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From bylines to bylaws

Broadcasters, former journos, and media backers now make up one-third of the new Thames-Coromandel council - one of them as Deputy Mayor. It's a crossover that could reshape how the council communicates. KELLEY TANTAU reports

A former editor, a local news broadcaster, a financial backer of a community newspaper, and the owner of a popular radio station will all be seated around the Thames-Coromandel council table for the next three years - one of them as Deputy Mayor.

It's a mix of media and politics rarely seen within one chamber, but it could bring "clearer, more accessible council communications".

With the final local body election results now out, it's been determined that former *Hauraki-Coromandel Post* editor Alison Smith; *The Coromandel Informer* newspaper shareholder Flemming Rasmussen; *Coromandel's CFM* local news host John Freer; and *CFM* radio station owner John Grant have been successful in their bids to become councillors.

Grant was also named new Mayor Peter Revell's deputy - a decision Revell said was based on his "tremendous work ethic, sound judgement, and keen eye on the bottom line".

Mayor Revell, who led the nearest candidate by 600 votes, said the "unique" situation in TCDC - the fact that three people with current interests in media organisations, plus a fourth who was a former journalist and was now in the communications space - seemed "an unusual coincidence".

He told *The Profile* that community members from "all walks of life" were drawn to public service, and should be celebrated and their experience utilised.

For second-term councillor John Grant, who now picks up the Deputy Mayor title, a passion for the community was what drove his decision to first stand for council in 2022.

He and his wife Lynda are the owners of popular radio station *Coromandel's CFM*, but as a director, he said his involvement was limited to managing financial aspects and providing occasional technical support, such as driving the station's caravan for live broadcasts.

As a member of the Media Council and subject to the Broadcast Standards Authority, Cr Grant was asked how he would manage any potential conflicts between his responsibilities as Deputy Mayor and his ownership of a local media outlet that reported on council and community issues. Cr Grant said he was committed to transparency and maintaining public trust. "To manage potential conflicts between my role as Deputy Mayor and my ownership of *CFM*, I maintain no involvement in editorial decisions, which are handled by *CFM's* independent news team," he said.

"Additionally, *CFM* adheres to strict editorial guidelines to ensure impartiality, and I am committed to transparency through annual declarations of interest and recusal from any business decisions involving council matters."

He also said John Freer, the station's news editor and local news host, would be removed from all council-related

CONTINUED ON P2



One-third of the new Thames-Coromandel councillors have ties to local media.
File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

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Journalism

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Thames Tides

Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun		Mon		Tue			
Oct 29		Oct 30		Oct 31		Nov 1		Nov 2		Nov 3		Nov 4			
Morning 12:42am 2.9 6:43am 0.9		Afternoon 1:16pm 3.0 7:25pm 1.1		Morning 1:29am 2.9 8:29am 1.0		Afternoon 2:08pm 3.0 8:18pm 1.1		Morning 2:19am 2.9 8:29am 1.0		Afternoon 3:03pm 3.0 9:14pm 1.0		Morning 3:15am 2.9 9:32am 1.0		Afternoon 3:59pm 3.1 10:11pm 0.9	
Morning 4:16am 3.0 10:37am 0.9		Afternoon 4:54pm 3.2 11:08pm 0.7		Morning 5:19am 3.1 6:20am 3.3		Afternoon 5:48pm 3.3 6:41pm 3.5		Morning 12:03am 0.6 6:20am 3.3		Afternoon 12:31pm 0.6 6:41pm 3.5					
6:16am		7:48pm		6:15am		7:49pm		6:14am		7:50pm		6:13am		7:51pm	
B		Best At 6:38am 7:03pm		B		Best At 7:28am 7:52pm		B		Best At 8:16am 8:40pm		F		Best At 9:04am 9:27pm	
G		Best At 9:51am 10:14pm		G		Best At 10:39am 11:03pm		G		Best At 11:03am 11:26pm		G		Best At 11:29am 11:56pm	
Set 1:53am Rise 11:28am		First Quarter Set 2:30am Rise 12:33pm		Set 3:02am Rise 1:39pm		Set 3:31am Rise 2:47pm		Set 3:57am Rise 3:56pm		Set 4:23am Rise 5:07pm		Set 4:51am Rise 6:21pm			

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

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES			
PLACE	Hr	Mn	LOW Mn
Coromandel	- 0	04	- 0 04
Whitianga	- 0	01	- 0 05
Tairua	+ 0	10	+ 0 21
Whangamata	- 0	03	- 0 05
Waihi Beach	- 0	12	- 0 12

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

Māori excellence and innovation celebrated

The inaugural Hauraki Māori Business Awards 2025, held at the Silver Fern Farms Events Centre in Te Aroha on October 17, brought together more than 300 guests to honour Māori enterprise, innovation, and leadership across the Hauraki rohe.

Award recipients include Leadership Award winner Punehu Wilson and Wellbeing & Social Impact Award runner up Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki.

The evening was a celebration of Māori success, showcasing the ingenuity and cultural integrity of Māori businesses leading change.

Te Arikini Kuini (the Māori Queen) Nga wai hono i te po attended the event, alongside Hauraki-Waikato MP Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke, Tama Potaka, mana whenua of Hauraki, local government mayors and councillors, marae representatives, and kaumātua (elders) and rangatahi (youths) from across the region.

Hosted by the Ngāti Tamatera Treaty Settlement Trust, the awards recognised the achievements of Māori businesses in driving economic growth and strengthening cultural identity, environmental stewardship, and community wellbeing.

"These awards reflect the heartbeat of our people - the creativity, courage, and collaboration that keep Hauraki moving forward," trust chief executive Michelle Wilson said. "This is more than business excellence - it's about celebrating Māori innovation that uplifts whānau, restores our taiao (nature), and builds a stronger future for generations to come."



Winners and runners-up with Te Arikini Kuini (the Māori Queen) Nga wai hono i te po.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Each recipient demonstrated the transformative impact of Māori-led business models that prioritise collective prosperity, whānau empowerment, and sustainability, the Trust said.

The awards evening also saw the launch of Ngā Pōito o te Kupenga, a new Hauraki Iwi Māori Business Database, developed in partnership between Ngāti Tamatera and Ngāti Pāoa. The platform will connect Māori enterprises across Hauraki, allowing Ngāti Tamatera to work directly with iwi-owned and Māori-led businesses to understand their needs, foster collaboration, and ensure equitable access to contracts and partnerships across the region.

"Ngā Pōito o te Kupenga represents more than a directory, it's the weave that connects our business ecosystem," Ngāti Tamatera economic development lead Elle Archer said.

"What we witnessed tonight was more than an awards ceremony, it was a declaration of identity and intent. Māori business is not just contributing to the economy; we are reshaping it."

"The Hauraki Māori Business Awards are proof that when we lead with whakapapa and kaupapa, we don't just succeed - we transform the landscape for everyone."

AWARD RECIPIENTS: *Ko te tohu koununga mō te taiao/Environmental Excellence Award: winner, Pou Rāhui. Ko te tohu whakanui mō te taiohi/Rangatahi Leadership Award: winner, Punehu Wilson; runner-up, Rihipeti-Paerau Forbes. Ko et tohu whakanui mō te hauora me te toiora/Wellbeing & Social Impact Award: winner, Ki Tua o Matariki; runner-up, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki. Ko te tohu whakanui mō te kaupakihi hou/New Horizons Award: winner, Tidal Construction Ltd; runner-up, Waikato Ready Mix. Ko te tohu koununga mō te ringarehe me te ahumahi/Trades & Industry Excellence Award: winner, Lite Civil; runner-up, Concrete Management Ltd. Ko te tohu whakanui mō te ringatoi/Creative Visionary Award: winner, Chris Bailey Sculpture; runner-up, Jeanine Clarkin Design. Ko te tohu toi tongarewa o ngā rangi/Ureia Supreme Excellence Award 2025: winner, Ki Tua o Matariki.*



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Pike River (131 mins) M. Melanie Lynskey and Robyn Malcolm star as two ordinary women who stand up and take on the government, justice system and a company after the 2010 Pike River Mine explosion takes the lives of 29 men. A film about power, people vs. money, right vs. wrong. An inspiring true story of an incredible female friendship and together what is possible when you simply won't give up.

Regretting You (116 mins) M. Based on the bestselling book. Introduces audiences to Morgan Grant and her daughter Clara as they explore what's left behind after a devastating accident reveals a shocking betrayal and forces them to confront family secrets, redefine love, and rediscover each other.

Roofman (125 mins) M. Comedy & unbelievable true story. Follows a struggling father who robs McDonalds restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for 6 months, surviving undetected while planning his next move.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (100 mins) M. 50th anniversary screenings. A newly engaged couple have a breakdown in an isolated area and must pay a call to the bizarre residence of Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

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.

NEXT WEEK: Good Fortune - A well-meaning but inept angel, Gabriel meddles in the lives of a struggling gig worker and a venture capitalist. **Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere** - Bruce Springsteen's journey crafting his 1982 album Nebraska, which emerged as he recorded Born in the USA with the E Street Band.

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‘Tough result’ as Māori wards voted out

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

Māori wards have been scrapped from future Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel district councils, but for the next three years, “kotahitanga [unity] remains the way forward”.

At the October local body elections, 3291 people in Hauraki and 6995 people in Thames-Coromandel voted to remove Māori wards - a majority in both districts.

Thames-Coromandel’s elected representative Michael Barlow [Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Hikairo, and Ngā Puhī] said he was “deeply saddened” by the result, not just in his district, but in Hauraki and Matamata-Piako as well.

“It’s a tough result to accept, especially knowing how much heart and history sits behind the kaupapa,” he said.

“For many of us, this ward wasn’t just about representation, it was about honouring voices that have long been silenced and creating space for genuine partnership.”

Cr Barlow said while the decision was disappointing, it didn’t change the commitment he’d made to his communities.

“Kotahitanga [unity] remains the way forward. I’ll continue to advocate for our voices to be heard and respected, and

to ensure that our whānau, hapū, and iwi are meaningfully included in decision-making. This term will be shaped by resilience and unity. “We may have lost the ward,” he said, “but we haven’t lost the vision.”

Following the October 11 elections, voters from 24 out of 42 councils across the coun-

“We may have lost the ward, but we haven’t lost the vision.”

- Michael Barlow

try chose to dismantle Māori wards for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

The binding poll came as part of recent legislative changes made by central government, in which all councils with Māori wards were required to ask voters whether those wards should remain or be removed.

Des Tyler [Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Tamatera], elected as one of the Te Pakikau O Te Ika Māori ward councillors for Hauraki, believed people did not fully understand the referendum.

“I am disappointed that we don’t get to keep the Māori wards after 2028, which also saddens me as I truly believe

that we need to be there,” he said. “To be honest, I think people just didn’t understand what the referendum was all about as there was so much negativity around the country around Māori wards, and unfortunately people believed and bought into the negativity.”

“I know the next three years are going to be a challenge, but I know by 2028 people will see just how important Māori wards are.”

Hauraki’s second Māori ward councillor Rereahu Collier said while he initially had mixed emotions about the outcome, he wanted to emphasise the importance of the impact his role could have in the coming term.

He was motivated to engage with Māori communities in places they were empowered, he said. “What is reassuring to see in the results however, is the amount of support that Māori wards had from our whānau and allies alike. That is an indicator to me that our communities understand the importance of shared power and equitable voices. While the result didn’t go our way, it is still on a positive trajectory and I hope to build on that over the next three years.”

“There is still work to be done.”



A fire breaks out at a crash site in Waitakaruru. Photo: STUART SPACKMAN

Crashes in Waitakaruru, Gorge

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

A fire broke out on State Highway 25 near Waitakaruru on October 23, caused by a collision between a car and a truck.

Emergency services were called to the crash around 11.20am.

The occupants all escaped the vehicles, but the truck subsequently caught fire.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand said two trucks from Ngatea were sent to extinguish the blaze.

Hato Hone St John confirmed one person was transported to Thames Hospital in a serious condition.

Later that day, a single car crashed on State Highway 2, leaving the road through Karangahake Gorge closed for just over an hour.

The car overturned between School Rd and Waitawheta Rd, Police said, and the sole occupant was transported to hospital with moderate injuries.



Hauraki Plains ADAPTATION PLAN



As part of the next steps for this project, we want to find out more about your communities’ tolerance to risk from natural hazards. Within our communities we know there is lots of knowledge of how our land works – both in normal conditions and during disrupted weather. Building our understanding of risk is a key part of developing an adaptation plan so everyone in our communities feels confident and safe. We want you to consider - how much risk are your communities willing or able to bear?

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Thames Valley Hockey Pavilion, Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngātea.

Let’s Talk About Risk

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You can also reach out to the Community Panel by emailing plainsadaptation@gmail.com

‘Save our services’: workers strike

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

Hundreds of health workers, teachers, and other public sector workers gathered in Porritt Park in droves on October 23 as part of a nation-wide “mega-strike”.

The Porritt Park rally, one of several around the country, began with a family-friendly gathering and speeches. Strikers then formed a “human wall” and marched to Coromandel MP Scott Simpson’s office on Pollen St.

The “Save our Services” strike action was a combined effort between multiple unions, which are currently involved in contract negotiations with the government. It involved an estimated 100,000 union members, in what was New Zealand’s biggest co-ordinated strike action in years.

Along with fair pay rates, the unions’ grievances are varied.

Nurses, senior doctors, and other health workers have raised concerns over staffing levels, recruitment delays, and unsafe working conditions.

Meanwhile, the education sector is calling for more specialist teachers and teacher aides, and for the government to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi in education.

New Zealand Council of Trade Unions president Richard Wagstaff said in a statement that union members expected a proper response to their negotiation claims.



Health, education and other public sector workers march at Porritt Park in Thames.

Photo: TERESA MAXWELL

“[Unions] are being confronted with a co-ordinated and deliberate bargaining strategy from the Public Service Commission and employers. That is to respond with long-term pay offers that are well under inflation,” he said.

“These disputes are about much more than pay rates. These workers have also raised numerous issues around the quality of service and care, es-

pecially around short-staffing and resources. This has largely fallen on deaf ears.”

Public Service commissioner Sir Brian Roche said the strike was “avoidable” and would result in significant disruption for patients, students and families.

“I regret that outcome for New Zealanders, especially as I thought progress could have been made on bargaining - disappointingly, the unions didn’t

see it that way,” he said.

“We can only resolve these matters through constructive dialogue - not disruption... I urge the unions to come back to the table to negotiate a realistic and reasonable solution.”

Public Service Minister Judith Collins, meanwhile, penned an open letter calling the strike a “stunt” targeting the government.

“The strike appears to be po-

litically motivated by the unions,” she said.

“The government has acted in good faith, and we have met unions’ demands for pay increases in line with inflation... The government also has a responsibility to manage the country’s finances carefully, especially when money is tight.”



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

THS librarian bookmarks 10-year chapter

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A love of reading was fostered through Ruth Howes' early experiences of being read to as a child and also receiving a book in every Santa sack.

It was the early spark that fuelled the Thames High School librarians' passion to see students connect with books. It's what makes it all the more meaningful as the librarian prepares to finish her time in the role at the end of October, after 10 years of dedication.

The librarian told *The Profile* she loved when she could see "the light being turned on" as students discovered books that grabbed their attention.

Ruth started out her career, not as a librarian, but as a head kindergarten teacher at Tairua Kindergarten. "I then had seven years teaching English to [ages] three to seventeen-year-olds in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur."

When Ruth and her husband, Wayne Howes, shifted back to New Zealand at the end of 2013, Wayne scored a teaching position at Moanataiari Primary School, she said.

Ruth decided to upgrade her diploma of early childhood to a Bachelor of Teaching, majoring in Professional Education, she said, and while she worked on the upgrade - she said she was asked to relieve the librarian at Thames High School who was on sick leave.



After 10 years of dedication, the Thames High School librarian Ruth Howes leaves a well-read legacy. Photos: SUPPLIED

"Unfortunately, she passed away and I successfully applied for the role as librarian at THS."

When Ruth joined Thames High in 2014, she recognised students she taught back in kindergarten, she said.

"[I] felt very privileged to see them at the beginning of their school and to see them reach their potential and leave secondary school."

The library was a space where she helped to facilitate the school's chess club, and also where she led the librarian club.

"Some students needed a space to feel safe. These few became student librarians and it [the club] soon grew," she said.

"Student librarians are incredible and each has their own little

niche within the library. Having these students reach their goals and succeed in all they do was fantastic."

It was hard for Ruth to pick just one proud moment from her time at Thames High. "I don't have one proud moment - there are many," she said.

One moment was when she helped a student from a home-



The Thames High School Chess Club.

school background settle in at school, who later became dux, she said. Another was when she took a group of students to a chess tournament and said she came home "feeling very appreciated".

"Being a shy person it was hard to put myself out there, but I think this also helped those types of students to realise they can do anything," Ruth said.

"I was never sure about working with teenagers but quickly realised that they were like four year olds [who] just had a bigger attitude and bigger feet."

The next thing Ruth looked forward to was a bit of "me time", private tutoring and hooking up the caravan to the ute and travelling, she said. But the legacy she hoped to leave behind at Thames High was that everyone felt welcome in the library.

"Libraries don't have to be a quiet space. They should be a space where everybody and anybody feels welcome."

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS IN TERM 4

Senior Prize Giving

Wednesday 29 October

When: 7.00pm
Where: School Hall

STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS AND THEIR WHĀNAU WELCOME

Year 8 Orientation Days

Wednesday 12 November
Moanataiari School, Matatoki School & Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga

Wednesday 19 November
Te Puru School, St Francis School & Parawai School

When: 8.45am- 3pm
Where: Wharenui

2026 ENROLMENTS WELCOME

NCEA Exams Start

Tuesday 4 November

Until Tuesday 28 November

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, ACHIEVE WITH INTEGRITY

Staff Only Day

Friday 14 November

School Closed

A DAY OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFLECTION

Junior Prize Giving

Monday 8 December

When: 1.30-3.00pm
Where: School Hall

WHĀNAU WELCOME

Last day of Term 4 Thursday 11 December

Visit Thames High School website www.thameshigh.school.nz ~ Thames High School Events and Celebrations ~ Ph +64 7 868 8688

Owharoa Falls blasted to deter swimmers



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.

1898

Havoc had broken out at Ow-haroa where a resident who had built his house close to the waterfall objected to others bathing in a nearby pool.

He had begun blasting the falls into the pool to put a stop to the public swimming there. ‘Bachelor’ of Owharoa sent an indignant letter to the *Ohinemuri Gazette* asking if the County Council and Ranger of Crown Lands could do something. This resident, he felt, should be charged for damaging the fine natural scenery at the falls which were such an attraction to all travellers passing through the district.

Over at Pūriri the outlook was grim. The township consisted of a hotel, a school, and one or two shops. The only excitement provided during 24 hours was the arrival and departure of the various coaches. Many years previously miners and small syndicates had dabbled away there, occasionally coming on a promising patch which never amounted to much. A lot of claims were floated during the gold boom but many did not



Owharoa Falls in the Karangahake Gorge.
Photo: SUPPLIED

prosper. At present it seemed mining prospects were mostly in a state of coma and were not likely to revive for some time, possibly never.

Meanwhile, John McLoughlin, a Matatoki settler, met with a serious accident when making his way along Pollen St from Shortland to Grahamstown. When crossing at the junction with Willoughby St, a rapidly driven vehicle came down Pollen St and turned into Willoughby St. In turning the corner it knocked over Mr McLoughlin, one of the wheels passing over his left leg. The driver of the vehicle did not stop but kept on his way. Some passers-by who witnessed the accident helped Mr McLoughlin into Mr Tetley’s butcher’s shop, and then

sent word to Constable Hodgson. The constable at once procured a cab and had the injured man taken to the hospital.

Dr Williams found that Mr McLoughlin’s leg was badly fractured below the knee. The driver of the vehicle was not known, however Constable Hodgson had obtained a clue which he believed would lead to his discovery.

From Waikino to Waihi various architectural styles of miner’s abodes were observed by a visitor. At a hamlet in a little hollow adjacent to Waikino the dwellings were constructed of calico and old bags. Here and there, along the road to Waitekauri, tents were seen in various stages of tidiness and stability.

At Battery Flat, Waitekauri, there were specimens of the gimcrack - grotesque style of architecture. Here calico and bags were not so much in vogue as old tins, discarded galvanised iron and packing cases. A well appointed restaurant conducted by a smart little woman named Mrs Grubb was at the centre of this interesting group. From the outskirts of Waihi it appeared it had rained shanties from Heaven, and some residents were just as astonishing.

A lease of five acres for firewood cutting at Waihi was granted to a married woman, the astounded Warden declaring that she was no doubt a one of those known as a ‘new woman!’

Chris’ Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter
1. Which modern artist famously painted the Campbell’s Soup cans?
 2. Which New Zealander famously marketed the product ‘Natural Glow’ by claiming it contained “thousands of luminous spheres”? a) Suzanne Paul, b) The ‘Briscoes Lady’, or c) Tina from Turners?
 3. Which singer, also known as Mr Worldwide, co-released the song *Timber* in 2013 along with the singer Kesha?
 4. In which year did New Zealand outlaw whaling with the Marine Mammals Protection Act? a) 1878, b) 1928, or c) 1978?
 5. What is the only type of bird that can fly backwards? a) Finches, b) Hummingbirds, or c) Owls?
 6. What is a dissectologist? a) A puzzle enthusiast, b) someone who performs autopsies, or c) someone who studies two religions and how they interact?
 7. What is the plural of mousepad? a) Micepad, or b) Mousepads?
 8. The pastel-green-coloured, bubblegum-flavoured icecream containing lollies is known in New Zealand by what name?
 9. Which of these two locations has a township called Oban? a) Rakiura and Romania, b) Scotland and Stewart Island, or c) Tokelau and Türkiye?
 10. Which crop has been grown for the first time in the UK this past season? a) Pineapples, b) Rice, or c) Tea?



ANSWERS: 1. Andy Warhol; 2. a) Suzanne Paul; 3. Pfitbull; 4. c) 1978; 5. b) Hummingbirds; 6. a) A puzzle enthusiast; 7. b) Mousepads (or Mouse pads); 8. Goodie Goodie Gumdrops; 9. b) Scotland and Stewart Island; 10. b) Rice.

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Spooky scenes at Halloween Maritime Mania.
Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Maritime Park to host ‘friendly-spooky’ nights

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It’s no secret the Historical Maritime Park and Museum of Paeroa attracts boat loads of people to its grounds for the Christmas Light Show every December. But for the first time in its history, the Paeroa institution is introducing a new ‘spooktacular’ event: Halloween Maritime Mania. The team is made up of chairman Colin James, treasurer Gloria James, chief executive Fleur McDermott and also Belinda McDermott and Ellen Cooper on specialised lighting to pull everything together. The park, which was transformed into a “playground of the haunted” for the inaugural event, kicked off the first of two week-ends on October 24 to 27 for thrill-seekers, families and “lovers of all things eerie”. The second leg of the event was set to run for four more nights from October 30 to November 2. Chief executive and “new kid on the block” Fleur told *The Profile* they wanted to create a safe environment for families to experience Halloween. “It’s about enjoying this park and families, and really bringing families together to something that they can go and enjoy in the evening and wander around. It’s a non-profit [organisation], so events like Christmas and Halloween is what keeps the place afloat,” she said.

“Also it’s just the joy for the kids, and seeing their faces and wowing them.” Fleur and park team member and daughter Belinda McDermott were part of the creative team who made many of the props and scenes such as the spiders and tunnels, spooky characters and the science laboratory. “We haven’t gone out and spent a whole lot of money. You know, we could have just gone and bought props [but] we make stuff. We haven’t bought costumes. It’s just what we basically could find. It’s a lot about repurposing stuff,” Fleur said. One apparatus the park used as its mega Christmas tree for the Light Show was turned into a giant witches hat, while one area was set up with a coffin donated by Twentymans Funeral Services, Fleur said. “It brings [the] community together, it gets people down to the park.” While Fleur said they got “a real kick” out of the kids seeing the event, they planned to make it not too spooky, just “friendly-spooky”. But the overall motivation was “definitely” all about families, she said. “We are excited about this and the effort has been huge in getting ready to theme the entire park.” **DETAILS: Halloween Maritime Mania from 7.30pm, October 30 to November 2. Find Maritime Park Paeroa on Facebook for any cancellations. Visit www.iticket.co.nz for more.**

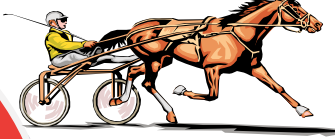


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paintings and pots

The first of the featured artists for November at the Thames Art Gallery is Thames artist Marianne Braithwaite, who will be exhibiting her work at the southern end of the gallery.

Marianne considers herself to be mainly self taught, but having an artistic mother was an advantage and initially fostered her love of painting from an early age. She also gained invaluable experience from attending workshops with international artists, which led to her winning awards and having solo and group exhibitions in New Zealand and Australia.

Marianne loves expressing herself with colour, especially watercolour, which she says the magic of using won her heart a long time ago. She says the immediacy of its use really appeals to her and makes a great choice to be able to use whilst either sitting in her car in a winter setting or sitting under a tree in the summer.

Marianne says she gains so much inspiration from the Coromandel, which offers many subjects from beaches dripping with Pohutukawa in early December to foggy Plains with skeletal trees in winter. Artists who have provided inspiration for her style and whose work she loves are Winslow Homer, Rowland Hilder, Edward Seago and Edward Wesson.

The northern end of the gallery will feature the works of Deborah A McNair (DAM), which will showcase her quirky science fiction and classic comic book inspired pottery.

Debby has been creating pottery for several years but it took some time and a few different projects, like making a ceramic clock, to find out what she really liked to do and what



Guest artists Marianne Braithwaite and Deborah A McNair.



direction to head in. She hand-builds her pieces using Ross Benson's clay.

Debby loves the bright, bold colours and clear lines that feature in her work and her pots are mostly low fired to keep the colours sharp and true. It takes quite a while to glaze pots with a lot of colours, so by the end they have developed a character of their own and have been given a name. She said that she does not intentionally make practical or useful pots, although many are.

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, 10am to 4pm daily.



Flight of fancy

Students at St Joseph's Catholic School in Paeroa took the trip of a lifetime at the end of term three - right to the stage at Paeroa Little Theatre. The school production, *Come Fly With Me*, was an original work written by principal Emalene Cull and featuring scenes reflecting stories, music, dance and culture from around the world. The plot centred around Hauraki Airways flight 565 on a whirlwind trip around the world - but somewhat hampered by overcharging flight attendants and a pilot and co-pilot with a fear of heights. "Our production was a great success. Lots of fun was had by all our community, especially our children who shone on that stage," Emalene said.



POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING

According to Google, these are the most popular Halloween costumes for this year. Will you take any inspiration from this list for the big day later this week? Happy Halloween!

KPop Demon Hunters

The global phenomenon *KPop Demon Hunters* film took over the works ever since its release in June, and has continued to dominate pop culture to this day. The movie has become Netflix's most watched movie ever, being viewed more than 300 million times and counting. The film's song *Golden* is also dominating global music charts, becoming the longest running female KPop song at number one and longest running number one song from an animated group. It also made Billboard history as the first soundtrack to have four songs in the top 10. The soundtrack also reached number one in the United States and New Zealand. The lead characters of the film, who star

as the animated girl group Hunter/X- Rumi, Zoey and Mira, are the most popular halloween costume choice this year according to Google. Then at number 4 and 5 are Jinu and Baby Saja.

Chicken Jockey

Earlier in the year in April the Chicken Jockey phenomenon took over the world. The green block chicken that appears for five seconds in the *Minecraft Movie*, is the second most popular character to be dressed up as this Halloween, after the *KPop Demon Hunters* characters.

Labubu

Labubu, a line of collectible plush toys, has become one of the biggest phenomena of this year, and now it shows as many people want to dress up as one this Halloween. The "creepy-cute" design, with pointy ears and a mischievous grin, has been trending this year, with many people literally fighting over collecting them through blind boxes. Its popularity has been boosted from celebrities like Lisa from South Korean girl group Blackpink, and exclusive limited-edition releases. Labubu's has become a must-have fashion accessory and collectible item. This is a great idea for halloween this year!

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November Featured Artists

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BRAITHWAITE

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DEBORAH
MCNAIR

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Rural Life

Growth, grit, good times

Fifteen enthusiastic young riders gathered under blue skies at the Omaha Valley Arena in Puriri on October 11 and 12 for the Hauraki Western Riding Club Youth Camp.

Designed with youth development at heart, the camp was packed with activities that combined fun, learning, challenge, and connection.

Riders took part in riding lessons, roping practice, cattle boxing with the mechanical cow, formation riding, and horsemanship sessions, all under the watchful eyes of skilled instructors and supportive volunteers.

A highlight of the weekend was the Great Omaha Adventure Race - a high-energy, team-based challenge that had riders completing challenges, orienteering, laughing, thinking on their feet, and working together, both in and out of the saddle. There were also fun relay games, including the wrangling of the club hobby horses, bobbing for apples and getting a peg out of a plate full of flour with your teeth.

"It's all about helping our kids grow into confident, respectful, and capable young people, with horses by their side," club president Laurie Webb said.

"It was fantastic to see smiles all round and horsemanship skills and confidence in their ability



Supporters help the kids with their riding skills. improved throughout the weekend.

"Our club continues to thrive, and that's thanks to each and every one of our members who shares our vision and values.

"A huge thank you goes out to our committee members, the Omaha crew and the wonderful helpers who made this weekend possible - from teaching, to meal prep to saddle check, and the countless hours spent on foot supporting our littlest riders, we couldn't have done it without you."

DETAILS: The club meets once a month. Email hauraki-wrc207@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page.



Riders enjoy a cross-country trek through the stream.



Horse enthusiasts attend the Hauraki Western Riding Club Youth Camp in Omaha Valley. Photos: SUPPLIED



A young rider is all saddled up and ready for the day.

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Rural Life

Landowners retire 1140ha, plant nearly 570,000 trees

Landowners worked with Waikato Regional Council to undertake voluntary environmental action on a total of 347 projects across the region in 2024-25.

Waikato and West Coast Catchments Manager Grant Blackie said landowners collectively completed more than 150 kilometres of fencing, planted nearly 570,000 plants and retired nearly 1140 hectares of land in the last financial year.

In the Coromandel area, this includes nearly 16km of fencing, 12km of streambank protected, 81,866 native plants and 108ha of land retired.

“A huge amount of work hitting the ground: 347 landowner projects, which is a lot of projects and a lot of relationships,” Mr Blackie said.

The work included projects with co-funding by central government’s National Infrastructure Funding and Financing (NIFF) programme, the Ministry for Primary Industries’ Te Uru Rākau Hill Country Erosion Programme (MPI) and Waikato River Authority (WRA).

Waikato Regional Council undertakes river and catchment planning and management activities within zones based on catchment boundaries.

Catchment programmes deliver restoration works with landowners, including soil erosion control and prevention, river management work, riparian protection through fencing and

planting, lake and wetland protection and enhancement and bush fragment protection.

This voluntary work is funded in different ways throughout the region, with landowners assisted by funding coming from rates or by council applying for funding for various work programmes from other organisations.

In 2024-25, river management teams completed the final year of a two-year project initiated in response to the 2023 North Island weather events, with funding of \$350,616 from the NIFF going towards landowners’ share of work.

The work, completed in the Coromandel, Lower Waikato, Waipā and West Coast zones, included the construction of 282 erosion control structures and the removal of numerous channel blockages, such as trees and rock/gravel debris, with the total expenditure for the physical works being \$845,581.

Another year of the long-term hill country erosion programme was completed, which saw 838ha of steep land in high-risk catchments retired through more than 70km of fencing.

Across the West Coast, Waipā, Lower and Central Waikato, Coromandel and Waihou-Piako zones, a total of 157 landowners took part in the programme, with funding support from the council and MPI.

The WRA also contributed funding for works within the Waikato and Waipā River catchments.

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Gardening

Maintain plant health during rapid spring growth

After the October rainfall the gardens are a riot of colour with new seasons growth on fruit trees, ornamental trees, summer flowering shrubs, bulbs, roses and dahlia.

With rapid spring growth under way it is important to maintain plant health in all sections of the garden. Cultivate vegetables regularly and irrigate if required. Successive sowings of summer vegetables will extend summer harvests.

Planning ahead is important to ensure you get the most out of your spring garden. When deciding what to plant in your garden consider what you like to eat, how much room you have and creating colour in your backyard. Feeding is essential for successful crops.

Popular Christmas crops – Microgreens can be grown on a sunny windowsill, Radish seeds are quick to grow, Lettuces, lots of varieties.

Buy the mixed punnets to give you a good variety. Peas, Beetroot, Zucchini, Carrots, Potatoes and Cucumber. Importantly grow what you will eat. If you don't have much space, remember you can grow vegetables in pots and containers.

Get the kids in the garden to help. If they get involved in the planting and harvest, they are perhaps more likely to want to eat them. Try a tripod in a pot for growing some peas or sugar snaps. Then it becomes their project. Plant seeds 2cm deep and 10cm apart under the tripod.

Water to keep the soil moist but not too wet. Feed with liquid feed once they are 5-10 cm high. Cover the soil with mulch or pea straw. Happy gardening kids.

Start tomatoes, peppers and eggplants as the soil warms. Seedlings you have grown indoors need to be "hardened off" before they are planted in the garden. Gradually acclimatise seedlings before planting by moving them outside in their containers during the day.

Fill your piece of paradise with colourful floral displays to bring joy on a daily basis for both you and the BEES.

Examples are Borage, Echinacea, Sage, Marigold, Chamomile, Purple Tansy and Nasturtium.

It is an exciting time in the garden with the blossoms bursting into life on the fruit trees followed by the transformation into tiny fruit. Don't be alarmed by some early fruit drop, it is normal with young trees experiencing vigorous growth.

A side dressing of sulphate of potash can stimulate hardier growth and improve fruiting habits. Nature is such a wonderful thing and brings a lot of pleasure to people's lives.

Once the citrus harvest is finished prune your trees to open the structure and allow more light into the centre and fertilise.

Watering times in the garden are important to gain the most benefit from your precious water. Early morning is best so the warmth of the day will prevent fungal growth on the soil.

Weed and Feed your lawn now to achieve a prickly free lawn that will withstand the summer heat. Don't mow too low and try not to mow when the ground is wet.

Enjoy your garden.
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Get the kids in the garden to help - if they get involved, they are more likely to eat them. PIXABAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 2025				Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms	1	2
Moon Planting Calendar					Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Plant above ground crops	Full Moon	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Plant root crops. Liquid Feed
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Plant root crops, trees and shrubs
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	New Moon	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Non planting Day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Plant above ground crops	Plant above ground crops	Non planting Day	Non planting Day	Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed

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Who do you want to be?

OPINION

By **MICHAEL WILKES**

Lately, one of my kids has gotten real sassy. We're talking rude, short-tempered, and just downright mean to the people around her. I'm not sure if she's picking it up from school or if she's just testing boundaries, but what I do know is — that's not how we roll in our family.

So I sat her down. I told her what I was noticing. We even acted out a few of the moments — her tone, her comments — so she could see it from the outside. It was judgmental. It was mean.

Then I asked her a question: "Who do you want to be?" She paused. Then said, "Kind."

So we made a deal. Whenever she starts getting sassy again, I won't growl first. I'll ask her the question. It gives her a chance to pause, reflect, and choose a different way.

But here's what I didn't expect...

We shared the idea with the rest of the family, and suddenly they started using the question too.

I walk through the door, tired and grumpy from a long day, short with my words.

And I hear it: "Dad... who do you want to be?"

Fair call. They don't deserve to be dumped on. And neither does my wife.

So now it's not just a question for my daughter — it's for all of us. A mirror we hold up, not to shame each other, but to invite each other into better.

So here's my challenge to you: When you're not proud of how you're showing up... When you're frustrated, tired, annoyed... Or even when you're about to speak into someone else's life... Ask yourself — Who do you want to be?

Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Thrive Trust, supporting mentoring and resilience programs across Thames and Paeroa. To support his local youth work or follow stories and insights, find him on social media @michaelwilkes.kiwi. Enjoy these articles? Grab his book The Unschooled Life at michaelwilkes.kiwi.

SPORTS REPORTS

Email your sports news, reports and photos to editor@valleyprofile.co.nz

BOWLS

The Hudson family-sponsored fours was played in windy but dry conditions on October 19 at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Prize winners were: 1st 4 wins, 46 points, 27 ends, (Waihi Beach) Gavin Hobbs, Ross Cowan, Garry Hewitt, Mark Armstrong; 2nd 4 wins, 41 points, 27 ends, (Kerepehi) Shaun Harrison, Rodney Darcy, Daniel Harrison; 3rd 4 wins, 6 points, 20 ends, (Kerepehi) Arthur Thorburn, Richard Crosland, Don Cooper, Robin Povey. Coming up Sunday November 16: Murray Fisher Memorial Invitation Opt 4s (1 non bowler); Sunday December 7: Xmas Hams (Pak n Save/ Linn Motors) Opt 4s. Good bowling, - Terry King.



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	5				3	7	1	
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HARD

224

HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

244

ACROSS

1 Uncertainty (5)

4 Away very promptly (5,3,3,4)

14 Army colour (5)

15 Swagger (5)

16 Mediator (10)

17 Pixie-like (5)

19 Sandbank (3)

20 Dressmaker's guide (7)

21 At the same time, concurrently (9)

22 Flattens (6)

25 Fall retarder (9)

27 Of iron (6)

28 Taste (6)

33 Lullaby (6,4)

35 Facial twitch (3)

36 Muscle-bone attachment (6)

37 Small mark (4)

39 Duo (3)

41 Souvenir (7)

42 Coiffeur (6)

43 Constancy, sureness (9)

44 Ancient building remains (5)

45 Prickly plants (8)

50 Next to (2)

51 Set going (8)

55 Trunk (5)

58 VIP (9)

59 Foil (6)

60 In a loving mood (7)

61 Fitting (3)

63 Chimney deposit (4)

64 Tomfoolery (6)

65 Sheltered side (3)

66 Melodramatic (10)

68 Archives (6)

69 Prodded sharply (6)

71 Helper (9)

76 Portly (6)

77 Paused (9)

79 Study of animals (7)

81 Self-image (3)

84 Privileged class (5)

85 Statement of meaning (10)

86 Synthetic fibre (5)

87 Clean by scrubbing (5)

88 Adopt the customs and manners of the locals (2,2,3,6,2)

89 Is nose-y (5)

DOWN

2 Bandit (6)

3 Unsharpened (5)

5 Second-hand (4)

6 Most handy (7)

7 In soon (anag)(6)

8 Go get (5)

9 Jumping athlete (7)

10 Timid (4)

11 Automatic instinctive reaction (6)

12 Hooks (5)

13 Undress (7)

14 Patella (7)

18 Decorative (10)

23 Pulse rhythmically (5)

24 Female big cat (7)

26 Location (7)

27 Manufacturing plant (7)

29 Red seasoning (7)

30 Back part of gun barrel (6)

31 Fixed gaze (5)

32 Inlaid pattern (6)

34 Equipment (4)

36 Subject (5)

38 Herb (5)

40 Short skirt (4)

45 Sea movements (5)

46 Own ring (anag)(7)

47 Slender (4)

48 Girl's name (6)

49 Regions (5)

50 Preserved (7)

52 Enticement (10)

53 Rendition (7)

54 Tropical parrot (6)

55 True to form (7)

56 Woollen cloth (5)

57 Obnoxious child (4)

62 Worth (5)

67 Small bet (7)

68 Mollify (7)

70 Diameter (7)

72 Add sugar (7)

73 Spectrum colour (6)

74 Big wine bottle (6)

75 Snub (6)

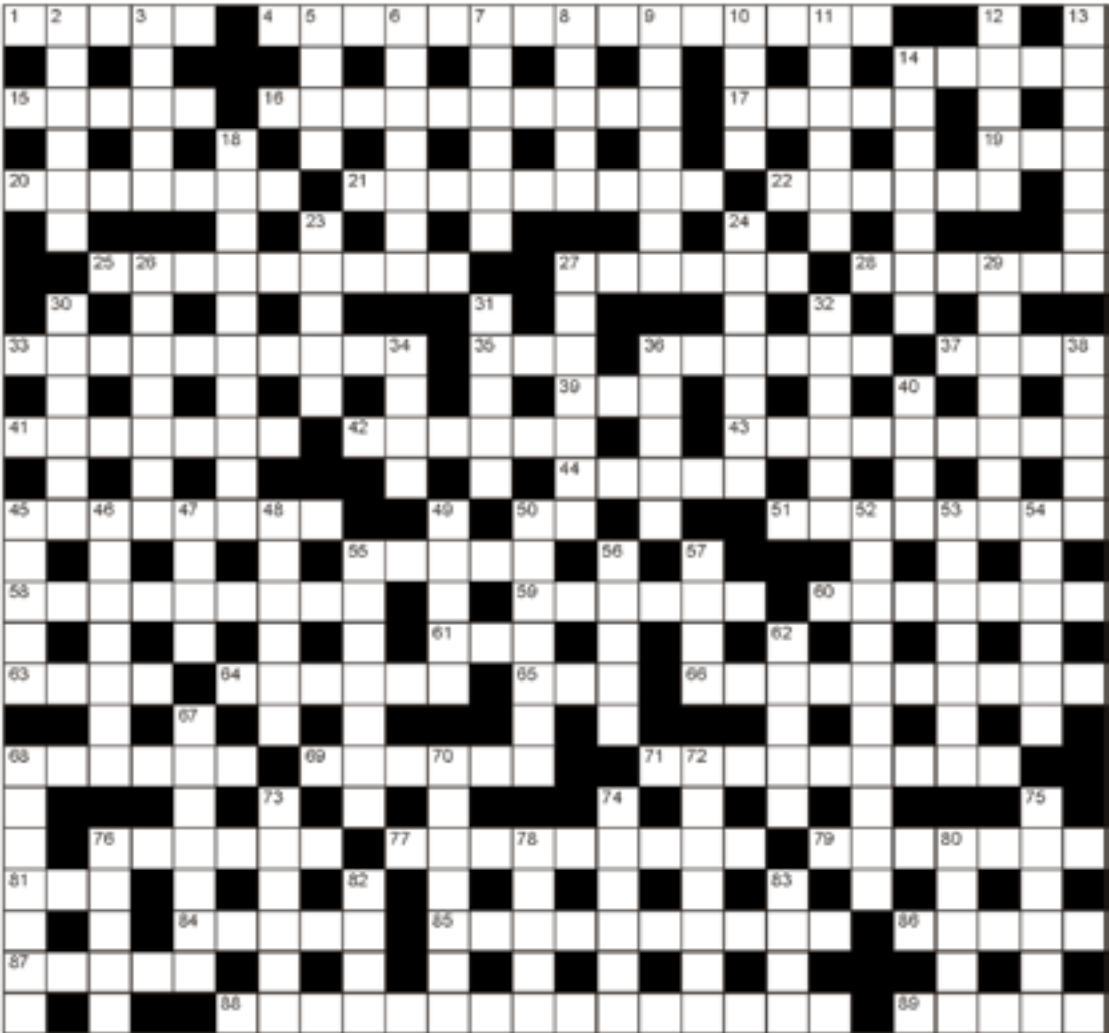
76 Automaton (5)

78 Deduce from reasoning (5)

80 Tier (5)

82 Fewer (4)

83 Contain (4)



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ACROSS: 1 Atlas, 4 Fleeting, 9 Urgent, 14 Arena, 15 Fly in the ointment, 17 Ledge, 18 Pet, 19 Arrears, 20 Wearisome, 21 Depots, 24 Clientele, 25 Dodged, 26 Soothe, 29 Vegetables, 31 Ire, 32 Filled, 33 Arid, 35 Ali, 37 Also, 39 Inspected, 40 Cormorant, 41 Shore, 42 Distinct, 47 Weakness, 51 Event, 55 Clamorous, 56 Sunbonnet, 58 Gnow, 59 Sue, 60 Sour, 61 Deluge, 62 Tea, 63 Antarctica, 66 Plates, 67 Treble, 69 Cultivate, 72 Farmer, 73 Preparing, 75 Virtues, 77 Nil, 80 Inept, 81 Twentieth century, 82 Onion, 83 Glared, 84 Tidiness, 85 Pride.

DOWN: 2 Tolerance, 3 Aside, 5 Lies, 6 Evil eye, 7 Intermediate, 8 Guess, 9 Untamed, 10 Gale, 11 Nodded, 12 Seeps, 13 Captive, 14 Aerosol, 16 Termination, 22 Ankles, 23 Replace, 24 Cherooot, 25 Dreads, 27 Terrace, 28 Degree, 30 Seek, 32 Floor, 34 Dates, 36 Hock, 38 Lei, 42 Ducks, 43 Spatula, 44 Idol, 45 Chosen, 46 Verse, 48 Alternative, 49 Nightie, 50 Sea, 51 Estuary, 52 Tsetse, 53 Incarcerated, 54 Coma, 57 Nitwit, 64 Conferred, 65 Refrain, 66 Phantom, 68 Berated, 70 Lantern, 71 Reveal, 72 Fluid, 74 Pleat, 76 Tutor, 78 Star, 79 Thus.



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3.145ha

4

2

2

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Tairua 3 Aldermen Lane

Lifestyle at the beach - must be sold!

This property is going to auction, and with the vendors facing a change of circumstance, they are ready to move on. This near-new home in the private Aldermen Lane subdivision is to be sold under the hammer, unless sold prior!

Settled among landscaped greenery, the home's contemporary design is as captivating as its surroundings. Three bedrooms and two bathrooms include a master suite with walk-in wardrobe and ensuite with underfloor heating. The extra-deep double garage offers room for cars, boats, or even a home office or playroom, while additional flat on-site parking makes family living easy.

bayleys.co.nz/2241243

2,110_{sqm} 3 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 27 Nov 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Heather Sturgeon 020 4184 8964
heather.sturgeon@bayleys.co.nz
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sandie Faiers 027 622 7717
sandie.faiers@bayleys.co.nz
MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



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2015 Fiat Punto 1.4 Ltr Auto, Low 56Kms, One Owner, NZ New  NOW \$7,990	2015 Ford Territory AWD, Auto Diesel, 7 Seat, T-Bar  \$12,990	2017 Holden Equinox 1.5 Ltr Turbo, Alloys, Auto, NZ New, IMMAC CONDITION  \$15,990	2010 BMW 135i 3.5 Ltr Auto Turbo, Top Performance Coupe  \$12,990

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