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Strike
a pose

People on Pollen St took a moment to pose, promenade and in some instances pirouette for the annual Steampunk the Thames parade on Saturday. This year's event celebrated 10 years of the popular festival with a theme of 'Steampunk your own way'. DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA captured the colour.
More photos: P14

Carl Yates, of Christchurch, strikes a pose during the Thames parade on Saturday.
Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

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The Little Things

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You know that hideous rubber hamburger that shoots water?

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I've thrown it out.

The kids' favourite toy?

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Hi, my name is Pete the Pukeko and I'm here to help you. Find me in one of the display advertisements in *The Valley Profile*, then email admin@valleyprofile.co.nz with your 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 Carswell Construction ad.



SH25 reopens after bridge replacement

The morning commute will feel a lot smoother for people travelling on SH25 along the Thames Coast, with the seven-day closure at Boundary Creek coming to an end last week.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi regional manager infrastructure delivery Darryl Coalter said crews worked extended hours during the closure to install a new bridge deck, with the state highway reopening on November 5.

"After two weeks of work beneath the bridge repairing and strengthening the bridge supports, the road was closed so the old deck could be removed and a new one installed. By late Sunday night [November 2] the new bridge deck was in place and its topcoat of asphalt laid."

Mr Coalter said not only was the agency pleased to get the job done within the timeframe, with the weather on its side, it was able to complete more work than planned.

"In addition to installing the new bridge deck, we've been able to carry out additional works, meaning less disruption for traffic once the bridge reopens," he said.

Bridge expansion joints, crash barriers, and road marking were now in the process of being completed. The agency is also reminding people of upcoming daytime closures required on SH25A Kōpū-Hikuai from November 10-21.

State Highway 25A will be closed between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Saturday. The road will open to traffic under single lane and stop/go each evening from 5pm and on Sunday, November 16. Delays can be expected.

Meanwhile, SH25 at Moana Anu Anu Bridge in Whangamatā is now closed for five weeks, with a local detour in place.

In Brief

FATAL CRASH

Two people died following a crash on State Highway 2, Karangahake, on November 5. Police were alerted to the crash between Jackson Rd and Rahu Rd at 11.40pm. "A car collided with a power pole and tragically both the driver and passenger were killed," Police said. Enquiries into the circumstances of the crash are under way. SH2 was closed overnight and reopened early on November 6.

UNEXPLAINED DEATH

Police said enquiries were continuing on November 10 after a death at a residential property on Kerepēhi Town Road, Kerepēhi, on November 7. "The death is currently being treated as unexplained," Police said. "A scene examination has been concluded, and enquiries are ongoing."

LAP THE MAP

Lap the Map is returning to raise money for Diabetes NZ. Groups across the country will participate in walks to cover a combined distance of 15,000km - the length of New Zealand's coastline. The Waihi Lions walk will take place on November 16 on the Waihi Goldmine Rim track. Gold coin donation, meet at the pumphouse between 8am-12pm to participate.

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

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Thames Tides

Wed Nov 12	Thu Nov 13	Fri Nov 14	Sat Nov 15	Sun Nov 16	Mon Nov 17	Tue Nov 18
 Morning: 12:57am 3.3, 6:55am 0.6 Afternoon: 1:25pm 3.4, 7:42pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:02am, Sunset: 8:03pm Best At: 7:01am 7:26pm Last Quarter: Rise 1:57am, Set 12:14pm	 Morning: 1:54am 3.1, 7:53am 0.8 Afternoon: 2:25pm 3.3, 8:44pm 0.8 Sunrise: 6:01am, Sunset: 8:04pm Best At: 7:49am 8:12pm Rise: 2:28am, Set 1:20pm	 Morning: 2:54am 3.0, 8:58am 0.9 Afternoon: 3:26pm 3.2, 9:46pm 0.9 Sunrise: 6:00am, Sunset: 8:05pm Best At: 8:33am 8:54pm Rise: 2:53am, Set 2:22pm	 Morning: 3:57am 3.0, 10:06am 1.0 Afternoon: 4:23pm 3.1, 10:44pm 0.9 Sunrise: 6:00am, Sunset: 8:06pm Best At: 9:14am 9:35pm Rise: 3:17am, Set 3:22pm	 Morning: 5:00am 3.0, 11:07am 1.0 Afternoon: 5:16pm 3.1, 11:37pm 0.9 Sunrise: 5:59am, Sunset: 8:07pm Best At: 9:55am 10:15pm Rise: 3:38am, Set 4:21pm	 Morning: 5:58am 3.0, 11:59am 0.9 Afternoon: 6:05pm 3.1 Sunrise: 5:58am, Sunset: 8:08pm Best At: 10:35am 10:55pm Rise: 4:00am, Set 5:20pm	 Morning: 12:25am 0.8, 6:48am 3.1 Afternoon: 12:44pm 0.9, 6:51pm 3.1 Sunrise: 5:58am, Sunset: 8:09pm Best At: 11:16am 11:37pm Rise: 4:24am, Set 6:19pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Good Fishing	Fair Fishing	Not So Good	

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-	05	-	03
Whitianga	-	01	-	05
Tairua	+	10	+	20
Whangamata	-	03	-	06
Waihi Beach	-	21	-	16

St John ambulance station officially opens

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

A crowd gathered in Waihi on November 1, for the official opening ceremony of the new Hato Hone St John ambulance station on Johnston St.

The new, state-of-the-art station has already been operational for some time, with staff working from the site since August - a fact which was quickly highlighted when the alarms went off mid-speech, prompting an on-duty officer to head off to a call. November's event, however, was a chance for the organisation to celebrate the many years of hard work involved in making the new station a reality.

St John chancellor John Whitehead unveiled the plaque commemorating the occasion, following which Brad Mitchell from Mitchell Construction handed over the keys to the building. Blessings and speeches rounded out the formal ceremony.

The afternoon featured open hours, allowing the community to take a peek at the inside of the building. It contains a two-vehicle ambulance bay, bedrooms, offices, a meeting room, kitchen, and lounge.

The staff's favourite thing about the building, though, is less tangible.

"It's a place for them to rest,



St John personnel and other event attendees outside the new station.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Staff are thrilled with the new working space.



to restock, recharge, and to feel safe," group operations manager Julia Te Huia said.

"Look how far we've come from bars on the windows, leaks in the walls when the rain falls... Once, I came in in the morning and one of the beds

was absolutely saturated because the rain had leaked on to the bed where somebody had been sleeping. We don't have to put up with that anymore. So we're very grateful."

The new building has been two decades in the making,

with the Waihi area committee working tirelessly on their fundraising efforts since then.

"There have been many, many area committee members to make this project work," area committee chair Kris Purden said.



St John chancellor John Whitehead unveils the commemorative plaque.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

"We've had amazing community support... I wanted to say a big thank you to all of the people who have made this station better than before."





Christmas has arrived at Christine's



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Movies from Thursday 13 November to Wednesday 19 November

For times, see our website, pick up a brochure by the cinema doors, or email or phone us.

Prime Minister (encore screenings) (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.

Riviera Revenge (94 mins) M. French comedy. 73 y.o. François, a former military man who is making the most of his retirement, discovers his wife cheated on him 40 years ago and confronts her former lover.

Familiar Touch (92 mins) PG. A life-affirming drama. Amid the haze of fading memory and shifting desires, Ruth, a retired cook, quietly navigates her transition to assisted living. With grace, wit, and the enduring threads of her identity, she deals with her changing sense of self and her bonds with those who care for her.

Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere (120 mins) M. Bruce Springsteen's journey crafting his 1982 album Nebraska, which emerged as he recorded Born in the USA with the E Street Band.

Good Fortune (98 mins) M. A well-meaning but rather inept angel named Gabriel meddles in the lives of a struggling gig worker and a wealthy venture capitalist.

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.

NEXT WEEK: Wicked: For Good - The final chapter of the witches of Oz. Elphaba, now demonized as The Wicked Witch of the West, lives in exile, hidden within the Ozian forest while continuing her fight for the freedom of Oz's silenced animals and desperately trying to expose the truth she knows about The Wizard.



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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Swimmer shines on world stage

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA and ALICE PARMINTER

Hauraki Plains College student Rylee Sayer made her international debut with New Zealand's national swimming team, the Aquablacks, at the World Para Swimming Championships in Singapore in September, and what a debut it was.

The 17-year-old competed in four individual events - the Women's 50m Freestyle S7, Women's 100m Freestyle S7, Women's 100m Breaststroke SB7 and Women's 50m Butterfly S7 - and came away with three top-eight finishes and two personal bests.

"[It felt] like a dream come true, it made all the hard work and sacrifices finally pay off," Rylee said.

"I was super nervous in my first race. The call room was really intimidating as you are so close to some amazing athletes who are world record holders. [But] I placed sixth overall and it made me realise that I did deserve to be there and was competitive."

The event came only 18 months after Rylee finished



Aquablack Rylee Sayer at the World Para Swimming Championships. RIGHT: Rylee is named HPC Sportsperson of the year.



or sharing a lane in warm-up. It was a little surreal.

"[I feel like] I have found my people. To be surrounded by others who don't notice disability was great."

Rylee has also been named her school's Sportsperson of the Year, an honour she was surprised to receive.

"We have some really amazing athletes at Hauraki Plains College who have competed on the world stage too so I genuinely had no idea that it would be me," Rylee said.

"There are lots of people here who are a big part of my journey so to be recognised in front of them was super special."

chemotherapy treatment for the cancer which claimed her right arm. But despite the fatigue of her health battles, Rylee kept pushing towards her goals.

Reaching the Para Swimming

Championships was empowering not only for its place on the world stage, but also because Rylee was able to meet other athletes with challenges to overcome.

"There are so many disabili-

ties there. Some of the S1 and S2 athletes are crazy - to see them swim is truly inspiring," Rylee said.

"All these people I had looked up to over the years, and then I was having breakfast with them

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Athletics

Sienna Moore

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Sol Barshai-Sherrock

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Toby Kemble

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Charlotte Stanton

Athletics

Stella Smith

Cheerleading

Culley Reid

Equestrian

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Seth Dovell-Durrant

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Netball

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Adelle Johnson

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Touch

Halfway mark for \$40m plant

Construction of Hauraki District Council's \$40 million Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant reached the halfway mark recently and is expected to be finished on time and on budget.

Council chief executive David Speirs said it was pleasing to see the flow on effect for the local economy, with more than 14 local businesses and contractors supporting the biggest infrastructure build in council's history.

To celebrate the halfway mark, a barbecue lunch was hosted by the contractor, Spartan Construction, followed by a site visit to view progress.

Mr Speirs said the last time he was at the site, the focus was on drilling and pouring hundreds of concrete piles to stabilize the ground before any building could occur, so there wasn't much to see.

"At the 50 per cent completion mark, above ground progress is well underway with sludge tanks, filters and filter tanks all under construction. The site is really taking shape and looks great," he said.

A Spartan Construction spokesperson said the build had been

challenging but they were making good progress. It was complex infrastructure, including civil, structural, and mechanical and electrical engineering aspects.

"We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of the local businesses who have supported the project."

The project includes the construction of a new screening system; concrete aeration tanks over six metres in height; membrane bioreactor technology; new equipment and administration buildings; 240kL sludge storage tanks; sludge dewatering; chemical dosing and numerous other ancillary structures.

Forming part of council's 10-year, \$100 million investment in wastewater infrastructure across the district that began in 2022, the upgrade is sized to meet Paeroa's growth needs up to 2035 in its first phase, with provisions made for stage two growth catering to 2050 requirements, council said. Construction will continue through to early 2026 with the new plant scheduled to be fully commissioned around mid-2026.



Waihi Beach residents met to talk about the proposed rezoning of the Beach Rd Recreation Reserve. Photos: SUPPLIED

Meeting held for proposed rezoning

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

Waihi Beach residents met last month to talk about the proposed rezoning of the Beach Rd Recreation Reserve, which Pinnacle Incorporated, a not-for-profit primary healthcare organisation, has applied to Western Bay of Plenty District Council to lease.

The proposal would see a medical centre and associated parking occupy around 30 per cent of the reserve, located between Beach Rd and Marine Ave, and resident Peter Bullock said the group met with re-elected councillor Allan Sole to discuss their concerns.

"Unfortunately many more questions remain unanswered due to a lack of detail available

within the council planning department," Bullock said.

Cr Sole told *The Profile* the October 12 meeting went well.

"The people were extremely respectful. They have sincere concerns," he said.

Cr Sole said consultation about the proposal was to take place over two months; a starting date yet to be confirmed. He encouraged all those who had a view on the issue, "be it for or against", to make a submission.

"I did encourage those at the meeting to make practical, constructive comments, and suggest other options for the medical centre. I'm sure they will do that as they are very sincere people," he said.

"I understand that the practice owners are keen to tell their story and why they selected that site."

Primary Health Care Ltd, the parent company for Pinnacle Ventures - the owner of the Primary Health Care Ltd group of general practices - earlier said its current facility on Wilson Rd was "no longer fit for purpose".

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".

He said the organisation planned to hold a community meeting and encouraged residents to raise concerns or ask questions at that time.



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Peculiar case of poisoning eventually solved



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.

1875

A most peculiar case of poisoning occurred at Thames. Dr Von Mirbach was called in to see a young man, employed at the Post Office, who had been ill some two or three days.

The doctor found his patient very feverish and delirious, but with no fever symptoms.

He prescribed for him, but the next day found him much worse. Dr Von Mirbach then came to the conclusion that the young man had been poisoned, but could not discover any food likely to be the cause.

The doctor's second visit took place in the bedroom, and there he quickly discovered the source of the illness. The room was papered with a coarse-grained green paper, very commonly used and known to contain arsenic. He immediately administered antidotes and although they worked, the young man was in a very dangerous



‘The Arsenic waltz’ - Food, walls and clothes were full of deadly arsenic dye in the 19th century.

Image: SUPPLIED

condition for some time.

He had inhaled quite a quantity of poisonous matter from the evaporation of the arsenical colouring of the paper before medical assistance had been sought. The doctor took a piece of the paper, which had been recently put on the wall, and, in the presence of Mr Brittain, chemist, analysed it.

It was found to contain a large quantity of arsenic. The walls of the bedroom were immediately denuded of the obnoxious covering, and the place thoroughly cleaned. Two other gentlemen who were sleeping in the same room experienced no ill ef-

fects, but their beds were near the window. The public were warned to exercise care in the selection of their wallpaper.

Over at Mackaytown, one of the greatest inconveniences was the want of a Post Office and some regular mode of conveying the mail from Paeroa.

Scarcely a day passed when anxious inquiries were made after missing letters. This was a terrible annoyance to businessmen who regularly received letters announcing the shipment of goods days after the arrival of the goods themselves. The government was called upon to arrange some plan for convey-

ing the mail to Mackaytown leaving it at some stated place, where people might know where to look for their letters.

This would remove the evil and would do until a permanent Post Office was arranged.

Meanwhile, a visitor to Paeroa observed that the settlement consisted of a store and grog shop, a butcher's, a baker's, a cheap boarding house, and a number of tents.

Men were engaged in constructing two or three wooden buildings, the warehouses for a drapery, grocery and groggery.

Austin's store was the central point, and would do a very excellent business were it not for the gross incivility of the proprietor.

The visitor had heard previous to his arrival of the semi-barbarous nature of this individual, but was not prepared for the insolence which he met with there.

At an encampment of miners, the scene at night was very romantic. The tents were all illuminated, and from one came strains of melody from a strange mixture of instruments the only distinguishable one being a big drum beaten with a vigorous arm.

In other tents, the diggers were amusing themselves by playing cards, discussing the prevailing topics or speculating on their chances of finding gold.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Armistice Day, commemorated on November 11 each year, marks the end of which major conflict? a) WWI, b) WWII, or c) the Korean War?
2. Which fruit is traditionally used in a Black Forest cake?
3. Arrange these North Island coastal islands by size from largest to smallest: a) Great Barrier (Aotea), b) Matakana, c) Waiheke.
4. 'Gambinous' is defined as being full of which liquid? a) Beer, b) water, or c) wine?
5. Roughly how much caffeine does a cup of tea contain compared to a cup of coffee? a) 1/10th the amount, b) between a third to a half, or c) just as much?
6. In computing, what does "AI" stand for?
7. Which zodiac sign is represented by a crab?
8. The word 'unknown' contains how many n's?
9. Lorde uses which type of gym equipment during her performances of her song *Super Cut*? a) Barbells, b) a rowing machine, or c) a treadmill?
10. Holly is often grown in gardens for its attractive red a) bark, b) flowers, or c) fruit?



ANSWERS: 1. a) WWI; 2. Cherries; 3. Great Barrier (Aotea); 4. Matakana; 5. a) Beer; 6. Between a third to a half (though it varies considerably); 7. Artificial Intelligence; 8. Three; 9. c) A Treadmill; 10. c) Fruit.

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Paeroa 150th marked with tree planting

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

A new tree in Paeroa Domain bears a plaque commemorating 150 years of Paeroa and the surrounding district.

Members of the Paeroa Historical Society gathered in the Domain on October 23 to witness the planting, along with dignitaries including representatives from Ngāti Tamaterā, Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams, former Hauraki District Mayor Basil Morrison, and members of long-standing local families. Paeroa was named in 1875,

when a Deed of Cession was signed by Ngāti Tamaterā chiefs and representatives of the Governor of New Zealand. The February 17 signing allowed the 132,175-acre area of land known as the Ohinemuri Block to be mined for gold. The township of Paeroa remained part of Thames County until 1915, when it was gazetted as a borough. The new tree planted to mark the milestone, a Claret Ash, was gifted to the town by the historical society. Before planting, the tree was blessed by kaumātua Apanui Skipper - a

descendant of one of the original signers of the deed. The planting was carried out by the society's curator, Laurie Smith, and two local tamariki (children), Graeson Pakinga and Nyah McShane. "It's nice to have both sides, the young ones, the old ones," society president Gaye Cleave said. "It's a good representation of the community as a whole." The plaque was laid by John Strange.



The blessing of the tree commemorating Paeroa town and district.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Community members young and old help the tree into its new home.

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Waihi College Celebrates Academic Achievement

Waihi College recently held its annual Academic Prize Giving — a heartfelt celebration of achievement, pride, and community spirit. It was a special evening to recognise the hard work of our students and the incredible support they receive from their whānau, teachers, and wider community. A huge congratulations to **Evah Carey**, named Dux of Waihi College, to **Charlie Joyce**, who received Proxime Accessit (Runner-Up to Dux), and **Bella Paulsen** who was third in Year 13 - all incredible young women.



Many of our senior students are now preparing to take their next steps into tertiary study, supported by an outstanding \$126,700 in scholarships receiving this year. We're deeply grateful for those scholarships and the opportunities they bring, and to all our sponsors for their generosity and ongoing belief in our young people. The evening also saw the announcement of our 2026 Student Leaders, who will carry forward the values and spirit that make Waihi College so special. Congratulations to the following:

2026 STUDENT LEADERS

Leader of Arts & Cultural

Cade Tucker

Leader of Sports

Max Morley

Leader of Service

Reese Neame

Leader's of Environment

Alexis Hughes

Rian Morgan

Leader of Te Ao Māori

Joey Peka

Leader of Learning

Zara Clare

Leader of Well Being

Malea Hutchins

Leader of Community

Stella Shave

Board of Trustees Representative

Stuart Hartley

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 - Waihi Auto Services
 - Waihi Beach RSA
 - Waihi Lions Club
 - Waihi Tyres

Particular congratulations go to the winners of the 2025 Special Prizes which recognize academic success as well as leadership and community involvement. The night's key winners were:

The Kurt Hahn Award
Kurt Hahn established the Outward Bound movement, and this award is for a person who best fits the Outward Bound movement motto "to seek, to strive and not to yield".

Zara Davies-Young

The Chandel Cup
This is for the student who has made the most consistent effort during the year.

Bella Paulsen

The Board Chairman's Award and the Waihi Beach Lions Trophy for Citizenship

Greta Spicer

The Rogers Calculus Cup
First in Calculus

Māhe North

The Golden Apple
For Year 12 Art

Zoe-Beth Naisby

Grover Plate
For Year 13 Art

Zara Davies Young

The John van der Zwan International Student Award for outstanding contribution
This trophy is awarded to the international student who has embraced opportunities and contributed to school life.

Maïke Kwast

The Jack Silcock Memorial Cup
This cup is named in memory of Jack Silcock and recognises students who have shown tremendous strength and resilience throughout their schooling at Waihi College. It recognises a person who has put others before themselves.

Sam Bjerring

The John Combes Memorial Cup for Science and Mathematics
This cup was presented to the College by the Combes family in memory of John Combes who was an outstanding student of Maths and Science.

Charlie Joyce

The Sel Baker Cup for Humanities
For the student who has dedicated time and passion to helping others through community spirit and tackling current issues.

Bella Paulsen

The Ethel Madgwick Cup – Rural Women NZ
This is awarded to a student who wishes to further their studies outside of Waihi College.

Kate Townsend

The Ryan Family Trophy
This trophy is for Service to school and community.

Ben Harvis

The O'Leary Cup for Leadership
For being an exceptional role model and showing leadership within the school.

Brooke Kelly

The Maia Short Memorial Scholarship
This is for a year 13 Girl with a top academic performance, who is a good citizen, friendly and helps others. Maia Short was destined for leadership and her Taha Māori was incredibly important to her.

Moana Magee

The Ara Poutama Award
This award is presented by Whaea Tuihana Jack-Ainsley for someone who shows leadership qualities and is a positive role model for our Maori Students.

Sam Bjerring

Penny Bowden Trophy for Performing Arts
This award is in memory of Penny Bowden who was a former Head of English. This award is given to the student who has been a mainstay in the performing arts, worked hard to achieve their artistic talents while helping others do the same.

Cade Tucker

The Principal's Award
For someone who has worked hard all year and made a significant contribution to the life of the school.

Brea Peka

Charlie Joyce

Bayley Goddard

First

Second

Third

Zoe-Beth Naisby

Zara Clare

Ruby Wilhelmi

First

Second

Third

Jessica Yeh

Carlee Huang

Jessica Frohlich

Best All-Round Girl, Board Chairman's Award & Martha Women's Club Award
For academic, cultural, sporting and service.

Charlie Joyce

Best All-Round Boy and, Board Chairman's Award
For academic, cultural, sporting and service.

Māhe North

The Coombes Cup for PROXIME ACCESSIT
Runner up to Dux

Charlie Joyce

The Shepherd Cup & Waihi Lions Scholarship for DUX
Top academic achievement for Waihi College

Evah Carey

The Kathleen Adams Memorial Award Scholarship (also known as the Jubilee Award)

Luke Butler

Evah Carey

Waihi Medical Centre Scholarship

Izzie Cannell

Lily McAndie

Waihi Lions Trades Scholarship

Cameron Lamont

Oregon State University Scholarship

Rose Morley

Waihi Agricultural Education Trust

Charlie Joyce

Lilly Fredericks

The David Johnstone Charitable Trust Scholarship

Maddie Oliver

Charlie Joyce

Victoria University International Experience Grant

Bella Paulsen

Raukaraka Leadership Scholarship from Victoria University

Evah Carey

The University of Otago Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship

Brooke Kelly

Zara Davies Young

University of Waikato Scholarships

Kate Townend

Charlie Joyce

Tegan Olds-Ford

Māhe North

Living Well Trust goes solar

Stop the itch before it starts

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

Thames' Living Well Trust has taken a major step toward a more sustainable and resilient future with the installation of a 29.7kW solar power system at its community hub on Mary St.

For more than 30 years, the trust has been a lifeline for the marginalised, isolated, and homeless - providing meals, mentoring, school programmes, and the Thames Community Foodbank.

Now, with the help of Meridian's Community Decarbonisation Fund and local partner Adams Electrical, the organisation is turning sunshine into savings, freeing up resources for the people who need them most.

The new solar installation includes 66 high-efficiency panels, and battery storage providing 19.2kWh of usable capacity. Together, the system is expected to generate over 41,000kWh of clean energy each year, cutting the Trust's power bills by an estimated \$5800 annually - and more than \$124,000 over its lifetime based on best estimates.

The environmental gains are equally significant: each year, the system will avoid around five tonnes of CO₂ emissions, the equivalent of 912 trees planted or 447,000 car kilometres avoided.

Living Well Trust team lead Eddie Churton said the project was about much more than energy savings.

"This is about resilience. With solar and battery backup, we can keep the food bank open, the kettle on and the ovens running



The Living Well Trust's Eddie Churton says its new solar panels will save energy and boost community resilience.

even in an emergency. It's about making sure our most vulnerable whānau are never left without support."

The Thames Coromandel District Council has also recognised the Trust's facilities - including a planned new shower - as vital for Civil Defence readiness, contributing funding to ensure the site can operate as a community support base during emergencies.

"A huge thank you to Meridian Energy for providing the bulk of the funding through their Community Decarbonisation Fund, to Thames Coromandel District Council for their generous support, and to Adams Electrical for their outstanding work installing the system and tidying up our electrical infrastructure," Eddie said.

"This has truly been a team effort."

The trust hoped its solar initiative would inspire other community organisations to explore renewable energy, Eddie said.

"Sustainability and compassion can walk hand in hand.

"By going solar, we're not just reducing costs - we're showing our community what's possible."

Over the past year, Living Well Trust has provided: 1430 meals through "Tasty Tuesday"; 1068 food parcels (around 17,088 meals) from the Foodbank; 4534 visits to the Open Door drop-in; 5800+ young people engaged through resilience and mentoring programmes in schools.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



By Neka Kater, Veterinarian

Fleas: tiny Pests, Big Problems for Pets Fleas might be small, but they can cause big headaches for you and your pets. These little bloodsuckers can infest cats, dogs, and even your home. A single flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day - so it doesn't take long for a small problem to turn into a full-blown infestation!

Pets with fleas often scratch, bite, or lick themselves constantly. You might spot hair loss, red or irritated skin, or tiny black specks (flea dirt) in their coat. In heavy infestations, fleas can cause skin infections, allergic reactions, or even anaemia - especially in young, frail, or elderly pets. And don't be fooled - fleas don't just bite pets, they'll happily snack on humans too! Once they're in your home, flea eggs can hide in bedding, carpets, and furniture for

weeks before hatching.

Case study: Leo the Cat.

Leo, a three-year-old Domestic Long Hair, came into the clinic scratching like mad with bald patches on his back. The owner had tried bathing her and using flea shampoo, but the fleas kept coming back.

A flea comb revealed flea dirt, and a skin test confirmed flea allergy dermatitis. After a vet-recommended flea treatment and a thorough house clean, Leo's skin healed and his coat grew back within two weeks. Treating both the pet and the environment made all the difference.

Flea prevention checklist: Firstly, treat your pet: Act fast if you spot fleas. Ask your vet which product suits your pet best - spot-ons, tablets, or collars all work differently.

Also treat your home: vacuum regularly, wash bedding, and use sprays or bombs if needed.

Lastly, stay on top of it: Keep flea treatments going year-round. Prevention is far easier (and cheaper!) than dealing with an infestation.

- Supplied by Franklin Vets



Leo, right, a three-year-old Domestic Long Hair cat, was scratching like mad with bald patches on his back.





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Lifetime of culinary love shared

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

Liz Cameron has a saying: “So many recipes, so little time”.

Her husband jokes that she never makes the same meal twice - a sign of her lifelong love of tasting and experimenting, now being served up in the form of her first cookbook.

Hailing from the Coromandel, Liz is a former home economist and food consultant, and cooking has always been on the front burner ever since she was a child.

She grew up on a South Otago sheep farm in the 1950s and 60s, where one of her earliest memories is of her mum making ice cream, coloured green at Liz’s request.

In 1963, when she turned 15, she was given her first cookbook, and a few years after that, she left home to study for a Diploma in Home Science at Otago University, graduating in 1968. “[I] then went to teachers college in Epsom. I taught sewing and cooking in Auckland, then in Vanuatu and Fiji, coming to Coromandel in 1975, where I taught Home Economics at the area school.”

Liz said the two years she spent in the islands taught her a lot about other cuisines during a time when New Zealand’s own tastebuds were “still very simple”.

“So it was eye-opening for me to see different dishes and different ingredients being used,” she said.



Liz Cameron in her kitchen with a copy of her new cookbook. Photo: SUPPLIED

In 1990, Liz opened her own restaurant - Success Café - ticking off a long-held dream.

Now, after churning away for the past five years, she has released her first cookbook, Liz’s Kitchen, which was launched last month. “This has been about a five-year project. I have given up several times,” she admitted.

“Sometimes, it just seemed pointless to cook lots of food just to photograph the result, but early this year I decided to make a concerted effort and get it done, so I spent three-four months working hard on it. I set myself a timeframe and kept at it, then sent it to Debbie Morgan, a graphic designer who did a wonderful job.”

Liz said the most challenging aspect of collating her book was writing the recipes and making sure they were consistent and easy to follow.

She couldn’t pin down a favourite among them, and instead said she simply loved trying new recipes.

“In fact, my husband often complains that I never make the same recipe twice,” she said. “So many recipes, so little time, I say!”

DETAILS: Email: lizannever3@gmail.com or found on Facebook under ‘Liz’s Kitchen’. Her books will soon be for sale at Carson’s Bookshop in Thames.



Calendar Girls raise \$10k for cancer

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

In a gesture true to the spirit of the story, Thames Music and Drama’s latest production has raised \$10,000 for the Thames Cancer Support Society.

Last month, the local theatre company presented the Thames Cancer Support Society with a cheque for \$10,000 - the proceeds after costs from its September production of *Calendar Girls* at the Civic Centre. Director Stuart Floan said the Thames community “came out in force” to support the show and give generously to the cause.

“A huge thank you goes out to all of the people that bought tickets, calendars, and gave general donations,” he said.

“Also a massive thank you to the Thames-Coromandel District Council team that look after the Civic for agreeing to provide the venue free of charge.

“This made a massive difference to the amount donated as our hire cost is always a significant cost in any show budget.”

Thames MAD’s performance of the iconic stage show was based on the 2003 film of the same name, in which a group of middle-aged Yorkshire women produce a nude calendar to raise money for Leukaemia Research. The cast - plus a few additional “Calendar Guys” - also committed to producing a calendar, which was on sale during the production’s run.

Thames MAD’s new president Martin Rodley presented the \$10,000 cheque to Angela Williams of the Thames Cancer Support Society on October 29, and now the company is looking ahead to its next performance. *We Will Rock You*, a jukebox musical based on the songs of Queen, will be staged in 2026, and Thames MAD is welcoming seasoned and closet singers alike to audition later this month.

DETAILS: Auditions will take place at Elim Church on November 22 and 23. For times and further information, visit www.thamesmad.co/auditions.



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On the Land

Tech solution for forestry road safety

Forestry roads nationwide are set to become safer, thanks to a new agreement between WorkSafe New Zealand and one of the country’s largest forest management companies.

Forest360 Ltd has agreed to fund a range of actions in response to a death on one of its sites.

Fifty-nine-year-old Greg Stevens was killed when his logging truck and trailer rolled while negotiating a tight bend on a Coromandel forestry road in May, 2023.

WorkSafe’s investigation found the design, maintenance, and risk assessment of the road by Forest360 was inadequate.

The company’s funded response forms a binding commitment, known as an enforceable undertaking (EU), which WorkSafe has accepted.

It comprises an investment of more than \$400,000 including: Funding research to develop a method to assess forestry road safety; sponsoring software development to help forest owners and operators identify unsafe road conditions; and promoting the software and sharing insights with the forestry sector, including at conferences and through the Forest Industry Safety Council.



The scene of the fatal crash on a Coromandel forestry road in May, 2023. Photo: SUPPLIED

Forest360 will also donate to education programmes through Discover Forestry and to Wāhine in Forestry; and pay amends to Greg Stevens’ widow.

“Many forestry roads in New Zealand are old and potentially unsafe, having been built decades ago to outdated engineering standards,” WorkSafe’s Head of Regulatory Services Tracey Conlon said.

“The software development

has the potential to transform how forestry roads are assessed for safety.

“By making cutting-edge technology accessible across the industry, Forest360’s initiatives could significantly reduce risk and save lives.”

Forestry was a priority for WorkSafe as it had the highest fatality rate of any sector in 2024, she said.

“Our role is to influence businesses to meet their responsibilities

to keep people healthy and safe.”

This was the first time WorkSafe has accepted such a commitment from the forestry sector, she said.

EUs are a way for WorkSafe to hold businesses accountable for health and safety breaches.

WorkSafe monitors progress on the agreed commitments and can seek a court order if they are not upheld.

Two other businesses remain

before the court in relation to the death of Gregory Albert Stevens.

In a statement, Forest360’s managing director Dan Gadum said Forest360 deeply regretted the tragic loss of a logging truck driver employed by one of its subcontractors, who was fatally injured while operating on a forestry road under its control.

“Our thoughts remain with his family, colleagues, and community,” he said.

“We take our responsibilities for contractor safety management extremely seriously, and this incident has strengthened our resolve to lead improvement across the industry.

“Sometimes it’s less about dwelling on what went wrong, and more about doing something meaningful to stop it happening again.”

Through the EU, Forest360 was investing in technologies such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), machine learning, and drone-based road assessments to better identify and manage road risks, he said.

“Our goal is to deliver safer outcomes for everyone working in and around our forests, and to share what we learn to lift safety performance across the wider sector.”



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On the Land

Students to present at sedge grass trial event

Students from Mangatāwhiri School visited Waitakaruru stream to undertake water quality monitoring recently ahead of a Field Day for farmers and landowners on November 13.

Organised by the Western Firth Catchment Group in partnership with the wider Piako Waihou Catchment Trust, the results will be used as benchmark data for a planting project, demonstrating the effectiveness of planting native sedges to improve water quality and increase biodiversity.

The students undertook several tests to monitor the health of the stream, including; clarity, temperature, conductivity, and stream flow, along with recording habitat observations and the presence of macro-invertebrates.

They also learned about eDNA testing, a tool which allows the identification of species present in and around a waterway.

Follow-up testing will be done periodically over several years to monitor improvements in stream health.

Leading the stream monitoring work is Kelly Deihl from the Western Firth Catchment Trust.

She hoped the “easily replicable project” could be rolled out in other schools across the region as funding

allowed. “Educating kids about the health of waterways and allowing them to see for themselves the impact shading water has on creating habitats suitable for native species is a fantastic way of empowering future generations with the tools and motivation to make choices which support our natural environment,” Deihl said.

The Field Day and information event for farmers and landowners will be held at Waitakaruru Hall from 11am until 3pm on November 13. It will include a presentation by students of the data collected, as well as a talk from farmer Johan van Ras, sharing his experience planting waterways.

This will be followed by an on-site farm visit to see the new planting.

Peter Roberts, Chair of the Western Firth Catchment Trust, said farmers were “practical people running a business”. “From what we saw in the Piako Catchment, sedge grasses offer a sensible, practical and cost-effective way to achieve freshwater outcomes.

“This is why, as a Catchment Group, we chose to trial them here and why we want to share this information with our local farmers. Shade and temperature reduction on our small waterways offer huge benefits”.

Matt Vare, Catchment Lead for the Piako Waihou Catchment Trust, is also keen for farmers and landowners to learn more about the benefits of shading waterways.

“The benefits are significant, including increasing habitat for native species, reducing algae bloom, deterring aquatic weeds and invasive koi carp, and decreasing bank erosion and sediment - this can reduce the need for expensive excavation of blocked drains,” he said.

DETAILS: The event is open to all. To register or for more information, email christine@henare.co.nz.

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Students Coby Deihl, Cian Clark, Harlan Peter and Indie Vujcich get stuck into the water quality monitoring at Waitakaruru stream.

Photos: SUPPLIED





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On the Land

‘Crank Up’ for a day of family fun in the sun

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It’s almost time for the Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club to start their engines. That’s because the club’s annual Crank Up Day event is set to kick off on November 23 from 10am at the Kaihere Domain. People can expect to see vintage machinery, classic cars, motorbikes, tractors and stationary engines. Club president Neil Fitzgerald told *The Profile* he aimed to take along some vintage gear such as a landrover, bulldozer and a vintage stationary hay baler. “This is the main event for our club that we have once a year. The whole day is usually quite busy for me, keeping an eye on everybody and making sure that everything is working to plan.” The sledges would be out for children to take rides, as well as the tractors and trailers, he said. There would also be a display of yesteryear memorabilia. “We’d like outside people that are not members, if they want to bring something vintage along, they’re more than welcome, whether it’s a vintage car, truck or tractor or whatever they’ve got they’d like to show,” he said. Families are also invited to take a picnic along or to purchase food and drink from the stalls on site such as sausages,



Kids chill out in the yellow machine at last year’s Crank Up Day event. Photo: KARYN ADAMS

ice cream, cakes, tea, coffee, water or cans of drink. It was obvious the event was not one to be missed. “There’s all sorts of things for people to do - tractor trailer rides and sledge rides and look at how things used to be. “Last year we had a record crowd,” he said. “I think [people] should come along because it’s very much a family day.” **DETAILS: Crank Up Day, \$5 entry 10am to 4pm on November 23 at the Kaihere Domain 1559 Kaihere Road (just off State Highway 27). For further information, phone or text Neil Fitzgerald on 027 497 3865 or Robin Hill on 027 2494 600.**

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Full steam ahead

A flurry of ‘delightful madness’ descended on the town of Thames for the annual Steampunk the Thames Festival held on November 6-9. People from around the country gathered for four days of fun activities, colourful costumes, gears and gadgets. Punters were decked out in style for the theme of ‘Steampunk your own way’. It also marked 10 years since the festival started. Valley Profile reporter DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA captured some of the clockwork chaos at the parade on Saturday.



Joe Bruntlett and daughter Carey-Ann Ward from Hamilton and Ngāruawāhia.



Steampunk enthusiasts make their way down Pollen St by foot and tricycle.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Friendly faces share bubbles with the crowds as the sun shines down.



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Parade organiser Paula Munro shares the joy.

A photograph of a person welding. They are wearing a welding mask and a welding jacket. They are holding a welding torch.

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A photograph of a vintage car. It is a red car with a white roof. It is parked on a grassy area.

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When the shortcut becomes the long cut

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

I was about 10 years old, out tramping in the Kaimai Ranges with my dad, my brother, and my uncle. It was an epic trip. Adventure, rivers, bush - everything a young kid could ask for. But we didn't all come out the same way we went in. My uncle walked out limping, having taken a ricochet rock to the

ankle - courtesy of my brother's over-enthusiastic river chucking. And me? I looked like I'd stepped out of a cartoon, head bandaged up, hobbling like a wounded soldier. It all happened near a bridge. We needed water, so my brother and I took the little track down to the river. He filled the bottles while I looked for a faster way up - because, of course, everything was a competition back then. That's when I saw it. A block foundation under the bridge, covered in green slime,

steep but climbable... or so I thought. He had the bottles, but I was going to beat him to the top. Halfway up, things were going well. Near the top, I reached forward - and slipped. My forehead slammed straight into the rock. I grabbed my head and when I pulled my hand away, it was bright red and dripping. When I got back to Dad, dazed and bleeding, he just looked at me and shook his head. And that moment stuck with me.

See, shortcuts can be brilliant... but sometimes they come at a cost. In life, we often try to push the pace - in our careers, our relationships, our goals. We want results now. But sometimes, in our rush, we miss the safer track. We bypass wisdom and end up flat on our face, hurting ourselves or others in the process. It's not that taking action is wrong. Far from it - I'm a big fan of momentum. But it's about knowing which action to take. The wise ones

take time to assess: Is this shortcut really saving time, or will it cost me more in the long run? So before you go chasing the fast way forward - stop, breathe, and check your footing. Because sometimes, the shortcut becomes the long cut.

Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Thrive Trust, supporting mentoring and resilience programmes 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 michael-wilkes.kiwi.

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Chaotic weekends for Thames police

OPINION



By RON AGNEW

In the 1970s and 80s, policing the Thames area on busy weeks and weekends could be quite chaotic.

With only five policemen and two traffic officers, Alan Austin and Colin Malloy, stationed here, providing 24-hour cover seven days a week for the area, it could be quite exhausting as each policeman and traffic officer worked by themselves on one-man shifts, though supported by a member of our great group of civilian civil Defense police personal on Friday and Saturday nights.

With drinking and driving being more generally accepted in society at that time, motor accidents were very common in the wider area, many of them being fatal ones, especially on the Kōpū-Hikuaia and Hauraki Plains.

However there were few police cars, Thames only had one with no siren, and a little red roof light which went round and round. The three country stations had no police cars and had to use their family car, their mileage being reimbursed by the police.

Our area to the north was up the Thames Coast to Wilsons Bay, where the sole constable at Coromandel, Horrie Chesnutt, took over. Our boundary to the south went to Omahu, halfway between Puriri and Hikutaia, where the two Paeroa policemen, Paul Sherriff and Brian Dunn took over. In the west, our area stopped at the Kōpū Bridge, where the sole policeman at Ngatea, Bob Cuthbert, took over, policing a huge area of the Hauraki Plains with one traffic officer, Gavin Ballantyne, similarly resident in Ngatea. It could be a very busy station, with the higher speeds of busy state highways running through their area.

However, on quieter evenings in the early hours, we knew where to head for a cup of tea and a chat. The Toyota car factory security gate at night had security stationed in the box 24 hours a day. Oscar Wilton was often the night security officer and did enjoy company. Similarly, the boiler man at the hospital boilers who manned the huge boilers there 24 hours a day, and lot of our confiscated cannabis was disposed of there.

Probably our favorite though, was the hospital kitchen where the day's unused food and meals had to put out and disposed of at midnight each night by the staff. We were usually very keen to help the kitchen staff dispose of these, being past their use by date.

It seems quite funny to me now, but often, early on weekend evenings, people would call in, or phone and request while on patrol, that police call in to the parties occurring that night, mostly at private homes, to deter gate crashers and the uninvited from the vicinity. Especially if they were being organised by ladies who may be worried, after the pubs emptied out.

One of our tasks was to try and get to every hotel in the area of an evening, to be a presence, and gauge the likelihood of trouble later on at closing time. We had eight pubs in our area, Tapu, Lady Bowen, Junction, Salutation, Imperial, Warrick Arms, Kōpū and Puriri. We knew which ones were likely to have trouble, and the Burger Bar at 10.30pm was often the site of flash points occurring. However, the owner there would often look after himself and did let go one night with hot fat, at an aggressive intoxicated male who tried to jump the counter. He offered free chips for us when ordering our meal, if we would hang out there or in the vicinity at pub closing time.

However, a Crown Solicitor when visiting the station for a large drugs case was horrified about this being the start of corruption! In my time in the Police, there was never ever any suggestion that any such thing existed in New Zealand Policing.

Drinking, and hotels, were a very common and accepted activity in society in years gone by, and many intoxicated people poured out on to the streets at 10.30pm in high spirits, and at times aggressively so. On occasions, reports of fights were coming in faster than we, in the one police car, could get round to them. Our aim was to try and get people off the streets and home, as fast as we could. Especially during the busy summer months.

- Ron Agnew is a former Thames Police officer



The five local policemen, top left: Gary Kitson, Ron White, Dave White, Ron Agnew; Front left: Bob Cuthbert, John Govorko and Sel Hunter.



Coromandel policeman Horrie Chesnutt, left, and Traffic Officer Alan Austin.



Traffic Officer Colin Molly, left, and Paeroa policeman Brian Dunn.

Photos: SUPPLIED

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

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TEKLENBURG, Ann: Peacefully and surrounded by her three daughters, on Sunday 9th November, 2025; aged 79 years. Cherished Mum of Tania, Vanessa and Gareth, Nikki and Jake. Adored Gran Gran of Dylan, Hayden, Kade, Sophie, Ella and Liam. Great Gran Gran of Carter. Loved sister and sister-in-law. Requiem Mass will be celebrated for Ann at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 111 Baillie St Thames, on Wednesday 12th November, at 11am, followed by private cremation. TWENTYMANS	Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101 For Sale Hen and chickens \$50. Mixed laying breeds. Phone 868 8877 or TEXT 027 589 2556 Outdoor table, Kwila Equinox by Devon inc 8 chairs \$500. Water blaster with sweeping brush \$150. Makita skill saw, 210mm \$80. Stihl chainsaw, 025 \$250. Makita bench grinder \$40. Chest freezer, 1 mt high, in good cond \$100. Lge chair with matching poof, good cond \$100. Lge cushioned couch \$100. Ph 027 630 6047 Garage Sale 10 Valder Pl, Waiomū. Sat 15th & Sun 16th. 10am - 4pm. Household goods, furniture, lots of tools Gardening STUMP GRINDING. All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659 Handyman An experienced handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com	Small Aluminium dinghy up to 10 FT, must be in good condition. NO trailer wanted. TEXT OR PH 0211387860 Land Wanted Wanted to Lease/Rent land while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015 Vehicles Wanted Cars, vans, utes, trucks, in any condition dead or alive. Call 0800 333 398 or text 021 344 449 Storage STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944 Piano Tuner Sharyn Clark Piano Tuner & Technician 'Fully Qualified' and Covering all areas of Hauraki and Coromandel M: 0274 485 089 sharynclark22@gmail.com	FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148 Builders Reno's, decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559 Friendly licensed builder. 40 years exp. All aspects .No job too small. Ian 021 540 376 Painters HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312 Rural Land Painters Experienced painters in all farm buildings and older homes Hauraki/Piako wide. Ph Greg 027 2142442	We are looking for 2 mechanics to join our team. A qualified car mechanic must have a WoF ticket & a motorbike mechanic. Some experience would be an advantage but training will be given to the right applicant. If you are reliable and a team player send your CV to miles@hpmotors.co.nz or ph 027 227 1121 for a chat.	AGM MEETING MANGATARATA COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL RESERVE INC 17TH NOVEMBER 2025 MANGATARATA COMMUNITY HALL (Hauraki Bowling Club) 7.30PM ALL WELCOME Thames and District RSA inc. AGM Sunday November 16th, 1pm Held at the Thames Bowling Club. 512 MacKay Street, Thames 3500
Church Notices	Public Notices				
Waihi Living Waters Christ Centered Meetings Sunday 4pm 15 Smith St, Waihi Waihi Bible Chapel Ph. Num 021 522 668 Come read the Word. Learn Scripture (King James) You want the truth, it's all here. Come help us read and learn. Bible Study Wednesday nights 6pm Waihi Assembly of God Church "Worship & Healing" 10am Sundays Scout Hall, Baker St, Waihi	Update to Council Meetings for November 2025 In accordance with section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, I advise the following: Citizenship Ceremony Wednesday, 26 November 2025, 8.30-9.30am will be held in the Council Chamber, 1 William Street, Paeroa. Council Meeting now cancelled on Wednesday, 26 November 2025. D A Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council  www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz				
Handyman Services	Council Land Drain Maintenance Programme Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Drainage Bylaw Clause 10.1, that Council's annual drain maintenance programme will operate from November 2025 to June 2026. During this time council staff and contractors will be entering onto private property to spray aquatic weeds by vehicle or helicopter using an approved weed control chemical or to clear drains using an excavator. Work will take place in these areas:				
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TURUA: Turua Dairy

KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy

Paeroa pigeons ready to fly again

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

Paeroa’s pigeons will be flitting around town again this Christmas, with the Pigeon Post popping up for its second season.

Between November 24 and December 13, members of the public can drop into the Pigeon Post at 64A Belmont St, with a Christmas card or letter for someone within Paeroa township.

For a gold coin donation, the cards will be stamped with the Post’s special seal and hand-delivered to the recipient’s letter box. “Remember how lovely it was receiving a Christmas card in the post?” organiser Jenny Wilson said. “We wanted to bring that back.”

Last year, they delivered around 300 cards, volunteer Sybil Woolmore said.

“People were so excited to get a Pigeon Post card,” she said.

“We had cards for St John, and the fire brigade, and the doctors, and for a lot of businesses [from] people that appreciated what they’ve done through the year.”

This year, the Pigeon Post crew are also offering Christmas-themed craft workshops for adults - making wreaths, paper angels, and round tree decorations.

The workshops will be run by Susie Jones.

The Pigeon Post was a real collaborative, community effort, Jenny said - local business



Jenny Wilson, Susie Jones, and Sybil Woolmore prepare to spread Christmas joy.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

owners Linley Rose and John Eaglen are lending the group a shopfront, the Hauraki Reuse Centre has donated craft supplies, and there are nearly a dozen “pigeons” waiting in the wings to tackle delivery.

Local schools and early education centres are also encouraged to bring in groups to write and send some cards.

“It is a community postal ser-

vice which encourages people to connect through sending Christmas cards,” Jenny said.

“It’s a good chance to say something nice.”

Santa also plans to visit the Pigeon Post headquarters to hear children’s Christmas wishes on November 27, 29 and December 3, 4, 6, 10, 11.

Santa’s visiting times will be posted on their Facebook page

closer to the date.

DETAILS: Paeroa Pigeon Post runs November 24 to December 13 at 64A Belmont St. Gold coin donation to send cards within Paeroa township only - no rural addresses. See Paeroa Pigeon Post on Facebook for more information and workshop times and dates.



Painting pals pitch in at croquet club

The Thames High School Student Volunteer Army lent a hand - and a brush - to the Thames Croquet Club recently.

Club president Sheryl McConnell said their help was gratefully received as the club’s boundary fence was in need of a spruce-up.

“We have had several students for three afternoons after school helping with this task,” Sheryl told *The Profile*.

“They’ve been good workers, polite and willing. This is quite a task for our members so we asked the student army, who were happy to help us out - a big thank you from the Thames Croquet Club to these young people.”



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HARD

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EASY	MEDIUM	HARD
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1 8 7 6 4 2 9 5 3	2 9 8 6 4 7 1 3 5	5 4 3 6 3 7 1 9 8

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DOWN: 2 Hairpiece, 3 Swear, 5 Orgy, 6 Siberia, 7 Mad as a hatter, 8 Drawn, 9 Shearer, 10 Lime, 11 Candle, 12 Sally, 13 Ashtray, 14 Mansion, 16 Distasteful, 22 Endive, 23 Captain, 24 Blinded, 25 Napalm, 27 Elevate, 28 Custom, 30 Gown, 32 Use up, 34 Agent, 36 Trio, 38 Row, 42 Safer, 43 Altered, 44 Deep, 45 Exited, 46 Sheet, 48 Memorabilia, 49 Despise, 50 Sag, 51 Agility, 52 Scared, 53 Give evidence, 54 Diva, 57 Invite, 64 Entrances, 65 Cleaver, 66 Prepare, 68 Praised, 70 Granary, 71 Weirdo, 72 Serve, 74 Horse, 76 Titan, 78 Ream, 79 Omen.



Kaiaua 10 Rua One Place

Contemporary calm by the sea

Set at the water’s edge on a peaceful no-exit lane, this elevated property takes in expansive views across the Firth of Thames to the Coromandel and Hunua Ranges. Crafted for durability and thoughtful coastal living, the three-bedroom, three-ensuite home features an upstairs kitchen and downstairs kitchenette. Expansive windows frame uninterrupted ocean vistas, while a rimu benchtop adds warmth. Solid concrete walls and native timber details ensure character and longevity. A dumbwaiter aids convenience, and a Dolomite filtration system with 75,000L water storage boosts practicality. The site’s generous size allows potential subdivision (subject to council approval), supporting future growth.

bayleys.co.nz/2630046

1,557 sqm 3 2 3

Asking Price \$1,350,000
View 11.15-11.45am Sun 23 Nov
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Miranda 766A Back Miranda Road

Coastal grandeur with unrivalled views

Set on 3.15ha (more or less) in the Hauraki countryside, this elevated 339sqm home offers sweeping views of the Firth of Thames and Coromandel Ranges. Built in 2017 by Aaron Costello, it features timeless design, high ceilings, and floor-to-ceiling glazing for abundant light. The sleek kitchen with island, double oven, and scullery flows into open-plan living and a sheltered deck. The master suite boasts sea views, deck access, walk-in wardrobe, and tiled ensuite with underfloor heating. Three more bedrooms, a family bathroom, powder room, and double garage complete the home. Fenced with bore water and low-maintenance landscaping, it offers refined coastal lifestyle living.

bayleys.co.nz/2630145

3.145 ha 4 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 27 Nov 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 10-10.30am Sun 16 Nov
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
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Boundary lines are indicative only



Miranda 722 Back Miranda Road

Investment in land and lifestyle

An exceptional rural lifestyle and farming opportunity awaits at 722 Back Miranda Road. Set on 39ha (more or less) of fertile land, the farm supports 160 cattle on rich pasture, producing around 200 hay and silage bales annually. 28 fenced paddocks with a central race, artesian bore water, and duck ponds, it's both efficient and scenic. Infrastructure includes implement and hay sheds, a woolshed, new cattle yards, and subdivision potential for chalet accommodation. The renovated four-bedroom home offers a new roof, kitchen, and 61sqm extension with views over the Hauraki Gulf. Close to schools and recreation, it's ideal for families, farmers, or retirees seeking productivity and lifestyle.

bayleys.co.nz/2630154

38.9488_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 11 Dec 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 10.45-11.15am Sun 16 Nov
& 10-10.30am Sun 23 Nov
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



Matatoki 264 Matatoki Road

Smart farming investment - efficiency & scale

A highly productive 123ha (more or less) Matatoki dairy farm across three titles, this flat-contoured property features around 80 paddocks and supports 330 split-calving cows. Recent Fonterra production reached 127,568kgMS (2024/25). Extensive infrastructure includes a 15 ASHB cowshed with inshed feeding, feedpad, maize pad, PKE bunker, meal silo, wintering barn, and multiple sheds. Effluent covers 60+ ha via a 20hp pump system. Two homes (4-bed and 3-bed) support operations. Well-fenced with TCDC water supply, fertiliser, and pasture renewal programmes in place. Conveniently located near Thames and Paeroa, with easy access to city centres and beaches.

bayleys.co.nz/2630155

123_{ha}

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 3pm, Wed 3 Dec 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11am-12pm Tue 18 Nov or by appointment
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



Ngatea 5248a State Highway 2

A slice of rural lifestyle close to town

Set on 3,050sqm (more or less), this family-friendly Ngatea property blends lifestyle and practicality. The sunny three-bedroom home offers open-plan living, great storage, and seamless indoor-outdoor flow to patios on both sides. Established trees provide privacy, with lawns and gardens offering space to play or add a pool, shed, or veggie patch. Well-fenced pasture suits pets or grazing. Conveniently located just off State Highway 2, minutes from Ngatea township and Hauraki Plains College, with easy access to Waikato and Coromandel. A rare lifestyle opportunity - this property will be sold on auction day.

bayleys.co.nz/2630159

3 1 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 27 Nov 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 12-12.30pm Sun 16 Nov
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
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Boundary lines are indicative only



Maramarua 8 MacKay Road

Dairy or grazing in Maramarua, subdivision potential

Set in the heart of Maramarua, this 48-hectare (more or less) property provides a versatile farming base with strong infrastructure and flexibility for the future. Currently operated as a once-a-day dairy unit, it also suits grazing or use as a runoff. An approved three-lot subdivision consent enhances its development potential. Gently rolling land allows efficient stock management, supported by a 16 ASHB, ample yarding, and well-planned sheds. Reliable raceways and water systems ensure smooth operation. Centrally positioned between Waikato and Auckland, with State Highways 1 and 2 nearby, it offers practical farming versatility and lasting value.

bayleys.co.nz/2630157

46.62

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 4 Dec 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11am-12pm Wed 12 Nov
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
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Gymnast Alysha Read finds rhythm again

GYMNASTICS

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

After standing on the podium in July, Alysha Read's September setback at the New Zealand Nationals became a turning point - pushing her to rediscover why she loved rhythmic gymnastics in the first place.

The 21-year-old Whitianga woman took part in the Australian Nationals, held on the Gold Coast in July, where she came away with two medals - more than she "ever dreamed of".

But heading into the New Zealand competition two months later, Alysha said she had set her expectations too high.

"I wanted to pick up where I left off in 2022, coming second overall, but it hadn't really crossed my mind that my last New Zealand Nationals was three years ago when I was 17 and a lot has changed since then.

"New competitors, less training, a completely different lifestyle, I just wasn't focusing on the right thing, which should've been having fun and performing well - not results," she said.

Alysha still made the ball final and qualified first for the ribbon final; however, she admitted it took some hindsight to truly feel proud of those achievements.

"Looking ahead to future comps, I need to realise why I decided to go back to gymnastics in the first place.

"I'm back because I absolutely love it and I want to make the most of this while I still can; medals and placings should be seen as a bonus now, not an expectation," she said.

Alysha stepped away from the sport

in 2022 to finish her schooling at Hau-raki Plains College, complete a Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction, and work for Dive Zone Whitianga.

She said she's lived her life with gymnastics and without it, and enjoyed her life with it "a lot more".

So, she's embarking on the Australian Nationals yet again, as well as trials in February for a tour to Japan.

"Maybe it's because it has been part of my identity for so long it was hard to adjust to a life without it, maybe it was because I genuinely love it, maybe I missed being an athlete and all the people and experiences that came with it, or maybe it was just the fact I truly felt like I was not done," she told *The Profile*.

"I still had more to give, and thank god I decided that was the case because imagine what I would've missed out on. I have to do a quick reality check though," she added.

"It has been an incredibly busy year and there were times I was on the verge of burnout."

Alysha said she "pretty much lived" out of her suitcase for four months and spent a lot of late nights driving and early mornings training before work.

She said she was looking forward to spending a few weeks of summer staying in one place - the Coromandel.

"I still have big goals in both diving and gymnastics, but I also have goals that go beyond either of these.

"So I know that what I'm doing isn't forever, but it's what I'm doing right now in this season of my life and I am beyond happy with that," she said.

"Here's to the fools that dream, right?"



Alysha Read competes in the Australian Nationals, coming away with two medals. SUPPLIED



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