell (Farewell Spit), Cape Kidnappers, Cape Reinga.
- 10. The best selling beer brand in the world is a) Budweiser, b) Heineken, or c) Snow?



ANSWERS: 1. Freddie Mercury, 2. c) Polo; 3. c) Communion wine; 4. b) Travel and explore the world; 5. False; 6. The Oscars, 7. Australis, 8. Yes Unne 1964 in Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch; 9. Cape Reinga, Cape Kidnappers, Cape Farewell; 10. c) Snow.

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Event celebrates diverse cultures

hames' Goldfields mall was packed Thames' Goldfields Illali was pucked with people for Te Pūtake o Toi ki Hauraki 2025.

The event, which ran from 10am-1pm on September 19, saw kapa haka rōpū [groups] performing for the gathered

Several schools took part, including Matai Whetu Kohanga Reo, Paeroa Central Kura, Te Wharekura o Manaia, Te Puru School, Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School, and Thames High School.

The Ladies Giddha from the Thames Indian Community and the seniors group Te Uru Kahika Kaumātua Rōpū also took

Event organiser Michael Barlow said

he was thrilled with the turnout.

"It was truly amazing," he said.

"[The event] is to celebrate our diverse cultures in Hauraki. So not just our Māori culture. We had our Indian whānau up here as well.

"Last year we had our Indian whānau, we had our Tongan whānau, we had our Thai whānau as well.

They couldn't make it this time around, but we're still just leaving it open for whatever culture Journalism wants to jump in and share their kaupapa."

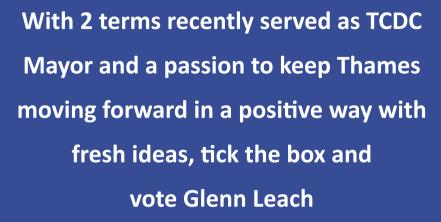


Te Puru School has a thriving kapa haka scene, with the majority of its students taking

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

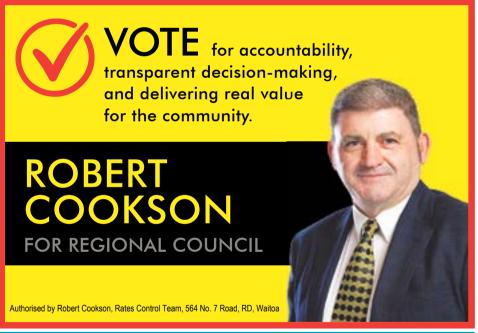


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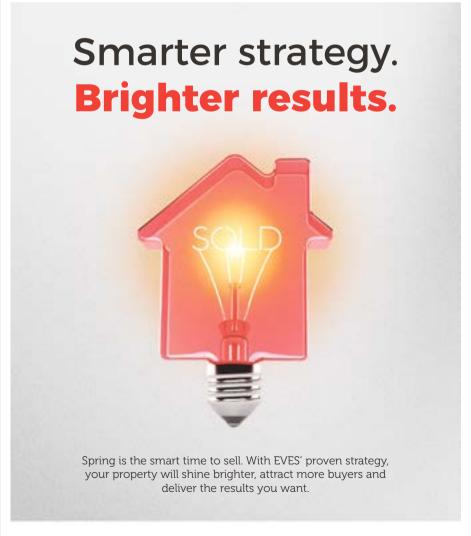




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Rural Life

Students awarded Roger Harris scholarships

Two university students with an interest in river and catchment management have been awarded scholarships dedicated to the chief engineer of the Waihou Valley Scheme.

Nathalie Stark (Bachelor of Civil Engineering with honours) and Joshua Munro (Bachelor of Climate Change double major in Earth Sciences and Geography) were this week presented with Roger Harris scholarships.

The presentations were made at Waikato Regional Council's Hauraki Scheme Subcommittee meeting by John Harris, the son of Roger Harris who the scholarship is named after.

The Roger Harris (Waihou Valley Scheme) Scholarship, now in its 30th year, honours Roger Harris, Chief Engineer of the Hauraki Catchment Board from 1959 to 1983, for his contribution to the development and initial implementation of the Waihou Valley Scheme, which is now owned and managed by the regional council.

Students whose families are residents in the Waihou/Piako zone rating area are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Preference is given to students who are studying in the fields of engineering or resource management, with a particular focus on river and catchment management.

Nathalie and Joshua received scholarships of \$3000 each towards their course fees.



Josua Munro and Nathalie Stark receive their scholarships.

Photo: SUPPLIED/WRO

Hauraki Zone Manager Karen Botting said the scholarship provided benefits to Waikato Regional Council as recipients sometimes take up holiday employment with the council, which can also lead to permanent positions on staff.

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Rural Life

Calf club fun

A banner of grey sky and plustery wind drain to put a damper of the Matatoki School Community for its annual Calf Club Day on September 18. People flowed into the school hall to see the art exhibition with creations such as miniature farm scenes, homemade animals, pinecone decorations, drawings and more including an assortment of donated cakes. Friendly faces in the kitchen prepared a welcome spread of food, which included a donation of meat by Burton's Butchery. Out on the field, families, teachers and animal judges looked on while students with goats, lambs and of course, calves put their best hooves forward for the competition. One of the organisers, office manager Katherine Forsyth, told *The Profile* the awesome turnout was testament to the wonderful relationship and support the school had with its community. Reporter DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA captured some of the monumental moo-ments.



x Quinn, 9, and Opal snap up three trophies







Brisa, 5, leads Elsa the calf. Right, Kayla Quinn, 11, takes home the Merle Smith Trophy.





Kayla Quinn and her calf step up. RIGHT: Aaliyah Walker, 13, and Gray Trophy winner Kaycee Walker, 12.

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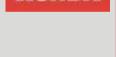




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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Creative journeys await

Calive with creativity" in October as artists prepare to open their doors to the public for this year's Coromandel Open Studios Arts Tour.
The event will take place

across the first two weekends of next month from October 4-5 and October 11-12, with artists guides available online and at local information centres.
Visitors will have a rare op-

portunity to step inside the working studios of painters sculptors, potters, printmakers, jewellers, photographers, and more, and gain a glimpse into both the artistic process and the stunning landscapes that

The tour transforms the region into a living gallery from coastal cottages to hidden bush retreats. Art lovers and cover explorers alike will discover original works, meet the makers, and experience the vibrant culture that makes the Coromandel a creative haven.

Organising committee member Charlene Scott said the Arts Tour wasn't about just seeing art on the walls.

"It's about connecting with the people behind it, hearing their stories, and sharing in the inspiration of this unique place we call home.

Most studios will have artwork available for purchase, offering visitors the chance to



Artist Matilda Halley hard at work.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Artist Tony Calsifari left, and last year's opening night, right.

Coromandel.

Whether you're a seasoned collector, a weekend wanderer or simply curious, this self-guided tour promises inspiration at

An exhibition at Hauraki House Gallery, Coromandel, will also run from October 4 to October 12, kicking off with an opening night from 5.30pm on Octobe

DETAILS: Open Studios Arts Tour, 10am-4pm, October 4-5, and October 11-12 in studios in and around Coromandel town. More information: www.coromandelartstour.

Flowers for friendship

The "resounding success" of last year's Knit a Square initiative inspired Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel's vision for their

upcoming event.

The group invites community members to celebrate the International Day of the Older Person on October 1 at the Thames Civic Centre with the Flowers for Friendship initiative.

Age Concern Hauraki Coro-

mandel team lead Jo Sanderson said people from around the community made flowers from different mediums such as wool, paper and flax, which would be on display at the upcoming celebration.

One group who made and do-nated flowers was Whenuakite School.

"We are going to have all the flowers made arranged in vases around the hall for people to

come and see, then we will give these out to people at the end who have attended, and around our communities," Jo said.

"The Piki te Ora Team from Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki will ke there deing from health about.

be there, doing free health checks and sharing information about the services on offer."

Throughout the morning there will be dance displays from vari-ous dance groups in the area, and people will have the opportunity

to join in too.
"Come along between 10am and 12pm for morning tea and a look around, and also at 9.20am something is happening outside the Info centre where the bus

DETAILS: Age Concern Hauraki Coromandel Flowers for Friendship at Thames War Memorial Civic Centre from 10am to 12pm on October 1.



A box of paper flowers from Whenuakite School.

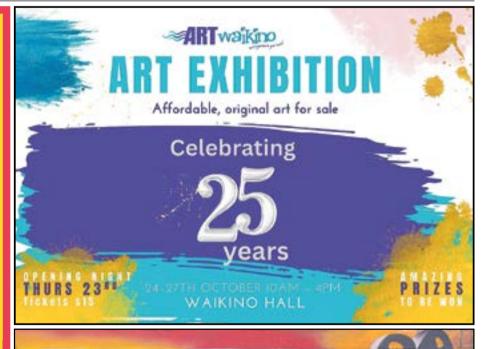
Photo: SUPPLIED

take home a special piece of the 2025 **BUNNINGS** & WAREHOUSE 🌢 HEARTLAND CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday 27th September at Centennial Park, Paeroa Gates open at 11am 12.00pm **Thames Valley Silver Foxes v Waikato Presidents** 2.00pm Thames Valley Swampfoxes West Coast Ticket price - \$5.00 • Under 12 years = free

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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.

Prime Minister (102 mins) M. Going behind the scenes of her administration and her private life, PRIME MINISTER follows Dame Jacinda Adern for seven years. Intimate home footage shot by her husband and audio interviews that she did while in office give us unparalleled access. **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (123 mins)** PG. The cinematic return of the global phenomenon, the Crawley family and their staff enter the 1930s. As the beloved cast of characters navigates how to lead Downton Abbey into the future, they must embrace change and welcome a new chapter. **The Roses** (105 mins) R16. Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple lvy (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 **NEW NEXT WEEK:** *Holy Cow* French Film Festival fave. Totone's carefree teenage life takes a turn to provide for his 7-year-old sister. He works to produce an award-winning cheese to win a competition prize.









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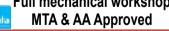
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ENTERTAINMEN



names Music Group's September Free Friday Lunchtime Concert will feature instrumental students from the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music. For many years Thames Music Group has provided this annual opportunity to experience performances by talented young musicians from University of Waikato.

In this recital, the University of Waikato is presenting a varied program of solo and ensemble works. Violinist Tabitha Yates opens the program with Mozart's brilliant Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, accompanied by pianist Carlee Hanna.

Jaxon Drabble follows with the lyrical Nocturne in B-flat Minor by Chopin, and I-Tzu (Emma) Lin presents the expressive opening movements of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A-

flat Major, Op 110. The programme continues with violinist Nrusingha Rath and pianist Jaxon Drabble in Dvořák's charming Humoresque and Paganini's dazzling Caprice No. 2. Yin Huey Lau then performs Chopin's beloved Nocturne in D-flat Major, before Angela Liu brings the danceinspired elegance of Granados' Valses Poéticos.

To conclude, trumpeter Sitiveni Palei, with pianist Carlee Hanna, presents Brandt's exciting Concertpiece No. 2. Audiences can expect an afternoon filled with youthful artistry, ranging from classical elegance to romantic beauty and virtuosic brilliance

DETAILS: Friday, September 26, 12.15pm, at St George's Church, Thames. Free entry, koha/donation gratefully accepted.

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING

This school holidays, several good new movies will fly into theatres. From family favourites returning, to new action-packed thrillers, there's plenty of variety to keep everyone entertained.

The Bad Guys 2

In cinemas now, The Bad Guys 2 is the sequel to the fan favourite 2022 film. Based on the bestselling books by Aaron Babbley, it sees Mr Wolf, Mr Snake, Mr Piranha, Mr Shark and Ms Tarantula back on the big screen, trying their best to be good. However, they soon find themselves up against a new found threat - the Bad Girls. Sam Rockell, Craig Robinson, Awkafina, and Anthony Ramos are some of the big names that return. Reviews have been very positive, saving it is full of heart, laughs and has excellent animation

One Battle After Another

Arriving in theatres on September 25, One Battle After Another sees Hollywood heavyweight Leonardo Dicaprio land his first lead role since 2023's Killers Of The Flower Moon. He is joined by a star-studded cast including Sean Penn, Ria Hall and Tenya Taylor to name a few. There Will Be Blood director Paul Thomas Anderson directs the project. One Battle After Another is an original film from Thomas Anderson, which promises plenty of action!

A Big Bold Beautiful Journey

Making her first lead role since 2023's hit Barbie film, Margot Robbie stars alongside Irish actor Colin Farell in a brand new time travel film. The plot follows strangers Sarah (Robbie) and David (Farell) who get to relive important moments from their respective pasts, and show how they got to where they are in the present. An interesting premise, but with two talented actors leading the film, it promises to be highly entertaining and perfect for a couple's getaway from the kids in the holidays.

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Death Notice GILMER,

Clifford Wallis (Pip): Aged 76. Passed at home on Friday 19th September, after his hattle with cancer A farewell service will be held on Sunday 28th September at 2pm at the Thames Rugby Sports Club rooms Loved husband of Sooz Loved father of Grant, Selena and Isla. Adored stepfather of Cameron, Havden and Zoe,



Church Notices

Waihi Assembly of God Church 'Worship & Healing" 10am Sundays Scout Hall,

Baker St, Waihi

Waihi Bible Chapel Ph. Num 021 522 668 Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King

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Public Notice

Join the public meeting with Ministers Doocey and Patterson to talk about local health care.

When: 12 noon - 1.30pm on Wednesday 1 October

Where: The Thames On Kirkwood on 100 Kirkwood Street. Thames

Please come along, the meeting is open to all members of the public.

Hon Matt Doocey is Associate Health Minister with responsibility for Rural Health and Minister for Mental Health

Hon Mark Patterson is Minister for Rural Communities and Associate Minister of Agriculture.

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Registrations are now open!!

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• Int Mixed/Boys - Years 4-6 • Snr Mixed/Boys - Years 7-8

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Girl's • Boy's • Mixed

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Contact Cindy Berridge 0274 655 289 / ngateatouchmodule@gmail.com



NGATER









Deadline 12 noon Monday

Situation Vacant | Public Notices

Due to our membership growth we are looking for an experienced bar manager and bar person to work at the Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa.

Approximately 20 hours per week and must be able to work Saturdays Please email CV to the Manager ohinemuriclub@xtra.co.nz

or drop it into the club.

THAMES **MARKET**

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8am - noon **GRAHAMSTOWN 30th**

Anniversary 27th Sept.

Public Notices

Paeroa Chess Club Beginning October 5. For more information

contact 027 545 6760

Club - AGM 10am Sunday 28th ember at The Hauraki Aei Club rooms 395A Ngati Maru Highway Thames

Thames Musicians

Public Notices Waihi Arts Centre and Museum

54 Kenny St , Waihi AGM Sunday 5 October 2025, 2pm

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the staff at Valley Toyota Services for the work done to my Auris car last Thursday. Much appreciated. Patricia

Te Pai o Hauraki Marae AGM 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.

Agenda:

- Karakia Whakatuwhera and Mihi
- Apologies
- 3 Receiving any minutes of the previous Marae's Meeting 4 - The Chairman's report;
 - Year overview
 - Strategic plan progress Annual plan progres
- 5 The Treasurer's report on the Annual Financial Statements
- 6 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.)
- Committee progress
- Motions to be considered
- 9 General Business
- 10 Karakia Whakakap 11 - Kai o te ahiahi (Lunch)

STEPPING OUT HAURAKI INC AGM



You are cordially invited to attend the **Annual General Meeting**

New committee/members welcomed

To be held on Monday 6th October 2025 at 11am

> @ Stepping Out Hauraki 100 Sealey Street, Thames

The meeting will conclude with a light lunch

PAPER DELIVERIES

Although we endeayour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not

receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post

PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote,

Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub

Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy

WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info

Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalue

THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station,

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SPORTS REPORTS

Send your sports news, reports and photos

Five-a-side wraps up season: 'we play hard'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

One way to mark the end of the season for Paeroa Rangers Soccer Club and Paeroa College soccer were a Soccer Club and few Waikato tournaments.

The Paeroa Rangers Soccer Club, which currently has around 60 players, took two under-12 teams over to compete in the Waikato Junior Five-a-side Tournament on September 14 at Jansen Park, Hamilton.

Club president Bob Turlington told *The Profile* it was a fun

way to end the season. "We take our kids over there because when they go to college they will be playing a lot of these kids at the next level.

"Our teams did very well. We won several games and lost games by a goal."

Skills such as passing, shooting and playing defense were displayed by the kids, Bob said, as well as support for their fellow teammates.

The tournament was good exposure for team members because they could see the skill level of the players from outside the Thames Valley, he

"The Thames Valley has some good talent, but it's a small pond vs the Waikato.

"Being exposed to better teams will hopefully motivate our kids to go home and practice to get better.





One thing is certain: "our team is not big but we play hard", he said.

Bob also coached the 2025 Paeroa College Mixed Soccer teams.

college senior boys' teams and one senior girls' team recently took to the fields the Waikato Five-a-side Tournament on September 13, decked out from head to toe in school colours.

"The girls won two of four

games. The boys, who were missing key players, still did good," Bob said.

Overall, the college teams "unique season", Bob said, with 10 new players and several people who had never played organised football before.

DETAILS: Contact Bob Turlington, Ph 027 206 1526 or email kirp-family@hotmail.com to find out more about the Paeroa Rangers Soccer Club.



An Open Letter to the Women of Thames – Coromandel District from Women Weaving Solidarity "This is Our Moment" - Vote Denise Messiter-Nin for Mayor of TCDC

To our grandmothers, kuia, mamas, sisters, aunties, cousins, neighbours and friends. 132 years ago, in September 1893, New Zealand women were the first women in the world to be given the right to vote. It is shocking that in 2025, only one woman is standing for the TCDC mayoralty. Women are at least 50 per cent of the voting population in TCDC. We have been the majority audience at all the mayoral candidates' meetings. Thoughtful, engaged women asking crucial questions about our community's future. Why are we still the minority at all levels of the TCDC table?

For too long, in this District, we have been part of a story that doesn't serve us, because it doesn't include us. We show up, we listen, we engage, we volunteer countless hours, yet our voices remain unheard. Our elderly, our children and mokopuna face unaffordable housing. Our concerns about safety for our diverse communities get

dismissed with patronising smiles. This year, the government cancelled pay equity claims affecting 180,000 New Zealand women, some live and work in our communities. This isn't about statistics; this is about our mothers' and grandmothers' well-being, our lives, our daughters' futures. It is about our daughters working as a teacher's aide, a nurse and earning less than their male colleagues.

Here's what we've learned: when we keep voting for the "same old guard," our voices get lost, our stories and truths are bypassed and recrafted to fit their story of us. Our mana, our significance to our communities, is lost and made

There is hope; we now have a real choice. We have a woman standing for mayor of TCDC, who understands our struggles and stories because she has lived them. Denise Messiter (Nin) isn't just

another political candidate. She's one of us. Her ancestors are from here. She has been mentored and guided by wahine and women from two worlds: Māori and Pakēha. She knows how to bring those two worlds together to benefit all who live in our communities. Her leadership is grounded in over 40 years of advocacy. Fighting for our rights, for pay equity, protecting our environment, and leading the establishment of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki. Denise has advised successive governments and Royal Commissions of Inquiry. She is the CEO of Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Women's Refuge. She brings empathy and is experienced in the world of governance, business, and community leadership. For these contributions and more, she has been acknowledged with a Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International and is a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

"This is Our Moment" to step from the audience onto the stage. Our daughters and granddaughters are watching. They're learning whether women's voices matter in public decision-making. When they ask us why we chose as we did, what will we tell them? Change was too risky, so we voted for the "same old guard." Or do we say, we recognised "Our Moment" and, like Mere Mangakahia and Kate Shepard, who lobbied for our right to vote, we chose hope. Let's vote for a future where our children and grandchildren experience mayoral leadership that reflects the strong, caring, compassionate wahine and women in their lives. "This is Our Moment."

Vote Denise Messiter-Nin for Mayor of TCDC. Email nin4mayor@gmail.com or her Facebook Denise Messiter - Nin for TCDC Mayor.



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EASY

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1 Newspaper exclusive

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25 Energetically and resolutely (4,1,4)
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33 Intersecting paths (10)
35 Flatulence (3)

36 37 Congregate (6) Greet with the lips

(4)
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55 58 Unit of heat (5) Film machine (9)

Curtain rail cover (6) **60** Pulling ahead (7) **61** Age (3)

63 Lustrous fabric (4) **64** Solution (6) **65** Enervate (3) 66 Insignificant (10)

Went quickly (6) 69 Save from danger

(6) **71 76** Game bird (9) Putting in position

Faculty member (9) 79 Entail (7)

81 Feline (3) 84 Preliminary sketch

85 Cleared of blame or suspicion (10) 86 Creature (5)

87 Correct (5) 88 Scarce (4,2,3,6) 89 Theatre attendant (5)

DOWN

2 Natural fabric (6) Egg-shaped (5) Responsibility (4) Lime orb (anag)(7)

Group of words (6) Smell (5) Mild, of weather (7) 8

10 Tots up (4) **11** In-crowd (6) Regulations (5)

13 Lower than (7) **14** Fissure (7) **18** Retreat (10) **23** Curse (5)

Bodily aperture (7) 26 Covered for loss (7) Large dog (7)

29 Multicoloured arch

30 Shock (6) 31 Nimble (5)

Japanese hostess (6)

Self-satisfied (4) 36 38 Haggard (5) Squalid (5)

Delight (4)

45 Broods (5) 46 Ribbonlike pasta strips (7)

47 Portent (4) 48 Aim (6) 49 Measuring device

50 Stalemate (7) 52 Established

customs (10) 53 Reverberating (7)54 Historical records

55 Fishing boat (7)56 Run off to marry (5) Penny-pinching (4) 62 Ornamental quartz

67 Begin again (7) 68 Throw away (7) Camel train (7)

72 Alligator pear (7) **73** Sufficient (6) 74 Enquiring (6) 75 Tree-lined street (6) **76** Actor's platform (5) **78** Small bird (5)

80 Follows orders (5) Steer clear of (4) 83 Witnessed (4)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Stout, 4 Politics, 9 Cosset, 14 China, 15 Tricks of the trade, 17 Sheer, 18 Ego, 19 Warrior, 20 Imprudent, 21 Summit, 24 Crescendo, 25 Spying, 26 Blames, 29 Ungracious, 31 Awe, 32 Sultan, 33 Plus, 35 Let, 37 Vein, 39 Endowment, 40 Tangerine, 41 Erode, 42 Currency, 47 Upstream, 51 Sniff, 55 Speedboat, 56 Lunchtime, 58 Says, 59 Goo, 60 Slip, 61 Quotas, 62 Rye, 63 Nail polish, 66 Dogged, 67 Forbid, 69 Reinstate, 72 Shroud, 73 Dissipate, 75 Sketchy, 77 Ink, 80 Lurid, 81 Keep it under wraps, 82 Elegy, 83 Bolted, 84 Pondered, 85 Sways.

DOWN: 2 Tarpaulin, 3 Ulcer, 5 Oafs, 6 Inhuman, 7 Interrogated, 8 Stand, 9 Cleanly, 10 Sash, 11 Even up, 12 Rivet, 13 Favours, 14 Crumple, 16 Smokescreen, 22 Accord, 23 Inflate, 24 Coroner, 25 Svelte, 27 Malaise, 28 Catnap, 30 Sewn, 32 Stool, 34 Steam, 36 Rest, 38 Emu, 42 Costs, 43 Reeling, 44 Eddy, 45 Crocus, 46 Wings, 48 Sleepwalker, 49 Resolve, 50 Any, 51 Station, 52 Florid, 53 Interruption, 54 Thin, 57 Iciest, 64 Slap-happy, 65 Merrily, 66 Divides, 68 Blinked, 70 Intrude, 71 Quarto, 72 Skeet, 74 Sheep, 76 Threw, 78 Edit, 79 Idle.

SPORTS REPORTS

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FOOTBALL

Cup final defeat but future bright for Thames Women FC

On Sunday afternoon, Unicol Women lifted the Waikato Cup following a 1-0 win against Thames Women FC.

Two whole weeks had passed since Thames' momentous comeback against Northern United Premiers, which secured their place in this year's Waikato Cup Final. Thames had romped home in the league, winning the Division Two title by a seven-point margin. Another Division One team stood between them and a further piece of silverware: Waikato Unicol, who had enjoyed a strong league campaign themselves, finishing fourth and scoring 39 goals along the way.

scoring 39 goals along the way.
Galloway Park was the neutral venue chosen for the final, and as expected, a healthy crowd turned out to witness the final chapter of the 2025 season.

The opening exchanges were tense, the weight of the occasion clear as both sides chased the pivotal first goal.

A lapse in concentration in the Thames back line saw the ball break to Francesca Kay in the box — the striker made no mistake and applied a calm finish to give Unicol the decisive early lead after just eight minutes. Unicol continued on the front foot in the opening stages, working the ball wide and peppering the box with a series of crosses. Thames defended assiduously, with Brooke Douglas and Louise Hinds-Haye dealing with the danger well. Having ridden the early storm, Thames began to dominate the midfield, with Samantha Chamberlain dictating the tempo as they searched for a way back into the game.

A swift turn and pass from Jess Rendall found the run of Keltie McManus, whose low shot was well saved by Amy Jenkins in the Unicol goal. Thames then created several chances down the right, with neat interplay between Beth Powell and Lydia Mahon producing a string of dangerous crosses that caused havoc in the box, but they couldn't find the finishing touch. The second half fell



Beth Powell on the ball.

Photos: MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

into a familiar pattern - Thames on the front foot, with their opponents soaking up pressure and poised for counterattacks. Long-range efforts from Samantha Chamberlain and Douglas rose just over the bar before a McManus corner was headed just wide of the far post. With time starting to slip away, Bryony Wayne kept Thames in the game as she reacted well with a smart save to keep Unicol at bay. Thames began to commit players forward, and captain Emma Hinds-Senior - who had led by example all game - floated a ball wide to Rendall, who burst past the defence.

The cross caused a melee in the box, with the ball eventually rebounding off the bar and out of play. Thames carved out several shooting chances in the final few minutes, but Jenkins produced a string of brilliant saves to keep Unicol's noses in front.

Unicol held on, surviving one final onslaught from the Thames attack. The referee's whistle brought to an

end a tight and tense encounter that ultimately went the way of Unicol, with an early goal proving the difference. The match capped a remarkable season for Thames Women, who secured the league title and finished as cup runners-up - the club's most successful campaign in recent history.

The future is bright for Thames Wom-

The future is bright for Thames Women, with a committed young coach, a talented group of players, and a season in Division One ahead iwwn 2026.

"Today's loss was tough, especially in such a big final. It's hard when you dominate but can't find the net. Still, I'm incredibly proud of our team. We controlled most of the match, especially the second half, with shots just missing, hitting the bar, and their keeper making great saves. Their effort proved they fully deserved to be in the final," manager Xavier Brown said. "This season has been remarkable. Every player has worked hard, improving both individually and as a team. With promotion



Lily McCarthy grapples for the ball.



Thames Women FC - Division Two champions and Cup runners up.

to Division One next year, I'm confident we'll keep progressing and make another strong cup run.

"A huge thank you to the squad for their hard work, to Ergin my assistant coach for his commitment and support, Emma my captain who has played every minute of every game and helped some of the new younger players and to everyone at the club who helps behind the scenes, and our supporters who made it to away games to cheer and the ladies and help us win crucial games at home

games at home.
"I'm unbelievably proud of these girls and excited to see what we can achieve next season."

- Jonathan Coles







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1,557_{sqm} □ 3 **□** 3 **□**

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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_{sqm} □

Tender (unless sold prior)

Closing 4pm, Thu 23 Oct 2025 459 Pollen Street, Thames

View 2.30-3pm Sun 28 Sep or by appointment

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SPORTS

Te Puru students win hearts at AIMS

By ZOE HUNTER

Agroup of Te Puru School Astudents caused a "rip-ple effect" recently at the Zes-pri AIMS games, where the snapped up a monumental achievement.

Te Puru School's Rip Rugby team competed at the Zespri AIMS Games, which is Australasia's largest annual junior sporting event, in Tauranga Moana from August 30 to September 5. One of the Tauranga tourna-

ment's newest and most prestigious prizes was awarded to Te Puru School's Rip Rugby team for their incredible commitment to integrity, sports-manship and spirit of fair play. The Ripple Effect Award was

initiated and signed by one of New Zealand's most successful Olympians, Dame Lisa Carrington.

Teacher Hayley Fenton said Te Puru plucked 12 players from their small school roll to enter the Rip Rugby competi-tion for the first time.

We were beside ourselves just with our placing of 50th and we were delighted to be part of the games," she said.
"What an honour and a privi-

lege and an incredible way to

be recognised."

Te Puru's Rip Rugby team received multiple nominations during the week.



Te Puru School Rip Rugby team win the Ripple Effect Award at the Zespri AIMS Games.

According to one nomination, they opened their first-ever match with a powerful haka which set the tone for a game filled with grit and grace.

In a poignant gesture of respect, they recognised a player from the opposing St Heliers School team with an outstanding player award that reflected

their own school value of perse-

One observer said: "Te Puru School truly epitomised the values of integrity, sportsmanship, and fun challenge on the field today"

Hayley said it meant so much to be recognised for "what is important to us and our te kaha

(strength) that we carried with us through the games".
"To be recognised among all

other schools is incredible. It wasn't Te Puru's first time

in the headlines.

Before the tournament even began, they'd distinguished themselves with a novel and worthwhile fundraising effort,

and cleaned up nearly 8km of coastline between Thames and

Te Puru.
"I know I'm biased but we really do have the best school with the best kids," Hayley said.
"We are proud of ourselves

and our community.

Thank you and ngā mihi to whoever nominated us.



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