

# The Valley Profile

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## 38-YEAR JACKPOT

A long-time Paeroa player has finally won the big Lotto prize. KELLEY TANTAU reports

**P**atience has paid off for a Paeroa man who has been playing the same Lotto numbers since the game began nearly four decades ago. Last month, they finally came through.

The long-time Lotto player struck it lucky on Saturday, January 10, winning \$500,000 in First Division after faithfully playing the same ticket since Lotto launched in 1987.

He discovered the win while watching the live draw.

"I knew they were my numbers when they came out because I've played the same numbers for over 38 years," he said, "but I still had to check the ticket about six times."

At first, the man was convinced it couldn't be right.

"My first reaction was that I must have been reading it wrong," he said. "I even had to ask my family to check it - we were all in disbelief."

But once the win finally sank in, the man marked the moment with a glass of champagne.

He said the money won would help his family buy their first home.

The winning ticket was sold at Four Square Paeroa, while another First Division win of \$500,000 went to a player from Ngāruawāhia, whose ticket was purchased at Fresh Choice Ngāruawāhia.

Four Square Paeroa owner Tim Watts said after six years, it was

"about time" that luck had struck again at his store.

The supermarket's last major win was back in December, 2020, making the latest result a long-awaited moment for staff.

"We were super, super stoked," Tim said.

"A few different people had messaged me [the night of the draw] and said, 'do you realise?' and my biggest hope was that it was someone local. It's great to sell a winning one, but it's extra special knowing that it's someone local."

Tim said that while luck did play a part, it was encouraging to see good fortune land locally after a tough period.

"We were

chuffed," he said. "You know, it's luck, but it's cool to know that a bit of that luck showed up here in Paeroa after a difficult few years to be honest. So, we were pumped... and it's a bit of a buzz for people around town."

Though Lotto keeps winners anonymous, Tim said the lucky person was recognised, and was "someone who really deserves it".

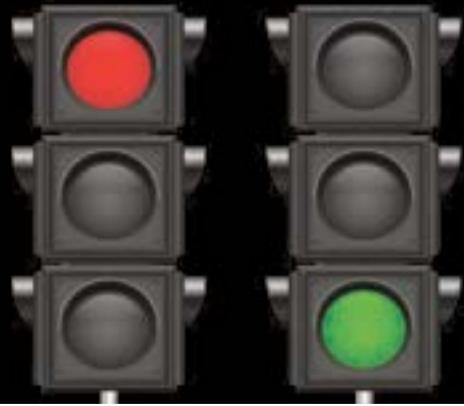


Four Square Paeroa owner Tim Watts said after six years, it was 'about time' that Lotto luck had struck again at his store.

Photo: TERESA MAXWELL

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# Rollout brings healthcare closer to home

By KELLEY TANTAU

Residents of Coromandel Town are seeing improved access to urgent and after-hours healthcare as part of a nationwide initiative to strengthen rural health services.

The rollout of delivering healthcare closer to home for six rural communities nationwide, including Coromandel-Colville, has now been completed, marking the first phase of a government programme aimed at improving urgent and after-hours care across 70 rural locations.

Associate Health Minister Matt Doocey announced the rollout last week, and said access to healthcare remained one of the biggest concerns for people living in rural and remote areas.

"People in rural areas can often travel long distances for care and rely on small teams supporting large regions."

"Already, the first phase shows the difference locally-led approaches can make, with faster care, better access to treatment, and stronger links between rural health services."

Minister Doocey said Budget 2025 invested \$164 million to strengthen urgent and after-hours care nationwide, with the goal of ensuring 98 per cent of New Zealanders can access services within one hour's drive of their home.

Services were piloted in Twizel, Golden Bay, Tūrangi, Te Kūti, Coromandel and Great Barrier Island, with several improvements implemented, including point-of-

care blood testing, allowing clinicians to run key tests immediately without waiting for samples to be transported or sending people to hospital; as well as point-of-care ultrasound, supporting faster decision-making and reducing hospital transfers.

In Coromandel, the pilot began in mid-2025 and is being delivered through the Coromandel Family Health Centre and Colville Health Clinic.

A Health New Zealand spokesperson told *The Profile* the model was already making a difference for the local community.

With three doctors working part-time, and two prescribing nurses, there was also a shared paramedic/Emergency Care Paramedic (ECP) with supporting staff, able to see urgent care patients in clinic while also available to respond to local 111 calls.

"As part of the pilot, existing point of care ultrasound services have been improved with an upgraded ultrasound machine and training for an additional staff member to use the machine."

"Point of care blood testing is also making a difference for the community as it is informing clinical decision making, improving care and reducing unneeded referrals," the spokesperson said.

"A process for additional support for the sharing of ultrasound and x-ray images with remote Health New Zealand clinicians to enable better quality care for patients with fracture management and urgent medical problems is currently being developed and will be implemented shortly."



A Willoughby St home was destroyed by fire on February 5.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

## Paeroa home destroyed by fire

By ALICE PARMINTER

A Paeroa home was destroyed by fire in the evening hours of February 5.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand received a call around 2.39pm, to attend the blaze at a residential property on Willoughby St opposite Paeroa Domain.

Five fire appliances attended the call-out, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) said, along with police and ambulance.

The fire was caused by unattended cooking, a FENZ spokesperson said.

The house had working smoke alarms that alerted residents to the fire, which allowed all occupants to evacuate the

home safely.

"Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand, never leave your cooking unattended," FENZ said.

"We recommend testing all your smoke alarms every month and dusting or vacuuming them every six months."

The home is now uninhabitable, and the family are currently in temporary accommodation.

Donations of food, dog and cat food, nappies, baby wipes, and kids' clothing under five are being accepted at the Carehouse at 21 Willoughby St for the family.

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# HDC NEWS



10 February 2026

## Mayoral Relief Fund

Hauraki District Council, with help from the Government, has opened a Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund to help people affected by the January 21 storm get back on their feet.

Mayor Toby Adams established the fund to support residents facing financial hardship from damage caused by the storm.

"This fund helps our communities through recovery," Mayor Adams says. "We've designed it for people facing real hardship - whether you need help with essential daily needs, debris removal, or costs your insurance doesn't cover."

### Who we can help

We can support Hauraki District residents and ratepayers.

### What we cover

The fund provides one-off hardship grants to affected residents, with priority given to:

- Essential daily needs such as food, accommodation, and utilities
- Additional costs resulting from the storm
- Debris removal from your property if you're uninsured or underinsured
- Support during family or personal crisis
- Costs not met by insurance or other support, including WINZ.

These grants help ease the financial and emotional pressure on you and your family.

### How to apply

Applications close on Friday 27 February 2026.

Pick up an application form from our service centres or public libraries in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngātea, or download the form online at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/mayoral-disaster-relief-fund>



## Protecting Wharekawa Coast's rare ecosystem

A vehicle-free zone is now in place on Wharekawa Coast beach between Pūkorokoro Stream and Huarahi Stream.

This stretch of coastline is one of the rarest coastal ecosystems in the world. The Waharau/Pūkorokoro chenier plain exists in only a handful of places globally, and the Firth of Thames wetlands are internationally recognised for their importance to migratory birds. Shorebirds roost and nest here, and they're most vulnerable to disturbance at high tide. Keeping vehicles off the beach protects these birds during their most critical times.

The vehicle-free zone is now part of our Traffic and Parking Bylaw, enforceable by NZ Police. Emergency vehicles can still access the area when needed. We're installing clear signage soon so everyone knows where the zone begins and ends.

We ask everyone visiting the Wharekawa Coast to help care for this precious taonga by walking instead of driving. By doing this you're helping rare shorebirds thrive, and preserving this coastal treasure for future generations. This helps us protect one of our very special areas in Hauraki.

Scan the QR code to find out more.



Got a great idea for your community?

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

APPLY NOW!

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/community-development-grant>

## Let's grow great things in Hauraki District

Our Community Development Grant is now open for projects that support local business connections, build community pride, and/or make our towns feel even more vibrant.

Assessment dates: 31 March 2026 and 26 May 2026 (if funds are still available).



## Have your say!

### Your Say, Our Services



Survey open 2 - 27 February 2026

We're asking our communities what level of service they want us to deliver across our activities.

BE IN TO WIN

Complete the survey and go in to the draw to win a \$200 grocery voucher.

Pick up a hardcopy of the survey from one of our service centres or scan the QR code to complete the survey online <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/>



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2027-2037 Long Term Plan



## Have your say!

### Dog Exercise Areas in Hauraki District



Survey open 2 - 27 February 2026

Complete the survey and go in to the draw to win a \$200 grocery voucher.

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Upload a photo of your special pooch to be Hauraki's Next Top Dog. Competition open 2-27 February 2026.

Scan the QR code to enter online <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/>



# Waihī home owner asked to leave after increased land movement risk

A Waihī South home has been red-stickered after geotechnical assessments identified high risk of land movement, particularly if the region gets more heavy rain, authorities say.

Hauraki District Council said on February 4 its latest technical advice confirmed the risk to the house had increased and the property was now unsafe to occupy after last month's storm.

"Geotechnical reports show a high likelihood of movement, with rainfall or any further ground movement likely to trigger a potential slip," council said.

"We've advised the resident to leave immediately for safety reasons and will offer temporary accommodation if needed."

"We've been working with the resident since last week, following an aerial review and on-site assessment."

Council said nationally co-ordinated geotechnical specialists were it brought in for the initial assessment, then commissioned an independent assessment.

The second assessment concluded the risk had increased and the property was unsafe to occupy. Other properties across the district remain yellow-stickered follow-

ing the January storm.

A yellow sticker means there may be restrictions on use or access, but it doesn't necessarily mean a property is unsafe to occupy.

"We assess each property individually and continue reviewing risk as conditions and information change. Placarding (the stickers) reflects conditions at the time of assessment. If you notice any changes such as new cracking or movement, let us know so we can reassess. Where new information, further assessment, or weather events show increased risk, we'll reassess properties and take appropriate action based on expert advice."

Council local recovery manager Peter Thom said: "As conditions change or we get more information, we reassess and respond".

"Acting early where risk is high is the safest course of action."

Meanwhile, at the end of last week, Thames-Coromandel District Council's rapid building assessment team had issued nine red placards; 42 yellow placards; and 42 white placards for properties damaged by the storm.



Kurt Waugh, left, with Kylo O'Toole, Alex Johnson, Samantha Pemberton, Isaiah Dougherty. SUPPLIED

## Volunteer army pitches in

The Student Volunteer Army rolled up their sleeves in Waihī Beach, helping flood-affected businesses recover after January's heavy rain.

Five student volunteers from the University of Waikato branch spent a day helping move flood-damaged appliances and gym equipment from the Surf Shack Eatery and Victoria Lemon Transform Today Gym.

Kurt Waugh, Western Bay of Plenty District Council's community resilience advisor, who helped co-ordinate the day, said it was inspiring to see the students helping with the recovery efforts.

"It was great to see the volunteers travel over from Hamilton to help out. They worked alongside some locals to move some pretty heavy, bulky items - it certainly needed a team of people to do it," he said.

"Everyone worked hard. I was really impressed with how it came together and how amazing the student volunteers were."

The students - Zoe Wakefield, Kylo O'Toole, Alex Johnson, Samantha Pemberton and Isaiah Dougherty - worked with staff from the two businesses to load around 18 flood-damaged appliances onto trucks and trailers, along with barbells and exercise machines, so they could be taken to the Waihī Transfer Station.

Surf Shack Eatery owner Pip Coombes gave "big ups" to the student volunteers.

"It was all hands on deck. Between the students, our staff, and Kurt, we got all the really heavy stuff out," she said.

"It was really nice to meet the students and talk to them. They did hard mahi on the day and I really appreciate what they have done."

Gym owner Victoria Lemon was equally appreciative. "The five of them were very enthusiastic and did the best they could to lift very heavy equipment and machinery," she said.

Student Isaiah Dougherty, who is originally from Tauranga, said he "just wanted to lend a hand".

"I saw what was happening at the Mount, and with all the floods, and thought I'd do my small part. It was great - we hauled some fridges and equipment and helped some lovely people out. It made me feel useful to make other people's lives easier."

Zac Isaac, co-president of the Student Volunteer Army University of Waikato, said volunteering was a great way to give back to the community.

"People who sign up don't tend to be people who are just doing it for their CV - they are people who are committed and genuinely interested in helping people."

"We saw what was going on and some of us are from the Bay of Plenty, so it was close to our hearts. We wanted to help."



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# Rubbish causes grief for flounder fishermen

THE OLD POST

## Vintage Valley News

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.

1935

Rubbish had become a menace to the flounder area of the Thames fishing grounds leading to complaints from fishermen at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The Hauraki Plains drainage authorities were requested to stop dumping raupo roots and gorse into the Piako River during drain cleaning operations.

Another trouble was the disposing of hedge clippings and garden rubbish into streams.

These were taken out by the tide and became enmeshed in the fishermen's nets, causing hours of delay.

Boxthorn clippings caught in a net in the Firth had caused serious poisoning to one fisherman. The planned cleaning of the Maukoror Canal at Waitakaruru was also causing anxiety, much trouble being anticipated from this source.

The fishermen asked the chamber to approach the various local bodies asking for their co-operation in helping to keep the fishing grounds free



A Thames fishing fleet.

of rubbish.

At Kopu, a brilliant ruby red meteor was observed at 1.13am by Mr Thorpe, who was on duty on the Hauraki (Waihou) Bridge.

The phenomenon, which was visible for 50 seconds, travelled from south-east to north-west, and went from a ribbon shape to a sphere before exploding. The colours of red and blue were remarkably distinct and constantly changing.

Meanwhile at Paeroa a special effort was made to form a local band. It was to be known as the Paeroa King's Jubilee Band and the instruments would be owned by the Borough Council. A committee, with the Mayor as chairman, was elected to purchase a set of instruments.

The council agreed to contribute £100 toward the cost and liberal donations were promised by businesses and residents. A Paddy's market

would also be held to raise funds, as well as an appeal for further donations.

Sufficient musicians were willing to join the band to ensure a full range of players.

On the Hauraki Plains, lightning did a considerable amount of damage to the Thames Valley Power Board's services. One troubleman had to renew 18 transformer fuses as well as numerous lightning guards.

A transformer on the Kerepēhi block suffered severely, the iron top being blown to atoms.

Rain fell for 24 hours and wide areas of low lying land throughout the district were inundated. Not for many years has so much land been submerged on Hauraki Plains by storm water.

Even on the high ground between Kerepēhi and Kopuarahi large areas were flooded and big drains along the ridge

which had never been filled before were unable to cope with the downpour.

Over at Waihī, the settlement of a miners' strike was met with relief.

A serious dislocation of the mining industry would have practically ruined the town and brought much suffering to the miners and their families, as well as being a severe blow to business.

As the result of the good news engine drivers, shaftsmen, pumpmen and others went on shift in advance of resuming general operations.

Nine horses were taken underground and rock drills and other mining gear which had been removed prior to the strike was replaced.

Waihī suddenly underwent a wonderful cheerful change as compared with the depressed feeling which had so recently existed.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

- Which of these trilogies had an hour-long Christmas special released in 1978, between release of the second and third movies? a) *Back to the Future*, b) *Star Wars* (original series), c) *The Godfather*?
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or Mad Cow Disease is caused by which type of infectious agent? a) Bacteria, b) fungus, c) prion, or d) virus?
- Which character did Rowan Atkinson voice in *The Lion King* (1994)? a) Simba, b) Timon, or c) Zazu?
- In the fairy tale *Thumbelina*, which animal does the title character live with during the winter, after being rescued from the cold? a) A butterfly, b) a field mouse, or c) a small bird?
- Which African country announced a new capital city in 2026, with Ciudad de la Paz taking over from the previous capital city of Malabo? a) Equatorial Guinea, b) Morocco, or c) Nigeria?
- Which cryptid's name comes from the Spanish term for 'goat' and 'sucker'? a) Chupacabra, b) Kongamato, or c) Yeti?
- The Rosetta Stone features text in Egyptian hieroglyphics, Egyptian Demotic script, and which other script? a) Arabic, b) Aramaic, or c) Ancient Greek?
- Parachute was a New Zealand Christian Music festival held annually between 1995 and 2014, in which region? a) Auckland, b) Bay of Plenty, or c) Waikato?
- What colour(s) are Marigold flowers? a) Blue/white, b) white/pink, or c) yellow/orange/red?
- Also known as a "footbag", what was the item pictured below also known as?



A Hacky Sack; 8. (a) Waihī; 9. (c) Yellow/orange/red; 10. (d) A field mouse; 5. (b) Grebeek; 6. (a) Chupacabra; 7. (c) Kongamato; 2. (c) Piako; 3. (c) Zazu; 4. (b) A field mouse; 5. (b) Equatorial Guinea; 6. (a) Star Wars (the original series); 7. (c) Arancet

ANSWERS: 1. b) Star Wars (the original series); 2. c) Piako; 3. c) Zazu; 4. b) A field mouse; 5. b) Equatorial Guinea; 6. a) Star Wars (the original series); 7. c) Arancet

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# Rescue team calls for community support

By ALICE PARMINTER

When a hiker gets lost or injured in the bush, more often than not it's a volunteer who comes to their aid.

The Waihī Land Search and Rescue Team - LandSAR - is one such team of volunteers. Made up of 26 people from around Waihī, Waihī Beach, Whiritoa and Katikati, the team are always on call when an emergency happens.

Now, Waihī LandSAR itself is calling for aid, to ensure it can continue to respond effectively when needed.

The team is fundraising for a new Portacom building, to expand its home base and provide a space for volunteers to train, store equipment, and hold briefing meetings during operations.

Chairman Darren Butler said the group is only around \$8000 short of the \$40,000 needed for the building.

"We've already got one Portacom which is where we run, it's basically a search management base," he told *The Profile*.

"The second Portacom is going to give us a bit more space - field team members can receive briefings before getting out in the field. Rather than having to interrupt the police and operate out of their facilities, it's better just to have their own space ready to go as required."

Extra search management space has become a necessity in recent years as rescue operations embrace new technology, Darren said.

"We're starting to get a bit more technology in respect to live tracking of where our field team members are, so we can get that displayed up on big TVs," Darren said.

"[And] with better cell phone coverage, we're often able to get a location from, say, a lost person, especially in the bush environment. So that's one ad-



The Waihī Land Search and Rescue team needs funds to improve its home base.

Photo: SUPPLIED

vantage of technology - people will be able to get word out that they're either injured or lost, just so long as it doesn't give them a false sense of security. It's certainly no replacement for an inReach or a personal locator beacon. Those are still definitely the recommended things for the outdoor environment.

"The downside is it means that we need more of a permanent base to oper-

ate out of to have the equipment set up."

Waihī LandSAR have already raised most of the needed funds through grants, and event support for things like multi-sport, off-road running, and other outdoor events.

Darren said the Waihī community had always been very supportive, and he's hopeful the team will be able to raise the last few thousand dollars to help keep

the community safe.

"We are a fully volunteer organisation, and any funds and support is gratefully received," he said.

**DETAILS:** See the Waihī LandSAR Give-A-Little campaign at [givealittle.co.nz/cause/every-rescue-starts-somewhere](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/every-rescue-starts-somewhere) to donate. For more information about Search and Rescue New Zealand, visit [www.landsar.org.nz](http://www.landsar.org.nz).

## Get creative HAURAKI

Creative Communities Scheme - Funding for local arts

**FUNDING NOW OPEN!**

**Do you have a creative arts project that needs funding?**

If your project provides creative opportunities for your community; engages with young people (under 18 years) or celebrates and promotes the diverse arts and cultural traditions of your community, then don't delay!

Applications are open to individuals and all ages groups. Download the application form from our website [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme).

Projects must take place between 1 April 2026 and 30 March 2027.

**Applications close 4pm Friday 13 March 2026**

Performers at the Paeroa Contemporary Dance End of Year Show 2025 - Circus Mystique



Hauraki District

**creative**nz  
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### Love the arts?

We're looking for people to help assess funding for the Creative Communities Scheme.

#### Who is needed?

Anyone with a passion for local arts and culture, from any community and any age!

#### What's involved?

Be a part of the selection process by attending assessment committee meetings twice a year in March and September.

#### The Creative Communities Scheme

Each year Creative New Zealand provides Creative Communities Scheme funding to local and district councils throughout New Zealand to distribute in their area. The scheme supports more than 1,800 projects every year.

#### Interested?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact the CCS Administrator for Hauraki District Council at [info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 734 834.

**To learn more go to**  
[www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/  
community/grants-funding/  
creative-communities-scheme](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme)





This year's Rotary Paeroa Car show will feature a burnout competition for the first time.

File Photo: TERESA MAXWELL

## Burnouts, engines on display

By ALICE PARMINTER

Petrolheads will be lining up to visit the annual Rotary Paeroa Car and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet, on February 21 at the Paeroa Domain.

This year's event will be a spectacular motoring extravaganza, organisers said, as a vast array of vintage, classic and V8 cars, trucks, pickups, hot rods, bikes, caravans, and other interesting vehicles fill the Domain grounds.

The show will also feature a burnout competition/showcase for the first time, sponsored by

House of Custom New Zealand. Committee member Connor Schween said the burnout will feature five to 10 motorcycles competing on a purpose-built trailer, and will be a highlight of the day.

The Car and Motorcycle Show combines two separate Rotary events of previous years, the Vintage and Classic Car Show and the V8 Show, and also includes the popular Swap Meet, where sellers will showcase a diverse range of automotive parts, memorabilia, and collectibles.

Food, market stalls, displays,

demos, raffles, and entertainment from local band The Vintage Rockers will round out the offerings, committee member Margarete Ford said, with all the money raised going back into Rotary Paeroa's community initiatives.

"Last year we ran out of room [for vehicles] so we're hoping for that again," she said. "It's going to be bigger and better."

**DETAILS: The Rotary Paeroa Annual Car and Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet 2026, February 21, 10am-3pm, Paeroa Domain. Entry \$5 per person or \$10 per vehicle, under 15 free.**



## Pet Profile

# Say hello to Cookie - your next best friend

**C**ookie is a six-month-old white pup with faint black spots and a smile that will melt your heart. He's desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and up to date with flea and worm treatments. Playful and full of energy, Cookie loves treats, toys, and adventures.

He's a playful, happy dog who loves getting involved and is always up for a bit of fun. He responds beautifully to plenty of positive affirmation, making him a joy to spend time with and continue training. Cookie enjoys being active and would love a home where he can head out on adventures, explore the

world, and share special moments with his people.

That said, he's just as happy to switch off at the end of the day. Looking for a happy, loyal companion? Cookie could be the perfect addition to your family. Come meet Cookie at Thames SPCA during our open hours, or call 07 868 6830 to arrange an appointment.

Be sure to check out our fantastic new Facebook page to follow all the exciting things happening at Thames SPCA.

**DETAILS: To apply for Cookie or for more information, please visit [www.spca.nz/adopt/animal/657813/dog-cookie-thames](http://www.spca.nz/adopt/animal/657813/dog-cookie-thames).**



Meet Cookie, a playful, happy dog who's always up for a bit of fun.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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**Wuthering Heights** (136 mins) M. 2026 film. A passionate and tumultuous love story set on the Yorkshire moors, exploring the intense and destructive relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw.

**Mārama** (89 mins) RP16. Mary, a young Māori woman, is summoned from NZ to Yorkshire. She becomes the governess at Hawkser Manor under Sir Nathaniel Cole, who made his fortune in the South Seas. Cole speaks Te Reo and insists he can help her. But the walls of his home are hung with Māori taonga, and by night Mary finds herself haunted by memories that are not her own.

**The Choral** (113 mins) M. Starring Ralph Fiennes. 1916. With war on the Western Front, a Yorkshire choral society has lost most of its men to the army. The choral's committee decides to recruit young males and a new chorus master to swell its ranks (despite their suspicions that the chorus master has something to hide). As conscription papers start to arrive, the community decides to make music together.

**Nuremberg** (148 mins) M. The Allies, led by an unyielding chief prosecutor, have the task of ensuring the Nazi regime answers for the unveiled horrors of the Holocaust while a US Army psychiatrist is locked in a dramatic psychological duel with former Reichsmarschall Herman Göring (Russell Crowe).

**Hamnet** (126 mins) M. From Academy Award® winning writer/director Chloé Zhao, HAMNET tells the powerful love story that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. Award winner.

**Song Sung Blue** (132 mins) M. Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to follow your dreams.

**Next week: Fackham Hall** A spoof that crosses Downton Abbey with Flying High and Monty Python, it follows a lovable pick-pocket as he lands a job at a unique English manor house.

## Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

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# Back to pen and paper in the age of AI

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to flood online platforms with computer-generated music, a Waihi-based songwriting workshop is encouraging musicians to reconnect with human creativity.

Led by facilitator Liam Ryan, Air Sculptures Songwriting Workshops are returning for a second year, offering a four-evening course where songwriters can develop their work as a personal creative practice.

Ryan said the workshops provided an opportunity to engage in lyric-writing and composition, as well as "explore the process of songwriting from first thoughts right through to a finished song".

Ryan, a professional musician, composer, and music educator, was motivated to run the workshops after seeing "the tidal wave" of songs being released online using AI.

"With tens of thousands of songs being generated online each day, the craft of real songwriting is being buried.

"AI is a disrupter in the same way punk was in the 1970s - even non-musicians can make pretty good-sounding music now," he said.

"I guess I am old school. In the Air Sculptures classes we look at AI as a creative tool. But the basic process of picking up a pen and paper and writing a lyric is still something I really enjoy as a daily practice."

Ryan said the course "demystifies" song types, and teaches how to capture first thoughts, use narrative devices, and marry music and lyrics.

Last year's course had 18 attendees and culminated in a sold-out concert of



Tutor Liam Ryan discusses lyrics with songwriter Alice McConnochie.

Photo: SUPPLIED

new original songs.

The 2026 course is suitable for beginners as well as pro-level writers, poets, and musicians, and is filling fast.

"I will run a smaller class this year. It's a great opportunity to collaborate with like-minded people in a structured envi-

ronment. Bring a guitar or other musical instrument, pad and pencil, iPad or tablet, phone and your great creative ideas. It's fun!"

**DETAILS:** Air Sculptures classes begin on February 17 in Waihi. Contact Liam Ryan: [liamryan@torchmusic.co.nz](mailto:liamryan@torchmusic.co.nz).

Try it first, then decide

## OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

You know that thing you hate and swear you'll never do... but you've never actually given it a real go?

I used to say I hated running. Why would anyone do such a thing? That's exactly how Grace felt too. Until she read my book and decided to challenge herself. She started running. She trained hard. And just recently, she smashed out a half marathon.

Turns out she didn't hate running. She just hadn't tried. What she did hate, was the idea of running.

I see it with my kids all the time. We're big on dinner around the table—it's part of our rhythm. And every now and then, one of them will look down at what's dished up and instantly say, "Yuck, I don't like this."

"But you've never even tried it," I reply.

In our house, if it's on your plate, you give it a go. No arguments. And the funny thing is, more often than not, they'll taste it, wrinkle their nose... and then by the end, they're polishing it off.

It's a simple but powerful lesson: try first, decide after. Especially when it looks yuck, feels scary, or seems hard. Because discomfort is often just the doorway to discovery.

It's the same with going to the gym, starting a business, building a rhythm, even drinking coffee. So many of the things we enjoy now were once things we said "never" to. So what's that thing you've written off without giving it a fair crack?

Maybe it's time to stop judging from a distance, and step into it.

Because on the other side of that "yuck" feeling... there might just be a whole new part of yourself waiting to be unlocked.

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 [michaelwilkes.kiwi](http://michaelwilkes.kiwi).

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*On the Land*

## Effluent discharge results in large fine

Dairy farming company Pukeko Place Farms Ltd has been convicted and fined \$52,500 for unlawfully discharging dairy effluent into the environment on a farm it manages at Kinleith, South Waikato.

The fine was imposed by Judge Sheena Tepania following a sentencing hearing in the Huntly District Court in May, 2025.

Her decision was released on January 23 as a result of a prosecution taken by Waikato Regional Council under the Resource Management Act.

In May, 2024, council officers inspected the 240-cow dairy farm, which is owned by a family trust and managed by the defendant.

At the time, the farm was operating a sump-only effluent system with no effluent storage infrastructure. This meant dairy shed effluent had to be irrigated onto land daily, regardless of weather or soil conditions.

On the day of the inspection, council officers observed significant ponding of dairy effluent on already saturated soils.

The ponding resulted from overnight irrigation using a stationary irrigator and was in breach of the Resource Management Act.

"Following a council inspection in 2018, it was identified that the farm's old earthen effluent ponds required upgrading," council's acting regional compliance



A council officer samples ponded dairy effluent.

Photo: SUPPLIED

manager Evan Billington said.

"Instead, the defendant chose to decommission the ponds and rely on a high-risk sump-only system, rather than invest in fit-for-purpose effluent storage that would allow the farm to meet its environmental obligations.

"Effluent management on this farm fell well below accepted dairy industry standards. The offending was entirely foreseeable and placed an unfair burden on the contract milker who was left to manage the system," he said.

In sentencing, Judge Tepania described the offending as "highly careless - an accident waiting to happen, particularly given the weather conditions in the Waikato". She went on to state that there was "a clear lack of responsibility shown by the defendant by essentially allowing the farm to operate with inadequate infrastructure for financial reasons. That also tends towards a real want of care".



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## On the Land

# Federated Farmers warns of 'water tax' risk

Federated Farmers says while it supports the intent of the government's resource management overhaul, a deep dive into the draft legislation has revealed some serious concerns.

Most concerning are provisions allowing freshwater rights to be auctioned, tendered, or levied - effectively enabling freshwater to be taxed, Federated Farmers RMA reform spokesperson Mark Hooper says. "It's not an exaggeration to say we were alarmed when we read clauses in the Natural Environment Bill that give future Ministers sweeping powers to tax water to manage demand," he said.

"There is no way on earth Federated Farmers can or will support that. I'll be seeking urgent clarification from the Beehive, because any reform that allows water taxes by stealth is completely unacceptable to us."

In December, the government released the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill to replace the Resource Management Act. Hooper said Federated Farmers staff spent the past eight weeks working through the detail.

"It's important to state up front that Federated Farmers is completely on board with the aims of the reform," he said.

"The promise of a stronger focus on property rights, a tighter scope, fewer resource consents, more standardisation and less litigation all sound like the reset farmers have been calling for."

"But as we've worked through the detail, it's become clear that there are parts of these bills that do not align with those aims at all."

Hooper said the risk of water taxes was not the only concern. As currently drafted, the new system may be more permissive where environmental limits are comfortably met, but significantly more restrictive where a catchment is at or near its limit.

"Councils often set limits that aim to maintain current water quality levels, so this could mean many catchments are immediately at or beyond environmental limits from the outset."

"As the Natural Environment Bill becomes more restrictive as catchments approach those limits, that could actually mean more resource consents for farmers as the bills are currently drafted."

"This is on top of requirements for all farmers to also have a Freshwater Farm Plan."

"Federated Farmers supports a shift to a farm plan approach, but only if it replaces, rather than sits

alongside, the need for a resource consent."

Another area of concern was the wording around when councils must compensate landowners for loss of property value, he said.

The organisation welcomed the government's earlier commitment to compensation when restrictive overlays - such as Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Significant Natural Areas - were imposed on farms but it was more uncertain than expected.

Another major concern was that Water Conservation Orders remain largely untouched, despite being an outdated planning tool.



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# Funding a lifeline for trust

When Barb Ritchie found out she'd secured funding from Waikato Regional Council to offer freshwater and marine conservation programmes to schools in the Coromandel Peninsula, she burst into tears.

"I think, being an old person, I get scared that the kids don't know what they've got to lose," she said. "But when I see them able to go through these programmes, and the ones that really pick it up and go on to make it their life, I have faith again."

Barb is a trustee and the secretary of The Friends of Whanganui o Hei Marine Reserve Trust. It was set up in 2010 to fundraise for educational opportunities around the Cathedral Cove-based marine reserve, and is the regional provider for two programmes developed by the Mountains to the Sea Conservation Trust.

The programmes - Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) and Whitebait Connection (WBC), immerse children in marine and freshwater conservation and catchment restoration, with hands-on learning at the marine reserve and streams and rivers.

Barb said thousands of children from Coromandel and Hauraki schools had been through the programmes before Covid-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle hit, disrupting the trust's delivery over five years from 2020. "We've really struggled to get funding since," she said. "To be perfectly honest, when my husband and I came home from overseas and I opened the email about the funding, I just burst into tears."

Friends of the trust was one of 15 community projects to receive a grant from council's Environmental Initiatives Fund this year, receiving \$36,000 to support EMR and WBC for two years, from grants totalling \$478,557 overall.

Barb said the funding was to support 20 schools to take part in each programme over two years.

For EMR, year 1-8 students, accompa-



Students explore Gemstone Bay as part of the programme.

Photo: SUPPLIED

nied by parents and caregivers, will get to go snorkelling at a reef outside the marine reserve before venturing into the fully protected area to compare biodiversity and ecosystem health.

"I've seen some of the kids who have taken part before grow up to become marine biologists and that is pretty cool," Barb said. "EMR has also changed some of the local attitudes about marine reserves. If you look after the sea, you are going to get bigger fish. It's a marine nursery area; fish don't know where the reserve is."

The WBC programme, offered from early childhood to year 8, focuses on native freshwater fish, particularly whitebait species, and teaches kids about life cycles, habitats and threats, and includes stream

health assessments such as macroinvertebrate (bugs) sampling, native fish surveys, water quality testing and monitoring whitebait spawning habitat.

"Afterwards, they're encouraged to take action in their own communities, so become advocates for conservation and sustainability."

Barb said the trust was addressing the declining health of freshwater and marine environments. "Our key issues are pollution, sedimentation, habitat degradation, and a general lack of public understanding about the interconnectedness of our waterways and oceans," she said.

"We need more people to understand and want to get involved in looking after the water from the mountains to the sea."

## Skin graft needed

By Dr Johanneke Waller



Fern is a 13-year-old English Springer Spaniel that came to see us because she had a lump growing on her foot. The lump was the size of a dove egg, and it was starting to ulcerate because Fern was constantly licking it.

The lump needed to be removed, but because of its size, it would leave quite a big open wound. There is no "extra" skin on the foot, so it would have been impossible to close the surrounding skin over the big wound.

If we had left it open, it would have taken a very long time to heal and would have been at risk of infection and other complications.

We decided to do a skin graft. During the procedure, we removed a piece of skin from Fern's chest because the area had a lot of loose skin. We then prepared our graft by removing all the fatty tissue and punching holes into it.

This prevents fluid from building up under the graft and enables tissue from the wound bed beneath to grow through the small holes and "accept" the new skin. The prepared graft was sutured over the open wound, and the wound on the chest, where the graft was harvested from, was also sutured closed. Antibiotic cream and a light covering bandage were applied.

Then came the stressful time of waiting... would the fragile piece of grafted skin be accepted at the new site, or would it die off and leave us with a big open wound anyway?

We changed the bandage every five days, and luckily, the tissue on Fern's foot sent lovely little blood vessels into our grafted skin, and it "survived," providing a beautiful new covering over the big open wound.

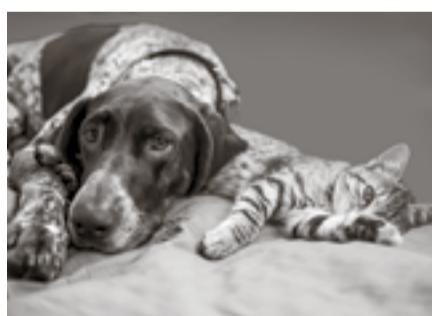
Fern was a model patient and never chewed at her bandage or played in the mud with it! A pathologist checked the lump and found it to be a benign growth, which was completely removed and should not cause Fern any further problems.

- Dr Johanneke Waller is a Veterinarian at Franklin Vets Paeroa



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- Dale Muir

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# JOIN A CLUB

*It's a good time of year to start looking around the community for groups to join and new activities to try out.*

## PAEROA TENNIS AND SQUASH CLUB

The club organises a lot of activities, but there is plenty of time for members to use the 11 tennis courts and two squash courts for their own games and practice. Club membership is for both squash and tennis facilities. Great value, great for fitness, great fun and all weather.

## HAURAKI SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Beginners are welcome to head along to the Hauraki Thames Scottish Country Dance Club as there is no experience necessary. For anyone wanting to try something new, pop along to the Thames Band Room on Queen St, Thames, on February 12 at 5:15pm for the club's first dance night of the year.

## ROTARY PAEROA

Rotarians value service to their community just as much as the friendship and fellowship that comes from being part of a group like this. Rotary Paeroa is made up of a wonderfully diverse mix of people - including an antique dealer, veterinarian, engineer, basketball coach, farmer, artists, retirees, a nationally renowned psychologist, and even the local chimney sweep. Despite this rich variety, there's always room for more - especially those best described as good, community-minded sorts who want to make a difference while enjoying great company along the way.

## MARAMARUA RUGBY CLUB

Our RuaNorth boys were a force to be reckoned with as U19s, and 2026 will see them step it up a gear to compete in the U21 comp. Our unique partnership as a combined RuaNorth team crossing over two rugby unions was very successful and this will continue



Paeroa Society of Arts



Thames Amateur Swimming Club



Maramarua Rugby Club



Rotary Paeroa's V8 event.

giving these boys a home at both clubs - Maramarua & Hauraki North Rugby Clubs Age group rugby is a great avenue to give school leavers (and club players) a stepping stone to Senior Men's rugby. Welcoming all new players who are keen to join us for the 2026 season!

## PAEROA GOLF CLUB

Paeroa Golf Club is dubbed the little gem in the Valley. The club surprises most visitors with its pleasing views and rural location. The membership is a collective mix of retired ex-local business couples and more recently, younger members, with the Longridge Village attracting newcomers to Paeroa. People are welcome to join in the nine-hole group on Tuesdays along with the 18-hole ladies group. The men's section plays on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Head over to the Paeroa Golf Club and give them a trial visit.

## WAIHĪ RSA

The Waihī RSA is a place to connect with others over a coffee, a drink at the bar or a delicious meal. It's a great time to pop in and try out the brand-new menu too, with fresh flavours, classic favourites and great value meals. Come in, grab a seat and enjoy the food the team has worked hard on. "We can't wait to serve you."

## PAEROA SOCIETY OF ARTS

It's a great time of year to begin a new craft or rekindle an old one with our art and pottery groups held on Tuesdays and a couple of evenings at the Paeroa Arts Centre. If you're curious to explore more of the art world and to make like-minded friends, then come in and see us at the gallery. We're open 10am to

3pm everyday when the flags are out.

## LIONS CLUB OF NGATEA

Our club has been involved with the Hauraki District Council providing some of the seating being placed around our Hugh Hayward Domain. We also work together with HDC and Hauraki Plains College celebrating the annual Day of the Older Person. Street appeals for Braille week and Daffodil Day also use Lions Club members.

## THAMES HAURAKI DANCE THEATRE

Feel like trying something new? Come along to our adult contemporary dance and adult ballet classes. It's a fun, friendly and inclusive environment for people who are wanting to branch out. Dance is proven to offer numerous physical, mental, and emotional benefits. It can improve cardiovascular health, increase strength and flexibility.

ity, and enhance balance and co-ordination. It also boosts mood, reduces stress and anxiety and even enhances cognitive function. Why not give it a try?

## THAMES VALLEY DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

TVDA has outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone - in addition to our excellent range and shooting facilities; we have twilight clay targets and archery each Thursday night that the public are welcome to attend. Club nights, with a wide range of speakers, happen on the last Wednesday evening of each month - once again; everyone is most welcome. Each year TVDA runs a fantastic Hunter Training Course (HUNTS) - this course is an amazing kick start or chance to upskill on your hunting and outdoor safety techniques.

## HAURAKI CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Hauraki Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is a trusted community resource, providing free, confidential, and impartial support to individuals navigating life's challenges. Whether it's tenancy issues, legal rights, financial hardship, or accessing essential services, Hauraki CAB ensures people have the information and guidance they need to make informed decisions.

## THAMES AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Thames Swimming Club is all about fun, skill, and team spirit. From development squads to national-level swimmers, we help everyone improve, compete, and achieve their best. Swimmers have the support and opportunities they need, from race night and club champs to exciting events like Junior Festival and Division II Championships at the end of Feb. If you haven't tried swimming yet, come to our Have a Go Day on March 8 and jump in for some fun in the pool.

# NGATEA SPORTS CLUB

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Contact  
Club President: Luke O'Neil  
027 404 3492  
ngatearugbysportsclub@gmail.com

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## Ladies Come and Play Golf

HAURAKI Golf Club

Hauraki Golf Club  
crn SHW25 & SHW2

Ladies meet Tuesdays @9am for 9 or 18 holes.

If interested ph club: 078673197 or Claire: 0274957910

Clubs and some coaching available at a time suitable to you.



Regular events at the RSA are as follows:

- Pool Club on Wednesday nights 5:00 - 9:00pm
- Bingo on Thursday nights 7:00 - 9:30pm
- Club night on Fridays 2:00 - 10:00pm (Entertainment last Friday of each month)

#### Restaurant Times

Wednesday 5:00 - 9:00pm ▪ Thursday 5:00 - 6:45pm (bingo after this)  
Friday 5:00 - 9:00pm ▪ Saturday 5:00 - 9:00pm

The club is available for catered functions.

RSA membership supports local veterans who have been in service for the country and the Royal NZRSA who advocate for all NZ veterans.

67 Belmont Rd, Paeroa - 07 862 7226 - paeroarsa@xtra.co.nz

## THAMES SWIMMING CLUB DEVELOPMENT & SQUAD

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SIGN-UP BY 31 MARCH

AGES 4 - 13

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Tennis and squash can be played all year around.

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To maintain a friendly, social and competitive club environment from which to continue to promote tennis and squash to juniors and adults alike. We aim to retain existing members and also encourage new members to join. We will also provide high quality tennis and squash facilities available to all members of the local community since 1923.

For all enquiries, Contact Bruce Nicol 021 781 560



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CONTACT GLENDA 027 487 3008 OR NGAHUIA 021 122 5571

### Lions Club of Ngatea 61 years serving the community of Ngatea and Hauraki Plains



- We organise and run a Free Family Fun Day March 8th 2026 – a great time with no costs to those attending
- Annual Cancer Support Morning Teas mid- year raise funds for Local Cancer Support as well as the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton
- The club's longest running project is a November Woodchop with firewood deliveries to pensioners in our area
- We support Ngatea town's Christmas Parade event
- Youth in our area can also receive our support for their sport and cultural activities

Contact for our club on [ngatea.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz](mailto:ngatea.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz)



### IT'S A GREAT TIME TO GET INVOLVED AT THE



### PAEROA SOCIETY OF ARTS A community based arts organisation.

- The Gallery displays our own local Members Art and Crafts for sale.
- Exhibitions by local and guest artists each month.
- Our 100 year old building is home to our working art room and pottery studio.
- Classes for Pottery and Art run each week in our specialized Artroom and Pottery Studio.
- Society members host and take part in a vast variety of courses, workshops, and creative meetings to express their art medium together with like-minded people.
- Membership is open to all
- Additional workshops are held throughout the year for members and non-members alike.

The art room is available for hire.

109 Normanby Rd, Paeroa

Contact: [paeroartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:paeroartsociety@gmail.com)

Galleries are open when the flags are out.

# VOLUNTEER with the HAURAKI CAB



Hauraki Old Post Office Building  
101 Normanby Road, Paeroa  
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As a member you can make new friends, and reconnect with former comrades.

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Contact The Waihi RSA on  
07 863 8860 or Email: office@waihirsa.co.nz

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alternating between Manawatu & Hauraki North Rugby Clubs  
or for more info contact Carl 027 742 7081



**ROTARY PAEROA**

Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Paeroa Rotary fundraises around \$30,000 a year for the Paeroa Community.

**JOIN US** - Help make a difference in your community.

We meet every fortnight at the Paeroa RSA.

**Annual Youth Opportunities**

- Rotary National Science and Technology Forum (Year 12)
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award (Age 20-26)
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (Year 10)
- Outward Bound (Ages 16-18)



**Enquiries**

rotarypaeroa@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryPaeroa/>

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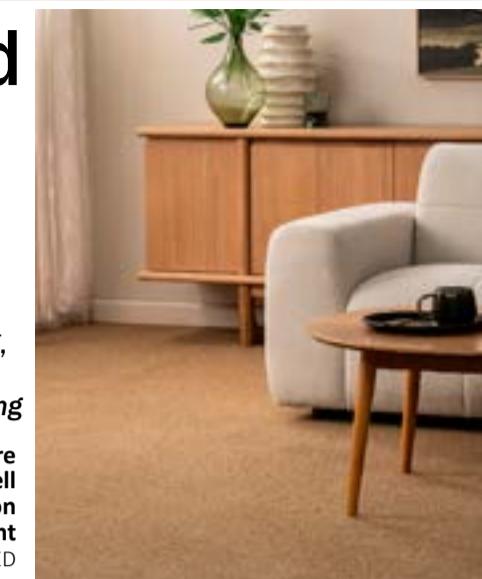
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RIGHT: Owens Flooring has in-store stock special ranges of carpets, as well as exciting new ranges of both solution dyed nylon carpets and 100 per cent wool carpets. Photo: SUPPLIED



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HOME HANDYMAN AND COMMERCIAL HIRE



Perrin Newland of Thames Hire Centre is ready to help find solutions.

Photo: NIKKI SANDERS

## Excellent service at hire centre

Thames Hire Centre is a one-stop shop for trailer and equipment rentals in the Hauraki-Coromandel region.

Owner Perrin Newland has the community covered for all access, concrete, cleaning, and renovation equipment, building tools, generators, excavators and of course trailers.

"We cater for the smaller commercial hire and DIY sort of people," he said. Perrin has been operating the business for five years with help from his wife Natasha, and was focussed on delivering good customer service

and building a good reputation, he said.

Visit [thameshire.co.nz](http://thameshire.co.nz) to see what equipment is on offer or pop in to the centre and chat to Perrin.

"We're open from 7am to 5pm during the weekdays and 7am to 12 on Saturdays.

"We offer a weekend deal where you can hire something at a day rate for the whole weekend," he said.

**CONTACT:** Thames Hire Centre, Jellicoe Crescent, Website: [thameshire.co.nz](http://thameshire.co.nz), Email: [hire@thameshire.co.nz](mailto:hire@thameshire.co.nz), Ph 07 868 9350.

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Driving out weeds  
at Driving Creek

The Driving Creek Railway Arts and Conservation Trust has secured \$17,680 in funding from Waikato Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund to support targeted environmental weed control at the iconic Coromandel site.

The funding will help protect and enhance one of the peninsula's most distinctive conservation and tourism landmarks - a regenerating native forest built around a narrow-gauge railway north of Coromandel Town.

Driving Creek Railway was the brainchild of potter Barry Brickell, who began building the original narrow-gauge track back in the late 1970s to transport terracotta clay to New Zealand's first wood-fired stoneware kiln - which he also built himself.

When he bought the land, the site had been subjected to more than 100 years of kauri logging, gold mining and farming. Along with his ceramic art and railway-building, he had a grand vision to restore the land to what it might have looked like in pre-colonial times, planting more than 27,000 native trees, from kauri and totara to kōwhai and miro.

The grant allows specialist contractors to target priority environmental weeds across 40ha of indigenous podocarp-broadleaf forest in the Driving Creek catchment.

Driving Creek conservation manager Dr Kate James said the project aimed to reduce

infestations of invasive weeds, including climbing asparagus and Taiwan cherry, with a particular focus on kahili ginger.

"Infestations from environmental weeds like wild ginger directly impact regenerating native forests by smothering and replacing the native understorey species and seedlings," she said.

"Volunteers working in the catchment... have made great progress controlling the ginger through regular 'ginger bash' events."

The work builds on the trust's local partnerships, while the funding boost meant they could cover a greater area and target more invasive weeds. "Barry had a grand vision to restore the native bush to its former glory," Kate said, "and, today, we continue to honour his legacy by making sure the native biodiversity here can thrive."

Driving Creek is one of 15 projects that received a share of the \$478,557 in EIF funding provided by council during the 2025/26 funding round.

Senior biodiversity officer Kate Pepper said the fund was about "enhancing ecological outcomes" at sites like the Driving Creek catchment by supporting communities to preserve and restore the region's unique native biodiversity.

Projects may apply for up to \$40,000 each from the EIF funding pot, which is allocated annually.



One of many 'ginger bash' events at Driving Creek.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



Members of A Friends Place Music Club perform at the Waihi Library in December. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Harmony returns to library

Live music will return to the Waihi Library this week when A Friends Place performs a Valentine's-themed set in support of Hato Hone St John.

The group has been invited back to perform on Tuesday, February 10, from 11am to 12.30pm, with donations collected on the day once again going to Hato Hone St John, helping support ambulance restocking and depot supplies.

The upcoming performance follows a successful Christmas-time appearance at the library on December 16, where musicians and singers from A Friends Place spread festive cheer with carols and popular favourites.

"It was magical, with passers-by joining in the happy mood with the music group, library staff and St John staff," Lesley

Fairthorne, from A Friends Place, said.

"Thanks to donators, our first event raised \$77 for St John, and I am always amazed at our musicians and singers who volunteer their time and talent for enriching our community - what fabulous people they all are."

A Friends Place is a local music club made up of singers and musicians of all ages, with a growing focus on public performances that support local causes.

The group sees donors as collaborators in this new venture, emphasising that every contribution helps make a difference.

**DETAILS:** A Friends Place performing at Waihi Library, Tuesday, February 10 starting at 11am until 12.30pm, with donations going to Hato Hone St John.

## CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notice	Grazing	Trades	Public Notice	Situations Vacant	Public Notices
<b>SIMMONS, Hilda Florence:</b> Peacefully at Moana House, Whangamata on Friday 6th February, 2026; aged 108 years. Loved wife of the late Vivian, cherished Mother and Mother-in-law of John and Marie, and Jenny (deceased) and Brian. Adored Grandmother of Scott and Kylie, Gerrard and Jaimee, and Great-Grandmother of all her great-grandchildren. A service to celebrate Hilda's life will be held at 103 Short Road, Whangamata, on Saturday 14th February, at 12noon. All welcome. Communications to: mariesimmons@icloud.com	<b>Heifer grazing</b> available. 26 / 27 season. Komata. Phone Keith Trembath MNZM 07 862 6833  <b>Handyman</b>  <b>An experienced</b> handyman covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com  <b>Land Wanted</b> <b>Wanted to Lease/Rent</b> land while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015	<b>FENCING CONTRACTOR</b> Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices <i>Call Matt 021 1727 148</i>	<b>HAURAKI RSA MEMORIAL CLUB INC</b> An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in the RSA Clubrooms Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7pm Purpose of meeting: Approval of Draft Constitution. S.Armstrong - Secretary  <b>Painters</b>	Do you have a <b>LOVE</b> for all things vintage, retro and collectable, an eye for detail, and can work weekends?  We have a casual position coming up for a reliable, great with people sales assistant to join our team at The Shed & Co in Paeroa. If you have an eagerness for style, flair and customer service and a genuine interest for the history of pre-loved items, then you belong with us!  We are looking for someone with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A passion for vintage</li><li>• Retail experience</li><li>• Friendly, energetic, well presented team player</li><li>• Diligence</li></ul> Hours approx. 14 - 26 per week (includes weekends)  How to apply: Send us an email to <b>theshedco66@gmail.com</b> with your previous experience / references and why you're a perfect fit. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted.	<b>Temporary Road Closure</b> 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 Highland Games and Tattoo event, the following roads 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.  <b>Period of closure:</b> Saturday 14 February from 6.00am to 6.30pm.  <b>Roads to be closed in Paeroa:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Willoughby St, from intersection of SH26 (Arney St) to intersection of Corbett St.</li><li>• Mackay St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St.</li><li>• Hall St, from intersection of SH2 to intersection of Willoughby St.</li><li>• Corbett St, from intersection of Albert St to King St.</li><li>• King St - entire length.</li></ul> 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 proposed period of closure. Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 27 February 2026. D A Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council
<b>For Lease</b> <b>Yards</b> for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	<b>Wanted To Buy</b>  Small Aluminium dinghy up to 10 FT, must be in good condition. NO trailer wanted. TEXT OR PH 0211387860	<b>Builders</b>  <b>Reno's</b> , decking, fencing. For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559	<b>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</b> Over 12 years experience, interior/exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312	<b>Handyman Services</b>	<b>Due to our membership growth we are looking for an experienced bar manager and bar person to work at the Ohinemuri Club in Paeroa. Approximately 20 hours per week and must be able to work Saturdays. Please email CV to the Manager <a href="mailto:ohinemuricloud@xtra.co.nz">ohinemuricloud@xtra.co.nz</a> or drop it into the club.</b>
<b>For Sale</b>  Round solid wood table, 7 chairs, \$300 ono. Ph 027 335 0476	<b>Storage</b>  <b>STORAGE</b> <b>KOPU, PAEROA</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage <a href="http://www.safestorage.co.nz">www.safestorage.co.nz</a>	<b>Storage</b>  <b>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b> 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&C's apply <b>021 67 67 99</b> <a href="mailto:info@totalstorage.co.nz">info@totalstorage.co.nz</a>	<b>PAPER RUNNERS</b>  We have a vacancy for paper runners in Ngatea and Waihi. Immediate start...  <b>Please contact Geoff:</b> <a href="mailto:admin@valleyprofile.co.nz">admin@valleyprofile.co.nz</a> <b>for more information.</b>	<b>We are looking for 2 mechanics to join our team.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:miles@hpmotors.co.nz">miles@hpmotors.co.nz</a> or ph 027 227 1121 for a chat.	<b>Cook - Part Time</b> Thames Bowling Club is seeking a person to fill the role of cook at the club on Friday nights. For more details please phone Paula or Karl 07 8686107 or 027 916 1284.
<b>Gardening</b>  <b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659	<b>Storage Unlimited</b>  25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944			<b>Advertise with the paper that is being read</b> <b>Valley Profile</b> <b>P: 022 130 3885</b>	<b>Proposed Temporary Road Closure</b> 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 Waihi Warm Up Party for Repco Beach Hop 2026 event organised by Go Waihi it is intended to close the following roads to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.  <b>Period of closure:</b> Wednesday 25 March 2026, 6.00am to 3.00pm.  <b>Roads to be closed in Waihi:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SH2 (from Seddon St/SH2 intersection to Kenny St intersection)</li><li>• Seddon St (from School Ln/SH2 intersection to entire Seddon St)</li><li>• Gilmour St (from Kenny St/SH25 intersection to Seddon St)</li><li>• Muller St (from property no. 3 Muller St to Seddon St roundabout)</li><li>• Haszard St (from property no. 24 to Martha St)</li><li>• Moresby Ave (from property no. 80 to SH2 roundabout).</li></ul> 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 proposed period of closure. Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 27 February 2026. D A Speirs Chief Executive Hauraki District Council

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Contact Nikki Ph 022 130 3885

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*The Valley Profile is delivered weekly to every letterbox in Ngatea, Waihi, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast, plus bulk distribution around the Coromandel Peninsula. Find us online at [www.valleyprofile.co.nz](http://www.valleyprofile.co.nz) or download the Coromandel App on your smart phone.*

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## SUDOKU

237

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

9	7	8		2	3			
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EASY

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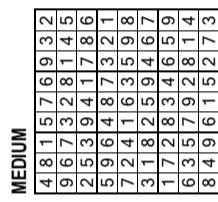
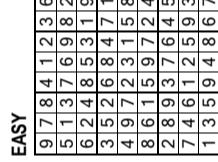
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HARD

237

HARD


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EASY

## JUMBO CROSSWORD

257

**ACROSS**

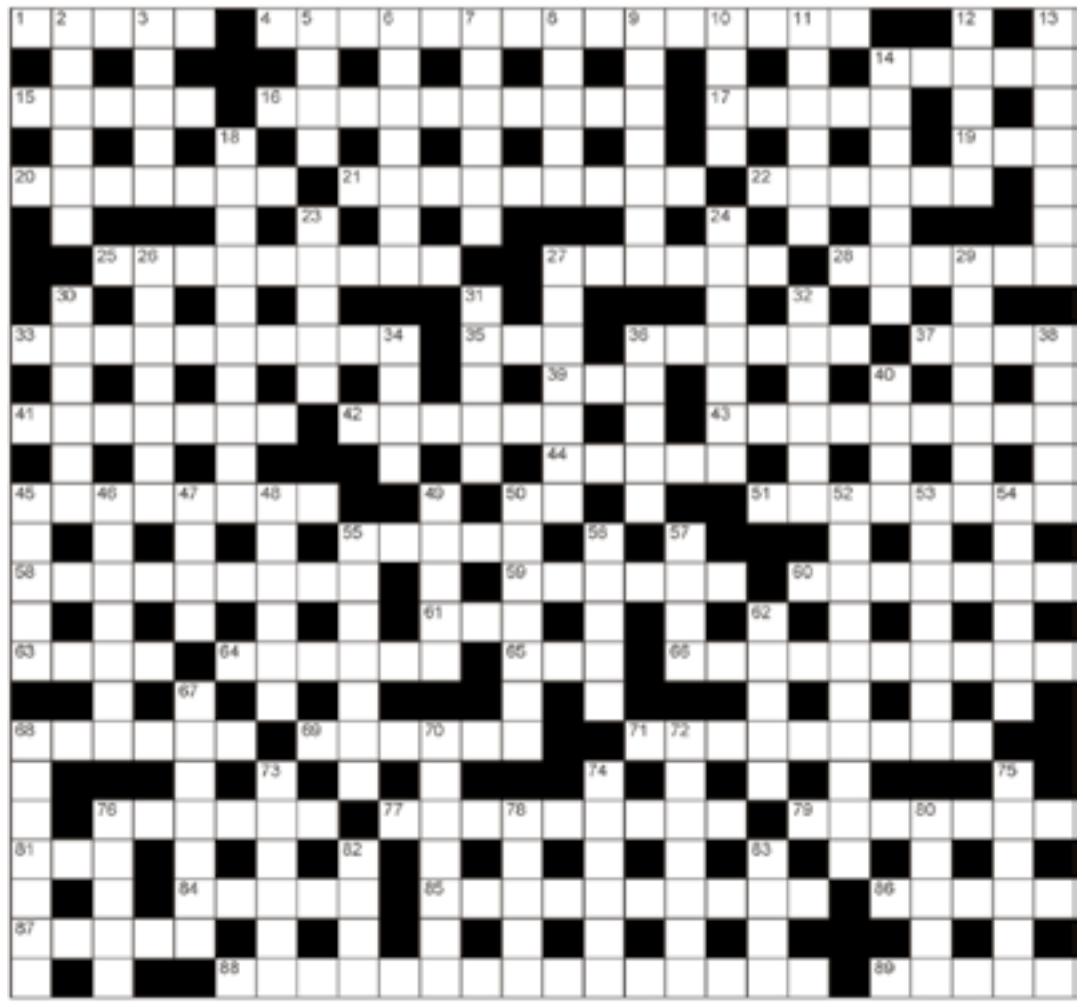
1 Group of birds (5)  
 4 Desert a friend in difficulties (5,2,3,5)  
 14 Municipal (5)  
 15 Children (5)  
 16 Obstreperous (10)  
 17 Mistake (5)  
 19 Bite (3)  
 20 Zero (7)  
 21 Trembling motion (9)  
 22 Purpose (6)  
 25 Deputy (9)  
 27 Summary (6)  
 28 Funeral vehicle (6)  
 33 One actively involved in government (10)  
 35 Peppery (3)  
 36 Courtroom panel members (6)  
 37 Pull up (4)  
 39 Large bird (3)  
 41 Argument (7)  
 42 What follows (6)  
 43 Pirate (9)  
 44 Flexible, supple (5)  
 45 Slimy act (anag)(8)  
 50 Sixth note (2)  
 51 Column base (8)  
 55 Leg support (5)  
 58 Made clear (9)  
 59 Ring (6)  
 60 As a rule (7)  
 61 Floor covering (3)  
 63 Caprice (4)  
 64 Admit defeat (4,2)  
 65 Decline (3)  
 66 Large juicy gourd (10)

68 On land (6)  
 69 Signal light (6)  
 71 Sugared (9)  
**76** Formerly Formosa  
 77 Newness, originality (9)  
 79 Smudged (7)  
 81 Regret (3)  
 84 Commerce (5)  
 85 Annoyance (10)  
 86 Investigation (5)  
 87 Bisect (5)  
 88 Use unfair tactics against (3,5,3,4)  
 89 Witty (5)

**DOWN**

2 Class (6)  
 3 Squash (5)  
 5 Wicked (4)  
 6 Rendition (7)  
 7 Tainted (6)  
 8 Unexpected development in a storyline (5)  
 9 Visually offensive thing (7)  
 10 Exploited (4)  
 11 Compassionate (6)  
 12 Incident (5)  
 13 Ceremonial staff (7)  
 14 Spreading plant (7)  
 18 Infection-killing drug (10)  
 23 Blemish (5)  
 24 Undress (7)  
 26 Small piece cut off (7)  
 27 Kneecap (7)

29 Withdrawal (7)  
 30 Send word (6)  
 31 Small tree (5)  
**32** Sage (6)  
 34 Poverty (4)  
 36 Military faction in power after a revolution (5)  
 38 Danger (5)  
 40 Bogus (4)  
 45 Tropical parrot (5)  
 46 A language (7)  
 47 Wading bird (4)  
 48 Very sour-tasting (6)  
 49 Cut corners (5)  
 50 Reading stand (7)  
 52 Prudently and with wise self-restraint (10)  
 53 Cat breed (7)  
 54 Flowering (6)  
 55 Stuck (7)  
 56 Buy off (5)  
 57 Imperfection (4)  
 62 Direct (5)  
 67 Performer (7)  
 68 Lawlessness (7)  
 70 Friendly (7)  
 72 Laundry vessel (7)  
 73 Spiced dried sausage (6)  
 74 Grab rudely (6)  
 75 Spoken (6)  
 76 Relates (5)  
 78 Drinking tube (5)  
 80 Less common (5)  
 82 Flavouring plant (4)  
 83 Deceive (4)


**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Obese, 4 Alfresco, 9 Divert, 14 Broke, 15 Gulliver's Travels, 17 Comma, 18 Rag, 19 Rejoice, 20 Magnesium, 21 Unclad, 24 Initiated, 25 Astral, 26 Touchy, 29 Adaptation, 31 Lip, 32 Hatred, 33 Bump, 35 Eye, 37 Opus, 39 Indonesia, 40 Spectator, 41 Rogue, 42 Gardener, 47 Besmirch, 51 Users, 55 Eavesdrop, 56 Promising, 58 Seem, 59 Tie, 60 Disc, 61 Angina, 62 Ace, 63 Hypothesis, 66 Modest, 67 Ghouls, 69 Architect, 72 Asleep, 73 Menagerie, 75 Library, 77 Tad, 80 Turns, 81 Error of judgement, 82 Raise, 83 Breaks, 84 Annoying, 85 Faced.

DOWN: 2 Boulevard, 3 Salvo, 5 Lure, 6 Retract, 7 Stained glass, 8 Overs, 9 Disgust, 10 Vice, 11 Romany, 12 Board, 13 Lengthy, 14 Balloon, 16 Vaccination, 22 Tidied, 23 Lactose, 24 Imposed, 25 Appear, 27 Counter, 28 Serene, 30 Nuns, 32 Hedge, 34 Porch, 36 Stem, 38 Pea, 42 Greed, 43 Revised, 44 East, 45 Errand, 46 Vesta, 48 Sightseeing, 49 Inspect, 50 Cue, 51 Upright, 52 Speaks, 53 Dodecahedron, 54 Nigh, 57 Impair, 64 Ignorance, 65 Isolate, 66 Mystery, 68 Useless, 70 Chiefly, 71 Terror, 72 Admit, 74 Aorta, 76 Rumba, 78 Asia, 79 Ruin.

# BAYLEYS



**Kaiaua** 551 Kaiaua Road

## Land, income & potential with iconic views

Offered to the market for the first time in over 100 years; a lifestyle and landholding opportunity where rural beauty meets coastal charm. Set on 40ha (more or less), the property offers expansive views across the Firth of Thames to the Coromandel Ranges. Around 20ha of well-fenced rolling pasture is complemented by approximately 20ha of established native bush. Elevated areas provide multiple premium building sites with stunning panoramic outlooks. Currently leased, the land offers immediate income or the option to manage stock yourself. Just five minutes from Kaiaua village, enjoy rural privacy close to fishing, local amenities and the coast. A versatile property - view today!

bayleys.co.nz/2630187

40.989 ha

**Auction** (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 26 Feb 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 11-11.30am Wed 11 Feb, Wed 18 Feb & Wed 25 Feb or by appointment

**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937

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**Pipiroa** 1944-1982 State Highway 25

## Two homes and two titles – options abound

Flat in contour, this 81.6ha (more or less) holding spans two titles with 360-degree views to the eastern and western ranges. A versatile block suited to grazing, investment, or a future home base. Regular in shape with extensive road frontage, fertile clay soils and strong pasture growth with limited reliance on nitrogen fertiliser. Both titles include a central race, metered water reticulated to troughs, and 47 paddocks. Fencing is 7-wire post and batten with 2-wire electric, with SH25 frontage largely 7-wire, ideal for finishing sheep or calves. The 42ha title includes a 1910s four-bedroom villa and shedding, while the 39ha title offers a three-bedroom 1960s home, gardens, and shedding.

bayleys.co.nz/2630182

81.61 ha

**Tender** (unless sold prior)

Closing 3pm, Wed 25 Feb 2026

**View** by appointment

**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Sam Aislaby** 027 429 5410

sam.aislaby@bayleys.co.nz

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**BAYLEYS**



### Maramarua 36 and 70c Maxwell Road

#### A well-established Maramarua dairy holding

Positioned in the heart of Maramarua, this established dairy unit spans 121.3 hectares (more or less) and delivers a practical balance of scale, infrastructure and liveability, suited to reliable production and progressive management. Gently rolling contour supports an efficient dairy platform, centred around a 25-aside herringbone shed with generous yarding for smooth herd flow. Supporting infrastructure includes multiple implement sheds and a substantial half round barn for machinery and feed storage. A well-maintained three bedroom home provides comfortable accommodation. Well-formed raceways and dependable water reticulation support effective pasture use.

bayleys.co.nz/2630200

121.3614 ha

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 5 Mar 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 11am-12pm Wed 18 Feb

**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Sam Aislaby** 027 429 5410

sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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### Mangatarata 428a State Highway 27

#### New year in the country starts here

Ready to swap city life for a country New Year this summer? This family home on 7,802sqm (more or less) offers generous open-plan living, with a spacious kitchen and dining area for easy entertaining. Featuring a large master, two double bedrooms, and a family bathroom with bath and separate shower. A large laundry adds practicality, with extra buildings on site. Enjoy sweeping farmland views from the patio - ideal for summer BBQs and laid-back outdoor living. In the golden triangle, close to Hamilton, Auckland Airport and Ngatea, plus schools and amenities nearby. Waihi Beach is an easy day trip. Motivated vendor - act now!

bayleys.co.nz/2630195

7,802 sqm 3 1 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 5 Mar 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 4-4.30pm Sun 15 Feb

**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622

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# BAYLEYS

## NEW LISTING



Boundary lines are indicative only



**Thames** 155 Maramarahi Road

## Two dwellings – endless options

Set on 3.5200 hectares (more or less) just minutes from Thames township, this well-established lifestyle property offers flat, usable land with beautiful rural views. The spacious main home features three bedrooms, multiple living areas, and a seamless outdoor flow to a sunny deck and landscaped grounds. A separate one-bedroom dwelling adds income, or family accommodation. Infrastructure includes an internal access double garage, an additional double garage with workshop, two garden sheds, stables and a tack room. The flat paddocks offer practical grazing with shelter for horses or stock.

Opportunities like this so close to town are increasingly hard to find. Call today!

[bayleys.co.nz/2180852](http://bayleys.co.nz/2180852)

4 3 3 4

**Auction** (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 26 Feb 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

[glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz)

**Maddy Aislaby** 027 780 4389

[maddy.aislaby@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:maddy.aislaby@bayleys.co.nz)

M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

## NEW LISTING



**Thames** 6 Teretiu Drive

## Totara Palms Gem - Auction or prior

Set in one of Thames' most sought-after locations, this beautifully presented low-maintenance brick-and-tile 192 sqm (more or less) four-bedroom home sits on an easy-care 823 sqm (more or less) section, offering space, comfort, and security in a tightly held neighbourhood. The layout includes two separate lounges and four generous bedrooms—including a master with walk-in robe and ensuite—while the main bathroom with separate toilet ensures ease of living. Renovated kitchen and bathrooms feature modern finishes and excellent storage throughout, complemented by two air-conditioning units for year-round comfort.

[bayleys.co.nz/2180913](http://bayleys.co.nz/2180913)

4 2 2 2

**Auction** (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 5 Mar 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Pippa Jackson** 027 747 7000

[pippa.jackson@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:pippa.jackson@bayleys.co.nz)

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**BAYLEYS**

**NEW LISTING**



**Whitianga 67 Joan Gaskell Drive**

**Shape the outcome**

- 2,201sqm (more or less) landholding
- Lease in place
- Existing improvements onsite included

Presenting an add-value commercial opportunity on 2,201sqm (more or less) with an existing building, sealed access and site improvements. The property is currently leased, with the tenant indicating a desire to exit, offering scope for repositioning or alternative use (subject to approval). Suited to investors or developers looking to shape the next outcome.

[bayleys.co.nz/2202164](http://bayleys.co.nz/2202164)

2,201<sub>sqm</sub> 74<sub>sqm</sub>

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 2pm, Thu 19 Mar 2026

1030 Victoria Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865

[josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz)

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**NEW LISTING**



**Thames 515 Pollen Street**

**Backed by a bank**

- Secure income with proven tenant
- Internal configuration to suit tenant
- Strategic regional location

515 Pollen Street is a two-level commercial building leased to Westpac Bank, delivering secure, established income with defined medium-term certainty. The property returns \$76,755 pa + GST & outgoings, with the tenant having renewed its lease in December 2025 for a further three years, extending occupation through to 2028. Completed strengthening works further support the building's ongoing commercial use.

[bayleys.co.nz/2180813](http://bayleys.co.nz/2180813)

819<sub>sqm</sub> 529<sub>sqm</sub>

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 2pm, Thu 19 Mar 2026

1030 Victoria Street, Hamilton

**View** by appointment

**Josh Smith** 027 229 8865

[josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz)

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Plein' exciting art competition to debut

By ALICE PARMINTER

A new art competition is aiming to showcase the heritage and beauty of Thames, through live, outdoor painting.

Participating artists will create their work "en plein air" - outdoors - in what organiser Laurie Spera thinks might be the first competition of its kind in New Zealand. "This kind of format exists in other countries," she said.

"I'm French and I remember participating in one of them as a teenager - it was one of the most enjoyable experiences I've ever had as an artist."

Laurie's aim is to bring attention to the thriving art scene in Thames, as well as introducing the public to the joy of plein air painting. "It is shaped as a competition, but I'm trying to create more of an atmosphere of fun.

"The point is to create an event to get people together, get people creating together, [with] something interesting for non-artists to come and observe."

The event will take place on a Saturday, providing artists with plenty of inspirational locations to choose from, including Grahamstown, the main street, the Thames Markets, and the waterfront. Artists will meet at Vessel Art Gallery in the morning to retrieve their entry packs, before dispersing around the town.

They can create their works from any medium they choose - acrylic, oils, watercolour, dry



Artist Laurie Spera is excited to introduce Thames to the art of "plein air" painting. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

mediums like pastel or pencil, or mixed media. Stamped canvases and watercolour paper will be provided, and must be used for the entry piece. "I'm trying not to restrict people's process on how they want to do this. Especially for the kids, I've opened that because they might just want to use crayons and pastels, and they might not know how to use watercolor well, or acrylics, and I want them to be able to come and draw, if

they want to."

Throughout the day, passersby will be encouraged to walk around and observe the artists at work.

The works must be finished on the day - artists will return their finished piece to Grahamstown Hall, where they will be immediately placed on display for judging and a silent auction. Pieces will also be up for sale, with 80 per cent of profits going to the artist and the remaining 20 per cent

going to Laurie to cover costs and prepare for next year's competition.

Interest in the competition has been high, with a dozen people already signed up. "Hopefully I'm going to get a few teenagers in - it's an amazing experience to go through as a teenager," Laurie said. "When you show a sketch or a finished drawing, people say, 'that's nice'. But they see you in the street, actually painting, it



changes the way they look at you. And that's what I remember being transformative for me. Before, I was just splashing paint around. And after, I was an artist, I was exhibiting alongside professionals in this little competition."

Laurie, who runs the Creativity Room in Thames and also tutors art at the Hauraki Lifestyle Trust, said there was still plenty of space for entrants and encouraged everyone to give it a try. "It is free - you just need to have a bit of paint at home. You don't have to be a professional," Laurie said.

"I am very much hoping to create a little bit of a bond between artists around Thames. I would like to see some beautiful paintings of the beautiful Thames, I want to place Thames on the map in the art world."

**DETAILS:** Register by February 20 at [the-creativity-room.com/paint-out](http://the-creativity-room.com/paint-out).



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