

The Valley Profile



DM DIPROSE MILLER
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\$50k NEEDED



By ALICE PARMINTER

More than \$50,000 is needed to replace the roof of the Kerepēhi Community Hall, with the local trust calling on the community for help.

The hall's roof, already old and in need of repair, suffered damage during the stormy weather in January.

Now the tin is riddled with holes, there are internal leaks, and although a temporary fix is in place, committee members say the whole thing needs replacing.

"The tin up there is wearing thin - it is old materials, but the rainfall and stuff that we have had from the last storms have just pushed it over the edge," Kerepēhi Community Hall and Domain Trust treasurer Emily Fitzpatrick said.

"I went up [to fix] two holes, there were probably closer to 30.

"The holes that were in the roof leaked. And then because [the ceiling's] just that type of chipboard, it goes soggy. And now it's a bit moldy too."

The extent of the damage is not yet known, and Emily said the costs could balloon once

the trust was able to get inside the roof and assess it properly.

"It's over \$50,000 just for the roof itself, and then we'll need a new ceiling," Emily said. "And that's not any damages that could be internal, like trusses or lights or anything else."

The committee was relatively new and finding their feet, Emily said, having signed a memorandum of understanding with the council in December to run the hall.

"It was a way bigger project that was passed on than we were anticipating. It's going to be a major, but it needs to be done."

The hall, which was built in 1945, was an important community asset which had been well-used for events like birthdays, weddings, funerals, dances, concerts, marae events, and school functions, Emily said.

"At the moment we can't really hire it out to the community because of health and safety."

The trust has already begun fundraising for the new roof. It held its first event, a car boot sale, on Valentines Day.

CONTINUED ON P2

Lenny Lindsay, left, and Emily Fitzpatrick say the Kerepēhi Community Hall needs major repairs.
 Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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Hall roof falling apart

CONTINUED FROM P1

Emily said the support from the community was amazing, and they raised \$800.

"It was raining, but we still had people turn up. We've also got all these books that have been part-donated from the old bookstore (A-Z Books) that closed down in Ngatea," Emily said.

"We had stallholders. The school came as well, they had horse rides and a car wash. They did quite well with both of those, so they were able to fund their camps and support us. And Puke Pine donated wood."

The trust also plans to apply for grants from the Lotteries Community Fund and the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund, but first need to be able to show they have 33 per cent of the funds secured.

"We have some money in the bank that's accumulated, but it's not enough, because you still have running costs," she said.

"But we've had requests for more car boot sales, and hopefully we'll get a sunny day this time. We've got a huge amount of space we can use - there's definitely possibilities to do the fundraising, but it's just getting everybody involved to actually do it."

The trust is also open to sponsorship from businesses, Emily said.

"It'd be nice to get a few more people involved in actually using the grounds effectively. And there's a lot of memories here for a lot of people," she said.

"I went to school here, and you always remember using this place. There was always something going on.



The chipboard ceiling is falling apart after torrential rain. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

"She is an older building, she's not in her prime. We'd like to get it back to its heyday."

DETAILS: Contact kerepehicomunitytrust@gmail.com for more information or to get involved.

In Brief

PHILANTHROPIST DIES

Well-known entrepreneur and businessman Wayne Wright Sr ONZM has died. Wayne and his late wife Chloe were the co-founders of Best Start Educare, established in 1996 and now operating more than 250 centres nationwide. They also co-founded the Wright Family Foundation Charitable Trust, and have invested millions in the early childhood sector, education, arts, and the community. Mr Wright was in the midst of developing Paeroa Hills, a large-scale property development on the site of the old Paeroa Racecourse. Work has been ongoing at the site since 2023, and a chapel in Chloe's honour is also under construction there. Funeral services will be held in Tauranga on March 28.

FOUR CAUGHT

Four people faced court following the first of many Police operations in Eastern Waikato on March 12. Police conducted a number of search warrants in the Coromandel Peninsula in an operation targeting offenders with warrants to arrest or who have failed to turn up to court recently. As a result, four arrests were made in the Whitianga and Coromandel township areas - two women aged 29 and 33, and two men aged 32 and 35. Eastern Waikato Area Commander, Inspector Mike Henwood said the offenders had avoided Court appearances on various assault, burglary, and theft charges.

Both the women and men were held in custody, and were due to appear in Hamilton District Court on March 13.



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Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31
 Morning 12:27am 3.5 12:57pm 3.4 6:36am 0.6 7:01pm 0.5 7:25am 7:23pm Best At 6:23am 6:54pm Rise 2:21pm Set 11:28pm	 Morning 1:22am 3.3 1:53pm 3.2 7:35am 0.8 7:58pm 0.7 7:26am 7:21pm Best At 7:25am 7:56pm Rise 3:20pm	 Morning 2:23am 3.2 2:53pm 3.1 8:40am 0.9 9:02pm 0.8 7:27am 7:20pm Best At 8:26am 8:55pm Set 12:36am Rise 4:08pm	 Morning 3:31am 3.2 3:59pm 3.1 9:49am 0.9 10:14pm 0.8 7:28am 7:18pm Best At 9:23am 9:49pm Set 1:48am Rise 4:47pm	 Morning 4:41am 3.2 5:10pm 3.1 10:57am 0.9 11:25pm 0.8 7:28am 7:17pm Best At 10:15am 10:39pm Set 3:00am Rise 5:19pm	 Morning 5:44am 3.2 6:16pm 3.1 11:58am 0.8 7:29am 7:15pm Best At 11:03am 11:25pm Set 4:08am Rise 5:47pm	 Morning 12:25am 0.7 12:53pm 0.7 6:39am 3.3 7:14pm 3.2 7:30am 7:14pm Best At 11:48am Set 5:14am Rise 6:11pm

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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	Hr	Min	Hr	Min
Coromandel	-	0	04	-0
Whitianga	-	0	01	-0
Tairua	+	0	10	+0
Whangamata	-	0	03	-0
Waihi Beach	-	0	21	-0

Relief funds help storm recovery

By ALICE PARMINTER

Applications to the Thames-Coromandel Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund have now closed but money raised has already started to help the community recover, Thames-Coromandel District Council says.

The fund was opened to help those suffering extraordinary circumstances due to a significant storm event in January.

A state of emergency was declared for the district on January 21, as widespread flooding and slips forced many people to evacuate, with some areas being cut off.

Applications for the fund closed on 6 March.

“Just over \$400,000 was available thanks to donations from individuals and businesses, and a grant from the government.

“This includes an additional contribution of \$100,000 from the National Emergency Management Agency,” council said.

A council spokesperson said they had received 243 requests for assistance.

“Some of the applicants worst affected have now received funding and our teams are busy working through the remaining applications.

“Due to the number of applicants, this may take time. Pa-

tience from any applicants who haven’t yet heard from our teams is appreciated,” the spokesperson said.

An independent panel is assessing each application in batches, with a focus on prioritising individuals and families hardest hit. “While the fund will go some way to help people impacted by the storm event, the road to recovery is long. It will take time before our district can truly return to normal.”

The council is also offering additional support, information on how to get help, and the latest updates on recovery efforts on its dedicated webpage www.tcdc.govt.nz/storm-recovery.

Meanwhile, the Hauraki District Council’s Mayoral Relief Fund closed on March 20, after extending its scope to include eligible businesses experiencing hardship from the storm.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams said he was disappointed to receive some fraudulent applications, and said the council had informed the police.

“One was very very blatant... he had a picture, he had a story, he had a quote from a group [but] something wasn’t quite adding up,” he said.

“It’s quite disappointing that they would try and take money from people in need.”



Te Papakainga o Koputauaki versus Taharua Marae in the Tug of War.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

Iwi spirit shines in Paeroa

By ALICE PARMINTER

Paeroa was filled with whanaungatanga on March 21, as thousands of people descended on the domain for the Hauraki Games. The overall winner for this year’s Games was Kerepehi Marae; they were presented with the taonga Te Hoe, along with \$3000 for the marae.

RESULTS

Toa Whakaihūwaka (overall winner): Kerepehi Marae; He Manawanui Award (for perseverance and dedication): Tapu Ariki Pā; Henry Wickliffe Trophy: Taharua Marae; Softball Winners: Makomako Marae; Tamariki Games Winner: Karaka Pā; Bowls Winner: Mātai Whetū Marae; Tapu Ariki Winner: Manaia Marae; Tug of War Winner: Hikutaia Marae; Euchre Winner: Te Papakainga o Koputauaki; Netball Winner: Taharua Marae.



Clockwise from top left: Players compete in touch; Kerepehi Marae takes on Tapu Ariki Pā; Mātai Whetū Marae’s Rose Robson; Donna McRae from Hikutaia Marae.

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Thames' house of healing

By ALICE PARMINTER

Sonja Merz is a woman with vision - to help struggling people find a way forward.

Sonja is the founder of the Coming Home Project, a Thames-based long-term residential programme for people with anger, addiction, poverty, or mental health issues.

The project operates under a holistic, Christian faith-based philosophy, working through stages of healing, restoration, recovery, and reintegration.

"The aim is not merely to provide accommodation, but to create a nurturing environment in which deep transformation, renewed identity, and lasting restoration can take place," Sonja said. "The programme is designed for individuals who are ready for change and genuinely desire to build a new life."

There was already a great deal of interest from people in the community, Sonja said.

"We're already working individually with people... We're going to start with a low number and then build gradually over years."

Sonja's passion has developed through her years of community ministry work. "What I found really hard was to see the same people year in, year out in the same state," she said.

"My heart was really longing for transformation, for change, for healing of their hearts. And I thought, it's good what we're doing there, [but] it's not enough, really, for a new start. So, there

came this inner conviction."

Sonja came across similar programmes in Spain, and said they were working really well.

She was inspired to bring the idea back home.

"We have a big issue here in Thames, we are so rural and there's nothing residential here," she said. "We want to focus on the people who are here because we believe that we can change the situation in our town, in our district."

The residential programme was built on commitment, Sonja

"When we address everything together, then we have big chances for lasting transformation."

- Sonja Merz

said, reflecting the fact that lasting transformation takes time.

Eligible participants will need to commit to being drug-free, and will detox beforehand.

They will then live in the house with a supervisory "house parent", and begin the work of transformation.

"We address all areas of their life and that's work, housing, relationships, families, faith, everything, because only when we address everything together, then we have big chances for lasting transformation," she said.

"But it's living life together that makes a huge difference."

Having a bubble of support for a long time period would make the programme work where traditional rehabs didn't, Sonja said.

The project will be working with psychologists, counsellors, and the church, although it is being run as an independent organisation, and Sonja is volunteering her time.

"I have some counselling and psychology training and some training in trauma and addiction, and in prayer ministry," she said.

"The Bible is such a wonderful foundation for life with so many answers. To say, hey, there are some rules in there or some guidelines that really make sense to live by - yeah, that is wonderful."

Sonja said participants will live in the house for at least a year, and will be fully supported with transitioning to independent living in several stages, when they are ready.

"But they can still be in touch with us. I've seen that in the other projects that I've visited, that often people want to stay in touch and to contribute back.

"And so over time, we'll have the older ones supporting the younger ones, like buddies, and then we have those who've finished and graduated, and they help support us as well.

"So it can develop into a really, really beautiful system."

DETAILS: See www.cominghome.co.nz for more information about the Coming Home Project, or to find out how to help.



Sonja Merz has a calling to help those in need.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

A WINNING NIGHT FOR HELLOWORLD THAMES!

Helloworld Travel Thames has been crowned **New Zealand's most awarded travel store** after a standout performance at the recent APT/Travelmarvel Luxury Touring Awards held in Auckland.

The Thames-based agency walked away with four national titles on the night:



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The Anne Waterhouse Legacy Award presented to Jo Robinson,

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The accolades recognise outstanding excellence in APT and Travelmarvel sales and service nationwide, and Helloworld Travel Thames says the success

is a testament to the passion and teamwork of its tight-knit staff and the loyal support of its clients.

Locally owned and operated for more than 22 years, the agency has steadily expanded its reach across the Coromandel and now operates from three bases, including new pop-up locations in Whangamatā and Waihi Beach two days a week.

As an award-winning local team, Helloworld Travel Thames says it remains committed to helping Coromandel travellers explore the world, working alongside clients in their own community and being there before, during, and after every journey to ensure trips run smoothly.



TRAVEL EVENT:

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To celebrate the launch of the pop-up branches, Helloworld Travel Thames is hosting a special travel event in Whangamatā on Wednesday 6 May, where guests can hear from key travel suppliers from around the globe; RSVPs are essential, with full details available via QR code.

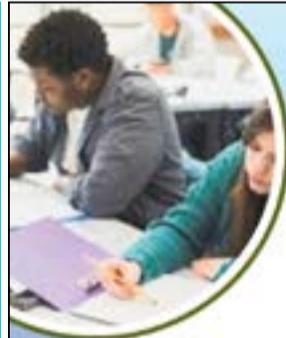
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New facilities a 'game-changer'

A sense of community pride and inclusion filled Waihi Beach on March 7, when around 80 people gathered to celebrate the official opening of a new high-needs accessible changing facility in the Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services building.

The event consisted of adaptive beach activities hosted by Achilles NZ and Parafed Waikato, and an official ribbon cutting by rangatahi Emmet Schaare and Dame Catriona Williams.

Live Well Waihi Beach accessibility advocate and ambassador Dave MacCalman said the new facility was a "game-changer".

"This facility means people

with complex needs can enjoy the full beach experience, from getting into a beach wheelchair, to swimming, to getting warm and dressed again afterwards.

"It's a game-changer for accessible recreation across New Zealand."

The facility was important to attendees like Ollie Goulden.

"Disabled people, older people, and anyone with additional access needs can come to the beach with their families and friends and actually participate, not just visit, but belong," he said.

"When access exists, people don't just show up – they thrive."



LEFT: Finlay Graham and mum Kimberly check out the facilities. RIGHT: A safe beach access for all.



Wheelchair races provide fun and entertainment.



Dave MacCalman, Emmet Schaare and Dame Catriona Williams open the facilities, centre. RIGHT: adaptive surfing.



A community celebrates the opening of the new facilities.



We've got some big choices to make on our proposed budget for the year ahead

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The Magic Faraway Tree (110 mins) G. Follows a modern family who find themselves forced to relocate to the remote English countryside and discover a magical tree and its extraordinary and eccentric residents. Adapted from the Enid Blyton book series of the same name.

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.

Project Hail Mary (156 mins) M. A science teacher (Ryan Gosling) wakes up on a spaceship light years from home. 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 the Earth from extinction.

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. A hilarious, heartwarming dramedy set in the 1970s, with a star-studded cast. When young Brian discovers plans to close a convent of eccentric nuns, he sets off on a road trip across NZ to save them. Packed with laughs, quirky characters, and heart - an adventure the young at heart will adore.

Next week: Hunt for the Wilderpeople (10th anniversary screenings); The Super Mario Galaxy Movie.



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Space, Privacy, Convenience

This four-bedroom family home sits on a 1765 (approx.) sqm section, with a peaceful rural outlook, and room to share! Just moments from Waihi College at the top of the driveway, now that is so convenient. The main bedroom has an ensuite and a walk-in robe.

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New Listing



Waihi
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Call to fight for women's rights

By ALICE PARMINTER

Around 50 people gathered in Thames on March 8 to mark International Women's Day - not with a celebration but with words of protest.

The public meeting, held at St James Church at 2pm, was attended by around 50 people.

Its purpose was to discuss the impact of last year's abrupt amendments to the Equal Pay Act which saw the cancellation of 33 active pay equity claims for mostly women-dominated occupations, and talk about possible future action.

Guest speaker Steve Chadwick, a former Minister of Women's Affairs, said it was apt she was speaking about pay equity on Women's Day.

"The Equal Pay Act was an amazing process and an amazing victory, but now we've baked in inequality again - [the Act] was decimated overnight," she said.

"This was the ultimate insult to these low-paid workers who had their agreement reached and then had the blanket pulled out from under them overnight. That impacted over 180,000 women around the country."

Ms Chadwick was one of the former MPs heading the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity.

The committee was formed in response to the Equal Pay Act Amendment Act 2025, passed on May 6 last year.

Its members alleged the legislation changes were rushed through secretly "in bad faith", and didn't allow the public a chance to have a say.



Steve Chadwick addresses a crowd on women's rights and pay equity in Thames.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

The committee has sought its own public feedback, hearing more than 1500 submissions from men and women, unions, employers, advocates, and experts over the course of 10 public hearings.

It's findings were released on February 24 with a number of recommendations to the government.

The key recommendations the report made were that the amendments should be repealed; the cancelled claims should be reinstated without requiring them to restart the process; community and iwi organisations delivering public services should be fully funded to deliver any relevant pay equity settlements; and improvements

should be made to the government's funding and contracting processes for health, social services, and education services to support future pay equity settlements.

At the public meeting, Ms Chadwick explained the Select Committee's findings to the crowd, before urging attendees to take action through political activism - particularly encouraging people to contact their local MP, and to vote in the upcoming election.

"I think we've all got to be pretty noisy this election. Start putting the pressure on."

"It's the only mechanism we've got."

Her sentiments were echoed

by the other presenters, many of whom are part of a new local activism group called Women Weaving Solidarity.

"We're determined to make it an election issue because it affects so many of the population," group member Michele Fill said.

"Weaving Solidarity is different women ... looking to the future and looking at changing it - we are not going to put up with a right-wing, racist, bigoted government that is doing what it's doing to women and children in this community and in New Zealand."

DETAILS: The full report is available online at www.payequity.org.nz/report.

Gorge closures planned

Urgent repairs to a retaining wall in the Karangahake Gorge on SH2 will see daytime closures for two days on March 30-31 between 9am and 3pm, depending on weather.

The closure window was chosen to avoid school drop-off and commuter peaks, while still providing enough daylight for crews and divers to work safely in the river, NZTA agency said.

Underwater cavities have formed in the foundations of the 1930s river wall, and crews have already completed filling five of the smaller cavities with cement bags, and begun filling the largest cavity which requires approximately 25 cubic metres of concrete.

"These ... repairs will need to be secured as soon as possible with large rocks placed underwater at the base of the wall to prevent further scouring and movement," regional manager for maintenance and operations Roger Brady said.

"Next, a larger crane needs to be set up on the road above and there is not enough room to operate this under a single lane closure, making a full closure unavoidable.

Another temporary closure will be required two or three weeks later, weather permitting, to finish armouring the large repair. This will be timed to avoid the peak travel period over Easter. Divers will be working in the river to guide the placement of the rocks, so the work cannot be carried out at night. "If this protection work is not completed soon, rising river flows could damage the newly repaired cavities, leading to further deterioration of the river wall. In the worst case, the wall could fail, requiring a month-long full closure to construct a temporary bridge," Mr Brady said.



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Fantastic family fun

The Ngatea Lions 2026 Free Family Fun Day was a stellar success, with people of all ages gathering at the Hauraki Plains College fields on March 8 to enjoy some fun.

There were all sorts of activities on offer, from bouncy castles, pony rides, family races, and facepainting, to joyrides on all sorts of vehicles including a fire truck and a "magic carpet". There was also plenty to eat, with

free sausage sizzle, popcorn, candy floss, and slushies. The event wound up with the popular foam cannon and slip n slide, managed by the fire brigade. "Everything is free thanks to the huge generosity of all our local sponsors," the Lions Club said. "[We] would love to thank the local businesses and organisations who make this day possible."



The popular magic carpet ride, towed behind a tractor.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Cooling off with the foam cannon.



Bowie and Malia with Hello Kitty face paint.



Koinaki, Logan, and Tawhero.



Violet, 23 months, enjoys a candy floss treat.



Eight-year-old Mikaylah enjoys a pony ride.

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Sometimes you've gotta swim through it

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Six or seven weeks ago, I could barely swim 50 metres without panicking. I'd hit the halfway point, breathing would get messy, and that familiar wave of anxiety would crash in.

But I'd signed up for a triathlon. That meant I had to figure out how to swim 1000 metres non-stop – in open water. No pushing pause. No touching the sides. Just me, the water, and my breath.

And the wild thing is... last

week I did it. I swam for 30 minutes straight.

But the even wilder thing? I helped a struggling teenager across a tidal current at a youth camp.

Something that would've once sent me into a full-blown panic – now, it felt surprisingly natural.

It's funny how we can know something but never let it touch certain parts of our world.

This was a truth that I've taught and practiced. But never had I let it touch my fear in the water. Until now...

Sometimes the way through fear and anxiety is not to tiptoe around it – but to set a goal

that smashes straight through it. Your brain will come up with a thousand reasons to avoid the thing.

It'll feed you panic, worst-case scenarios, and excuses dressed up as logic. But your brain also learns from experience.

Every time you avoid the fear, or create a reason why you can't face it, the fear is confirmed and entrenched all the more.

Yet when you show it that you can handle it – one breath, one lap, one step at a time – the fear starts to loosen its grip.

So what about you?

What's the fear you've been circling?

What's the challenge you've been quietly avoiding?

Maybe it's time to flip the script.

Set the goal. Swim through the fear. Walk through the tension. And give your brain – and your story – something new to believe.

Because on the other side of that fear... is freedom.

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

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. How is 'blue rare' steak prepared?
2. Which band released the appropriately named album Who's Next in 1971?
3. Which New Zealand island is located halfway between Chatham Island and the subantarctic Campbell Islands? a) Antipodes Island, b) Codfish Island, or c) Snares Island?
4. Which of these New Zealand native plants features flowers that can grow directly from the trunk? a) Kauri, b) Kohekohe, or c) Koromiko?
5. Which spiky animal's name is derived by combining old French terms for 'spiny' and 'pig'?
6. Rhinosinusitis is the blockage of which body organ?
7. Who played the part of The Riddler in the movie *Batman Forever* (1995)? a) Jim Carrey, b) John Astin, or c) Paul Dano?
8. The 2026 US Major League Baseball season is scheduled to begin on March 25, with the San Francisco Giants hosting which New York team?
9. The town of Whiritoa is serviced by which district council? a) Hauraki District Council, or b) Thames-Coromandel District Council?
10. What number is next in the sequence: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5,....

ANSWERS: 1. The steak is seared for a very short time on the outside, leaving the center cool, deep red, and barely cooked; 2. The Who; 3. a) Antipodes Island; 4. b) Kohekohe. This feature is known as cauliflory; 5. Porcupine; 6. The nose; 7. a) Jim Carrey; 8. New York Yankees; 9. a) Hauraki District Council; 10. 8. This is a Fibonacci sequence where each number is the sum of the two numbers that precede it.

Pet Profile

A little cloud of kittens

Meet a truly special litter of kittens ready to bring love and personality into their forever homes.

Alisha is a gentle, sweet girl who blossoms into a loving companion, while her brothers Bowie and Cain are calm, affectionate boys who adore cuddles and being close to their people. Bowie's mismatched blue and green eyes make him a real standout, and Cain's soft green gaze matches his gentle, loving nature.

Adding a splash of colour to the family is their sister Ethel, the only lilac torti in the litter. With her striking coat and naturally "posh" presence, she loves to perch up high and watch

the world go by, while still enjoying playtime and affection.

These kittens are all affectionate, charming, and ready to fit beautifully into family life.

They are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, flea and worm treated, and litter trained – making them ready to head straight into their new homes.

Come meet them at Thames SPCA – your perfect match could be waiting.

Meanwhile, the SPCA has received several queries about sweet Sassy, the puppy featured in last week's *Valley Profile*, and she is well on her way to being adopted.

- Supplied by Thames SPCA



These sweet white kittens are searching for their forever homes. Photo: SUPPLIED



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On the Land

Farmers shine at Dairy Industry Awards

Paeroa-based entrants featured strongly at the 2026 Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Industry Awards, with farm assistant Wil Wilkie taking out the Dairy Trainee of the Year title and herd manager Aristotle Sadinis finishing runner-up in the Dairy Manager category.

Wilkie, 26, who works for Brendan and Tessa Hopson on a 200ha, 600-cow farm near Paeroa, claimed the region's top trainee honour along with a \$6400 prize package and a merit award.

Judges praised his broad farming knowledge, particularly in animal health, feed budgeting and health and safety.

Wilkie has a Bachelor of Science and completed a Certificate of Primary Industry Skills at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology before getting his first job as farm assistant.

"I have always been passionate about animals so farming was an ideal career for me," he said. "I love getting to know the cows, and I enjoy the variety of different tasks I get to do every day."

Sadinis, 29, herd manager on a 338ha, 1050-cow Paeroa farm owned by Craig Zydenbos, was named runner-up Dairy Manager of the Year.



Wil Wilkie, left, alongside fellow award winners Olivia Sutton, Craig Dobbe, and Owen Clifford.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Originally from the Philippines, he impressed the judges with his continued development in the industry, earning \$5025 and two merit awards

"Last year's awards gave me a reason to continue what I love and that is farming," Sadinis said. "I gained confidence to communicate to others and I have learned so many things

about farming."

The awards were announced at a ceremony held at the Thames Civic Centre on March 17.

Also recognised in the Dairy Trainee category were Zak Sattrup, 19, who placed runner-up and works near Huntly, and Robin Attwell, 21, who placed third.

The region's top honours went

to Olivia Sutton and Craig Dobbe, who were named Auckland/Hauraki Share Farmers of the Year.

The Waerenga couple are 33 percent equity partners in JRC Farm Limited, milking 200 cows on 190 hectares. They received a \$13,275 prize package and six merit awards.

Owen Clifford, 27, was named

Auckland/Hauraki Dairy Manager of the Year.

Managing a 475-cow, 200ha farm in Waerenga for Ross and Tracey Laing, Clifford was recognised for his strong record-keeping and passion for breeding high-performing cows.

He received a prize package worth \$9400 and four merit awards.

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On the Land

The kaitiaki of the bush

By ALICE PARMINTER

Driving up a winding gravel road, a visit to Sudarshanaloka near Thames feels like the definition of getting away from it all.

Sitting on just under 87 hectares of thick bush, the natural environment is an integral part of Sudarshanaloka, a Triratna Buddhist Retreat Centre.

Connected to the bush-clad block since 1993, four years ago the kaitiaki (guardians) realised that something was wrong and getting worse, trust member Akasamati Thompson said.

Bird life was declining, and pest species such as possums, mustelids and rats had taken a foothold.

Something needed to be done, but this presented an ethical dilemma for the Buddhists, whose first precept is to abstain from taking life.

All life, including pests.

After much soul-searching over two years, the community decided to begin

trapping the pests that were decimating the precious bush and destroying the birdlife.

The Suvana (meaning beautiful forest) project was born.

“At the start of the Suvana Project we wanted to follow best practice and include monitoring in our activities.

“It’s one thing to log the number of animals trapped but knowing whether that is actually having a positive effect on the bush and birdlife is the real test of whether all the work is worth it.

“There is quite a bit of work involved in monitoring but it’s a real morale booster when you see the pest numbers falling and the bird numbers increasing,” Akasamati said.

Needing support on their journey, the group reached out to Aaron Pulford from Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel, who, along with Waikato Regional Council biodiversity officer Renee Denby, worked to get Suvana off the ground.

“We couldn’t have done it

without them,” Akasamati said.

Once the baseline data was collected, trapping commenced in 2023.

The group has kept the initiative small, determined to make it sustainable.

“Otherwise, all the loss of life would have been wasted.”

Last year, the Suvana project received a Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund grant from the council to install three more AT220 Autotraps and 10 more DOC 200 traps.

Council biodiversity partnerships lead Nicky Ismay said it had been a great project to support.

“Council really values the commitment shown by the Sudarshanaloka community to protecting and restoring the ngahere (bush),” she said.

With support from members of the community, who help with clearing the traps, there has been a marked decline in the number of pests on the ground.

And Suvana had sparked something of a movement in the valley, Aaron said, with other groups in the valley following their lead.

“They’ve done extremely well,” he said.

“It’s an amazing project.”

Aaron said he was honoured to be part of the journey the Buddhists have taken over the past two years.



Trust member Akasamati Thompson, left, says it’s been a morale booster to see bird numbers increasing. ABOVE: A Rata tree in the active trapping area.

Photos: SUPPLIED/WRC



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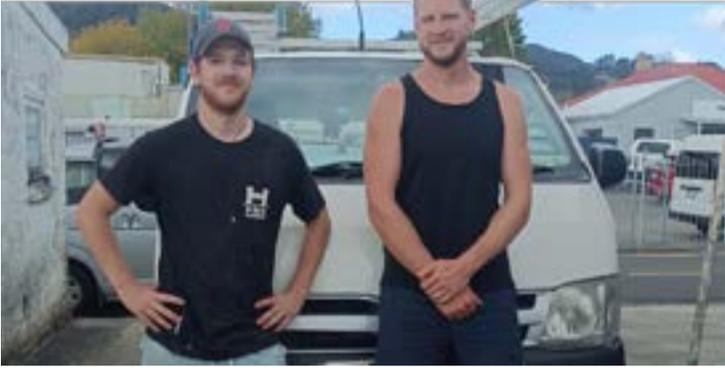
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Building & Renovation



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"As a local born and raised Thames lad, I'm passionate about giving back to the community," Hayden said.

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Customers continue to praise

Hayden for his professionalism and the care he takes with each job.

"We were so impressed with the quality of the work and Hayden's honesty throughout," one customer said.

Another customer said "Hayden and Jono are an awesome team. I have used them on a few renovation jobs. Honest and reliable!"

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later.

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"The government's new rules for building a granny flat may allow certain small standalone dwellings to be built without full building consent, provided they meet specific criteria.

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Building & Renovation

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Getting started with building and renovating

When it comes to building or renovating projects in the Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki Districts, it can be a thrilling experience. It's a time when ideas, inspiration and excitement run wild, motivation hits an all-time high and people can feel proud about what they're dreaming up. On the other hand, it can also feel a little bit daunting or overwhelming.

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Building or renovating can feel like an emotional rollercoaster with the delight and joy of making small or significant changes, or the stress and doubt that lands when things don't go to plan.

It's no surprise one of the best parts of the whole process is seeing the end result.

But in order to see the outcome, we have to go back to the start - that's where the building consent process comes in.

A building consent is something that is issued by the Council to confirm that a person's proposed work aligns with the New Zealand Building Code, the Building Act 2004 and associated regulations.

For people in the Hauraki or Thames-Coromandel Districts, there are a few steps they need to consider.

According to the Hauraki District Council website, the building consent process begins with the first stage: planning the project.

The key things for the owner to organise in this part of the process are: setting the budget; understanding the responsibilities of owner, designer and builder; choosing a designer, builder and tradespeople; understanding their land; and also - while it is optional - getting a PIM (project information memorandum).

One piece of advice Hayden Taylor of Taylor Buildcraft likes to give every owner before they begin their build process is about planning.

"Take the time to get the planning right, and always use an LBP [Licensed Building Practitioner]," he told *The Profile*.

Stage two is the time to gather all the documentation needed for the Building Consent (BC), to check plans and specifications are complete, to complete and submit the application form and documentation, then if it's needed, apply for a Resource Consent.

Once those boxes are ticked, it's time to think about stage three - processing the Building Consent.

The application is allocated to the Building Officer, and specialist advice can be requested if required. The officer will assess compliance of the application and documentation, and will request more information if needed. They will also make the call if the Building Consent will be granted and issued.

When the Building Consent approval has been received, the owner may

begin their build. There are lots more pieces of information and steps to consider when starting the building or renovating process, but these are just some things to help you make a start. People can find out more information about these stages, or the following stages on the Hauraki District Council website: www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/rules-regulations-licences/building/building-in-hauraki-district.

The way Taylor Buildcraft begins a project with an owner is simple.

"We like to start with an on-site chat, getting a feel for what's important to the client, how they live and what they're trying to achieve," Hayden said.

"From there, for smaller projects like decks, kitchen renovations etc, we'll of-

fer layout or material suggestions. "If it's a larger renovation or new build, we work alongside their architect or designer to make sure we're all on the same page before we break ground," he said. According to the Thames-Coromandel District Council website, if people are planning to build or renovate, almost everything they build needs to comply with the requirements of the Building Act 2004, the Building Code, and a number of standards and regulations. Rules for construction, alteration, demolition and maintenance of new and existing buildings are set out in the Building Act 2004, while the Building Code makes sure

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CONTINUED FROM P14

buildings are healthy, durable and safe for everyone who may use them.

The Building.govt website states that the building consent authorities (BCAs), usually the council, will assess the plans and specifications to make sure the building work proposed will comply with the Building Code.

A building consent will be issued for the work to proceed by the BCA when they are satisfied. If the work is built in alignment to the consented plans and receives a code compliance certificate, it's confirmation that the requirements have been met for the Building Code.

For more information, visit: www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance.

It is TCDC's recommendation that the building owner engages with an experienced professional such as an architect or draughtsperson to assist with drawings, design work, specifications and documentation before making a building consent application.

The building owner (or their agent) holds responsibility to make sure that any professionals who conduct the work or offer professional opinions are legally able to within their registration.

For more information on this please see www.buildwaikato.co.nz.

One thing builder Hayden Taylor said he wanted owners to understand about a new build is that "it's a team effort".

"The best builds come from strong relationships.

"When there's clear communication and mutual trust from the outset, it paves the way for a smoother build and better end result."

When it comes to hurdles in the road, there were a few common mistakes that owners could make which sometimes slowed the project down.

One is holding off on decisions, or making changes once the project is underway, he said.

"It's completely understandable, and we'll always accommodate the client, but it does slow things down. The more we can lock in early, the smoother the process will be."

Another is when the owner calls on their own subcontractors or sources products independently, he said.

"While it can seem like a way to save money, it often leads to delays or quality issues. We work with a trusted team of electricians, plumbers, painters, gib stoppers, who we know will deliver on time and to a high standard, and we rely on proven suppliers to keep things running smoothly."

Another important aspect of the building process lies in the area of exempted work. While the need for a building consent is generally required prior to any building work commencing, there are times where the work falls under the category of exempted work.

Something that belongs under the banner of exempted work is an example from the Building.govt website, where an owner replaces the old rotten wooden piles under a house in the same positions with new treated timber piles.

This is exempted work as long as the work is not a substantial or complete replacement.

Another example is if an owner was to replace any doors or windows, joinery and glazing included, in the same position as old ones which are not fire rated, with new aluminium doors and windows.

A list of building projects that are exempt can be found in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004.

People must get a building consent before the work can begin if they are

planning any alteration work, demolition or construction.

Tents, marquees, pools and fireplaces also often need building consent.

For more information about specific types of building projects and their consent requirements, visit the Build Waikato website.

While this only scratches the surface of the building consent process, it highlights some of the early steps many owners can encounter when planning their project.

Those planning to build or renovate can contact their council for full requirements and guidance.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Rob Holding is Thames Music Group's first Friday Concert guest performer.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Broadcaster to perform

CFM Radio broadcaster, Rob Holding is the guest performer for the first Thames Music Group Friday concert for 2026.

On Friday, March 27, Rob will take the stage at St George's Church to perform on songs with guitar and piano.

Rob's parents bought him a miniature grand piano when he was three years old because he'd shown such interest in trying to copy his piano-teacher mother on the big one. That led to a few years of music lessons and several years of even more recitals at Otago University's Marama Hall with the Dunedin Music Society.

The focus changed when his father brought home Peter Posa's LP The Mad Hatter. Half a century later, it's mostly guitar and vocals with only the occasional foray into piano.

Apart from being the sole pianist at the

church, Rob and his wife, Sharon, have been attending in Katikati, with most of Rob's singing these days being done at markets and retirement homes.

Prior to going full-time with Coromandel's CFM, you could find Rob regularly busking in various towns the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. Rob will perform a mix of original works and covers, accompanying himself on both guitar and piano.

"The Thames Music Group's Friday lunchtime series is a wonderful opportunity for locals to enjoy live music and see the talents of local musicians," a spokesperson said.

DETAILS: Thames Music Group's Free Friday Concert series presents Rob Holding, March 27, 12.15pm, at St George's Church, Mackay St, Thames. Free entry, koha/donation gratefully accepted.

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The Valley Profile

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

Death Notices

STRONG, Clarence Dawson (Dawson): Peacefully, at Tairua Residential Care on the 15 March 2026; aged 97 years. Devoted husband of the late Vaughan. Adored father and father-in-law of Shelley, and Allison and Brian. Treasured Pop of Mitchell. Beloved Uncle and friend to many. Will be greatly missed and always in our hearts. Special thank you to Dawson's caregivers and the many friends and family who gave so much support. In accordance with Dawson's wishes a private cremation has been held. All communication to dvstrong208@hotmail.com

SWNEY, Noel Peter: 1960 - 14/3/26. Finally set free after a 2 year journey with cancer. Heartfelt gratitude and thanks for Trudie, HCZN - we appreciate and love you. Howie and IPU team Hospice - thanks for the advice, care and time-out. Staff at Thames Hospital, a lot of time spent there - staff you are great. Thames Centre Pharmacy staff - thanks for checking in on me and your advice. Dr David - much appreciation. Carry Swney in your memories as we will. Dane, Ruby, Alice, Molly, Axel and Tiffany.

In Memoriam

BOYD, William: It's been 4 years since your passing on April 2nd. Dad and Popa, you are dearly missed and remembered every day with smiles, love and warmth. All our love Tam, Emerald-May, Rigby, Riley-Ray and Roxannah-Lee.

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Public Notice

STEPPING OUT HAURAKI INC Special Meeting You are cordially invited to attend the Special Meeting To be held on Monday 30th March at 10:30am @ Stepping Out Hauraki 100 Sealey Street, Thames *The meeting will conclude with a light lunch*

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Pipes and Drums of Thames Valley Special General Meeting. Discussion of winding up the band and dissolution of band property. 7pm April 2nd at Twentymans Chapel Paeroa.

Situations Vacant

We are looking for tractor, car & bike mechanics to join our team. Some experience would be an advantage but training will be given to the right applicant, and WoF ticket is preferable. If you're reliable and a team player send your CV to miles@hpmotors.co.nz or ph 027 227 1121 for a chat.

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Public Notices

HAURAKI MĀORI TRUST BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 28 March 2026 - 10.00am
Matai Whetu Marae, 12 Ngāti Maru Highway, Kopu, Thames

AGENDA

1. Karakia-Mihi
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Presentation of HMTB Annual Report 2024-2025
5. Presentation of HMTB Annual Plan 2025-2026
6. General Business

PARE HAURAKI FISHING TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 28 March 2026 - commencing after HMTB AGM)
Matai Whetu Marae, 12 Ngāti Maru Highway, Kopu, Thames

AGENDA

1. Karakia-Mihi
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Presentation of PHFT Annual Report 2024-2025
5. Presentation of PHFT Annual Plan 2025-2026
6. General Business
7. Karakia Whakamutunga

Please note that the documents relating to the HMTB and PHFT AGM will be available on request from the HMTB office or on our website www.hauraki.iwi.nz prior to the AGM. All queries to (07) 862 7521 or free phone 0508 468 288 Nikky Fisher- Chief Executive

Council Meetings April 2026

In accordance with section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, I advise the following meetings to be held during the month of April 2026 in the Council Chamber, 1 William Street, Paeroa.

Regulatory Hearings Committee Tuesday, 7 April 2026 - 9.00am (if required)

Council Wednesday, 8 April 2026, 9.00am

Policy, Planning and Emergency Management Committee Wednesday, 15 April 2026, 9.00am (confirmed)

Regulatory Hearings Committee Tuesday, 21 April 2026 - 9.00am (if required)

Waihi Ward Public Meeting with Waihi Grey Power Waihi Baptist Church, 3 Gilmour Street, Waihi Friday, 24 April 2026 – 10.15am

Audit, Risk and Finance Committee Tuesday, 28 April 2026 - 9.00am

DA Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notices

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 a **Filming Event**, will close the following streets to ordinary vehicular traffic for the periods indicated hereunder.

! PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE !

Thames

10pm Sunday 17th May to 6am Wednesday 20th May 2026
Full Road Closure (No Access)

- Kirkwood Street – between Pahau St and Cochrane St (Access to funeral home carpark will be facilitated by Traffic Management on site for any funerals that take place during this period)
- Pollen Street – between Pahau St and Cochrane St
- Martha Street – between Pahau St and Cochrane St
- Cochrane Street – between Queen St and Mackay St

10pm Sunday 17th May to 6am Wednesday 20th May 2026
Resident Access only

- Kirkwood Street – between Cochrane St and Albert St
- Pollen Street – between Cochrane St and Campbell St

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

www.tcdc.govt.nz

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

HAURAKI DISTRICT PLAN
Notification of decisions on plan change

Hauraki District Council gives notice that it has made its decisions on submissions and further submissions on the following Plan Change:

Proposed Plan Change 2: Waihi; Residential and Industrial Re-zoning

Pursuant to Clause 10(4)(b) of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991, Hauraki District Council gives notice that on 11 March 2026 it made Decisions on the submissions and further submissions to Proposed Plan Change 2: Waihi; Residential and Industrial Re-zoning.

Amendments to District Plan:

- Ford Road: re-zone approximately 11.8ha of land from Rural Zone to Industrial Zone, with a Structure Plan to guide development.
- Thorn Road: re-zone approximately 6,000m² of land from Rural Zone to Residential Zone.
- Bradford Street: re-zone approximately 10.3ha of land from Low Density Residential Zone to Residential Zone, with a Structure Plan to guide development.
- Bradford Street Extension: remains Low Density Residential Zone but with amended provisions to enable increased density of development.
- Additions to Section 8 (Appendices – Structure Plans) and amendments to Section 5.8 (Low Density Residential Zone – Zone Development Standards) and 9.4 (Subdivision Rules - Low Density Zone) of the Operative Hauraki District Plan – Hauraki Section.
- Amendments to give effect to Council Decisions including to Planning Maps 31, K3, K5 and the Map Legend.

To view the Decisions and Amendments of Proposed Plan Change 2: Waihi; Residential and Industrial Re-zoning, visit www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plan-change-2 or any Hauraki District Council office or library.

DA Speirs
Chief Executive
on behalf of Hauraki District Council
24 March 2026

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/plan-change-2

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SUDOKU

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HARD

243

HARD

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EASY

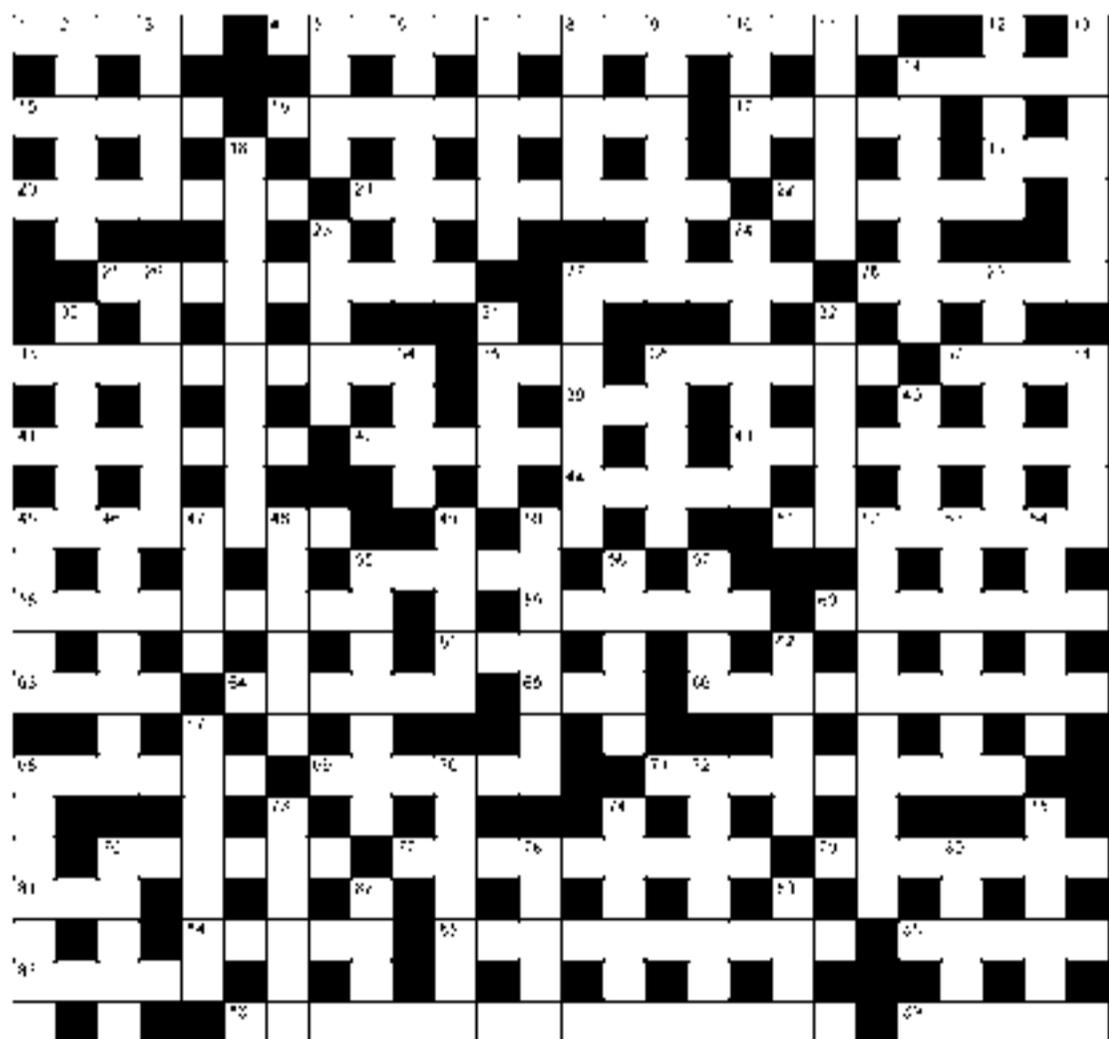
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5	2	6	1	9	8	7	4	3
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

263

- ACROSS**
- 1 Severe (5)
 - 4 Head straight towards (4,1,7,3)
 - 14 Distress light (5)
 - 15 Left over (5)
 - 16 Temperature-regulating device (10)
 - 17 Hot drink (5)
 - 19 Drops of condensation (3)
 - 20 Jewellery item (7)
 - 21 Paper for dailies (9)
 - 22 Indifference (6)
 - 25 Sure thing (9)
 - 27 Pandemonium (6)
 - 28 Set (6)
 - 33 Diligently thorough (10)
 - 35 Signal (3)
 - 36 Boat weight (6)
 - 37 Heart (4)
 - 39 Intention (3)
 - 41 Punishment (7)
 - 42 Adorn (6)
 - 43 Alienated (9)
 - 44 Knock over (5)
 - 45 Happy-go-lucky (8)
 - 50 Skyward (2)
 - 51 Rain moat (anag) (8)
 - 55 Earthenware beer mug (5)
 - 58 Sworn statement (9)
 - 59 Trampers (6)
 - 60 Got away (7)
 - 61 Take to court (3)
 - 63 Toss (4)
 - 64 Feel remorse (6)
 - 65 Total (3)
 - 66 Creating the effect or appearance of (10)
 - 68 Hypothesis (6)
 - 69 Of ruddy complexion (6)
 - 71 Courage in adversity (9)
 - 76 Heavy gun (6)
 - 77 Pigheaded (9)
 - 79 Pass sentence on (7)
 - 81 Polite address for man (3)
 - 84 Sample (5)
 - 85 Of no real importance or relevance (10)
 - 86 Fill with horror (5)
 - 87 Film (5)
 - 88 Just beaten (6,2,3,4)
 - 89 Wobbly (5)
 - 24 Small axe (7)
 - 26 Do like (7)
 - 27 Separation (5-2)
 - 29 Long dry spell (7)
 - 30 Skin disorder (6)
 - 31 Loose hillside stones (5)
 - 32 Natural fabric (6)
 - 34 Storage building (4)
 - 36 Accumulate over time (5)
 - 38 Senior tribe member (5)
 - 40 Tranquil (4)
 - 45 Conflict with (5)
 - 46 Mediate (7)
 - 47 Lose colour (4)
 - 48 Veined (anag)(6)
 - 49 Banquet (5)
 - 50 Inaudible (7)
 - 52 Heat-proofing (10)
 - 53 Acclimatised (7)
 - 54 Seas (6)
 - 55 Make jump (7)
 - 56 Ability (5)
 - 57 Weapons (4)
 - 62 Specks of soot (5)
 - 67 Rock (7)
 - 68 Pair (7)
 - 70 Construct again (7)
 - 72 Projecting rock (7)
 - 73 Miniaturised tree (6)
 - 74 Grab (6)
 - 75 Board (6)
 - 76 Hunger for (5)
 - 78 Entice (5)
 - 80 Extent downward (5)
 - 82 Seaweed (4)
 - 83 Planet (4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Reproduced (6)
 - 3 Weary (5)
 - 5 Throb (4)
 - 6 Sincere (7)
 - 7 Window-shop (6)
 - 8 Penetrate (5)
 - 9 Chanted (7)
 - 10 Engrave with acid (4)
 - 11 Live in (6)
 - 12 Bow-legged (5)
 - 13 Linking (7)
 - 14 True (7)
 - 18 Coach (10)
 - 23 Fulcrum (5)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Cartoon, 4 Pawnbroker, 9 Crumble, 13 Navy, 14 Adhere, 15 Debate, 16 Scarlet, 19 Consultant, 20 Interval, 21 Sneak, 24 Taunts, 25 Madame, 27 Herbivore, 32 Prompted, 33 Starch, 34 Icicles, 38 Mortuary, 39 Divide, 40 Seer, 41 Dirge, 42 Lance, 45 Left high and dry, 52 Cobra, 55 Anvil, 56 Limp, 57 Statue, 58 Fabulous, 61 Eagerly, 62 Boards, 63 Insanity, 66 Schooling, 68 Thawed, 69 Scythe, 73 Diary, 74 Vagabond, 76 Misleading, 81 Fervent, 82 Libido, 83 Leased, 84 Fund, 85 Gymnast, 86 Congregate, 87 Society.

DOWN: 1 Cynic, 2 Ravenous, 3 Nudity, 4 Preen, 5 Weep, 6 Bedtime, 7 Orbits, 8 Enter, 10 Rock, 11 Mariner, 12 Leeway, 17 Subterfuge, 18 Maybe, 22 Sandwich, 23 Evict, 24 Thermal, 26 Ante, 28 Excused, 29 Amoral, 30 Camera, 31 Ledger, 33 Swing, 35 Cairo, 36 Grin, 37 Hear, 43 Annual, 44 Chime, 46 Evil, 47 Typhoon, 48 Insert, 49 Heals, 50 Nautical, 51 Yearns, 52 Crustacean, 53 Book, 54 Absence, 59 Floor, 60 Isle, 64 Cloak, 65 Attitude, 67 Caravan, 68 Tadpole, 70 Likely, 71 Joking, 72 Pliers, 75 Amigo, 77 Image, 78 Giddy, 79 Onus, 80 Ulna.



Ngatea 38 Pipiroa Road

Character living with contemporary comfort

This renovated 1960s home combines modern comfort with enduring character, framed by established planting. A light-filled open plan kitchen, living and dining area sits at the centre, designed for easy everyday living. The kitchen offers generous bench space and storage, while the living area is warmed by a heat pump and gas fireplace, supported by an HRV system. Three double bedrooms include built-in wardrobes, with extra storage in the master. A rumpus room, office currently used as a bedroom, and second bathroom add flexibility. Covered outdoor living extends to the garden on 1,644sqm (more or less).

bayleys.co.nz/2630191

1,644sqm 3 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 9 Apr 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 4-4.30pm Sun 29 Mar

Seth Roe 027 320 6937

seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

Connor Davis 027 496 4622

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



Boundary lines are indicative only



Mangatarata 3629 State Highway 2 and Coxhead Road

Scale, structure and serious potential

Set on 99.48ha (more or less), this well-balanced farm offers productive grazing, established pasture, mature shelter trees and a stream that naturally shapes paddocks. Central races allow easy stock movement, while elevated areas capture wide views across the Thames Valley to the Hauraki Gulf. Structured as a farm park with 22 unit titles (four already sold), the property offers the option to continue farming while releasing sections over time or complete the development. Infrastructure includes a woolshed, utility shed, two haybarns, stockyards and loading ramp, plus a four-bedroom Huntly brick home with sleepout and reliable bore water supply.

bayleys.co.nz/2630217

98ha

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 23 Apr 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View 10.30-11.30am Wed 25 Mar & 1-2pm

Wed 1 Apr & Wed 8 Apr

Karl Davis 027 496 4633

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

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



Maramarua 650 Falls Road

Entry-level support or grazing block

Two titles combine to form 62.18 hectares (more or less) of rolling hill country suited to run-off or grazing. Currently supporting around 70 steers and heifers, the land has capacity to carry more. It is well fenced into eight paddocks and supported by a woolshed, yards, and loading race. There is scope to further develop the property and lift productivity over time. The land suits dairy or drystock grazing, with room to establish a home set among gardens and native plantings. Nearby townships are gaining momentum, just 15km from Te Kauwhata and 23km from Pokeno, both offering everyday amenities. Positioned within the Golden Triangle, central to Auckland, Hamilton, and the Coromandel coast.

bayleys.co.nz/2630214

62.18_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 23 Apr 2026
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11-11.45am Wed 1 Apr & 4.30-5pm Sun 5 Apr
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937

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



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



Ngatea 168a Bush Road

A standout location with four bedrooms plus shedding

Discover space, comfort, and versatility in this substantial four-bedroom home, well suited to busy family life or those needing room for work, hobbies, or storage. Set on 6,551sqm (more or less), the 282sqm (more or less) home offers generous proportions designed for everyday ease. Heating throughout and double glazing provide year-round warmth. Four well-sized bedrooms are supported by a family bathroom, with the master enjoying its own ensuite. Open-plan dining flows to a covered deck, creating a sheltered setting for relaxed entertaining in all seasons. Internal access garaging for two vehicles is complemented by a three-bay shed, ideal for tools, equipment, or a dedicated workspace.

bayleys.co.nz/2630205

6,551_{sqm} 4 2

Asking Price \$1,250,000
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
 connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Whitianga 27 Albert Street

Commercial Income with simple structure

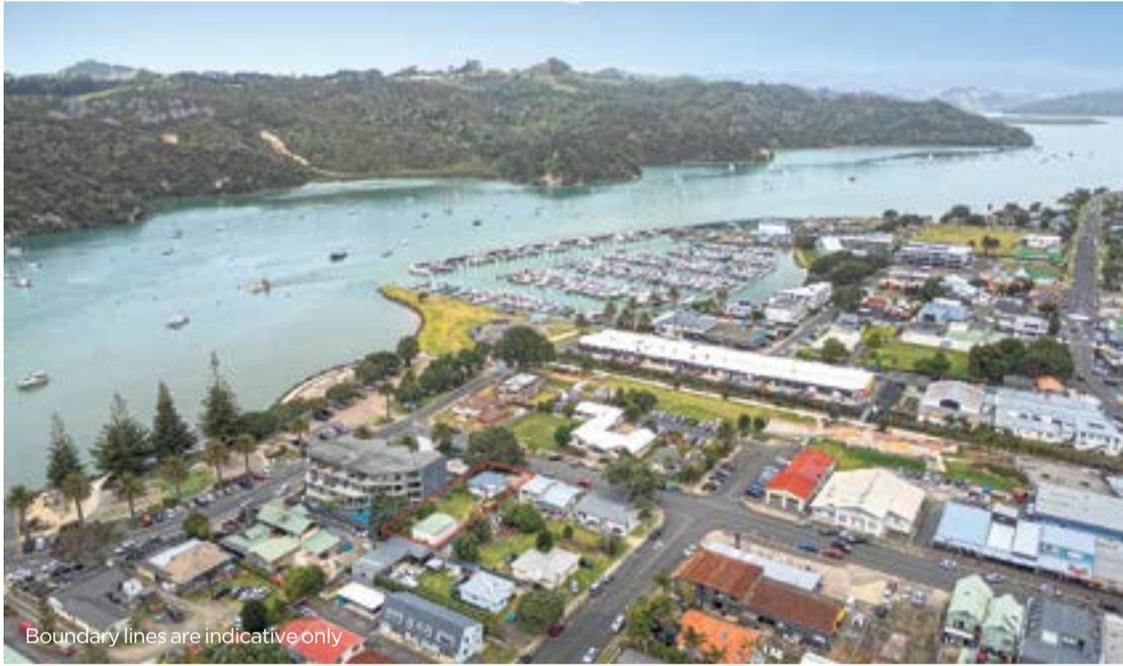
- \$50,000pa net income + GST and outgoings
- Retail plus storage, parking
- Consented apartment above

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_{sqm} 350_{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
M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



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

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



Boundary lines are indicative only

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

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

Danielle scoops prestigious Halberg

ATHLETICS

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A Halberg Award is not easy to come by. It's one of New Zealand's most prestigious sporting honours.

It's exactly what makes Danielle Aitchison's recent and "totally unexpected" achievement one worth remembering.

The 63rd ISPS Handa Halberg Awards took place last month at Spark Arena, Auckland, to celebrate sports heroes who have made a permanent impression on the sporting community.

The 24-year-old para athlete from Patetonga was nominated for the ISPS Handa Para Athlete/Team of the Year for the 2025 season, alongside paralympian Cameron Leslie, para athlete Lisa Adams, and para cyclists Nicole Murray and Devon Briggs.

"I kind of had my suspicion that another athlete was going to win", Danielle told *The Profile*, so when she found out she clinched the win, she was speechless.

"To win was totally unexpected, and it was literally moments before I went and I said to mum [that] I didn't even have a speech written if I won. She was like, 'I guess you better start thinking of one'. I knew that I had an amazing year, but there were so many other para athletes also up for the award that had also had amazing years."

Danielle shared a speech "off the cuff, from the bottom of my



Danielle Aitchison receives the ISPS Handa Para Athlete/Team of the Year award. Photo: PARALYMPICS NZ

heart", saying a "massive thank you" to those who helped her.

Even though "it wasn't a typical year for me", the prestigious prize winner said she was "incredibly grateful" she received the award and recognition for the two gold medals she snapped up at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships.

The speedster said she was

grateful for the "athletic journey that I've had so far".

She was blown away by just how many athletics athletes and coaches were not only nominated for awards but also won, such as: Coach of the Year James Sandilands, Sportsman of the Year Hamish Kerr and Emerging Talent of the Year Sam Ruth. "It was just really special to see such progress in our

sport, and also see that we are being recognised. It's just such a cool experience to see so many of us up for awards, you just don't see that very often."

Her achievement makes her the eighth para-athlete to receive the award since it was created in 2011, and the third para athletics recipient alongside past winners Anna Grimaldi and Liam Malone.

The weight of such a highly esteemed tribute sat with Danielle.

"I think that winning the Halbergs is a massive recognition. As sports people, we train hard, we grind hard, and we compete hard, and to be recognized - to even be nominated is a massive honour and privilege amongst all the other sports people," she said.

While Danielle was back into full-time training again for the sprint season, she was also in the swing of part-time studying for a Master in Sport, Health and Human Performance at The University of Waikato.

Her passion to work hard for the love of it was as clear as day.

"I don't train hard, I don't compete hard to win a para-athlete of the year [award]. I do it because I love it, and I love the grind and I love feeling the accomplishments that I get from it, and seeing all the hard work come to fruition.

"Winning Para Athlete of the Year is just like the little cherry on top of the cake. It's such a prestigious award to win, and it's just incredibly humbling to think that I'm amongst all those amazing other sports people that have come before me," she said.

"It's just crazy to think that I'm up there, I don't see myself like this amazing sports person to be up there with Richie McCaw and Valerie Adams and all those amazing sports people. I'm just regular Danielle who trains hard, competes hard, and has a few gold medals to my name."








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