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QUEUE-TASTROPHIE

Drivers faced hour-long waits through the Karangahake Gorge as repairworks continue, with lane closures expected for months. KELLEY TANTAU reports

Drivers travelling through the Karangahake Gorge on March 8 faced delays of more than an hour as roadworks and traffic management slowed State Highway 2, with a crash at the stop-go site on Sunday causing further long queues. Disruptions are expected to continue for up to three months while repairs are carried out along the highway.

One traveller heading back to Paeroa from Tauranga told *The Profile* that traffic had already backed up well before the work site on the Sunday afternoon. "When we hit the tail-end of the queue, I looked on Google Maps, which estimated 55 minutes to get through the gorge. I considered going around Kōpū-Hikuai, but I had snacks in the car so decided to sit and wait."

Another said they were "pretty close to Waikino Tavern" when they joined the line of traffic.

"It was a bit of a surprise considering how far away we were from the roadworks, so we knew we'd be waiting for a while. A few people treated the downtime as a moment to hop out for a stretch."

The traveller said it took a little more than an hour to get through the works.

On social media, commenters reported up to 400 cars stuck in the queues and claimed police were called to deal with the backlog; however, NZ Police could not confirm this.

Waikino Hotel manager and Kaimai Brewing distiller Wayne Chowles

said the extended wait times had "certainly dug" into the business.

"A lot of folks on the Mackaytown-Karangahake side just can't be bothered to ride through, and people stuck in a queue won't give up their place, so we are losing from both sides," he said.

"The financial impact is significant, especially when combined with the closure of the rail trail.

"People are pretty over the wait time, especially when there are two or three stop/gos on the same road, just 500m apart."

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi journey manager Andy Brosnan acknowledged drivers experienced significant delays through the gorge and apologised for the disruption and frustration caused.

"While temporary traffic management was in place to support ongoing works, traffic did not flow as smoothly as anticipated," he said.

"We have identified improvements to our traffic management plan, which are already in place to mitigate the chances of this happening again.

"These include changes to how stop/go operations are managed and monitored during busy periods."

CONTINUED ON P2



Travellers waited for over an hour to move past the roadworks in the Karangahake Gorge on March 8, prompting an apology from NZTA. Photo: SUPPLIED

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You shake your hands and then you put them under here for a bit and then you walk out drying them on your pants.

Explaining how things are really done.

Weight restriction for bridge

By ALICE PARMINTER

Structural damage has been found on Waitawheta Bridge No.1 in the Karangahake Gorge, prompting Hauraki District Council to temporarily reduce its maximum permitted vehicle load to 30 tonnes.

The special inspection took place in February, as part of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's investigation into whether the bridge, which crosses the Ohinemuri River, could handle 50 tonne vehicles and therefore be a viable detour route for State Highway 2 through Waikino. The original weight restriction on the bridge was 44 tonnes.

However, during the last day of visual inspection and testing, spalled (breaking away) of concrete exposing reinforcement was identified in one of the central beams.

A safety-based approach was recommended by the report presented to councillors on March 11.

"It was noted that the beam [has] lost all or partially lost its post tensioning. Given



The location of the damage on Waitawheta Bridge. Photo: SUPPLIED

that the bridge has been operating without any further distress... it is assumed that the bridge is able to operate by distributing the load well to the other non-defective beams," the report said.

"However, due to the potential loss of the full beams post tensioning, it is recommended... [to] temporarily reduce the maximum per-

mitted vehicle loading to a gross load of 30 tonnes."

Signage will be installed in the coming weeks, and the council will notify trucking companies and affected users.

A further report is being prepared for the council's May meeting to discuss options for the future of the bridge.

Months for SH2 repairs

CONTINUED FROM P1

The repairs follow severe weather events on January 21 and 22 that caused significant damage at multiple sites along SH2 through the Karangahake Gorge. Repairs are already underway at three sites, with a further six sites identified where work will be required.

Lane closures will be needed at each location, with work being "carefully sequenced and neighbouring sites tackled at the same time to minimise traffic disruption", the transport agency said.

These repairs are expected to take up to three months to complete.

"Our team is working at speed to carry out repairs and we expect to have work completed at three of those sites within the next two weeks," Andy said. "However, work on the further site - which is down at river level - will take longer, and the lane closure will need to remain in place until that work is completed."

NZTA is advising motorists to allow extra travel time through the Karangahake Gorge, plan journeys outside peak periods where possible, and follow all on-site signage while the repairs are underway.

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Thames Tides

Wed Mar 18	Thu Mar 19	Fri Mar 20	Sat Mar 21	Sun Mar 22	Mon Mar 23	Tue Mar 24
<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 1:17am 0.8 1:37pm 0.7 7:32am 3.2 7:53pm 3.2</p> <p>7:19am 7:33pm</p> <p>Best At 12:11am 12:34pm</p> <p>Rise 5:59am Set 6:59pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 1:59am 0.6 2:22pm 0.5 8:15am 3.4 8:37pm 3.4</p> <p>7:19am 7:32pm</p> <p>Best At 12:57am 1:20pm</p> <p>Rise 7:07am Set 7:25pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 2:41am 0.5 3:06pm 0.4 8:58am 3.5 9:21pm 3.5</p> <p>7:20am 7:30pm</p> <p>Best At 1:44am 2:08pm</p> <p>Rise 8:16am Set 7:51pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 3:23am 0.4 3:50pm 0.3 9:42am 3.6 10:05pm 3.6</p> <p>7:21am 7:29pm</p> <p>Best At 2:33am 2:58pm</p> <p>Rise 9:28am Set 8:20pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 4:07am 0.4 4:35pm 0.3 10:28am 3.6 10:50pm 3.6</p> <p>7:22am 7:27pm</p> <p>Best At 3:25am 3:52pm</p> <p>Rise 10:42am Set 8:54pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 4:53am 0.4 5:22pm 0.3 11:16am 3.6 11:37pm 3.6</p> <p>7:23am 7:26pm</p> <p>Best At 4:20am 4:50pm</p> <p>Rise 11:57am Set 9:35pm</p>	<p>4 am 6 NOON 6 pm am 6 NOON 6 pm</p> <p>Morning 5:43am 0.5 12:05pm 3.5 6:10pm 0.4</p> <p>7:24am 7:24pm</p> <p>Best At 5:20am 5:51pm</p> <p>Rise 1:12pm Set 10:26pm</p>

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MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	HIGH Hr	LOW Hr
Coromandel	-0 04	-0 03
Whitianga	-0 01	-0 06
Tairua	+0 10	+0 20
Whangamata	-0 03	-0 06
Waihi Beach	-0 21	-0 16

‘Strange’ case of rocks on railway line

By KELLEY TANTAU

A “strange” discovery on a local miniature railway line has raised concerns about vandalism and the potential for serious damage after rocks were deliberately placed across the tracks.

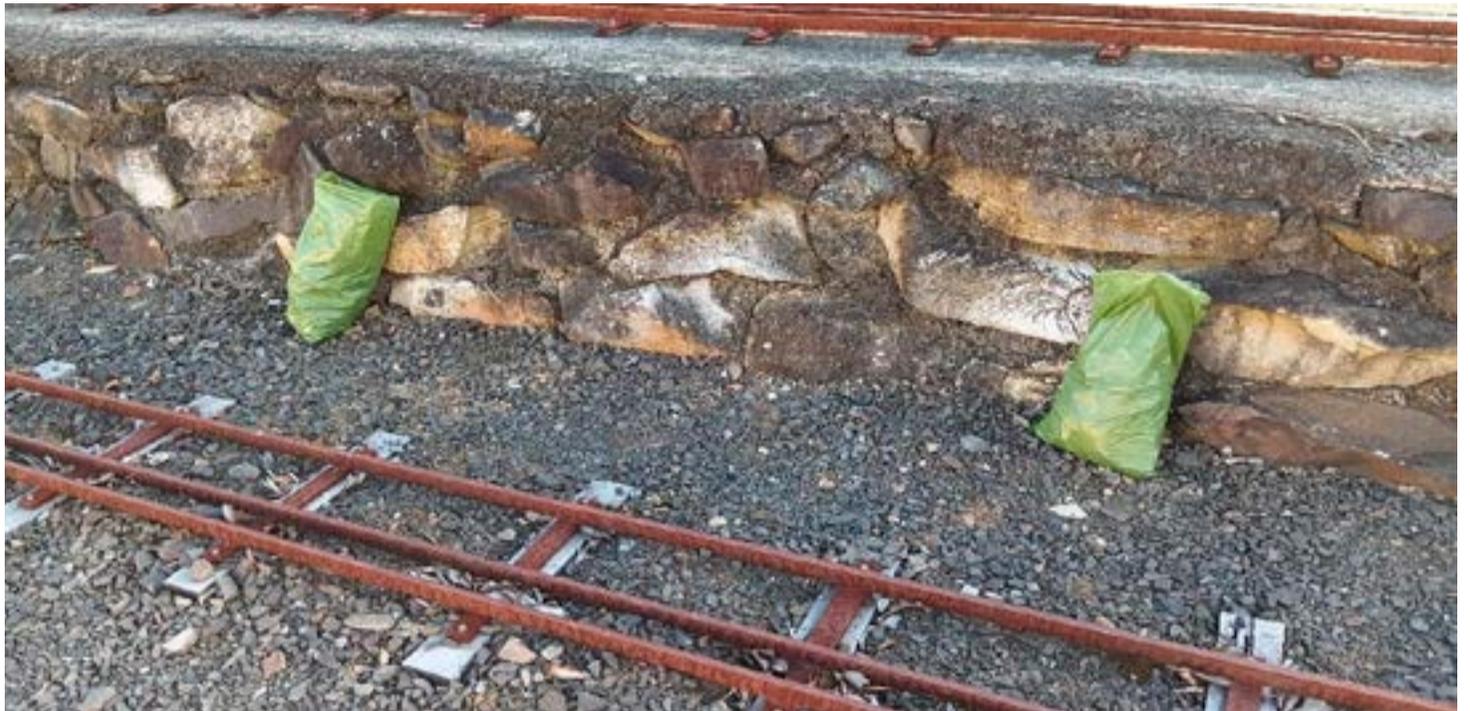
Members of the Thames Small Gauge Railway (TSGR) arrived on March 4 to carry out routine maintenance when they found a pile of rocks and stones had been dropped across the line.

Two members of the public told volunteers they had seen a woman moving rocks onto the tracks on March 2, and assumed she might have been working for the railway.

Later on March 6, another TSGR member realised he may also have seen the same woman earlier that week. He had spotted a woman pushing a supermarket trolley full of rocks along Brown St on Monday afternoon - something he said seemed unusual at the time but only became significant once the incidents on the railway came to light.

President Garth Familton said the discovery was unusual, and could have caused significant damage.

“It would have resulted in derailments for any trains hitting these rocks,” he told *The Profile*. “Of course, we do a very



Bags of stones left next to the Thames Small Gauge Railway line. BELOW: Some of the rocks couldn't be moved by a single person.

Photos: SUPPLIED

thorough track check before running any trains, so the big rocks would have been moved. However, smaller stones may not always be seen and these can cause issues.”

Some of the rocks were so large they could not be moved by a single person.

Because of the ongoing incidents, Garth said he had been keeping a closer eye on the station area, and even found two “doggy bags” full of smaller

rocks beside the tracks, “looking like they were ready for a later pick up”.

Garth said nothing like this has happened at the railway before, although there had been problems with vandalism and some graffiti in the past.

A police report has been filed and the Thames-Coromandel District Council has been notified. TSGR is asking anyone who sees suspicious activity around the railway to report it.





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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Record waves for Hauraki Plains swimmers

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Something was certainly in the water at Hauraki Plains College on February 24-25.

That's when 18 records were broken at the school's Splash Days swimming sports event, including nine records broken by Kingston Welsh (read more, P24).

Another record holder was Kian Rangihika, 14, who was part of the Tikapa Junior Boys Relay Team in the 4 x 1 length freestyle relay.

The group of athletes broke the previous 2025 1.17.45 record with a time of 1.16.27.

"We all tried our best and were stoked that we broke the record," he said. His focus was to swim hard and fast and "try to beat everyone".

Outside of swimming, the young athlete said he also enjoyed surfing and running for fitness.

It was his parents who inspired him to be the best person he could be because "they always encourage me and take me to training," at the Thames Swimming Club, he said.

Meanwhile, fellow club member and record breaker Jasmine Welsh said her inspiration came from her parents and coach because they supported her "even on bad days".

The 15-year-old swimmer broke her swim coach and ex Hauraki Plains College student Sophie Perry's record of 16.81 from 2020 for the intermediate girls one length



HPC swimmers broke a combined 18 records. RIGHT: Jasmine Welsh, left, with coach Sophie Perry. Photo: SUPPLIED

freestyle race with a time of 16.68.

It was her first achievement and she worked toward it every morning and afternoon as she trained at the Thames Swimming Pool, she said.

"I was so close, like 0.5 from breaking the 100 medley and 0.6 off the 50 freestyle. So I have my goals set for next year."

A technique she focussed on was "getting my kick to a good speed", and her hope was to get to Worlds

in three years, she said.

Fellow record breaker Riley Green, who had goals to break the breaststroke records, said she aspired to go to national swim competitions and to "chase down" personal bests and medals.

The 15-year-old swimmer broke her own one lap record of 21.65 from 2025 with a new time of 20.72 and the two lap record of 49.02 with 47.03.

She was proud to break ex Olym-

pic swimmer Helena Gasson's 2009 record of 1.16.97 for the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1.15.81.

"This achievement means a lot to me because it showed that I can do it," the swimmer told *The Profile*.

"Breaking the three lap breaststroke record that was held by ex Olympic swimmer Helena Gasson proved to me that if I set my mind to something I want to achieve I can do it."



She started to swim as a four-year-old, but kicked into competitive swimming at age 12, she said.

"The last year and a half is when I've enjoyed it the most since joining Pukekohe Swimming Club.

"I think it's because of the friends I've made and my coaches who push me to do my best."

Riley was inspired by a friend with the same name.

"I think a lot of people look at older swimmer athletes for inspiration, but for me it's my friend [World Para Swimming Champion] Rylee Sayer," she said.

"She always has something kind or positive to say and shows a lot of dedication and motivation to do well. That's something I really look up to."

Riley's dream for the future was to study medicine and move to Australia.

Riley's piece of encouragement for fellow students was to "know that hard work always beats talent when talent doesn't work hard".

READ MORE: Pool prodigy Kingston Welsh smashes nine records, P24

More Than A School
Hauraki Plains College

18

SWIMMING RECORDS

Broken!!

RECORDS BROKEN in 2026			New Record	Old Record	PREVIOUS RECORD HOLDER	
Intermediate Girls	66 2/3 BREASTSTROKE	Riley Green	47.83	49.02	Riley Green	2025
	100 BREASTSTROKE	Riley Green	1.15.81	1.16.97	Helena Gasson	2009
	33 1/3 BREASTSTROKE	Riley Green	26.72	21.65	Riley Green	2025
	33 1/3 FREESTYLE	Jasmine Welsh	16.68	16.81	Sophie Perry	2020
Intermediate Boys	100 BREASTSTROKE	Wilson Slavic	1.13.13	1.14.28	Miles Sargent	2020
	33 1/3 BREASTSTROKE	Wilson Slavic	19.56	20.09	Miles Sargent	2021
Senior Girls	33 1/3 BACKSTROKE	Taylor Batchelor	21.87	21.18	Rachael Ward	1995
	66 2/3 FREESTYLE	Taylor Batchelor	38.90	39.12	Sophie Wiseman	2012
Senior Boys	33 1/3 BUTTERFLY	Kingston Welsh	16.02	16.95	Martyn Taka	1995
	66 2/3 FREESTYLE	Kingston Welsh	32.57	34.18	Steven Entwisle	1991
	100 FREESTYLE	Kingston Welsh	52.16	54.92	Steven Entwisle	1991
	66 2/3 BACKSTROKE	Kingston Welsh	40.44	41.02	Steven Entwisle	1991
	133 1/3 MEDLEY	Kingston Welsh	1.24.28	1.29.28	Cayden de Graaf	2025
	33 1/3 BREASTSTROKE	Kingston Welsh	19.31	19.34	Hamish Bergerson	1995
	33 1/3 FREESTYLE	Kingston Welsh	14.56	15.10	Rex Kelland	1979
	33 1/3 BACKSTROKE	Kingston Welsh	19.68	19.02	Cayden de Graaf	2025
66 2/3 BUTTERFLY	Kingston Welsh	36.63	38.49	Steven Entwisle	1990	
Junior Boys	RELAY 4x1 length Freestyle	Tikapa	1.16.27	1.17.45	Ohinemuri	2025

Tikapa Junior Boys Relay Team: Reagen Kuter, Nate Barriball, Kobe Morcombe, Kian Rangihika

Riley Green

Jasmine Welsh

Wilson Slavic

Taylor Batchelor

Kingston Welsh



The new murals represent Turua School's values. INSET: Artist Claire DuBosky.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

School murals bring values to life

By ALICE PARMINTER

Turua School is looking more colourful than ever after the unveiling of four new murals on February 26.

The murals, painted by Waereinga artist Claire DuBosky, are mounted in pride of place on the side of a classroom block at the entrance to the school. Each image represents one of the school's values - ako, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and manaakitanga.

School principal Karen Houghton said it was fantastic to see the artworks come to life.

"I'm really excited that we've managed to do this incredible new lot of murals for our kura so that we can always see our values quantified on the wall," she said.

I want the kids to really see their vision, see our values in a visual form on the daily, so it becomes a real strong presence in the school.

"Those are really important for us... they are the way we present ourselves, the way we communicate, connect with each other."

Claire spent the last term of 2025 working on the murals, with collaboration from Karen and the school's students. Each painted figure has been modelled on a student, and the senior students helped with the painting.

The whanaungatanga mural also depicts former teacher aide Stan Taipari, who principal Karen Houghton said was a much-loved member of staff and respected elder of the school community.

Anikha Sanders, the mother of Sam, the student depicted alongside Stan, said the mural emphasised the impact Stan has had on the school.

"It's really important because that's about relationships, right? The only reason Sam manages

school is because of the relationship with staff. So Stan's been such a big part of that for him. He wouldn't have been at school now if it wasn't for Stan," she said.

The new murals sit alongside three existing murals, painted by Claire in 2020, which represent the school's waka groups - Arawa, Tainui, and Takitimu.

"On one side we've got the ancestry, so the waka speak to where we've come from and [the new murals] speak to who we are and where we're going," Karen said.

The finished murals were unveiled in an early-morning ceremony in front of the student body, and were blessed by kaumātua Wati Ngamane.

Turua School received a grant from the Hauraki District Council Creative Communities Scheme for the murals, and discounted products from Resene Paints.

Connection through competition

By ALICE PARMINTER

The Hauraki Games are returning to Paeroa Domain after a five-year hiatus, and it's set to be a powerful day of sport, culture and connection.

Formerly known as the Hauraki Pā Wars, this year's games will be the first held since Covid-19.

And for the return of the event, the focus is squarely on the theme of whanaungatanga - connection through shared kinship.

Event chairman Rino Wilkinson said the aim of the intermarae, inter-iwi event was to foster and encourage togetherness, wellness, and iwi pride through friendly competition.

"Hauraki Games is about bringing our people together," he said.

"It's about connection, identity, movement and creating positive spaces for our tamariki and whānau.

"When we gather at Te Puru o Te Rangi (Paeroa Domain), we celebrate who we are as Hauraki."

More than 2000 people from 20 marae across the wider Hauraki region are expected to attend the games - as both competitors,

supporters and spectators.

The competition events include netball, touch, softball, bowls, tug-of-war, euchre, Top Town Tamariki Games, Kaumātua Games, and Tapu Ariki.

Intergenerational participation was also a large part of the ethos of the games, Rino said, with the rules requiring at least one kaumātua (elder) and one tamaiti (child) on each team for many of the events.

"For me personally, the main thing aside from the whanaungatanga is that there aren't many sports around where you can have grandparents participate alongside their grandchild," he said. "So if you're playing softball or something, you can get the old fella to go up there, hit it off, and the little mokopuna can run."

"It's that interactive stuff." The Hauraki Games will open with the various marae marching through the domain, followed by a mass haka before the beginning of competition at 9am.

DETAILS: Hauraki Games, March 21, 7am-5pm at the Paeroa Domain. Free entry; spectators welcome. See www.facebook.com/HaurakiGames for more.



The Hauraki Games committee.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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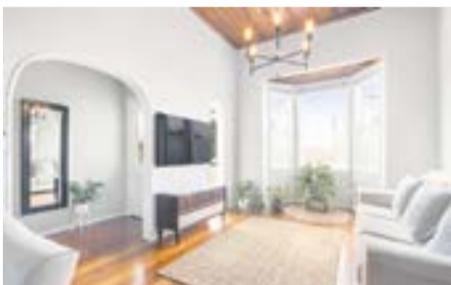


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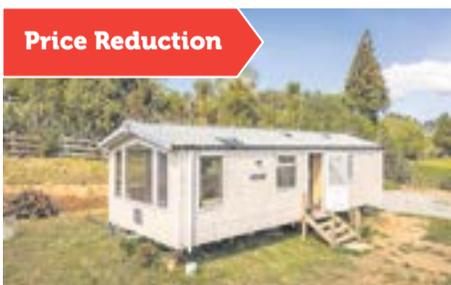


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Waihi
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In an elevated position and saturated in sun, find this 2,023 sqm (approx.) section in Waikino. This hidden gem offers panoramic views, privacy, and potential in equal measure. At the heart of the property sits a two-bedroom Swift tiny home cleverly designed.

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Waihi Beach med centre plan scrapped

By KELLEY TANTAU

Plans to build a new medical centre on a recreation reserve at Waihi Beach have been shelved after a wave of community submissions opposed the development at the park.

Primary Health Care has withdrawn its proposal to build a new medical centre at Beach Road Recreation Reserve, which would have seen 1137m2 of the land (around 30 per cent) reclassified to Local Purpose Reserve.

The decision follows a 10-week community consultation, led by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, with results indicating that 56 per cent of submitters opposed the development at the proposed location, 42 per cent supported it, and two per cent were unsure.

Marine Avenue resident Peter Bullock told *The Profile* he was pleased with the outcome, praising the public's strong response which he said led to a "sensible" result.

"The support from the local community that was generated over a relatively short period of time was fantastic. The community manages to keep the recreational reserve intact and enjoyed by all. At no stage was only 30 per cent of the reserve going to be enough for the proposal put forward if Pinnacle



Concept art of the medical centre that had been planned for the Beach Road Recreation Reserve.

Image: SUPPLIED

Life was going to house four doctors, two trainee doctors, a Diabetes Clinic, pharmacy outlet, physio facility, along with support staff and parking bays for visitors. "In the end the park would have slowly been taken over," he said.

"We now continue to have a quiet, peaceful street and neighbourhood to reside in."

According to Western Bay of Plenty District Council, public submissions demonstrated broad agreement on the initiative to build a new medical cen-

tre in Waihi Beach. However, views differed on the location.

A total of 409 submissions were received during the council's consultation process, which spanned the peak summer season when many homeowners and residents were in town.

A drop-in session was also held in December, to give people the opportunity to talk with council officers and Primary Health Care staff face to face, with around 80 people attending the event.

But Peter said the end-of-year meeting went little way in providing answers to the community and "became a fiasco".

"I believe the council needs to update their procedures manual for applications like this, so wastage of ratepayers money is not repeated," Peter said.

"The submission process never needed to be taken if council had put more demands on to the applicant."

A submissions hearing was planned for this week; however, it will no longer take place

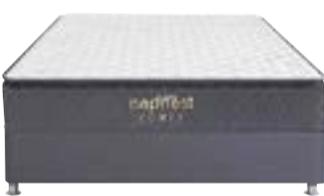
now Primary Health Care has withdrawn its proposal.

"This process highlights the value of public consultation, especially when it involves community land," council's reserves and facilities manager Peter Watson said.

"Our role is to provide a clear, transparent process so people can share their views and have them considered as part of the decision-making journey."

"We wish to thank everyone who participated in the engagement process."

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HDC NEWS



17 March 2026

Local voices needed for Land Drainage Committee

Your local knowledge is vital! Hauraki District Council is calling for nominations from landowners and drainage ratepayers to represent their communities on the Land Drainage Committee.

Nominations are open now and must be submitted by 4 pm, Friday 27 March 2026.

Why join the committee?

The committee oversees the critical drainage network supporting our farmland and rural communities. Community representatives work alongside councillors and council staff to guide priorities and long-term planning.

One Committee, Local Focus

This triennium, governance will transition to a single district-wide committee, replacing the four previous drainage district committees. This move is designed to strengthen decision-making and reduce duplication.

Targeted drainage rates remain unchanged. Drainage reserves will continue to be used only for work within their respective drainage areas.

Community voices remain key

The committee will consist of 11 community representatives alongside two councillors:

- Western Plains Drainage District: 4 representatives
- Eastern Plains Drainage District: 4 representatives
- Paeroa Rural Drainage District: 2 representatives
- Taramaire Drainage District: 1 representative

Your role as a representative

You will be the key link between your community and the Council, bringing local knowledge and providing input into maintenance programmes, planning and future improvements to the drainage network.

Who can stand?

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Be a drainage ratepayer within the specific drainage district they wish to represent.
- Be nominated by another drainage ratepayer from that same drainage district.

Election process

If nominations exceed the available seats, an election will be held in April 2026. Successful candidates will serve a three-year term starting in May 2026.

How to nominate

Pick up a nomination form or find more information:

- Online: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/water/land-drainage or scan QR code
- In Person: Council service centres in Paeroa or Ngātea
- Phone: 0800 734 834
- Email: info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz



Don't let your local expertise go down the drain

Help support and connect land drainage in your area.

Submit your nomination by 4 pm, 27 March 2026.

Mayoral Relief Fund

Mayoral Relief Fund extended, open to businesses

Closing date for the Mayoral Relief Fund has been extended to this Friday, 20 March 2026.

The fund is available to impacted businesses, individuals and families affected by the 21 January storm. Whether it's for cleanup or hardship, we're here to help you.

Funds are limited, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Scan the QR code to apply online or visit one of our service centres.

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/mayoral-disaster-relief-fund>



Conservation and Heritage Fund

Do you own a heritage building, natural area, or significant tree? Got a conservation or heritage project in mind?

You may qualify for funding to help with active maintenance or enhancement, such as painting, repairs, restoration, fencing, pest control, or conservation planting.

This fund supports our community outcomes by protecting, respecting, and restoring ecosystems, reducing our carbon footprint, and celebrating our unique heritage and culture.

Apply now!

Applications for the Conservation and Heritage Fund close 31 March 2026.

Scan the QR code or go to our website to see the Fund Guidelines -

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



Collectibles show returns to Thames

By ALICE PARMINTER

Jonathan Lee's Thames home is a collector's dream.

Bottles, toys, and all manner of dishware line the kitchen shelves.

An assortment of Art Deco light shades fill a nearby cabinet; through the window can be seen a vintage car and caravan.

In the lounge are more treasures - large jars of marbles, sailboats carved from bone, and an array of pottery from different eras and countries.

For Jonathan, collecting is a joy.

"Old stuff... it's a tribute to good design, good materials," he said.

"If it's still around now, 100 years later, and people still want it, then it must have been well-made and well-designed in the first place. So it's a bit of a celebration of things lasting, rather than the throwaway culture that we have today."

He began collecting at around 16 years old, and now belongs to the Thames Vintage Bottles and Collectibles Club.

"It started as bottles, but like most bottle collectors it soon expanded into other areas," he said.

"I went from bottles to Māori artefacts to colonial furniture... I never stop."

Jonathan especially enjoys the thrill of putting together a complete set. "It's like critical mass - when you have so much stuff you can inevitably start making sets," he said.

"I really like bringing stuff together and making it more saleable - not that I ever sell anything,



Jonathan Lee has been a collector since his teens.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

but that's the theory."

Many of Jonathan's treasures come from places like the Seagull Centre, eBay and other online stores. Sometimes, he doesn't even have to leave the house.

"Some of [my] stuff's been in boxes for, like, 15 years... we actually ended up finding that we had six pieces of uranium glass," he said. "So that was like a treasure hunt in my own collection - you forget what you've bought."

Jonathan will be sharing some of his treasures with the public at this year's Antiques and Collectibles Show, back for a second year after its successful debut in 2025.

The event, hosted by the

Thames Vintage Bottle and Collectibles Club, is a way for the club to share the history of Thames and its artefacts with the public. There will be displays, sale stalls, and more.

Last year, Jonathan displayed his Art Deco glass. This time, his table is ocean-themed - but the exact items to be shown are still under wraps.

"It's top-secret, can't reveal too much. It's old, though. And it's not kitsch."

Jonathan said he and his fellow collectors will be using the lessons learned at last year's event to make their displays even more appealing.

"As exhibitors we have inside knowledge, so we see [items] in a different lens to the public," he said.

"To someone walking past, they don't know that here's a \$15,000 knife that is probably one of only two in the world - they'll just look at the pretty [things]. So yeah, we learned something."

"But it's also about sharing the social side of it with the club members, looking at their latest finds and seeing what they've discovered."

DETAILS: Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sales, March 21, 10am-3pm at the Civic Centre, 200 Mary St, Thames. Entry \$2.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

- In 2024, which singer released a series of cookware, including a pan with the inscription 'Jolene, Please Don't Take My Pan'?
- How would one cook eggs to be 'over easy'?
- Who sang the lyrics 'Hope I die before I get old' in the song *My Generation* in 1965, and recently turned 82 years old in March 2026? a) Mick Jagger, b) Roger Daltrey, or c) Willie Nelson?
- Which airline route distance is further? a) Auckland to Sydney, or b) London to New York?
- A vehicle used by a radio station for promotional reasons is known as a _____ Thunder? a) Black, b) grey, or c) white?
- The novel *Murder on the Orient Express*, first published in 1934, was written by which British author?
- Which 1981 film is often referred to as the most dangerous movie ever made and had the tagline 'No animals were harmed in the making of this film. 70 cast and crew members were'? a) *Grizzly*, b) *Jaws*, or c) *Roar*?
- Which NZ native plant in the nightshade family shares its te reo Māori name with one of the te reo Māori names for the colour purple?
- In Pokémon lore, which Pokémon was created as a modern, genetically modified clone of the ancient Pokémon Mew?
- How is the number 999 represented in roman numerals? a) CMXCIX, b) IM, or c) IXC?

ANSWERS: 1. Dolly Parton; 2. Flipped briefly, the left of a V (5) or X (10).
used to subtract, and I (1) can only be placed to numerals have strict placement rules. When 8. Poroporo; 9. Mewtwo; 10. a) CMXCIX; Roman York; 5. a) Black; 6. Agatha Christie; 7. c) Roar; Daltrey (from The Who); 4. b) London to New with a runny yolk and set whites; 3. b) Roger

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Tenor: My Name Is Pati (104 mins) PG. Music-packed documentary. Tells the story of Pene and brother Amitai Pati, and their journey from Samoa to platinum-selling success in the trio Sol3 Mio and the world's greatest opera stages. Bursting with humour, heart and soaring performances, the film reveals the resilience born of adversity, the richness of family and culture, and the rewards from following an unlikely dream.

Project Hail Mary (156 mins) M. A science teacher (Ryan Gosling) wakes up on a spaceship light years from home with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. As his memory returns, he begins to uncover his mission: solve the riddle of the mysterious substance causing the sun to die out. He must call on his scientific knowledge and unorthodox ideas to save everything on Earth from extinction.

Reminders of Him (114 mins) M. After prison, Kenna attempts to reconnect with her young daughter but faces resistance from everyone except a bar owner with ties to her child.

EPIC: Elvis Presley in Concert (96 mins) PG. A new cinematic experience from a visionary filmmaker. Features lost footage from Presley's Las Vegas residency, rare 16mm footage from Elvis on tour, precious 8mm from the Graceland archive, and rediscovered recordings of Elvis telling "his side of the story".

Holy Days (101 mins) PG. From the team behind the Kiwi hit *Uproar*, *Holy Days* is a hilarious, heartwarming 1970s dramedy with a star-studded cast. When young Brian discovers plans to close a convent of delightfully eccentric nuns, he sets off on a wild road trip across New Zealand to save them. Packed with laughs, quirky characters, and heart, this is a joyful adventure the young at heart will adore.

Next week: I Swear: Follows the true story of a Tourette Syndrome campaigner. BAFTA 2026 best actor award. **The Magic Faraway Tree:** Follows a family forced to relocate to the remote English countryside.

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On the Land

Upgrade for Karaka Trail



Years of persistence, fundraising and hard work have paid off again for the Thames Mountain Bike Club, with another major stage of the Karaka Trail upgrade now complete.

This latest section builds on work finished in May, 2022, when the lower portion of the trail up to the Red Cliffs received a significant overhaul.

Club president Jacob Tyrrell-Baxter said the newly completed work focused on the track from the intersection of the Karaka and Waitohi Trails back toward the Red Cliffs. While the original goal was to upgrade the full 1.4km section of the trail, funding constraints meant the club could only complete 1.1km, leaving just 300 metres still to be improved. With \$40,000 raised towards a required \$59,000 budget, the club made the decision to push ahead rather than delay the project further.

The result is a professionally benched trail that replaces narrow, eroded sections and large, overgrown historic slips that had developed over time.

The work was carried out by Walkway Solutions, which also completed previous stages of the project. Although construction was scheduled for peak summer, the contractors were met with torrential rain. Despite the setbacks, the majority of the planned work was successfully completed. The improved section now offers a safer, more sustainable and more enjoyable experience for all users - from mountain bikers to walkers and hikers - and will stand up far better to future weather events, the club said.

The club secured \$5000 from the Trillian Trust, \$10,000 from Grassroots Trust and \$25,000 from We Care Trust for the work.

"The club extends its sincere thanks to these organisations for their vital support." The upgrade also benefitted the club's

dedicated conservation volunteers. Trappers walk the Waitohi-Karaka loop every week checking on 75 pest control traps, and the improved surface and safer alignment will make their regular access significantly easier and safer.

Jacob said the milestone reflected the determination of a small but passionate community group.

"This project has been more than 10 years in the making, and every section we complete is a huge step forward for our wider community. It's not just about mountain biking - it's about building a shared-use trail that walkers, riders and conservation volunteers can all benefit from.

"We're incredibly grateful to the funders who backed us, especially in a tough funding climate. Without that support, none of this would be possible."

"The Karaka Trail upgrade represents years of volunteer effort, planning and community backing. With each stage finished, the Thames community moves closer to a safer, more resilient and future-proofed trail network that can be enjoyed by locals and visitors for generations to come."

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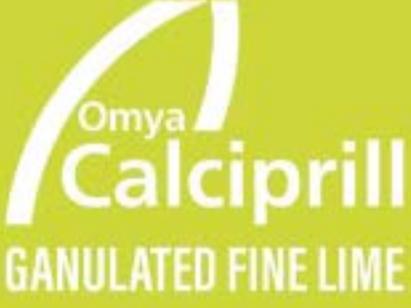
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On the Land

Award winners announced

The winners of the 2026 Waikato Dairy Industry Awards were announced at the annual awards dinner held at the Sir Don Rowlands Events Centre in Cambridge on March 4.

Matamata sharemilkers Glenn and Georgie van Heuven were named the region's Share Farmer of the Year, with Otorohanga's Annie Gill winning Waikato Dairy Manager of the Year, and Levi Wesford from Cambridge taking out the title for the Waikato Dairy Trainee of the Year.

The Waikato Dairy Industry Awards Field Day will be held on March 24, 10.30am at 173B Tower Road, Matamata.

Further details on the winners and the Field Day can be found at www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz.

RESULTS: Waikato Share Farmer of the Year: Winner, Georgie and Glenn van Heuven; Runner Up, Deependra Parajuli; Third, Emma Walton and Jared Van Tiel.

Waikato Dairy Manager of the Year: Winner, Annie Gill; Runner Up, Danielle Brown; Third, George Eaddy.

Waikato Dairy Trainee of the Year: Winner, Levi Wesford; Runner Up, Abigail McLean; Third, Renee Teers.

Share Farmer Merit Awards: DairyNZ - People & Culture Award, Abby Lawrence; Ecolab Total Farm Hygiene & Innovation Award, Georgie and Glenn van Heuven; Federated Farmers Leadership Award, Georgie and Glenn van Heuven; Honda Farm Safety, Health and Biosecurity Award, Georgie and Glenn van Heuven; LIC Animal Wellbeing, Recording and Productivity Award, Emma Walton and Jared Van Tiel; Bluegrass Contracting Environmental Sustainability Award, Georgie and



From left: Levi Wesford, Glenn and Georgie van Heuven, and Annie Gill. Photo: SUPPLIED

Glenn van Heuven; Trelleborg Sustainable Pasture Award, Deependra Parajuli; ASB Business Performance Award, Deependra Parajuli; Greenstone Immigration and Recruitment Emerging Talent Award, Sicelo Nene.

Dairy Manager Merit Awards: Cow-Manager Livestock Management Award, George Eaddy; Fonterra Dairy Management Award, Annie Gill; DeLaval Pasture & Feed Management Award, Annie Gill; MPI Sustainable Farming - Environmental Award, Danielle Brown; Dairy Training Limited People & Leadership Award, Danielle Brown; CooperAitken Accountants Personal Planning & Financial Management Award, Annie Gill; NZ Farmers Livestock Ltd Emerging Talent Award, Conrad Addison.

Dairy Trainee Merit Awards: DairyNZ Practical Skills Award, Levi Wesford; Xero Limited NZ Emerging Talent Award, Rebecca Hurley; DairySmart Farming Knowledge Award, Levi Wesford; BlackmanSpargo Rural Law Ltd Communication & Industry Involvement Award, Abigail McLean.



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Memorial visit strengthens bonds

A memorable and “meaningful opportunity” took place in the town of Waihi on February 22.

It’s when a group of exchange students and teachers from Lycée Guy Mollett in Arras, France, alongside students from Pukekohe High School, visited the Tunnellers Memorial in Waihi.

Waihi Heritage Vision member and descendant of World War I tunnellers Vicki Beveridge told *The Profile* it was a privilege and “very special” to be part of their inaugural visit.

Vicki and husband Pete Beveridge, along with Kit and Sue Baker Wilson from Waihi Heritage Vision, were able to share with the groups the story of The New Zealand Tunnelling Company, the Khaki Miners and history of Waihi and Gilmour Reserve, she said.

“The knowledge Sue and Kit brought to the event was outstanding, and as Tunnelling Company descendants, Peter [Beveridge] and I continue to learn ourselves.”

The WWI New Zealand Tunnelling Company Memorial had been a focal point for Waihi since 2016, Vicki said.

“Thanks to their dedication and the work of many others. It is a true asset to our town - used, respected, and valued by all. Lest we forget.”

Vicki said she wanted to thank the wonderful teachers



Students and teachers from Lycée Guy Mollett in Arras, France and Pukekohe High School visit the Tunnellers Memorial in Waihi. Photo: SUPPLIED

in both countries who made the visit possible.

“I was especially proud to present each student with a poppy to wear together in Arras this April - a symbol of remembrance, unity, and friendship,” she said.

“It was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the connection between Waihi and Arras and to honour the legacy of our Tunnellers.”

While this year’s ANZAC commemoration will take place at the Tunnellers Memorial in Waihi as per usual, Vicki said unfortunately the Cross of Crosses would not be erected on

the hill beside the pumphouse.

“This has always been a significant visual tribute, but at present we do not have a group available to undertake the installation.”

Waihi Heritage Vision was no longer physically able to manage this task, and despite reaching out to the wider community several times, there had been no volunteers willing to take it on, she said.

“It is disappointing, but we remain committed to ensuring the ANZAC service at the Memorial continues with the dignity and respect these men deserve.”

Crafting some holiday fun

By ALICE PARMINTER

Hauraki artist Gemma Antoniadis is running a school holiday programme this April, aimed at the creative kids of the region.

The three-day programme, aimed at 5-13 year olds, is the first step on Gemma’s path to her long-term goal.

“Eventually my heart wants me to have an art school,” she said.

“I’m dyslexic and for me art was everything. I just drew, drew, drew; from the second I could hold a pencil I could draw. And it just never stopped.”

Gemma is currently in training as a primary school teacher, and regularly brings art into her classroom.

“Art and colour is so important to things like literacy and maths and things like that... colour our

sticks in your brain,” she said.

“So I decided that okay, if I want to teach art I need to do a teaching degree so I can do it properly.”

This school holiday programme will be a trial run, Gemma said, with plans for more in the future if it all goes well.

“I want to test out what it would be like in Paeroa to have an art school, and what the interest is,” she said.

“And when you look around this area, there aren’t many creative holiday programmes [available].”

The programme will be “totally creative”, Gemma said, with one big project to work on each day.

First up are decoupage paper lanterns, followed by collage painted landscapes and perspective work.

The course will wrap up with each child decorating their own giant 3D gummy bear sculpture.

“And they’re going to go home with some really cool pieces of art.”

DETAILS: Gemma Antoniadis’ Holiday art programme will be held on April 13-15, from 8.30am-3.30pm at Nether-ton School Hall. Spaces are limited; contact Gemma at gem-mascraftycanvas@gmail.com for more.



Gemma Antoniadis is bringing creativity this holiday. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



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This year marks 50 years since Waihi College welcomed Form 1 and 2 students — now our Year 7 and 8 ākonga — becoming the full college our community knows and loves today. We warmly invite past staff, former students, whānau and community members to join us for a Jubilee Morning Tea:

18th March
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Come and reconnect and share stories over a cuppa. It’s a chance to celebrate the people, the memories, and the generations who have shaped our kura over the past 50 years.

We would love to see you there.

FOOD DRIVE

Join Waihi College in supporting families in need this month by donating non-perishable food items to our Reception or Student Centre between 23rd and 31st March. We finish off with a school MUFTI DAY on 31st - bring a can instead of a gold coin.



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 Waihi College reception, student centre or ako class

Fun in the sun

Paeroa College hosted its annual athletics day on Wednesday 25th February. The blazing sun was out as students battled it out for top points for their house. Students gave their all, competing in the track and field events, and even boogied across the ground in a dance-off. Paeroa College student **ALI KOIA-HAMLING** reports.



A tight finish in the senior girls running race.



Rapiri students represent in their yellow colours.



From left: Logan, Dayne, Charlie and Te Koha.



Girls of all houses get ready to start their race.

Photos: SUPPLIED

Return to the rhythms that matter

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



If you've ever been one of those hardcore exercise people, you'll know exactly how

quickly we lose condition.

I noticed this recently. I'd been on a mission - training to crack 100 press-ups in one go. I got close, too.

Hit 92 at one point, but never quite got there. And then life shifted.

I entered a season of imbalance, pouring massive amounts of energy into publishing and launching my book.

Exercise didn't stop completely, but the sessions got shorter, lighter, and less consistent.

A few weeks ago, a mate challenged me: "How many push-ups can you smash out right now?"

I gave it everything I had ... and maxed out at 50.

Now, 50's still solid - a year ago, I couldn't have done half that. But it hit me hard. Seasons change. Priorities shift. And that's okay. Slowing down is sometimes necessary. But here's the thing: when it comes to the stuff that's good for us, the things that actually matter, it's so easy to let them slide.

And I'm not just talking about

exercise. I'm talking about relationships. About reading. About healthy rhythms. About those small daily habits that make us who we are.

We lose our "fitness" in all of these areas faster than we realise.

What was once the most beautiful thing in your life - the thing that brought you energy, joy, and connection - can start to drift.

Not because we don't care, but because life got busy, hard, or distracting.

But just like exercise, you can rebuild.

You can get it back.

You can make it beautiful again.

Don't give up on your routines, and don't give up on love. Go back to them. Prioritise them. Do the little things again - the conversations, the walks, the texts, the time.

Because the truth is, strength fades when we don't use it. But the reverse is also true - when we show up consistently, day by day, we grow strong again.

Return to the rhythms that matter. They're so very worth it.

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.

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Pet Profile

Meet Sassy - the sweetest girl

Sassy is a beautiful nine-month-old puppy looking for her forever home after being surrendered as part of an unwanted litter. It's clear she has been well loved, and now she's ready to begin her next chapter with a family who will adore her just as much.

Sassy is one of the sweetest, most gentle puppies you could hope to meet. She's affectionate, soft-natured and just a little bit goofy in the best way.

Her signature move is her famous "bum wiggle" – when she gets excited her whole back-end wiggles with happiness, guaranteed to make you smile.

She loves attention, cuddles and being close to her people.

She's also a clever girl who already knows how to sit and shake, and she's

eager to keep learning with positive training and lots of encouragement.

Sassy is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and up to date with flea and worm treatments, so she's all ready to head straight into her new home.

If you're looking for a loving, joyful companion, Sassy might just be the perfect addition to your family.

View Sassy's profile online at www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/652265/dog-sassy-thames.

Meanwhile, the cattery is full of kittens, from white with blue eyes, to tabby, to gingers including ginger females, black and torties. All cute and loving.

Contact Thames SPCA for more information about any of the animals.

- Supplied by Thames SPCA



Clever Sassy is sweet, affectionate, and ready for a loving home.

Photo: SUPPLIED



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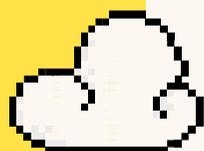
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Kaumātua compete

Grey skies and heavy rain didn't stop or dampen the wairua (spirit) at the Pare Hauraki National Kaumātua Olympics held in Te Aroha on February 13. The event was hosted by Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki - Kaumātua Ora service, with support from kaimahi (staff) across the organisation. Te Aroha Maunga (mountain) stood cloaked in mist as rōpū kaumātua, or groups of competitors aged 55 and over, from Tamaki to Te Kuiti gathered at Silver Fern Farms Event Centre to battle through a series of game stations and a tie-breaking sing-and-dance-off.



DOC Coromandel deer incursion response

DOC is responding to a deer incursion in the southern area of Coromandel Forest Park.

Coromandel is designated as a deer-free area, and the presence of these deer is a concern. Deer browse on native plants and can have a significant impact on forest health. Deer can also spread kauri disease and present other biosecurity risks. You may see contract hunters with hunting dogs in the forest working on DOC's behalf.

If you see deer in Coromandel Forest Park, or on neighbouring land, please contact us via 0800 DOC HOT or info@doc.govt.nz. Prompt reports of deer sightings allow us to respond rapidly.

Valuable information on deer sightings includes:

- Where the deer were seen – including GPS coordinates if possible.
- How many deer were seen.
- Photographs or video of the deer.
- Your personal contact information – phone number, email address – so our staff can follow up.

To find out more, visit the Wild Animals Management section of www.doc.govt.nz or email info@doc.govt.nz



Foodies

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Boutique organic cheese at Matatoki



Fancy a glass of wine with your cheese board while sitting under a shady tree?

Then BYO your favourite wine to The Cheese Barn at Matatoki and enjoy the peace of the countryside while you eat.

The kids love the big outdoor area and can feed the animals like Alpacas, Goats, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits, Birds, and Chickens.

The café is open six days a week from 9am to 4pm, (the café/kitchen closes at 3.30pm).

The Cheese Barn is situated in a picturesque area between Thames

and Paeroa, only 5km from Kopu, and they are on the Hauraki Rail Trail so they get plenty of cyclists calling in for coffee and cheese boards or tasty pizzas.

They use Coffee LaLa beans and organic milk processed in the factory.

You can also buy organic milk in one litre glass bottles with a refund on the bottle once returned.

They make their own gelato and sorbet ice creams using the same organic milk and cream, which are only made and sold on site.

They are sold in tubs or cones and

also on Belgium waffles, which are a real treat.

There is also a breakfast menu served on weekends from 9am to midday and the waffles are available with mascarpone and berry compote or bacon and maple syrup.

Try the eggs benedict or The Big Barn Breakfast, which includes some of their award-winning organic halloumi.

Group visits, talks and cheese tasting can be arranged by calling the café and making a booking.

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Twinwolf Plastering owner Shannon Woolfe is ready to help. Photo: SUPPLIED

Plaster of Paeroa: Twinwolf has you covered

Carrying a wealth of knowledge and 30+ years of experience in remedial works for exterior plastering, Shannon Woolfe of Twinwolf Plastering has professional expertise with all aspects of plastering.

Shannon's focus is on his clients being happy and "informed throughout the process".

"Seeing the owners happy... seeing that they're pleased with the work is probably the best part of a completed job."

Shannon has sound knowledge when it comes to assessing and fixing cracked and damaged exterior plaster.

He is also your local go to guy for all plaster remedial works and re-paints. Shannon enjoys doing the fun stuff too. Plastering isn't just about houses - he's helped plenty of families transform their outdoor entertainment areas with plastered outdoor fireplaces and pizza ovens.

Shannon takes pride in his workmanship and leaves every work site clean and tidy throughout the process.

CONTACT: For all your exterior and interior plaster needs please contact Shannon, Ph: 022 428 2239, or email: twinwolfservices@gmail.com.

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PCST Manager

The Paeroa Community Support Trust (PCST) (website pc.org.nz) is a 'not for profit' based on Christian ethos and values, based in Paeroa.

We are looking for a qualified and highly motivated leader who shares our values to oversee our staff and volunteers across the programs and services of the PCST (30 - 35 hours per week).

Our ideal candidate will have:

- Staff management experience
- Energy, enthusiasm and imagination to design and develop child / youth programs
- Funding experience
- A desire to make a difference to our community

A position description is available on request from the Hauraki Resource Centre phone 07 8626110. Applications including a CV and cover letter should be emailed to admin@pc.org.nz

Closing date: Friday 10th April 2026



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CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Public Notices

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 Waihi Warm Up Party for Repco Beach Hop 2026 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.

Period of closure: Wednesday 25 March 2026, 6.00am to 3.00pm.

Roads to be closed in Waihi:

- SH2 (from Seddon St/SH2 intersection to Kenny St intersection)
- Seddon St (from School Ln/SH2 intersection to entire Seddon St)
- Gilmour St (from Kenny St/SH25 intersection to Seddon St)
- Muller St (from property no. 3 Muller St to Seddon St roundabout)
- Hazard St (from property no. 24 Hazard St to Martha St)
- Moresby Ave (from property no. 80 Moreby Ave to SH2 roundabout).

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.

D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Paeroa Basketball Assn
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RESERVE ACT LEASE PROPOSAL

In accordance with Section 54(2) and 119 of the Reserves Act 1977, and a resolution of the Thames-Coromandel District Council dated 24 February 2026, it is proposed to grant a new licence to occupy to the Waikawau Boat Ramp Society for part of the recreation reserve located at 947 Thames Coast Road, Waikawau for a term of three (3) years in accordance with Council's Community Leases and Licences to Occupy Policy.

Under Section 120 of the Reserves Act 1977, any person or organisation may object or make a submission to the proposal (in writing) to the Chief Executive of the Thames-Coromandel District Council, 515 Mackay Street, Thames by 4pm, 17 April 2026. Any objections and/or submissions received during the submission period will be considered by the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



www.tcdc.govt.nz

CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that, the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the **Kickdown Festival 2026**, will close the following street to ordinary vehicular traffic for the periods indicated hereunder.

Whangamatā

Friday 20 March 2026 and Saturday 21 March 2026
Each day from 2pm to 11.30pm

- Port Road closed from Lincoln Road to Aickin Road

An approved copy of the Traffic Management Plan including road closure maps may be requested from Thames-Coromandel District Council.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



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DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from Whangamata, Tairua, Whitianga, Waihi, Paeroa, Ngatea and Coromandel: \$3470.00*
DIRECT CREMATION requiring transfer from North of Coromandel or Waikato Hospital: \$3580.00*
 Outside all of these areas: \$3225.00 plus mileage



For additional information please refer to Twentymans website: twentymans.co.nz CONTACT: 07 868 6003

* Additional mileage may apply, according to roading conditions. ** Plus Doctors Fee. The Doctors Fee for medical paperwork required for Direct Cremations is an additional charge. This fee ranges from \$45.00 to \$200.00, determined by the patient's Doctor.



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CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

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SUDOKU

242

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

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

EASY

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

							8	
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HARD

242

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

262

ACROSS

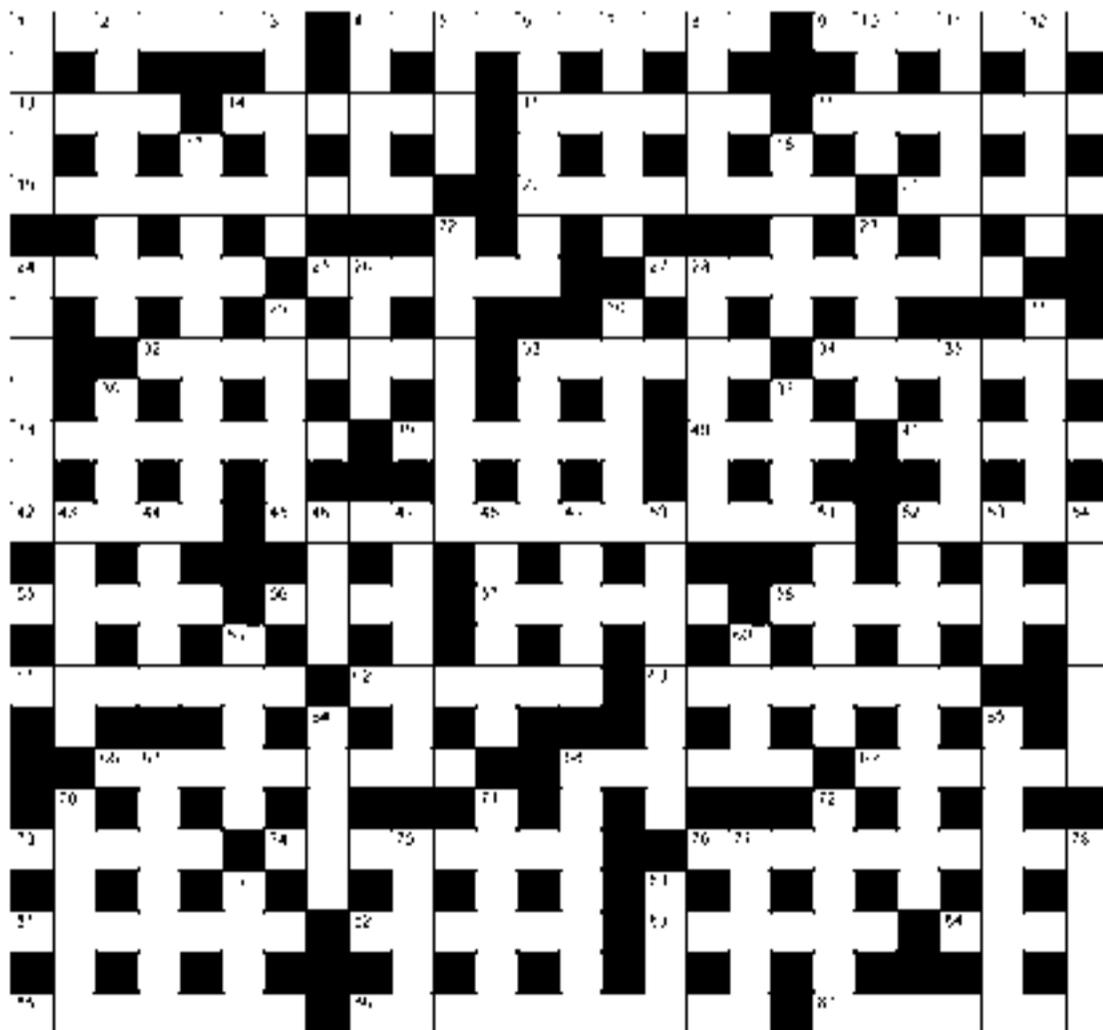
- 1 Humorous drawing (7)
- 4 Money-lending dealer (10)
- 9 Disintegrate (7)
- 13 Dark blue colour (4)
- 14 Stick to (6)
- 15 Argument (6)
- 16 Bright red colour (7)
- 19 Professional adviser (10)
- 20 Half-time (8)
- 21 Move furtively (5)
- 24 Jibes (6)
- 25 French Mrs (6)
- 27 Plant-eater (9)
- 32 Reminded (8)
- 33 Laundry stiffener (6)
- 34 Frozen drips (7)
- 38 Body store (8)
- 39 Split up (6)
- 40 Prophet (4)
- 41 Mournful song (5)
- 42 Spear (5)
- 45 Stranded (4,4,3,3)
- 52 Snake (5)
- 55 Smithy's block (5)
- 56 Floppy (4)
- 57 Sculpted figure (6)
- 58 Incredible (8)
- 61 Grey ale (anag)(7)
- 62 Embarks (6)
- 63 Mental derangement (8)
- 66 Education (9)
- 68 Defrosted (6)
- 69 Grass-cutting tool (6)
- 73 Daily record (5)

DOWN

- 1 Scoffer (5)
- 2 Starving (8)
- 3 Untidy (anag)(6)
- 4 Groom oneself (5)
- 5 Shed tears (4)
- 6 Time to retire (7)
- 7 Circles round (6)
- 8 Go in (5)
- 10 Sway (4)
- 11 Sailor (7)
- 12 Allowable margin of freedom, movement (6)
- 17 Concealing ruse (10)
- 18 Perhaps (5)
- 22 Bread snack (8)
- 23 Oust (5)
- 24 Of heat (7)
- 26 Gambler's stake (4)
- 28 Pardoned (7)
- 29 Devoid of principles (6)
- 30 Film holder (6)
- 31 Account book (6)
- 33 Oscillate (5)
- 35 Capital of Egypt (5)

ACROSS

- 36 Wide smile (4)
- 37 Get wind of (4)
- 43 Yearly book (6)
- 44 Peal (5)
- 46 Heinous (4)
- 47 Tropical storm (7)
- 48 Put into (6)
- 49 Cures (5)
- 50 Of sailors, navigation (8)
- 51 Longs for (6)
- 52 eg. crab, lobster, shrimp (10)
- 53 Reserve (4)
- 54 Lack (7)
- 59 Deck (5)
- 60 Small island (4)
- 64 Mantle (5)
- 65 Mindset (8)
- 67 Mobile home (7)
- 68 Frog larva (7)
- 70 On the cards (6)
- 71 Speaking humorously (6)
- 72 Gripping tool (6)
- 75 Spanish friend (5)
- 77 Reflection (5)
- 78 Light-headed (5)
- 79 Responsibility (4)
- 80 Arm bone (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Halve, 4 Attached, 9 Insect, 14 Steel, 15 Quick on the uptake, 17 Cramp, 18 Tea, 19 Idyllic, 20 Continual, 21 Always, 24 Privilege, 25 Sudden, 26 Señora, 29 Benefactor, 31 Ice, 32 Accord, 33 Fête, 35 Aim, 37 Flea, 39 Indignant, 40 Measuring, 41 Scene, 42 Dialogue, 47 Enlarged, 51 Ditto, 55 Interfere, 56 Promoting, 58 Seem, 59 Eat, 60 Tick, 61 Guitar, 62 Ivy, 63 Impatience, 66 Sleuth, 67 Unison, 69 Recollect, 72 Affair, 73 Competent, 75 Ignited, 77 Dot, 80 Ennui, 81 Like a bull at a gate, 82 Named, 83 Arched, 84 Rheostat, 85 Stays.

DOWN: 2 Abundance, 3 Vocal, 5 Tutu, 6 Awesome, 7 Hypothetical, 8 Drain, 9 Iceland, 10 Sack, 11 Cradle, 12 Dents, 13 Alfalfa, 14 Speared, 16 Originating, 22 Wilted, 23 Welcome, 24 Prevail, 25 Sweats, 27 Obeying, 28 Ordain, 30 Rage, 32 Amber, 34 Edged, 36 Puma, 38 Lei, 42 Drift, 43 Article, 44 Ogre, 45 Useful, 46 Steer, 48 Lightweight, 49 Respect, 50 Eye, 51 Destiny, 52 Option, 53 Polyurethane, 54 Gobi, 57 Impala, 64 Carpentry, 65 Stuffed, 66 Student, 68 Spoiled, 70 Concurr, 71 Dinner, 72 Atoms, 74 Poker, 76 Ingot, 78 High, 79 Plea.



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Seth Dally Te Mana Hearn Miley Hughes Amelia Kats



Bailey King Travis Nicol Chloe Ross Seth Seerup

LEVEL 2 EXCELLENCE



Mikayla Beisly Miley Maber



Sienna Moore Eliza Stepanic

LEVEL 3 ENDORSEMENTS

LEVEL 3 MERIT



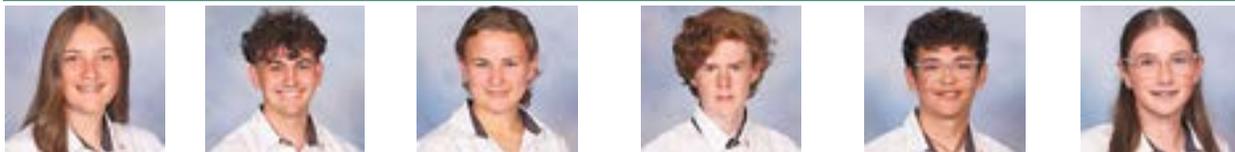
Tallis Austen Kaleb Gurnick Maddi Hill Shiah Taylor Helen Xie

LEVEL 3 EXCELLENCE



Elyshia Bradey Madelline Eastham Kylie Harris Justin Smith Kaeden Torstonsen

VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS AWARD



Charlize Anderson Seth Dally Maiya Edlin Te Mana Hearn Bailey King Miley Maber



Sienna Moore Tiaki Murray Travis Nicol Chloe Ross Eliza Stepanic

CONGRATULATIONS to Justin Smith for achieving Scholarship Physics

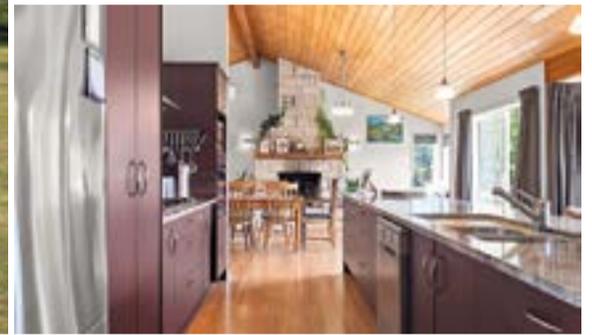
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BAYLEYS



Boundary lines are indicative only



Mangatangi 410c Mangatangi Road

Bring the family and the horses

Set well back from the road on 4.32 hectare (more or less), this property centres on space, outlook, and enduring materials. The 215sqm (more or less) Hinuera stone brick home carries a reassuring sense of strength within its Mangatangi setting. Wide bi-fold doors draw morning sun into the living areas while framing expansive country views. The open-plan layout connects living and kitchen spaces with ease. The master bedroom includes an ensuite, while three further bedrooms and an office share the family bathroom. Outside, a double garage adds convenience. Post and rail fencing shapes the land, established fruit trees offer seasonal harvest, and concrete-floored stables cater for horses.

bayleys.co.nz/2630190

4.32 ha 5 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 16 Apr 2026
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 1-1.45pm Sun 22 Mar & 2.15-3pm Sun 29 Mar
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
 connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz
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Waihi 231 Heard Road

Uninterrupted ocean vistas, modern farmhouse

Positioned on Waihi's northern hilltop, this architecturally designed home captures sweeping views across native bush to Orokawa Bay, Mayor (Tuhua) Island, Waihi Beach and Mount Maunganui. Held by one family for over four decades, the 43 hectares (more or less) provide scale and privacy. The 269sqm (more or less) residence embraces its 180-degree outlook, with expansive glazing drawing light into the interiors. A flexible office or library serves as a fourth bedroom. A flexible office or library serves as a fourth bedroom. Open-plan living sits beneath whitewashed spruce trusses, while the land blends bush and grazing with scope for a second dwelling. Just 12km from Waihi Beach.

bayleys.co.nz/2630207

43.47 ha

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 16 Apr 2026
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View by appointment
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
 sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Paeroa 59A Willoughby Street

Must be sold – Vendor has moved on

Located within Paeroa township, this solid three-bedroom home sits on a 455sqm (more or less) section. The vendor has sold every other property, and this is the last one remaining. He is extremely motivated, has no intention of holding, and is focused solely on getting this property sold. The home offers three well-proportioned bedrooms supported by a family bathroom. A functional kitchen with separate dining connects to a large living area, while an enclosed sunroom adds extra usable space that can be enjoyed year-round. A single garage provides secure parking, with a basement area offering excellent storage or workshop potential. The section is straightforward and low-maintenance.

bayleys.co.nz/2180811

3 1 1 1

Asking Price \$499,000
View by appointment
Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389
 maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
 connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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NEW LISTING

Boundary lines are indicative only

Boundary lines are indicative only

Whitianga 27 Albert Street

Commercial Income with simple structure

- \$50,000pa net income + GST and outgoings
- Retail plus storage, parking
- Consented apartment above

This commercial investment is well-suited to experienced property owners seeking to expand an existing portfolio with a reliable, uncomplicated income stream. Producing approximately \$50,000 per annum + GST, net of operating expenses, the property is held under a single lease, allowing it to be added to a broader holding structure without increasing management intensity.

bayleys.co.nz/2202063

837 350

Auction (unless sold prior) 1pm, Fri 17 Apr 2026
 1 Monk Street, Whitianga
View by appointment
Josh Smith 027 229 8865
 josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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NEW LISTING



Whitianga 1 Monk Street

Foot traffic. Future value.

- Pedestrian-led ground-floor use
- Commercial + Residential/apartments zoning
- Clear height intensification upside

Set on one of Whitianga's main pedestrian routes to the ferry, 1 Monk Street benefits from consistent foot traffic between the township and waterfront. Offered with vacant possession, it provides immediate control in a proven location. Mixed-use zoning and a three-storey height limit (subject to consent) create a practical development envelope — control the site, shape the outcome.

bayleys.co.nz/2202193

865_{sqm} 130_{sqm}

Auction (unless sold prior) 1pm, Fri 17 Apr 2026

On Site

View by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865

josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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NEW LISTING



Whitianga 1A Lee Street

Destination-driven multi tenanted-asset

- Cinema, liquor and fitness tenants
- Diversified large-format rental income
- \$152,280.50 pa plus GST & outgoings

Located in the heart of Whitianga, this established multi-tenanted commercial property at 1a Lee Street returns \$152,280.50 + GST and outgoings per annum. Anchored by a cinema, liquor retailer and full-service gym, the asset offers diversified income from proven operators benefiting from strong destination-driven patronage. A low-maintenance investment with stable cash flow and broad tenant appeal.

bayleys.co.nz/2202181

1,286_{sqm} 952_{sqm}

Auction (unless sold prior) 1pm, Fri 17 Apr 2026

1 Monk Street, Whitianga

View by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865

josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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SPORTS

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

Pool prodigy smashes nine records

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When Kingston Welsh takes to the water - his main focus is to "finish the race as fast as I can".

The 16-year-old Hauraki Plains College swimmer told *The Profile* he calmed his body before each race to "get into the zone".

"When I walk to the blocks, I start shaking my arms and jumping to get the blood flow working, which also hypes me up."

It's no wonder the young athlete made quite a splash at the school's recent Splash Days swimming sports event when he broke not one or two, but nine records, alongside nine other record breakers.

He also smashed one of the oldest records held since 1979 by Rex Kelland, for the senior boys one length freestyle race.

Kingston topped Rex's time of 15.10 with a new record of 14.56 and said "it was my goal" to break the 47-year-old record.

"I knew if I broke it that it would be my most proudest achievement," Kingston said.

It should come as no surprise that freestyle was Kingston's favourite stroke because he said it was his fastest.

The prodigy swimmer also broke the records for the one and two lengths butterfly, two and three lengths freestyle, one and two length backstroke, one length



Speedy swim star Kingston Welsh, 16, smashes nine HPC swim records.

Photos: SUPPLIED

breaststroke and four length medley. He said he was proud to have his name "engraved in history" at the college.

The swim star and year-12 student always enjoyed the sport but said he slacked off and "lost a bit of interest" during training last October because his times weren't improving.

The motivation to train came back in December as his "ultimate goal" was to make a podium plac-

ing at the upcoming 2026 Division II Swimming Competition in Dunedin from March 20-22, he said, where he hoped to come first overall in the freestyle event.

His swim journey started when he was seven years old, and later shifted into the competitive side of the sport as part of the Thames Swimming Club when he was 12.

"I love the camaraderie of the swim club team and talking to people, it's such a nice family culture.

"We encourage each other to hit PB's [personal bests]," he said.

His current focus and technique was to be more efficient and "explosive" in the water, he said.

But when it came to the people who inspired him to swim his heart out, it was his parents.

"I feel like they have put in huge time and sacrifices to get me and my sisters to where we are today.

"My dad trains me and my mum is always there to support," he said.



His goals were to qualify to compete at the Brisbane 2032 Summer Olympics or to represent New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games, he said.

Kingston knew he needed to push himself to reach his ambitions.

"I always think that you can't waste time and must be active.

"If I don't push myself one hundred per cent, I feel like I won't achieve my future goals at upcoming events," he said.

The accomplished athlete encouraged fellow swimmers to put in the effort.

"My advice to others is that Rome wasn't built in one day, it takes consistent effort and time to achieve what you want," he said.

"But if you put your mind to it, anything is achievable."

MORE RESULTS, P4

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