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A young Hauraki angler has wrangled his ‘biggest fish’, with high hopes for an official world record. **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** reports

It took Lukas Robinson around one hour and 50 minutes to wrangle the biggest fish he’d ever caught.

“It felt really good when I finally got it into the boat,” the 14-year-old angler told *The Profile*.

That’s because it was a whopping 132.45kg Broadbill (Swordfish) caught on a 37kg line.

It should come as no surprise the year 9 student from Hauraki Plains College was now waiting to have the catch verified by the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA), hoping for an official world record, which would place him among some of the best young anglers in the world.

“It will be amazing to see my name and New Zealand on the IGFA Records.”

The young angler said it felt like a “huge accomplishment for someone my age.”

“It is the biggest fish I have ever caught... I was really excited when dad [Matt Robinson] said it could be a world record.”

The prized catch was fished up at Mayor Island with an Ultimate Rod and a Moimoi-branded line from his dad’s boat: a Blue Fin 665HT.

It was “hard work” and his feet were sore due to ankle problems, he said.

The whole time he kept thinking about whether he was

“I eat my catch. I love fish, my favourite is Swordfish - cooked, pan fried and seasoned.”

- Lukas Robinson

going to land it or lose it.

But that’s not the only thing Lukas caught this season.

The young angler, who is part of the Tairua Pauanui Sports Fishing Club alongside his family, snapped up a stack of awards in the 2024-2025 season such as: champion junior angler, heaviest gamefish, most tag and releases, most meritorious catch, junior boys champion, heaviest hammerhead and heaviest broadbill.

The most important accolades for Lukas were champion junior angler and heaviest game fish, he said.

It was clear he was passionate about the sport. “I have fished all my life since the age of about three. All my family are into fishing.”

When he was out on the water, he said they would drive around slowly and look around for bait and signs of life and then “we drop the line”. But Lukas doesn’t just catch the fish.

“I eat my catch. I love fish, my favourite is Swordfish - cooked, pan fried and seasoned.”

When it came to techniques, there were a few the young angler was working on.

“I’ve been learning to jig for Blue Fin [tuna], which we do at night and I got one.

“The other thing I want to learn is how to stick bait for Yellow Fin which means you cast out the lure and work it

CONTINUED ON P2



Hooking
the big
one

Young angler Lukas Robinson in action on the water.
Photo: SUPPLIED

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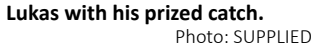
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Waihi artists are presenting an evening of music, poetry and dance in support of Gaza Birds Singing and the Gaza Relief Fund. The line-up features local artists, including Mike O'Donnell, Milly Moon, Clay and Dove, Helene Burgstaller, Alice May, Neenavah, Roshan Gul and more. The performers donated their time to help raise funds and awareness for the cause. December 6, 7-9pm at the Waihi Drama Society. Tickets, \$20. See events.humanitix.com/songs-for-gaza.

He said he wanted to thank his dad, Matt Robinson, and poppa for always



"The big one will come along one day. Never give up."

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Dec 3		Dec 4		Dec 5		Dec 6		Dec 7		Dec 8		Dec 9	
Morning 5:50am 3.3 12:02pm 0.7 6:10pm 3.4		Morning 12:30am 0.4 12:59pm 0.5 6:51am 3.5 7:09pm 3.5		Morning 1:27am 0.2 1:53pm 0.4 7:48am 3.6 8:07pm 3.6		Morning 2:21am 0.1 2:47pm 0.4 8:42am 3.7 9:05pm 3.6		Morning 3:13am 0.1 3:41pm 0.4 9:34am 3.8 10:00pm 3.6		Morning 4:03am 0.1 4:35pm 0.4 10:26am 3.8 10:54pm 3.5		Morning 4:53am 0.2 5:29pm 0.5 11:18am 3.7 11:46pm 3.4	
5:52am 8:24pm		5:51am 8:25pm		5:51am 8:26pm		5:51am 8:27pm		5:51am 8:28pm		5:51am 8:28pm		5:51am 8:29pm	
G Best At 11:01am 11:31pm		G Best At 12:02pm		B Best At 12:34am 1:07pm		B Best At 1:41am 2:15pm		B Best At 2:49am 3:21pm		B Best At 4:22pm		B Best At 4:50am 5:17pm	
Set 3:48am Rise 6:28pm		Set 4:27am Rise 7:48pm		Full Moon Set 5:17am Rise 9:05pm		Set 6:17am Rise 10:13pm		Set 7:27am Rise 11:09pm		Set 8:42am Rise 11:52pm		Set 9:57am	

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New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
G Good Fishing	F Fair Fishing	B Not So Good	

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES	PLACE		HIGH		LOW	
	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.	Coromandel	- 0	05	- 0	03	
	Whitianga	- 0	01	- 0	05	
	Tairua	+ 0	10	+ 0	20	
	Whangamata	- 0	03	- 0	05	
	Waihi Beach	- 0	21	- 0	16	

Drugs and retail crime impact business

In this installment of The Valley Profile's investigation into high methamphetamine consumption in Thames, ALICE PARMINTER speaks to businesses, who say antisocial and violent behaviour is becoming more visible in the public eye.

Leanne Grinder of Walter and Co has security cameras at the back of her Pollen St shop.

She regularly captures night-time footage of people rummaging through her rubbish and causing damage, she said.

A few months back, the trouble-makers did more than just rummage. "Three women came along... while one was going through the bins, the other two I could see right in the corner where my back door was, and they were doing some weird movement," Leanne said.

"On my next video clip we could see what they had done, and they had broken my water pipe off the wall on purpose. It flooded all the way into my business, right into the main salon part."

Walter and Co was closed for the morning, turning away clients until a plumber was able to repair the damage. The shop also had to be cleaned out. Leanne said the disruption and cost to her business was significant. She put the footage on social media and got the names of the women, taking the information to the police. That afternoon two of the women came into the shop to apologise.

"I just said to her, 'can you just



Business owners in Thames are concerned about the effects of drugs on public behaviour.

explain to me why you broke the water pipe in the first place?" She turned around and said to me, 'oh, well, my friend just wanted a bit of pipe for her bowl,' and I'm shaking my head like, are you serious? You did all that damage just for a bit of pipe that you could have got from anywhere."

Leanne is one of many shopkeepers who say drug users are getting bolder.

"The businesses we talk to are very concerned, and they're angry, and they don't understand why we as a community aren't up in arms about this," Sue Lewis-O'Halloran from the Thames Business Association said. "We only have anecdotal stats because we don't have the resources to collect stats, but they're demoralised."

Just down the road, another Pollen St worker, who wished to

remain anonymous, said she has also had several incidents in her shop. "Just recently, this couple [in] about their 20s ran in the shop huffing and puffing and hid behind the racks out there... They kept looking across the road," the worker said.

The couple told her they were hiding from a gang member across the street.

"These big guys [were] walking up and down the street looking for them... I'm thinking, shit, he must know they're in here," she said.

"I talked to her and I talked to him, he was all over the place. So I said, we've got a back door. I'll let you out. I don't care if I'm letting you run away or whatever, I just want you out of the shop."

Another time, a woman came in to try on some clothes, before suddenly stopping and accusing the

worker of having her grandchildren held in the back room.

"I know she's on meth because she's well-known in Thames... and she's off her face."

"This is nine o'clock in the morning," the worker said. "I don't feel comfortable [here], I keep thinking something horrible's going to happen - customers are saying they're scared to be here."

"We still see a high level of crime driven by factors associated with methamphetamine," Thames Community Officer acting Sergeant Gareth Carter said.

"A lot of stolen property is stolen and on sold to fund drug habits... And as with all small rural towns, it is probably a growing issue."

Gareth said methamphetamine was a difficult drug to police, as it is easy to hide and doesn't have telltale signs, such as the distinct

smell of cannabis. Waikato East Area Commander Mike Henwood said Police needed accurate information to act on methamphetamine use.

"Operationally, Police rely on information from the public in relation to suspicious activity and this ultimately provides the information Police piece together [that] can result in search warrants being issued and executed at locations where drugs may be supplied from," he said.

"The recent gang legislation has increased the tools Police have to put significant pressure on gangs who we all know frequently are involved in drug supply."

Enforcement efforts have increased in the latter half of this year, as the government cracks down on methamphetamine use and distribution. In Thames, Police say they now walk the streets more regularly as part of new positions targeting retail crime.

"You should hopefully see a lot more police uniforms walking the street, having the time to talk to the public and the shopkeepers to gain intel and to find out where the problems are and react accordingly," Gareth said.

"The Thames Police station is always manned Monday to Friday during the day. [And] there's other staff that aren't included in that roster that will be working days, nights, swing shifts to boost those frontline numbers at any one time as well."

"There's always people around."





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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Provisional approval for mining project

OceanaGold’s Waihi North mining project has received provisional approval from an expert panel under the government’s Fast-track Approvals Act in a draft decision released on November 25.

The expert panel consists of former supreme court judge Sir William Young, engineer and consultant Rob van Voorthuysen, environmental scientist Dr Greg Burrell, independent RMA hearing commissioner Cathy Katene, and engineering geologist Cameron Lines.

The panel will now invite comment on the proposed conditions of consent from relevant parties, including OceanaGold, local iwi, the district and regional councils, the Department of Conservation, and any other person or group who provided comments on the application.

OceanaGold senior vice president of legal and public affairs Alison Paul said the Waihi North Project will add to and

extend the current operations at Waihi.

The new Wharekirauponga underground mine targets at least a 10-year mine life and would account for \$1 billion of capital expenditure, over \$5 billion of export revenue conservatively estimated at half of the current gold price, and about 1000 jobs associated with the project, she said.

About 80 per cent of expenditure was expected to be spent in New Zealand including more than 30 per cent within the Hauraki District.

“Mining is the most productive industry in the Hauraki region and in New Zealand,” she said.

“If the expert panel’s final decision is to approve the Waihi North Project, we look forward to continuing to support local jobs, local businesses, and the regional and New Zealand economy”.

The panel’s final decision is expected to be made by December 18.



An aerial view of Waihi looking towards the OceanaGold open cast mine. Photo: SUPPLIED

Town clock ticking again

After four years of being stuck at 4:34, Thames’ iconic clock tower is finally telling the right time again.

The clock, at the corner of Pollen and Mary Streets, was gifted to the town by the Thames Lions Club in 1968.

It has since fallen silent due to an outdated system and stopped for stretches of time since 1988.

Thames-Coromandel District Council and Thames Community Board worked with building owners GDC Buildings and received \$21,000 from Pub Charity and Trillian Trust to fully cover the restoration and parts, with no cost to ratepayers.

“Thames is the heart of the Coromandel and the clock sits at the heart of town,” Pub Charity managing director Martin Cheer said.

“Pub Charity is rapt to help with an investment in such an icon for the benefit of the people and their future generations.”

Thames-Coromandel District Council said specialised contractors Pilbrows Watchmakers completed the repair last week, bringing the historic landmark back to life.

Councillor Martin Rodley, who has long advocated for the clock’s revival, said the repair may seem small, but its significance to the community was clear.

“This clock has always mattered to the people of Thames. It’s part of who we are and getting it ticking again shows what we can achieve when our community and partners pull together.”

The Profile reported on the tower’s frozen clockface back in June, 2021, citing Thames Star articles from 1968



Thames’ town clock is back ticking again after years of being frozen in time. Photo: SUPPLIED

which raved about its installation.

The then-Mayor Wallace Brunton called it a “red letter day” - a day of special significance or opportunity.

He said it was a “monument not only for the people of Thames, but a fitting memorial to the local [Lions] club members whose efforts made the gift possible”.

With the mechanism repaired and the hands moving once more, the clock tower is back to doing what it was built for - keeping Thames on time.

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Fire chief honoured for 50 years of service

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Miles Shelley remembers the moment he was inspired to first put on the fire-fighter suit in 1975.

The then 16-year-old of Ngatea was with his father in the garden at the front of the house when a firetruck zoomed past.

“He [Miles’ father] just said ‘I don’t know why you don’t get on and do something like that’, Miles told *The Profile*.

Following in the footsteps of his brother and uncles, who were also volunteers at the time, Miles joined the Ngatea Fire Brigade in October of that year and never looked back. It’s a journey that makes his latest milestone all the more significant.

The now 66-year-old firefighter, who is the Chief Fire Officer of both Ngatea and Turua fire brigades, celebrated half-a-century of service in October.

“There’s a few around here that have gotten [their 50 year service medal]. I’m the second one for the Ngatea Brigade,” he said.

A special ceremony on November 22 saw Miles receive his 50-year service medal, presented to him by United Fire Brigades Association President Lesina Walden.

Something that had a big influence on Miles’ journey as a firefighter was the camaraderie among the people he was involved with. “It’s like a club. You get a camaraderie from the people and the new ones coming and going. It’s good to see the young ones coming [in].”

He also drove the St John ambulance for around 40 years from 1976, receiving a Member of The Order of St John medal.

“[I] started up [with] one night a week, then went to two nights, sometimes three nights a week, but that got too much. I did that for 40 years [then] I gave that away.”

Miles has also received a Queens Service Medal for services to the Fire Service.

Close to 300 firefighters had been through the Ngatea Brigade since it started in 1963,



United Fire Brigades Association President Lesina Walden presents Miles Shelley with his award.

Miles said.

But the nature of being a firefighter meant he witnessed things most people never do.

“I’ve seen a fair bit of trauma. Accidents and truck accidents. You learn to live with it. You never get over it. You just learn to deal with it,” he said. “Over the years we have seen some pretty terrible shit.

“And if you don’t get that support, that’s when they [people] break down... But you had to support each other. And you supported each other because you were looking at each other all the time,” he said.

One of the biggest major fires Miles attended was at the Otara Shopping Mall back in the 80s or 90s during a two-week scholarship at the Balmoral Fire Station with another Ngatea Fire Brigade member.

Another major event was the Thames and Paeroa floods in the 1980s, he said.

Miles said the amount of water was “just unbelievable” - stores were covered in water and some people were out in dinghies.

“When we got in there, the water was over our headlights in the truck. We got in there, and we couldn’t get out, we had to stay the

night, we stayed in a school.”

His involvement in the Ngatea fire brigade was not walked alone but shared with his wife Diane and their children Donna, Adam and Josh. “[Diane] never joined, but she’s certainly always supported,” he said.

However, Diane was awarded an honorary membership at the recent firefighters’ honours evening, an honour she believed only one other had received.

She told *The Profile* “we just about lived at the fire brigade”. “Our kids grew up at the fire station,” she said. “Back in the day when there were all of us, all the wives, we’d just meet down there. So that was our kids, as they were growing up, their social life.”

According to Miles, “that’s what it’s about” - being a volunteer, he said.

“That’s what keeps you doing it.”

Miles and Diane, who own Hauraki Plains Motors, said at one stage both their sons and Miles were in the fire brigade.

“So there were beepers going off during the night and the three of them would all bugger off and leave me, and I’d be going around answering all the beepers and the dogs barking and it was absolute chaos when there’d be a fire call in the middle of the night,” Diane said.

Josh served as a firefighter for around five years before he shifted away from Ngatea, and Adam was still part of the brigade.

In a few years Adam will receive his gold star medal for 25 years of service.

One of the most important things for Miles was to “help where we can”.

“I’ve worked with animals and people and there certainly has been a lot of people [we’ve saved] over the years,” he said.

Diane said it was where Miles was most proud - “that you’ve actually been there to help out in serious situations”.

“I put the time and effort into the community I guess,” Miles said.

“I enjoy it, it’s a good place to be.

“I won’t chuck the fire brigade in just yet.”

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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HPC dux hopes to inspire young leaders

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's not everyday students are awarded the dux award on their birthday.

But when Ellie Martin's name was called out as the Hauraki Plains College Dux for 2025 on October 30, her response was fitting: "well, this is a nice 18th birthday surprise".

The 18-year-old award winner, who received the Lynne Penrhys-Evans Memorial Prize and Leonard Cup for 2025, said "my heart definitely skipped a beat".

The high achiever, who was also a 2025 head student and oversaw environmental and service councils, said she was really surprised as she was up against "tough competition".

"There's lots of other people with a similar work ethic as me and who would be just as deserving. I honestly forgot it was my birthday until I was reminded when given the award," she said. "It was definitely an unforgettable birthday."

The top student, who studied biology, chemistry, physics, media studies, English and calculus, told *The Profile* she planned to study at the University of Otago in 2026.

"I'll be doing first year health science with the hope of eventually progressing into a field like medicine," she said.

As part of the dux award, Ellie received a \$1000 cash prize, which would go towards her University costs, she said.

"Before prize giving I also received a \$9500 Leaders of Tomorrow scholarship at Otago University and by achieving Dux I am eligible to get another \$3000 on top of that from Otago University which goes towards my accommodation."

One way she was able to stay motivated and work hard was through the support of friends.



Hauraki Plains College Dux for 2025 Ellie Martin snaps up the Lynne Penrhys-Evans Memorial Prize and Leonard Cup.
Photo: SUPPLIED

"We've always pushed each other and aimed for excellence, yet remained humble. "Surrounding myself with people who have similar goals and values has definitely helped me stay motivated," she said.

It was clear the achievement meant something to Ellie. "I'm just really thrilled. It's a reflection that hard work does pay off and becomes a valuable addition to my CV. It's shown me the value of setting big goals, working hard for them, and believing in myself through setbacks."

One thing she learned from being a leader was that it took risks.

"This year, there were many times when I put forward ideas that didn't quite work

out. It can be disappointing when things fall short, but I've learned that part of putting yourself out there with your thoughts and suggestions is accepting that they might be challenged or even rejected.

"It's taught me to stay authentic and have a laugh if you can," she said.

Among her greatest supporters were her sister, parents, and friend and HPC peer Orson Coats.

"He's got a very busy work schedule but even gave up time to help me achieve excellence in media studies, supporting me through a documentary I made about his passion for politics and his role as the Board of Trustees student rep," she said.

Outside her school studies, Ellie said she loved to stay active and spend time outdoors involved in sports such as the First XI football and cricket teams, and also Youth Search and Rescue for the past three years.

When it came to leaving behind a legacy, Ellie knew what she wanted.

"Over the years, I've built friendships with students in the years below, and I hope they feel inspired to step into leadership roles themselves.

"Leadership can be hard work at times, but it's incredibly rewarding and gives you the chance to share your ideas and be a positive role model," she said.

"I don't want to be remembered for the badges I wore or the titles I held. I want to be remembered for the moments that mattered - the kindness, the laughter, the way I showed up for people," she said.

"If in some small way, I made someone feel seen, supported, or inspired, then that's the legacy I hope to leave behind."

Meanwhile, Jaskereet Randhawa and Maggie O'Neil received the Proxime Accessit to dux award.

More Than A School

Hauraki Plains College

Academic PRIZEGIVING 2025

 Ellie Martin 2025 DUX & Head Student	 Maggie O'Neil Proxime Accessit & Kaitiakitanga Award	 Jaskeerat Randhawa Proxime Accessit & Head Student	 Zoe Winter All Round Excellence	 Zara Leaman Top Vocational Pathway Student	 Benjamin Beard Contribution to Corporate Life of the College & Head Student	 Cayden de Graaf Manaakitanga Award & Head Student	 Natalla Teufa Head Student
 Rhona McInnes Good Citizenship	 Jordyn Wehi-White Supreme Effort	 Ruby McKay Kaitiakitanga Award	 Natalie Croucher Manaakitanga Award	 Skyla Frater Rangatiratanga Award	 Harvey Allen Rangatiratanga Award	 Malia Mason All-Round Excellence Māori Student	 Gustav van Niekerk Contribution to Multi-Culturalism in the School

Service & Academic Blues

Academic Blue Yr 11: Jessie Logan, Žana Slavic, Madeleine Smith, Prajwal Parajuli, Madison Mischewski, Faith Jones.
Academic Blue Yr 12: Emma Tegg, Paige-Emily Tevita-Williams, Samantha Cooksley, Lucia Suess, Greer MacDuff, Harsharn Kaur, Bridgette Marshall.
Academic Blue Yr 13: James Hill, Maggie O'Neil, Ellie Martin, Jaskeerat Rhandawa, Benjamin Beard, Rosaria Lee, Kala Van Doorn.
Service Blues: Reuben Dodunski, Kyan Fieten, Ruby McKay, Mala Taylor.

Ruby Green
Most Outstanding Student Work

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Hauraki community champions acknowledged

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

Paeroa’s War Memorial Hall was filled with stalwarts of the community on November 26 for the Hauraki District Council OnYa awards evening. The OnYa citizenship awards recognise the people who make a positive difference in the community, often working behind the scenes and without acknowledgement.

This year’s 13 award recipients spanned the breadth of the Hauraki District, serving the community in a wide variety of roles.

Mayor Toby Adams said the awards were a chance for the council to honour the people who go above and beyond.

“The amount of time, effort, years, selfless acts that [the nominees] have done to make a difference in our community just absolutely blows me away,” he said.

“They’re so humble and feel like they shouldn’t be getting thanked for the amazing stuff that they do in our community. It really amazes me.”

AWARD WINNERS

Service or Achievement in Arts and Culture Awards

Bella Paulsen: for her work as a student curator at Waihi Museum.

Nicki Leventer: for her work as the Kerepēhi Brass Band



These citizens of Hauraki have been celebrated for their dedication to their community.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

treasurer, librarian, and media manager.

Individual Awards for Service to the Community

Zoe-Beth Naisby: for her leadership within the Waihi Leos Club and time spent volunteering at Waihi College and community events.

David Bruce: for his volunteer work as the editor of the *Whiritoa Tidings*.

Greta Spicer: for her advocacy work for ADHD awareness and school and community volunteer work.

Maria Baigent: for her work supporting children in the

community and as the founder of an equine assisted learning programme.

Travis Cox: for over 250 hours of volunteer work within Paeroa College and the community.

John Hallett: for over 40 years’ service with the Paeroa RSA and Citizen’s Club, Paeroa Pipe

Band and Tattoo committee, Paeroa Co-op Parish, Paeroa Community Support Trust Day Camp, and elsewhere in the community.

Samantha Anderton: for her roles as a St John volunteer, playing with and managing local sports teams, and volunteer work for numerous community events and committees.

Thea Ris: for her decades of volunteer work in Waihi in the arts, with the Waihi Lions, and as the founder of the Waihi Art and Street Festival.

Ivan Petch: for over 40 years’ service to the Paeroa community as a veterinarian, on school and sports committees, and with Rotary.

Group Award for Service to the Community

Goldfields Railway repairs and maintenance team (Rae Barrington, Timothy Bell, Francis Fryett, Barry Harkness, Kevin Ryan, Baillie Scott): for their volunteer work maintaining the trains, tracks and grounds at Goldfields Railway.

Tu Meke Award for Going Above and Beyond

Anna Walters: for her work with students at Goldfields School and as lead co-ordinator for the Thames Valley Special Olympics.



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Consultation opens on new medical centre

Consultation is now open on a proposal to develop a new medical centre on a section of the Beach Rd Recreation Reserve in Waihi Beach.

Primary Health Care Limited has asked Western Bay of Plenty District Council to lease part of the reserve so it can build a new medical centre.

Council agreed in principle to approve the application at a meeting in August, which would see 1137m2 of the reserve (around 30 per cent) reclassified to Local Purpose Reserve.

The new facility would include car parks, accessways and landscaping, while the rest of the reserve would remain as an open green space for public use.

Reclassifying the land would allow the medical facility to be located on the reserve, but it would not impact council's ownership of the land, which would remain protected by its reserve status, council said.

The land would be leased for 17 years under a long-term 'Community Impact Partnership Agreement', with an option to renew for another 15 years.

PHCL deputy chief executive Batami Pundak said a new facility would help "ensure people can get the care they need close to home", with more clinical rooms, improved urgent-care capacity, and space for visiting specialists.

"After several years of exploring alternative options, we have identified a partnership with council as a viable way forward to build a new medical centre."

The community is invited to

share their views on the proposal, with consultation now open until February 8, 2026. Feedback will then be shared with councillors to help guide a final decision in February/March, 2026.

"We've extended the consultation period out to 10 weeks, so it spans the peak summer season when many homeowners and residents are in town," council's reserves and facilities manager Peter Watson said. "This is longer than usual, and we hope it will give everyone a real chance to get involved and share their thoughts."

DETAILS: Community drop-in session, December 13, Waihi Beach Library. Lodge a submission: yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/proposed-new-waihi-beach-medical-centre.



The new medical centre would see 1137m2 of the reserve (around 30 per cent) reclassified to Local Purpose Reserve. Image: SUPPLIED

Gratitude and the overgrown house - make the call

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

Sometimes life gets so busy that we forget the people in our corner — the ones running beside us, cheering us on, carrying the weight with us.

Colleagues, mates, kids, partners... they can become invisible when we're charging ahead, trying to get through the next thing.

This thought hit me recently in the weirdest way: I was looking at houses.

You know how you drive past a place and it's got mould climbing the walls, weeds up the sides, paint peeling, like no one's loved it in years?

And you think — mate, that's someone's biggest asset! How do they let it get to that state?

But then I realised — that's exactly what we do with relationships.

The most valuable connections in our lives — the people

we love, live with, rely on — can get left on autopilot.

We get caught up in survival mode and don't stop to maintain, appreciate, or even notice them.

It's not always deliberate. Just like the outside of a house, it doesn't get overgrown overnight. It happens bit by bit. A missed conversation. A forgotten thank-you. A season of stress that never quite resets.

And that's why I'm writing this today.

To pause. To notice.

To say — thank you to my beautiful wife, Jovana.

She's the most amazing person in my world. She carries so much, gives so freely, and stands beside me through every chaotic chapter of our life.

And today, I just want her to know I see her. I'm grateful. I love her.

And maybe for you, as you start your day, there's someone you need to notice too.

It could be your partner. Your kid. A friend who's always shown up. Or a workmate

who's held the line when you were out of steam.

Take a moment. Say the thing. Send the message. Make the call.

Because love isn't just a feeling — it's the way we water what matters.

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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Santa’s here

As the holiday season begins in earnest, Santa has also started his yearly rounds. The jolly man stopped into the Pigeon Post pop-up shop on November 27 and 29 to speak to children and adults alike, and encourage them to post some holiday missives. There is still plenty of time to head into Pigeon Post, organiser Jenny Wilson said, with the shop open until

December 13 for cards to be delivered within Paeroa township. Santa will also be returning for more visits and photos, and Christmas crafting workshops are scheduled for December 5 and 13. **DETAILS: Paeroa Pigeon Post runs until 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 on Santa visits and workshop times.** Pictured: Lucas meets with Santa ahead of the holidays. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Staff celebrated at Ohinemuri

It was an afternoon of celebration and appreciation at the Ohinemuri Rest Home on November 19. That’s because two “very delightful” staff members received certificates of appreciation. The significant occasion included Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams, who was there to present the awards to Sharryn Godwin and Ann Utting before a room of friends, staff and residents of the rest home. Organiser Annette Buchanan said the two ladies went over and above in their normal duties at the rest home. “Sharryn has become a confidential surrogate family to many residents over many, many years. She is very able to communicate and sort many issues that residents are experiencing” she said. Sharryn was always aware of “making the home a cheerful place”, worked over and above her normal hours and often said “we’re all ok aren’t we? We’re



Sharryn Godwin, Ann Utting and Mayor Toby Adams.

a box of fluffy ducks”, Annette said. Meanwhile, Ann always observed and understood the real needs of the residents, Annette said. “She is a natural caring person with great sensitivity. She is a real inspiration to us all.” These two ladies have done an exceptional job of looking after our Older Paeroa Residents at Ohinemuri Home for many many years, she said.



Ann, Sharryn, Annette Buchanan and Mayor Toby Adams. Photos KATHY BLAND

Popular resident survives trespassing cow



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

Very early on an August morning in 1882 Thomas Gordon, miner, evicted a trespassing cow from his Waitekauri garden. The intruder then kicked him in the right leg, fracturing it below the knee. A group of residents obtained a stretcher and travelling in relays carried the 40-year-old to Paeroa over a rough road. Thomas was then put aboard the steamer *Patiki* and taken to Thames hospital, where the doctor expected him to be up and about again soon. About a week later a dozen of his old mates and neighbours from Owharoa and Waitekauri gathered at his place and planted his half acre garden in potatoes and oats, putting it in good order for the coming season. Thomas was getting on as well as could be expected but it would be some weeks before he would be mobile again. Thomas, from County Tyrone, Ireland, had as a young man travelled to New South Wales, Australia. In 1870 he married



Thomas Gordon. Margaret Hunter and the couple came to New Zealand the next year, spending the following few years on the Thames goldfield. Thomas was tireless in prospecting and mining and after the family – which would number 10 children – settled on 100 acres at Waitekauri in 1876, he ran the Waitekauri battery on tribute. Tributaries worked a specific area of a mine and were paid a percentage of the value of the ore they extracted rather than a wage by the mine owner. Thomas recovered from his encounter with the cow and over the next decade continued his mining pursuits. By 1895 Waitekauri township was advancing rapidly, all possible sites for building having been taken. Extensive additions were made to the Waitekauri Hotel, a new blacksmith’s shop opened, and a fine billiard room and fancy shop went up opposite Darrow’s store.

Photo: SUPPLIED

More than 100 men were employed on day work and contracts by the Waitekauri Gold-mining Company constructing a tramway and water race to the site of a new battery, and the bush tracks were studded with tents and whares. McLennan’s opened new stables and Thomas Gordon also built a similar building in anticipation of starting the first coach line between Waitekauri and Paeroa. At the end of December, 1896, a very handsome new coach, built for Thomas by Messers Cousins and Cousins, Auckland coachbuilders, commenced running. Thomas also built a fine two-storied boarding house complete with verandah and balcony near the Post Office and central to the township. It had more than 50 rooms, three being sitting rooms and 27 bedrooms. The dining room seated 30 to 40 diners and it was a very agreeable place to stay. Thomas Gordon died while taking off his coat at his home in June, 1898. His health had been failing steadily over the past year and he had retired from active life. Lately the cold weather had tried him greatly. The cause of the 56-year-old’s death was attributed to the breaking of a blood vessel. He left a wife and large family and a wide circle of acquaintances. A man of sterling qualities and strictest integrity, Waitekauri’s popular coach and boarding house proprietor was buried at Waihi cemetery, mourners attending from across the whole district.

Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The sales event known as ‘Black Friday’ aligns itself as the Friday after which US public holiday?
2. Plants in the genus *Anigozanthos* are commonly known by the name Kangaroo a) foot, b) nose, or c) paw?
3. Sir Tony Robinson played which role in the TV series *Blackadder*? a) Baldrick, b) Blackadder, c) George, or d) Percy?
4. NOLA is shorthand for which US city? a) New Orleans, b) North Los Angeles, or c.) North Oklahoma City?
5. True or false: the Great Wall of China can be seen from the moon?
6. Which of these songs is at the recommended BPM (beats per minute) for effective CPR chest compressions? a) *Sandstorm* (136bpm), b) *Moon River* (77 bpm), or c) *Stayin’ Alive* (104 bpm)?
7. ‘V bucks’ are a currency used in which video game? a) Call of Duty, b) Fortnite, or c) Minecraft?
8. *Pride and Prejudice* is the second published novel by which English author?
9. Mount Everest lies on the border of Nepal and which other country? a) China, b) India, or c) Pakistan?
10. Which animated film soundtrack featured the hit songs *Golden* and *Takedown*, performed by a virtual K-pop group in 2025?



ANSWERS: 1. Thanksgiving; 2. c) paw; 3. a) China; 4. New Orleans (The ‘LA’ refers to the state abbreviation for Louisiana); 5. False; 6. c) *Stayin’ Alive*; 7. 100 to 120 BPM is the recommended range; 8. Jane Austen; 9. False; 10. KPop Demon Hunters.

Project to put stories under the tree

By KELLEY TANTAU

A local Christmas initiative is once again aiming to brighten the holidays for children who may not have access to books of their own.

This year, the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network has teamed up with Carson's Bookshop in Thames to encourage the community to help spark a love of reading among tamariki.

Shoppers browsing Carson's in the lead-up to Christmas can choose to purchase a book specifically for donation. Once bought, the book is set aside by staff and later collected by the network, ensuring it finds its way to a child who'll treasure it.

Organiser Sally Christie said the need had only grown since the initiative first began in 2023.

"What I've noticed is that more families are finding providing the basics so challenging that Christmas becomes even more stressful," she said.

"So it's about people that can, buying for their own family, and also thinking: 'Can I give a book to a child that is likely not to get anything under the tree for Christmas?'"

"I've had really amazing feedback from families about what a difference it made last time."

Sally said donations were welcome for all ages, from picture books for beginners, to novels suited to older readers. She added that the initiative also offered parents a chance to show their children the importance of giving.

"Christmas is about giving as well as receiving," she said, "and it's a way that perhaps grandpar-



Sally Christie and Greg Hampton are joining forces to get more books in the hands of tamariki this Christmas.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ents or parents can help their kids acknowledge that there's some children that aren't going to have Christmas this year, so they could go and pick their favourite book and donate it to that anonymous child."

Carson's Bookshop owner Greg Hampton said supporting the initiative meant "a lot" - in helping to bring comfort, imagination, and hope to children who needed it

most. "We're honoured to stand alongside Sally and the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network doing vital work, and we're grateful for the opportunity to help make Christmas a little brighter for tamariki in our community," he said.

DETAILS: Books need to be bought and dropped off at the counter of Carson's Bookshop before Tuesday, December 18.

ENTERTAINMENT

Choir to bring Christmas to St George's, Thames

St George's Church once again provides the festive backdrop for this year's Christmas celebration with the St George's Community Choir.

Their upcoming concert, aptly titled *Can't Wait for Christmas*, takes its name from one of the many seasonal favourites audiences can look forward to on the night.

Earlier this year, the choir delivered an inspired performance of Fauré's work; now they return with a joy-filled programme of Christmas music from around the world. These include *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* from England; *Te Iwi E* from New Zealand; *Still, Still, Still* from Austria, along with songs from the US, France, and Ukraine.

The programme also includes a selection of well-loved carols, giving everyone the chance to sing along with the choir.

The Christmas-themed concert has been rehearsed under the guidance of musical director and conductor, Kolitha Jayatunge, ably assisted by pianist Yi Ting Heng. Performance day will also bring guitar and organ accompaniment.

The choir asks that people bring a food item, or koha, for a collection of items to be given to the Thames Food Bank. St George's Community choir is for everyone; no auditions are required. New singers are always welcome, experienced or not.

After the concert, please join the singers for a festive Christmas mince pie and a cuppa.

DETAILS: Can't Wait for Christmas celebration, Sunday, December 7 at 5pm, St George's Church, Mackay Street, Thames. Tickets: Adults \$20 at the door, or from Carson's Bookshop. School age children are free.



Artist Impression



A proposed new Waihi Beach Medical Centre

He aha ō whakaaro
Tell us what you think

Primary Health Care (PHCL) has asked Council to lease part of the Beach Road Recreation Reserve so a new medical centre can be built to meet the growing needs of the community. PHCL is a charitable organisation that operates the Waihi Beach Medical Centre on Wilson Road.

Council has agreed in principle to explore this proposal, which will include reclassification of the reserve. However, before a decision is made, we want to understand what you think.

Join the kōrero

Online, wānanga ipurangi – For more information and to provide your feedback, visit:
yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/proposed-new-waihi-beach-medical-centre

Hard copy, pepa māro – feedback forms are available at the Te Ara Mātauranga – Waihi Beach Library & Community Hub

In person, ā kanohi – Saturday 13 December, 10am-1pm, Te Ara Mātauranga – Waihi Beach Library & Community Hub



Feedback closes 11:59pm, Sunday 8 February 2026

Festival fun

It was a celebration of cultural heritage that gathered people from across the motu on November 21 to 22 at the Kerepēhi Marae grounds. People and whānau turned out in droves for the 52nd Hauraki Cultural Kapa Haka Festival, which showcased performances from tamariki (children), rangatahi (teenagers), pakeke (adults) and esteemed kuia and kaumātua (elders). The sound of waiata and haka filled the air while people wandered the stalls, mingled with friends and whānau and celebrated the performances. The Toa Whakaihuwaka (overall winner) on day one for the Hauraki Junior and Open Junior sections was Te Iti o Kakaipo of Paeroa Central School, and the Toa Whakaihuwaka on day two was Te Wharekura o Manaia. Reporter DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA captured some of the powerful performances.



Te Iti o Kakaipo of Paeroa Central School takes the top spot for the Hauraki Junior and Open Junior sections.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Te Kapa Haka Rōpū o Waitakaruru perform.



Te Kura Rāwhiti ō Waihi (Waihi East Primary School) give a strong performance.



A poi performance from Paeroa.



Proud tamariki of Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga.



Waiata rings out for Paeroa Central.



Te Kura Tātahi o Waihi - Teina (Waihi Beach School) gives it their all.



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Andre Rieu's 2025 Christmas Concert (164 mins) G. This holiday season, the magic begins on the big screen. Join André Rieu for his 2025 Christmas Concert – "Merry Christmas" and experience joyful carols.

Twiggy (95 mins) M. Starring Paul McCartney, Brooke Shields, Twiggy, Stella McCartney, Joanna Lumley, Dustin Hoffman, Sienna Miller. An intimate, star-studded dive into the birth of an icon, and everything that followed. A look at the life of the greatest it-girl of all time. Documentary.

The Doors: When You're Strange (97 mins) M. The chemistry of four artists made The Doors one of America's most influential rock bands. With rare footage shot from their formation in 1965 to Jim Morrison's death in 1971. Narrated by Johnny Depp. Features a newly recorded performance of "Riders on the Storm".

Dead of Winter (97 mins) R16. Recently widowed, Barb (Emma Thompson) travels through snowbound Minnesota to scatter her deceased husband's remains. En route she discovers a young girl, kidnapped and held hostage in an isolated cabin. She is the girl's only hope for survival... but at what cost to herself?

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (½-price tickets sponsored by Raine & Horne) (105 mins) PG. The Grinch (Jim Carrey) decides to ruin Christmas for the citizens of Whoville. Joined by his dog, Max, he comes down from his mountaintop home and sneaks into town to swipe everything holiday-related from the Whos.

Wicked: For Good (138 mins) PG. The final chapter of the witches of Oz. Elphaba, now demonised 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.

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.



On the Land

Koi carp a ‘creeping national crisis’

By KELLEY TANTAU

A local catchment group is calling on the government to tackle the escalating koi carp problem in waterways, warning of their serious effects on fresh-water quality.

Mangatangi Maramarua Catchment chair Will Murphy said koi carp - an ornamental species both accidentally and intentionally introduced into the Waikato - were “widespread and entrenched” in their territory.

In 2024 and 2025, the group conducted eDNA testing across six sites in the Mangatangi Maramarua catchment and koi carp were detected at four of the locations both years.

“While koi carp are only one of 16 freshwater species present in our catchment, they are estimated to comprise approximately 80 per cent of the fish biomass in the waterways of the lower Waikato region,” Will said.

“They dominate lower streams and creeks, where they are highly visible.”

Will told *The Profile* the visible impact of koi carp was dramatic; waterways inhabited by the species turned murky brown from suspended sediment.

Koi carp also contributed to in-stream erosion by rooting in banks, destabilising them, and releasing “massive” sediment and phosphorus loads.

“This isn’t just local - it’s a creeping national crisis,” he said.

Andy Loader, chair of The Primary Land User Group, estimated 750,000 tonnes of koi carp infested the lower Waikato alone.

Adult fish - typically 3.5kg at breeding - produced up to 100,000 eggs per kilogram of body weight - potentially 350,000 eggs per female.

“If the government does not get control of the koi carp population, it won’t matter what else is done - we will never improve waterway quality,” Andy said.

He has suggested the government could take actions such as: establishing a formal national koi carp action plan - start-



Koi carp are ‘widespread and entrenched’ in the Mangatangi Maramarua catchment area.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ing with regional taskforces in Waikato/Hauraki; introducing a bounty system to incentivise mass removal by fishers, drain workers, and communities; funding large-scale physical removal pilots in priority catchments; and urgently investing in biological control.

“There is increasing frustration with the lack of any response from government departments,” Will said.

“Koi carp aren’t a side issue - they’re the ‘elephant in the stream’. The science is clear, the public can help, and the solutions exist. We just need political will.”

Will encourages anyone who spots koi carp in a waterway to report the sighting immediately to Waikato Regional Council or a local district council. Include exact location, date, and photos, if possible.

“Every report builds an irrefutable map of the invasion’s scale and forces authorities to confront a problem they’ve long dismissed as too hard,” he said. “The more data, the harder it is to ignore.”

DETAILS: For further information about the catchment group, visit www.mmcatchment.co.nz. For more information about koi carp, see: www.doc.govt.nz.



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On the Land

Record \$437k fine after ‘appalling’ pollution

Rawhiti Environmental Park Ltd has been convicted on eight charges and fined a total of \$437,000 for persistent discharges of raw piggery effluent into the environment between February and October, 2023.

Many of the discharges flowed into streams of the Kaimai Range, north of Te Aroha, Waikato Regional Council said.

The convictions and fine were imposed in the Hamilton District Court on November 20 by Judge Melinda Dickey following a prosecution initiated by the regional council under the Resource Management Act. This was the largest single fine imposed under the RMA in its 34-year history, council said.

Judge Dickey also imposed an Enforcement Order on the company prohibiting any future unlawful discharges and to take certain steps to manage risks to the environment on an ongoing basis.

Between February 1 and October 3, 2023, council compliance officers carried out 50 separate inspections at the large piggery site due to serious concerns regarding the management and disposal of pig effluent. The piggery housed the equivalent of 6500 pigs at any given time, generating large volumes of effluent.

During 26 of these inspections, officers found effluent being discharged from the piggery infrastructure on to adjacent land then flowing into the headwaters of the Patuwahao and Hotahika streams, and on to the Waihou River. The



Discharge at the piggery in 2023, left, contaminated tributary receiving waste effluent from the holding tanks, and dead eel downstream. Photos: SUPPLIED/WRC

council gave the company numerous notices and directions to halt the discharges over this period.

A council ecologist found the affected streams contained relatively diverse fish and macroinvertebrate populations, including at risk species, that would have been severely impacted by the toxicity of repeated effluent discharges, and that highly concentrated faecal and nutrient contamination would have further degraded the Waihou River downstream of the site.

Downstream users of the streams were seriously affected by the ongoing pollution and regularly lost the ability to take water for drinking or

stock watering.

Due to the seriousness of the offending, the regional council took the unprecedented step of applying to the Environment Court for an Interim Enforcement Order in August, 2023, requiring the defendant to immediately cease unlawful discharges and take steps to reduce pig numbers and lower effluent pond volumes.

Three days after the order was granted, council officers responded to a report of another significant discharge of pig effluent into the Patuwahao Stream, requiring warnings to be given to downstream water users that the water was unsafe

to use and posed significant health risks.

“This offending has been appalling,” council regional compliance manager Patrick Lynch said.

“We simply have not had a case this bad before. The scale and frequency of these discharges, the repeated failure by the piggery owner to comply with resource consent and environmental regulation over so many months.

“It was terrible. There was an extreme impact on the environment and community, which has been reflected in the unprecedented level of fine imposed by the court.

“We were literally using every

tool available to us under the RMA to change the behaviour on this property. It was distressing and frustrating for the council staff who were seeing the impacts on the environment each time they inspected the property.”

Council continued to monitor the activities on the site, he said.

“We are very happy to report that there has been much improvement. Though we have had a few complaints regarding objectionable odour coming from the site, their effluent management has generally been far more compliant and there have been improvements made to their effluent infrastructure.”



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On the Land

Students keep Kiwi No. 8 wire spirit alive

BY KELLEY TANTAU

The No. 8 wire ethos is back, and this time it's in the hands of Parawai School's newest makers, who are trading touchscreens for toolbelts under the guidance of the Thames MenzShed.

The collaboration between the school and the Shed started taking shape after Pārawai principal Jordan Palfrey approached the MenzShed to help with their new technology programme.

Now, students aged 10 to 12 years spend three hours a week at the Shed, getting hands-on with product design, manufacturing, and supervised workshop tasks.

Students start by making a serviette holder with the help of a Shed buddy using pre-cut materials, then choose up to three other projects from options including a bread board, stool, hot pot stand, mobile phone stand, cheeseboard, and toolbox.

Programme planning and workshop co-ordinator Tony Winter said he and his fellow members were "confronted very quickly" with the speed and competence with which the students completed each project.

Because they worked so speedily, the students were ready to move on to later projects much earlier than anticipated.

Tony said the No. 8 wire mentality - the Kiwi way of making it work - was emphasised so students could understand there was more to building something decent than



The aim is to have students make practical items while learning to use tools confidently and safely. BELOW: Students learn the basics.

Photos: SUPPLIED

simply putting the bits together.

"I developed the programme around giving the students an introduction to making a useful product, and also to show there was more to a career choice than computers and universities, as trades are some of the more important and rewarding choices as a career," he said.

Member Peter Woodford said the MenzShed team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were all keen to pass on their skills.

"For me, it was very pleasing to see students actually making

something useful - particularly watching students who have never done anything like this before, discovering they have got some practical skills," he said.

"I believe New Zealand is in real danger of losing its No. 8 ethos.

"We cannot stand by and lament its passing if we are not prepared to do our bit and pass on our skills."

Tony said they'll soon begin developing next year's programme with the school, aiming to have students make practical items for their homes while learning to use tools confidently and safely.



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Sophia and Leanne from Walter & Co, Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Merry Christmas from Walter & Co

As the year draws to a close, Leanne and Sophia would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Walter & Co would like to thank our clients for their continued support throughout 2025. It's been another interesting year for us at the salon, having taken time out for a much-needed break to travel as well as recently celebrating the 10th Birthday of Walter & Co Hairdressing, something we're proud of.

In other news - our Shampoo Shop is full of lovely gift ideas, we have a new range from MOR featuring hand creams, diffusers and candles with some beautiful scents.

We also have our signature range of MOR Marshmallow products with hand creams, soaps, body lotions and more - there's something special for your someone special.

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This Christmas, our last business day is December 23, after a break we will be open again on January 13, 2026.

Thank you again. Happy Holidays.

- Leanne & Sophia

12-month prescriptions available

The New Zealand government now allows GPs to write prescriptions for up to 12 months - but not everyone will qualify.

You may be eligible if your condition is stable and your medication hasn't changed. Some patients still need 3-6 monthly reviews to stay safe.

Even if the law allows it, the doctor's job isn't just to write prescriptions. They still need to check in with you regularly and ensure your treatment is right for you, that you're not having side effects, and nothing in your health has changed. It's about clinical responsibility - what's safe and right for you, not just legal rules.

Regular reviews help to catch any changes in your condition early, adjust medications if needed and make sure your treatment is still the best option for you.

Even if you feel fine, your doctor may still need to see you before giving you a longer prescription. Eligibility may be based on: if your condition is stable; you've been on the same medication for a while; you don't need frequent check ups or blood tests; you understand your treatment and take your medication regularly. For example, blood pressure that's working well, asthma inhalers with no recent changes, oral contraceptives with no side effects.

Patients that may require more frequent reviews include those people who: have new or changing medications, need regular monitoring (blood tests), have multiple health conditions, are on medications with higher risks or side effects. For example, diabetics needing blood sugar checks, patients on anti-depressants with recent changes to medications, patients with heart conditions taking multiple medications.

Medications like strong painkillers or sleeping pills are not included in 12-month prescribing. These still require regular reviews, usually every 1-3 months.

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

ACROSS

1 Grin (5)
 4 Unable to move (6,2,3,4)
 14 Hindu teacher (5)
 15 Pigtail (5)
 16 Formal charge of a serious crime (10)
 17 Skilled (5)
 19 Top (3)
 20 Squirm (7)
 21 Warrant (9)
 22 Origin (6)
 25 Censured severely (9)
 27 Financial plan (6)
 28 Licence (6)
 33 Twisting (10)
 35 Pixie (3)
 36 Bacon slice (6)
 37 Temporary settlement (4)
 39 Adversary (3)
 41 Giant, colossal (7)
 42 Swiss city (6)
 43 Went down (9)
 44 Big spoon (5)
 45 Torn up (8)
 50 Proceed (2)
 51 Fish (8)
 55 Coral island (5)
 58 Files a bet (anag)(9)
 59 Floating without steering (6)
 60 Enfolded (7)
 61 Atmosphere (3)
 63 Downfall (4)
 64 Amble (6)
 65 Kind (3)
 66 Brimmed over (10)

DOWN

2 Grinding teeth (6)
 3 Telling fibs (5)
 5 Has (4)
 6 Eulogy (7)
 7 Discourages (6)
 8 Sea (5)
 9 One easily angered to violence (7)
 10 Knife thrust (4)
 11 South American wildcat (6)
 12 Legend (5)
 13 Discover (4,3)
 14 Trouble-maker (7)
 18 Officially secret (10)
 23 Fulcrum (5)
 24 Disease (anag)(7)
 26 Unit of land area (7)
 27 Shaggy-haired animal of North American plains (7)

68 Area (4)
 69 Remove from socket (6)
 71 Triggered off (9)
 76 Looking at (6)
 77 Type of nut (9)
 79 Settle (7)
 81 Hair jelly (3)
 84 Point of view (5)
 85 Fat used for making pastry (10)
 86 Records (5)
 87 Poor (5)
 88 Suffer adversity (4,2,4,5)
 89 Entertain (5)

29 Wander at random (7)
 30 Polish off (6)
 31 Soft hat (5)
 32 Iran, formerly (6)
 34 Prophet (4)
 36 Poised for action (5)
 38 Foot lever (5)
 40 Overly diluted (4)
 45 Up until now (2,3)
 46 Rancid (7)
 47 Obligation (4)
 48 Property (6)
 49 Patriotic (5)
 50 Blatant (7)
 52 Breakfast fare (10)
 53 Pop (7)
 54 Lace hole (6)
 55 Stun (7)
 56 Male duck (5)
 57 Frizzy hairstyle (4)
 62 Lukewarm (5)
 67 Sweet-scented posy (7)
 68 Sail tackle (7)
 70 Illicit sexual relationship (7)
 72 Italian wine (7)
 73 Mystery (6)
 74 Transported (6)
 75 Ousts (6)
 76 Young eel (5)
 78 Scent (5)
 80 Poppy drug (5)
 82 Cure (4)
 83 Leg joint (4)

DOWN: 2 Mortar, 3 Spiel, 5 Trap, 6 Outpost, 7 Greens, 8 Iris, 9 Helmeted, 10 Myopia, 11 Bedraggled, 12 Over, 13 Mascara, 17 Grate, 18 Celebrated, 22 Dwelt, 23 Internal, 25 Octagon, 26 Skyward, 28 Charge, 29 Helper, 30 Sewing, 33 Shown, 35 Thorn, 36 Keen, 37 Talc, 42 Run-up, 43 Milliner, 44 Tramps, 45 Ingredient, 46 Turn, 47 October, 48 Unsure, 49 Evens, 51 Rile, 52 Massive, 53 Ideals, 58 Occurrence, 59 Beard, 63 Doughnut, 64 Issue, 65 Andiron, 68 Habitat, 69 Shrimp, 70 Fresco, 71 Accept, 75 Fetch, 76 Amid, 77 Luge, 78 Tofu.

Paeroa's Quinn meets musical hero

The opportunity doesn't come along everyday where people are able to hang out with their favourite musical artist, especially when the artist is an international superstar.

But that's exactly what happened when Paeroa's Quinn Barker, 27, went along to see Donavon Frankenreiter's "tantalising" performance at the Tuning Fork in Auckland on November 18.

Longtime-fan Quinn told *The Profile* he missed out on the opportunity to see Donavon at Coroglen Tavern in 2018, so as soon as he saw that Donavon was set to take his tour to Aotearoa this year, he said he had to get tickets. “My mum and dad had an original Donavon Frankenreiter CD in the early 2000’s that they would always put in our old school Sony MHC 55 stereo, so I’ve been hooked ever since. His songs are in all my playlists today.”

People might recognise some of Donavon's biggest hits such as blues folk tune *It Don't Matter*, which has accumulated more than 88 million streams on Spotify alone, or *Free* which has gathered more than 139 million streams on the same streaming service.

Both tunes were Quinn's favourite of the performance - "the classics were even better live", he said.

Donavon just “popped up in the crowd next to me” before the gig started, and then the two got to chat after the gig as well, Quinn said.

He was joined on the tour by son Hendrix, and both musicians signed a tour poster for Quinn, which he said would be added to the man cave once it was framed.

"[Donavon] was so chill and I told him he needs to come back to Waihi Beach or perform in raglan as they love surfing."

The music maker told Quinn he wished they could stop off for a surf but they had to



push on to their Wellington show the following day and then the Australian leg of the tour, Quinn said.

But according to the Paeroa man, who attracted a lot of community support and a viral online presence in 2020 for his volunteer clean-up work throughout the Karangahake Gorge - it was a tantalising experience to see and meet the musician he looked up to, he said.

The best part about meeting Donavon, he said, was just seeing him perform and “vibe with the crowd”.

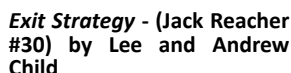
“Having a short yarn with him showed me how good of a guy he is, so genuine and positive which reflects in his music.”

The only disappointment was that Quinn couldn't offer Donavon a taste of home.

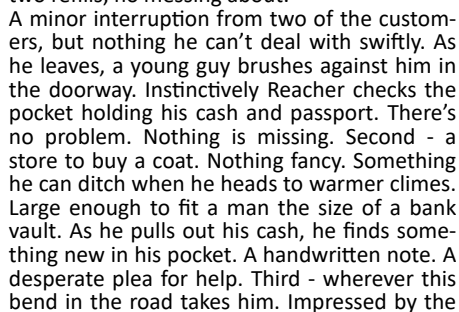
"I was gonna shout him an L&P at the bar but they didn't have any."

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Much loved and recently deceased author Nigel Latta's simple psychological toolkit for life's ups and downs. More than 30 years' working as a clinical psychologist, Nigel Latta assembled a personal toolkit based on three simple principles. These principles helped him to be more resilient, joyful and attuned to what matters most. The same principles have helped him with some difficult times as well, like his own incurable cancer diagnosis. But they also helped him find his way to the woman who became the great love of his life. Full of wisdom for every conceivable conundrum, *Lessons on Living* will show the way through everything from parenting to empire-building, and help you find the strength within you to do the things that need to be done with clear intent and purpose.



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‘Old-fashioned dance’ raises funds for new kitchen

The second annual old-fashioned dance/ social at Tapu Hall was a huge success both in terms of bringing friends and neighbours together and fundraising for a new Hall kitchen, organisers say.

“Tapu Hall isn’t about the building, it is about the community. Having said that, having a sound, solid and serviceable hall is essential and on a rainy October night the Thames Coast community - stretching from Thames to Kereta - turned up in support.”

Over the past 75 years, the Tapu Hall kitchen served hundreds of pot luck dinners, wedding breakfasts and buffet meals. Countless sausage rolls have been served from the pie warmer and thousands of cups of tea have been poured from the big stainless-steel teapots.

However, now it’s time for a kitchen renovation, with the community coming together and generously contributed to the cause.

The queue to buy raffle tickets nearly reached the door, a spokesperson said.

“The prizes were amazing - a fishing charter, artisan-welded sculpture, laundry baskets filled with goodies and fresh produce, and there were items to auction as well.”

The theme of the night was ‘R’ which brought out rodeo queens, rock ‘n rollers,

racing drivers and even a road cone. The door prices were kept affordable so no one would feel left out, yet the generosity of those who attended was unmatched.

“The event was dubbed as being ‘old-fashioned’, but having fun with your community is more important now than ever these days when loneliness is now considered ‘epidemic’ and a major public health concern.

“So it was great to see all ages having a fun night together - dancing to a live band, taking part in contests, and enjoying a delicious supper of everything you would expect at a dance at the hall: mini pies, asparagus rolls, cheese puffs, pizza, sausage rolls and platters of home baked cakes and slices.”

The Tapu Hall is overseen by the Tapu Domain Flat Hall and Community Trust Board, which receives financial support from Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Its Triennial General Meeting was planned for November 20, with all Board positions open for nominations and a chance for people to make suggestions about ways the Hall can serve the community going forward.

DETAILS: For more information, contact Barrie Russek, Ph 021 868 807.



Supporters enjoy the Tapu Hall ‘old-fashioned dance’ fundraising event. Photos: SUPPLIED

Treasury Talks: Christmas in Thames

In the first of a series of Treasury Talks, Althea Loveday will be presenting her talk, *Christmas in Thames – 1900*, which organisers say is not what you would expect.

“The ghosts of Christmases past, or at least ghosts from the year 1900, will be pleased that their story is being retold at The Treasury on December 6 at 2pm”, a spokesperson said.

“The doors open at 1pm, and attendees are invited to browse the Treasury’s full collection of True Tales books and other publications from the Coromandel Heritage Trust, accompanied by background harp music and light refreshments.

“The publications are packed with stories from around the Coromandel and Hauraki

area – there are some stories about ghosts and some about Christmases, but all are written by local authors.”

For anyone who can’t make it to the Treasury Talk but have an interest in finding family or information at The Treasury, the Reading Room is open for research from 11-3pm Wednesday to Saturday with the help of volunteer researchers.

To find out more, book a guided tour of The Treasury and Archive, or volunteer for The Coromandel Heritage Trust, please contact kiaora@thetresury.org.nz. Fees apply to research and tours.

DETAILS: Treasury Talks: Christmas in Thames, December 6 from 1pm at The Treasury, 705 Queen St, Thames. Entry \$5.

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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Church Notices
Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday December 7, 2pm
Grahamstown Hall.
Speaker: Kay Moore & bring a small plate

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Public Notice

Temporary Road Closure

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of the Ngatea Santa Parade event. The following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.
Period of closure: Thursday 11 December 2025, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Road to be closed in Ngātea:
• SH2 (Orchard East Rd) from Kaihere Rd to Darlington St.
Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.
It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure
D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council


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Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Robert Burnside, who found Pete in the November 18th edition in the Brokenshire & Ross advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.



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Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Motorsport Rally Tarmac Sprint event. The following road will be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated below. During the period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.
Period of closure: Sunday 14 December 2025, 7.00am to 6.00pm.
Road to be closed: Rotokohu Road (RP 6.1350 – 7.720)
Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.
It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the period of closure.
D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Fireworks fundraiser debuts with a bang

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

Thames’ inaugural family fireworks show is set to be an annual event, with organisers at Moanataiari School calling it a “huge success”.

Light It Up Thames was held on November 8 at Rhodes Park, to fundraise for Moanataiari School’s new playground.

Around 4000 people attended the gala, which had food, entertainment and stalls, and culminated in a 12-minute professional fireworks display.

School Parents and Teachers Association member Julie White said the feedback from the community was overwhelmingly supportive.

“It was just really cool to see the community out and about and enjoying something within Thames,” she said.

“While the fireworks were going on, I had a young family next to me and I heard the little boy say, ‘oh, this is the best day of my life’. So hearing that and the buzz around town afterwards, I think it was all worth it.”

School principal David Brock agreed, saying several people had contacted the school to express their gratitude and offer further donations towards the playground.

There was some concern on social media about the location ahead of the event, with people worried the site at Rhodes Park was too close to the local SPCA and pony club, and would cause distress to the animals.

But David said the school had carefully considered the location, and had communicated with neighbouring properties ahead of the night. “There aren’t any other venues in town which have access to things like parking, lighting, water supply, electricity, and all the things that you need for a major event like that. Even the sheer space, because we had to have a large exclusion zone because of the fireworks,” David said.

“We couldn’t run it at school because the Ministry of Education won’t let fireworks be displayed on school properties. There’s nowhere else in Thames that is at all [suitable].”

David said the organisers visited the SPCA, pound, and pony club several weeks ahead of the event, and followed up with correspondence.

“We understand the concern of people



Thames’ first fireworks event was a great success, organisers say. Photo: SUPPLIED

who love animals - a lot of us have got pets as well,” David said.

“We tried in every way and we’re mindful of the animals. But in saying that, we’re also mindful that the SPCA is actually closer to venues like the gun club and the airfield where you’re also going to have noise. And our event... with the fireworks display going off, it lasted for 12 minutes.”

The SPCA made a call for volunteers to help soothe the animals during the display, and had music playing and people sitting with each animal over the evening.

The school is now looking ahead to the 2026 event, and is hoping to find community sponsors to help cover expenses.

“We had to invest quite a bit of money because fireworks aren’t that cheap - we’ll end up making probably a small profit, but a lot of it’s gone in outlaying and setting up the event,” David said.

“It was a fundraiser for our playground, but overall, our intention was a community event to bring the community together for a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. And I feel like we’ve achieved that,” Julie said.

The final amount raised had not yet been calculated when

The Profile went to print.



Santa’s on his way

It’s that time of year when Santa hits the streets, bringing excitement and joy to Hauraki-Coromandel towns.

Paeroa Santa Parade and After Party: Friday December 5, 6pm.
Thames Santa Parade and Te Kauaeranga Whānau Day: Saturday, December 6. The parade starts 11am cnr of Cochrane/Pollen Streets. Whanau Day and Prize Giving: Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga (Thames South School), 12 - 3pm.
Tairua Christmas Market with Santa’s Grotto: Saturday December 6, from 9am - 1pm at the Tairua Community Hall.
Waihi Christmas at the Lake: December 7 from 2pm - 6pm at Gilmore Lake.
Ngatea Christmas Parade: Thursday December 11 from 5.45pm - 6.45pm.
Coromandel Town Christmas Parade & Christmas Market: Sunday, December 14, 11.30am. Starts from Coromandel Hotel (Top Pub) and finishes at the Area School.
Matarangi Santa Parade: Saturday Decem-



ber 20, from 11am to 11:30am. Parade starts cnr Matarangi Drive and Fernhill Rise heading towards the shopping centre.
Whitianga Santa Parade: Saturday December 13, Parade starts at 1pm
Whangamatā Christmas Parade and Fair: Saturday December 13 from 11am-4pm. The fair kicks off at Williamson Park from 11am. The Lions Club Christmas Parade follows at the new time of 1pm along Port Rd.

SPORTS

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

Ready, set, go!

The Thames Valley Athletics day on November 21 saw students from all around the region compete in a range of track and field events. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** popped along with a camera and gave it her best shot-put.



Students sprint off for the 800 metre race. Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Hikutaia's Noah King, 10, left, zooms to the finish line.



Mia Kauhou of Miller Ave School releases the shot put, left, while Netherton's Harper Howard, 11, sprints the track.



Rubylee Johnstone, 11, from Mercury Bay Area School clears the high jump.



Alex Edmeades, 8, of Parawai School.



Jemimah Koniferedi of Kerepēhi.



St Francis School's Ambrose Fahey, 8, powers up the shot-put.

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Kaiaua 1177c East Coast Road

Private and elevated with sea views

Rising across the foothills south of Kaiaua, this 56-hectare (more or less) landholding takes in sweeping views over the Firth of Thames and towards the Coromandel Ranges. With no main dwelling, you can shape the setting to suit your plans, with several elevated positions suited to a new build and supported by solid access. The block is balanced for grazing, with practical farm improvements and a dependable spring-fed supply. Weekends can shift between the Hauraki Rail Trail, the Waharau and Hunua Ranges, or time on the water just across the road. A place with scale, outlook, and room to create something enduring.

bayleys.co.nz/2630176

56.9692_{ha}

Tender (unless sold prior)
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96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11-11.45am Wed 3 Dec & Wed 10 Dec
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Connor Davis 027 496 4622
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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

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Puriri 107 Neavesville Road

Outstanding value – \$210k below GV

Privately set with an elevated outlook, this contemporary three-bedroom home delivers a sense of space and ease across 3.2 hectares (more or less). The light-filled kitchen, dining and living area forms a social centrepiece, featuring modern appliances, an island bench and a well-designed butler's pantry. The master suite includes an ensuite and generous walk-in wardrobe, complemented by two further bedrooms and a second living area. Sliding doors open to a generous deck, offering smooth flow and sweeping views. A double garage, shedding, solar power for added efficiency, grazing land and boundary access to a stony-bottom river all add to the appeal of this multi-use acreage.

bayleys.co.nz/2316097

3.2_{ha} 3 2 2

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Waitakaruru 108 Canal West Road

Versatile dairy holding with room to grow

Secure a flat 94-hectare (more or less) dairy unit supplying Open Country Dairy 95,000kgMS for 2025. A well-organised 20-a-side herringbone shed with 16-tonne silo leads a line-up of sheds, haybarns, a stand-off pad and a workshop. Council water, loam-over-clay soils, about 40 paddocks, strong fencing and a central race support steady daily flow. The 1960s three-bedroom home offers solid comfort for an owner-operator or staff. Close to Waitakaruru and Ngatea, with schooling, coast and major centres nearby, it blends productive farming with balanced living.

bayleys.co.nz/2630174

94.9_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 18 Dec 2025
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
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Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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Waitakaruru 165 Canal Road East

Perfect first farm - calling all sharemilkers

A productive 77.4-hectare (more or less) dairy farm with strong Hauraki Plains soils. Its straightforward layout suits a first farm or a steady addition to a wider portfolio. The block is a tidy rectangle in practical paddocks off a central race. Infrastructure includes a 22 ASHB shed (2009), four-bay calf barn, workshop, storage shed, haybarn and a 230-cow feed pad. Water comes from a metered council line, and the flat land holds consolidated peat over clay. The large three-bedroom home offers generous living spaces. Close to Ngatea, services, schooling, coast and bush. Sellers want sold before Christmas.

bayleys.co.nz/2630138

77.4851_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 18 Dec 2025
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Waitakaruru 376 State Highway 25

A well-placed dairy unit with scale and potential

Set across three titles with practical upgrades, this established dairy unit sits in a handy spot close to townships and favoured holiday areas. With the owner ready for their next step, it's well placed for someone to continue a proven operation. The farm spans 97 hectares (more or less) of flat land for efficient, straightforward management. A 20-side herringbone shed anchors the milking system, supported by extra shedding. Water is via metered council supply for reassurance in drier spells. A four-bedroom home keeps you close to the farm's daily rhythm. Just 9.3 kilometres from Ngatea, you're near strong schooling and key agricultural services. The farm will be sold on auction day.

bayleys.co.nz/2630173

97.3_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 18 Dec 2025
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Kereta 1082 Thames Coast Road

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Positioned on an elevated 9,971sqm (more or less) site, this beautifully presented family home enjoys a peaceful, sheltered setting amongst mature trees and landscaped gardens, offering privacy and captivating sea views. The upper level features a master bedroom with an ensuite, second bedroom, and a family bathroom with laundry, while the kitchen, dining, and lounge areas connects to a deck with stunning views and two fireplaces. Downstairs provides a lounge, third bedroom with ensuite, utility room, and a wine cellar. Quality Rimu joinery and renovations by architect Brian Sharp combine timeless character with modern comfort. There are also 20 olive trees on the property.

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New Paeroa mural tells tales of the land

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

Paeroa’s newest mural was officially blessed on November 25, and its name announced as Te Pare o te Waitangi ō Hinemuri.

The colourful mural, depicting the local story of a Māori princess, was painted on the side of the E Ronnie’s Cafe on Corbett St by Wellington artist Regan Balzer over a number of days.

The project was backed by the Paeroa Business Association (PBA) with funding from the Hauraki District Council Public Art Fund, along with contributions from local businesses.

The ceremony was attended by PBA and council members, locals, and business owners, along with the Te Kura Tuatahi o Paeroa, Paeroa Central School kapa haka group, who performed in recognition of the mural’s theme embracing the local stories and worldview of this region’s mana whenua (people).

Whaea Chrissy Te Teira, the school’s cultural advisor, spoke about the mural’s iconography and deeper meaning.

“A lot of what you see on the wall today has come from stories that have been passed down to us... to do with our local or significant sites,” she said.

“This mural represents whakapapa, connections to the landscape and environment, the mana whenua and their relationships to their taiao natural environment.”

Included in the mural are representations of the mountains



Te Kura Tuatahi o Paeroa kapa haka group performs next to the finished mural. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Karangahake and Tapu Ariki; the Ohinemuri River; and the arrival of Ngāti Hako.

A kōtare or kingfisher serves as the guardian of the mural and perches on the pare or lintel depicting the gateway to Hauraki.

Central to the image is the princess, who was separated from

her people and cared for by the taniwhā Ureia.

She represented the ancestors of the people of Hauraki, Chrissy said, along with the knowledge and spirit of the land.

“Literally Te Waitangi ō Hinemuri means the sobbing cries of Hine who had been left behind,

and these tears are the rushing sounds of the river,” Chrissy said.

The mural was also a celebration of Māori women, Chrissy and Regan said.

“O Hinemuri - Hine means female, muri is behind,” Regan said.

“There’s a saying in Te Aō Maori [which] is acknowledging

ngā hāpai o ki muri. Ki muri is the people who do the work behind the scenes because it’s those people who are often unacknowledged that get things happening and get things working.”









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