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# Star-struck

**Hollywood debut for Karangahake kid**

Josua Tuivavalagi makes his film debut alongside Jason Momoa and other Hollywood stars.  
Photo: PRIME VIDEO



By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Josua Tuivavalagi was around 10 years old when he discovered his love of acting.

“My parents introduced me to theatre, like stage school and then I just started getting into it - I just found a passion for it,” the young actor from Karangahake told *The Profile*.

A shift from stage to screen acting took place after he watched a movie and said he realised “I want to be like these guys”.

The rest was history.

It’s what makes his recent news one for the books: his official film debut.

Now 16, Josua has made his official debut in the action-comedy movie *The Wrecking*

*Crew*, which was released on Prime Video on January 28. When he found out his final audition secured him the part, he was “overjoyed”. “I didn’t think I would get it. I kind of had other things on my mind at the time. It was such an amazing feeling.”

But it doesn’t end there.

The budding star was cast alongside Hollywood greats such as Jason Momoa, Dave Bautista, Temuera Morrison, Maia Kealoha, Frankie Adams and Roimata Fox.

“I was pretty star-struck when I met all of them. I was really nervous,” he said.

Jason was jamming on the bass guitar when the young actor, who is also a year-12 student at Paeroa College, walked into the trailer and met his co-stars.

After spending lots of time working with the actors “you just get to know them and they’re the nicest people ever”, the young thespian said.

It took around four weeks to film the movie, he said, which took place in New Zealand and Hawaii.

He practiced his script by running lines in front of the mirror to see his facial expressions and also learned a tip for a scene that involved crying, he said.

“The secret for that was to get super tired and then yawn and then tears would just start coming out,” he said.

“The first two takes, it was like, I got tears flowing, but then [for] the rest, I kind of ran dry after that.”

He said the humility of his coworkers was something that stood out to him.

“I noticed that Dave [Bautista], he is such a humble, reserved, nice, kind guy.

“And he doesn’t flex anything. He’s just there and he’s acting and you can feel the passion with him. And I got that from all of the actors. They’re all just doing their jobs,” he said.

There was a significant moment he shared with Dave Bautista, who is known for various roles such as Drax from the Marvel Cinematic Universe and Rabban from *Dune*, as well as a former professional wrestling career. “There was one really good memory. I was with Dave and we were

CONTINUED ON P2

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# Karangahake kid takes on Hollywood

CONTINUED FROM P1

filming a scene by the barbecue and we just had the meanest chat ever," he said. "We talked about his wrestling career and acting and how he grew up. We just had a deep talk pretty much about just life in general."

It was clear the experience enriched Josua's vision. "It was just awesome to hear from him and all the experiences, how he grew up in the slums and how he went from that to a famous actor. He's the best," he said. "Dave is the coolest. That's who I aspire to be."

He said the times that challenged him the most were waiting for scenes to begin and waiting for the movie to be released.

But it was the "constant support" from his parents, Tūi and Roshan, that encouraged him on his path.

While on set, Temuera Morrison shared wisdom, "good talks" and inspiration, he said. When it came to watching the film, Josua said he'd only seen it once when he went along with four family members to a private screening with all the cast and crew.

"I think I'm one of those people who don't really like watching themselves."

His friends told him he did a "good job" and they were "super proud" of him but also kept him grounded by "just making fun of me for it", he said. "I'm happy that people don't treat me like I'm a super-star. It's just normal. Everyone is just treating me like how I usually am treated. I'm happy about that."

Something that wasn't filmed was a pretend jam session he had on set with Jason



Josua, left, shares a scene with co-stars Jason Momoa, Frankie Adams, Temuera Morrison, Dave Bautista and Roimata Fox in *The Wrecking Crew*. BELOW: Josua at home in Karangahake.

Momoa. "I remember we were just jamming out because there was this one scene we had to do. I pretended to do guitar and he pretended to do the bass."

While it was make-believe, Josua is in fact a musician and played the guitar. "I'm planning on starting a band, we've played a few songs already, but hopefully I can keep pursuing that. I quite like music."

He is also a keen kickboxer and footballer, but Josua is determined to follow his passion for acting. "I feel like I need to do more. I hope that the jobs will keep coming," he said. He also wants to connect with more people in the industry.



"I want to meet other actors and just learn from them ... gain their knowledge and then see what I can improve on myself with that knowledge," he said. "I'm excited to try new things with my acting."

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## Thames Tides

Wed Mar 4	Thu Mar 5	Fri Mar 6	Sat Mar 7	Sun Mar 8	Mon Mar 9	Tue Mar 10
 Morning: 2:23am 0.4, 8:41am 3.5 Afternoon: 2:51pm 0.5, 9:11pm 3.5 Sun: 7:05am 7:53pm Best At: 1:30am 1:53pm Full Moon: Set 7:27am, Rise 8:09pm	 Morning: 3:06am 0.4, 9:26am 3.5 Afternoon: 3:35pm 0.5, 9:54pm 3.5 Sun: 7:06am 7:52pm Best At: 2:14am 2:36pm Full Moon: Set 8:31am, Rise 8:32pm	 Morning: 3:48am 0.4, 10:08am 3.5 Afternoon: 4:16pm 0.5, 10:34pm 3.5 Sun: 7:07am 7:51pm Best At: 2:57am 3:18pm Full Moon: Set 9:33am, Rise 8:56pm	 Morning: 4:28am 0.5, 10:49am 3.4 Afternoon: 4:55pm 0.6, 11:13pm 3.4 Sun: 7:08am 7:49pm Best At: 3:40am 4:02pm Full Moon: Set 10:35am, Rise 9:21pm	 Morning: 5:08am 0.6, 11:29am 3.3 Afternoon: 5:34pm 0.6, 11:52pm 3.3 Sun: 7:09am 7:48pm Best At: 4:24am 4:46pm Full Moon: Set 11:37am, Rise 9:50pm	 Morning: 5:49am 0.7, 6:13pm 0.7 Afternoon: 12:09pm 3.2, 6:53pm 0.8 Sun: 7:10am 7:46pm Best At: 5:09am 5:33pm Full Moon: Set 12:39pm, Rise 10:23pm	 Morning: 12:32am 3.2, 6:32am 0.9 Afternoon: 12:50pm 3.1, 6:53pm 0.8 Sun: 7:11am 7:45pm Best At: 5:57am 6:22pm Full Moon: Set 1:40pm, Rise 11:01pm

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 Full Moon   
 Last Quarter

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 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	05	-0	03
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	20
Whangamata	-0	03	+0	06
Waihi Beach	-0	21	-0	16

# Waihi residents push for better dog control

By ALICE PARMINTER

A Waihi man has raised concerns about roaming dogs, saying walkers are increasingly being menaced by off-leash animals.

Wayne Griffiths has lived in Waihi for four years, and goes on daily walks with his wife. But in the past few months, it's become a dangerous pastime, he told *The Profile*. "The wife has been attacked four times," Wayne said.

"They haven't drawn blood yet, but they've knocked her to the ground. One of the dogs... tried to drag her off the footpath - it was lucky that she had a loose-fitting jacket. It actually jumped over a fence, grabbed hold of her clothes, and then tried to pull her back towards the property."

In another incident, Wayne said his wife was cornered in the Victoria Park public toilets.

"Somebody decided to let their dog go in - [it] started barking and growling at her so she had to lock herself in one of the cubicles. And the owner of the dog didn't seem to think there was a problem with that."

Wayne said there needed to be more accountability for inconsiderate dog owners, and thought it would only be a matter of time before someone was seriously injured. "There's no consideration. It's just ignorance and arrogance... We've just had a gutsful."

His comments come in the wake of similar issues in Northland, where a woman was recently mauled to death by a pack of roaming dogs. Mihiata Te Rore's death in Kaihu on February 17



Residents speak up about roaming dogs, left, Wayne Griffiths wants owners to keep their pets under control. SUPPLIED

prompted nationwide calls for improved dog control enforcement guidelines. Local government minister Simon Watts told *iNews* the Department of Internal Affairs was working on updated guidelines expected to be issued by the third quarter of 2026.

Wayne said he was aware of other people in Waihi, many of them elderly, who also had concerns.

"We've had a bit of a conversation with five elderly ladies with their small dogs, and they're carrying these aluminium walking sticks," he said.

"Their sole reason for those walking sticks is to fend dogs off that are not on leashes or are not in control of the owners. One of the ladies has actually had a dog attacked and had to be put down, by a dog that was unleashed."

Wayne said there were also places where fed-up people painted reminders about dog laws, to discourage irresponsible behaviour.

Meanwhile, social media shows multiple posts about roaming dogs in Waihi over the last few months.

"Two dogs down river, no collar or leads," read one post; "dogs on

[the] street, owners please come and get them they are circling my property," read another.

Many of the posts referenced cats which had been injured or mauled to death by loose dogs.

Hauraki District Council said it received 57 complaints about roaming dogs and dog-related incidents in the Waihi Ward between November 1 and January 31.

Twelve of the incidents involved dogs attacking other animals, and one involved a dog attacking a person. Council said the roaming dogs were of various breeds and sizes,

but none were classified as menacing or dangerous.

Following the incidents, the dog that attacked a person was euthanised; eight dogs were impounded; seven were returned to their owners after registration and fees were completed; and one dog, which was not collected, is being considered for adoption.

A council spokesperson said dog owners were expected to keep their animals on a leash in all public places, except for designated dog exercise areas. Dogs must also be under continuous control.

"Council encourages anyone experiencing problems with dogs to report them," the spokesperson said. "Every dog-related complaint reported to council is fully investigated. Action is taken in line with the Dog control Act 1996 and depends on the severity of the incident and whether the owner has previous offences."

Meanwhile, Wayne is still taking regular walks, and said he had taken it upon himself to make a stand against irresponsible dog owners, saying he's now on a "first-name basis" with local animal rangers. "We've had a few altercations where dogs were attacking other dogs... So I've gone to their rescue, and then I've been accused [and insulted]," he said.

"And you don't want to keep having a confrontation with them. But when they walk towards us the wife is in fear because the dogs [keep] attacking her."

"And she's got a human right to walk around the same areas. You shouldn't have to walk around armed to the teeth just to go for a general walk around the village."



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# Recidivist shoplifter arrested, faces 20 charges

By ALICE PARMINTER

Numerous hours of scouring video footage has led to the arrest of a woman in relation to retail crimes in Thames.

On February 23, Police arrested and charged a 52-year-old woman following multiple shoplifting incidents dating back over the past month.

“This type of offending, especially at this large scale, has a big negative impact on our local businesses and I’m pleased with this outcome,” Eastern Wairarapa area commander Inspector Mike Henwood said.

The woman was due to appear in Thames District Court on February 24, charged with 20 counts of wilful trespass, and two counts of speaking threateningly.

“I commend the tenacious work of local Police staff to pull these, and other investigations, together to prosecute offenders,” Inspector Henwood said.

“Recidivist retail thieves are not tolerated - by business owners, their honest customers, or Police - and this highlights Police’s commitment to target and hold these offenders to account.”

The Thames Business Association said its members were relieved to see action taken against

**“The impact... drives up costs, affects staff morale, and ultimately puts pressure on already tight margins for small and family-owned businesses.”**

- Thames Business Association

repeat shoplifting offenders.

“While any single theft might seem small from the outside, the reality for retailers and service providers is that the impact is ongoing and personal... it drives up costs, affects staff morale, and ultimately puts pressure on already tight margins for small and family-owned businesses, as well as creating a less welcoming environment for customers,” the association told *The Profile*.

“In recent months several members have had to issue trespass notices to repeat offenders, including individuals targeting multiple shops in shoplifting sprees on our main street. These experiences leave business owners and their teams feeling vulnerable and worn down, not just financially but personally.”

The association said other types of retail crime, including repeated break-ins and vandal-

ism, were also a growing concern for businesses.

“The Goldmine Experience has been broken into and vandalised multiple times recently, schools groundskeeping equipment taken, a local midwife had her birthing equipment stolen. These are not victimless crimes - they directly affect the services and heritage our community relies on.

“Local businesses have come together to support each other and work constructively with Police. Through the Thames Business Association’s Bizwatch network, members share information about suspicious activity, offenders, and security issues in real time.

“This collaboration helps businesses protect themselves and gives Police valuable intelligence to act on.”

The association said it appreciated the local police commitment to addressing the issue, but said the strongest response required businesses to stand together.

“We encourage local businesses to join the Thames Business Association and sign up to the Bizwatch network so they can stay informed and help strengthen the collective response to crime in our town.”

## Don’t cut yourself short: why ‘just surviving’ isn’t the goal

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



What do you dream of for your future?

Not the version you give in interviews or when your auntie asks at Christmas – the real one.

The one that lights a fire in your gut. The one you’ve maybe pushed aside because it feels too much or not realistic right now.

Too often, we cut ourselves short. We lower the bar before we’ve even taken a swing.

I was at an academic awards night not long ago, surrounded by high-achieving teens.

One student I chatted to was razor-focused – it was top of the class or failure. It sounded intense, but you could tell he was going places.

The other students laughed at his mindset... until I turned the question to them.

One answered: “I just want to be average.”

Not sarcastically. That was the goal – to just get by. Now hear me out: there’s nothing wrong with being content.

But if your vision is purely survival, to just coast through with minimum effort, you’re setting yourself up for a different kind of pain – the pain of

regret.

It’s the slow burn of knowing you could have done more, but didn’t.

Sure, aiming high can come with pressure. But aiming low can come with a lifetime of wondering “what if?”

Les Brown says it best: “Choose easy, life gets hard. Choose hard, life gets easy.”

Effort doesn’t guarantee the top spot – but it does shape who you become. The student who aims for the top will likely still land somewhere remarkable. The one aiming for “just okay” might land somewhere lower than hoped.

We don’t have to be the best. But we should give it our best.

So what about you?

What’s the big, bold dream that scares you just enough to feel exciting again? The one you’ve shelved while life got busy? Maybe it’s time to pick it up again.

And if you’re not sure where to start – grab a copy of *The Unschooled Life*.

It might just help you find the spark again.

*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.*

# Connecting communities

## Changes to your electricity distribution charges

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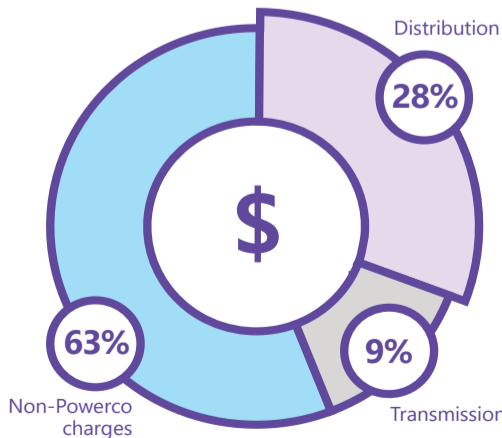
This ensures we meet your electricity supply needs now and in the future.

We update our prices on 1 April each year to reflect the cost of operating and investing in the network. We also pass on Transpower’s transmission costs to use the national grid. Together, these charges make up around 37% of your power bill.

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<b>Total</b>					<b>9.3%</b>

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We’re regulated by the Commerce Commission to ensure we provide quality supply at a fair price. Recently the Commission set how much revenue we can earn through our customer charges for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2030.

Revenue allowances have increased because inflation, costs and interest rates have changed since the last review in 2019. Customer demand for electricity is also growing as Aotearoa reduces its carbon footprint and we need to invest more to meet this demand.

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# New ute strengthens fire response

By KELLEY TANTAU

The Tahuna Volunteer Fire Brigade has marked a major milestone with the unveiling of its new first response 4WD ute, the largest single financial project the brigade has ever undertaken.

Brigade spokesperson Megan Potter said the unveiling of the ute on February 22 - complete with smoke, sirens, and flashing lights - was a proud moment made even more meaningful by sharing it with those who helped bring the project to life.

"It's incredibly rewarding and something we're immensely proud of," she said.

"The unveiling evening was about more than just a vehicle - it was about celebrating the strength, generosity, and spirit of our rural community."

The project began in August, 2025, after receiving approval from Fire and Emergency New Zealand, with fundraising gaining momentum over the following months.

"From the first donation through to reaching our fundraising target by the end of January, 2026, it's been an intense but incredibly successful few months," she said.

The final cost of the vehicle was yet to be finalised.

Megan told *The Profile* the ute was a "vital addition" for the brigade's response capability.

"While our main fire engine provides excellent firefighting



The Tahuna Volunteer Fire Brigade's new first response ute outside the Tahuna fire station. Photo: SUPPLIED

capacity, its size and low clearance limits access in rural and offroad environments. The new 4WD ute gives us the ability to respond quickly, safely, and efficiently in terrain where larger appliances simply can't go."

The ute would primarily be used for medical emergencies,

rural accidents, and offroad incidents, she said. It will also be useful in situations where access is limited.

"Recent callouts have shown just how essential a smaller, capable offroad vehicle is for reaching patients and transporting equipment close to the

scene," Megan said.

"Our crews are regularly dispatched to medical callouts alongside ambulance services, where speed is absolutely critical. In rural areas, every minute matters - especially when urgent first aid is required."

Megan said the project would

not have been possible without involvement from donors, supporters, and suppliers, and that the level of generosity the brigade received had been "incredible".

"[Our supporters] were absolutely crucial - this project simply would not exist without them."

"This is a community-funded, brigade-owned vehicle, and the level of generosity we've received has been incredible. From individual donors and local businesses to suppliers who went above and beyond, everyone played a part."

She also commended the brigade's "dedicated committee" for putting in "countless hours researching vehicle options, co-ordinating fundraising, managing communications and overseeing the fit-out".

Ultimately, Megan said the brigade's message to supporters was simple.

"Our message is a very sincere thank you. Your support has made a real, tangible difference to the safety of both our firefighters and the wider community."

"This ute will serve Tahuna and surrounding districts for many years to come, and every response it attends will be a reminder of the generosity and trust placed in us," she said.

"The success of this project is a direct reflection of what can be achieved when a community comes together to support its volunteers."

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# Drowning takes place at Mackaytown Sch



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

Margaret Dodd was busy in her Mackaytown garden on a January morning in 1882 and didn't notice that her two daughters, both under three years old, had disappeared.

Mackaytown had seven years previously been at the centre of the opening of the Ohinemuri goldfield but after initial enthusiasm the hoped for riches had not panned out.

Within days hundreds of miners rolled up their swags and left.

A few months later those left at Mackaytown offered a reward for the discovery a passable track which could be made into a good dray road from Mackaytown to the diggings at Waitekauri. The challenge was taken up with great spirit and exploring parties formed. Margaret's future husband, William, an Englishman known as Bill, had been one of the hopeful trailblazers. A party headed



Rain had filled the cellar of a School house.

Photo: SUPPLIED

by Te Watene accomplished the task, finding a line that took two hours and 10 minutes to traverse scrambling through the bush. Once cleared the distance would be shortened by a mile. But it became a matter of dispute between Te Watene and Bill Dodd who claimed to have blazed the same track for the greater part of the way. The reward ultimately went to Te Watene.

In 1878 Bill and Margaret married, Bill being somewhat of a jack of all trades working variously over the years as a miner, labouring on council roading and animal control contracts, and issuing dog licences. Life would be difficult for them but Bill was enterpris-

ing, the potatoes he grew once being good enough to send to shows for exhibition.

December 1880 found Bill on the steep hills of the Te Aroha goldfield where he was knocked senseless by a five pound boulder.

It had been loosened by two visitors descending the spur. His mates carried him to Mr Denby, chemist, where his wound was plastered up, leaving him off work for a week.

Margaret stayed at Mackaytown while Bill travelled for work, the settlement now deserted, all the pomp and glory gone, with only a few houses to be seen. The Dodds lived not far from the school house and it was from there that Margaret

suddenly heard screaming. She ran towards the school discovering her two children in a cellar at the side of the building, floating in water. The rains of previous days had filled the cellar to a depth of about 4ft. It appeared Elizabeth had fallen into the water and Esther gone in to help her. Elizabeth, who had her first birthday eight days before, could not be resuscitated.

An inquest found that Elizabeth had drowned through accidentally falling into an unprotected cellar.

The jury said that great blame lay with the school authorities for neglecting to have the cellar filled in, as stagnant water lying under the school was not conducive to health, besides the danger of children being drowned in it.

The Dodds had several more children before Bill died at 57 from heart failure in 1893.

The Paeroa and Thames Burns clubs, a society dedicated to celebrating the Scottish poet Robbie Burns, held an entertainment to raise funds for Margaret and the children.

Mackaytown School burned down in 1886 and a new school was established at Karangahake, which became a mining centre.

Elizabeth was likely buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames, where William was later interred.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. "So no one told you life was gonna be this way," is the opening line from the theme tune for which TV show?
2. Basketball player Michael Jordan starred in which movie in 1996, along with Bill Murray and other players such as Larry Bird?
3. In slang terms, if you are 'packing heat', what are you carrying on your person?
4. By definition, what is the average vision score for a human being when measuring in feet? a) 20/20, b) 20/40, or c) 50/50?
5. The clothing terms balaclava, cardigan and raglan sleeve all originate from British military needs during which war? a) Crimean War, b) World War I, or c) World War II?
6. Who is the lead singer and frontman of the band Cold Chisel?
7. A squab is a term for a juvenile (under 6 weeks old) of which animal?
8. The two named highways that pass through the town of Paeroa, are State Highway 2 and \_\_\_\_\_?
9. True or false: the herbs sage and rosemary are closely related taxonomically and are in the same genus?
10. The organ known as the thymus is primarily involved with a) circulation, b) digestion, or c) immunity?

ANSWERS: 1. Friends. One verse was written for the show by the band The Rembrandts in 1994, but due to its popularity they wrote extra verses - releasing the full single, it'll be there for you. In 1995: 2. Space Jam; 3. A firearm/gun; 4. (a) 20/20. This means a person can see an object clearly at 20 feet, that should 'normally' be seen from 20 feet away; 5. a) Crimean War; 6. Jimmy Barnes; 7. A domestic pigeon; 8. SH26; 9. True - the Salvia genus; 10. c) Immunity.

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# Purple poppies pay tribute in Thames

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames held its very first Purple Poppy Day in February, with the Thames Museum and the RSA joining forces to mark the occasion.

The event was held at the Thames Museum site, home to the Thames Central School World War I Memorial Arch and overlooked by the Peace Monument, and aimed to shine a light on the often-overlooked role animals played on the battlefield and beyond.

Museum society chair Carolyn McKenzie said the day worked well, considering Purple Poppy Day was still a relatively new event nationwide.

“We would have liked more people to come, of course, but the people who were there - a steady flow throughout the day - certainly enjoyed it,” she said.

The museum created a purple poppy field, with each poppy telling the story of a different

animal involved in wartime service, along with a ‘People and Pets Wear Purple and/or Khaki’ competition.

Prizes were donated by a range of local businesses including Flowers on Pollen, Hauraki Vets, Anexa Vets, Animal Addiction Pet Shop, and Michelle.

Carolyn earlier told *The Profile* it was important to recognise animals at war, both for the practical roles they played and the comfort they provided to soldiers. “Animals’ intelligence, loyalty and bravery took them into dangerous situations and without them, the soldiers themselves would have had to face these dangers.”

She said organisers were already planning ways to build on the inaugural event, with ideas for next year including more interactive activities such as police dog demonstrations, horse shoeing and displays involving homing pigeons.



A happy ‘People and Pets Wear Purple’ prize winner with a bouquet donated by Flowers on Pollen.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Guest speaker Russell Skeet speaks about the role of animals in warfare.



Rusty with Lee and museum Patron Sereena Burton, left.



Rusty with owner Lee and museum volunteer Robyn, left.

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# Support group 'filling the gap' for 30 years

By ALICE PARMINTER

February 28 marked the 30th anniversary of the Thames Community Cancer Support Group, a non-profit organisation that supports those with life-shortening illnesses.

The group is made up of a core committee of 10 volunteers who "fill the gaps" for people dealing with illnesses like cancer, Parkinson's disease, motor neuron disease, and chronic end-stage conditions, along with providing support for their families and carers.

It all began in 1996 with three members: MaryAnne Dalton, Lynne Wood and the late Colin McKenzie.

"Colin and [wife] Josie McKenzie's son, Grant, was diagnosed with cancer at 22," Lynne said.

"They felt that there wasn't really any local support of any sort - they had to go to Auckland or Hamilton for anything. So we thought, well, there must be others in that same sort of position."

From there, the group grew. It became a way to help with needs, often financial, that weren't funded by government agencies or other charities like Hospice and The Cancer Society.

"We look very hard at trying to support people through the gaps that there are within the healthcare system," Lynne said.

"Counselling was a very im-



The Thames Community Cancer Support Group celebrates 30 years.

Photo: SUPPLIED

portant aspect for us to focus on initially ... The government gives some travel allowance, but if you're only travelling say from Turua to Thames and back again you're not going to be eligible. So it's that 'gap' kind of stuff."

Typical items the group funds are things like petrol or food vouchers, massages and physiotherapy, counselling, winter heating costs, and school costs,

with each client's needs being assessed on an individual basis. "We're not affiliated with The Cancer Society or any other charity. We don't get any [funding] from the government - we are funded entirely by donations," Lynne said.

"And any money we receive is spent locally."

However, it's not just about financial aid. The group also runs a regular coffee club on

the third Wednesday of the month at the Thames Croquet Club. The coffee club is there for emotional support; a place where those who are experiencing or caring for someone with a life-threatening illness can meet others in a similar position.

"It's the 'everything else' - that's the emotional support, it's being there for somebody. Knowing that they're actually

there and caring is every bit as important, if not more important than the physical stuff," committee member Maureen Hill said.

"There's that sort of fellowship there where people understand. And when a patient has died, sometimes the person who cared for that patient likes to continue coming and so that's part of it as well. They can then give back to the group as a supporter instead of a receiver."

The group also helps with referrals to other initiatives including Look Good Feel Better, a wellbeing and makeover organisation aimed at cancer patients; and TimeOut, a charity offering family holiday getaways to patients with stage four cancer or incurable illnesses.

The group's 30th commemoration on Saturday was a low-key affair, with a special lunch for current and founding members. But it was also a chance to celebrate hundreds of people they helped over the years.

"I think it's pretty good for a little local group, really."

"I don't know how many other small groups have kept going as long as we have," Lynne said.

**DETAILS: The Community Cancer Support Group covers Thames, Thames Coast and the Hauraki Plains. Referrals can be made by a GP, nurse, or other medical professional, or patients can self-refer. Contact Lynne Wood 07 868 7550 or 027 264 8078 for more information.**

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Clockwise from top left: LifeCare members test out the beach mats; adaptive surfing; Goldfields School students enjoy the surf; whānau soak up the sun at Waihi beach. SUPPLIED

# New accessible changing facility to lead the way

The opening of a newly-constructed accessible changing facility at Waihi Beach's Lifeguard Services clubhouse on March 7 will mark five years of community efforts to make the beach more accessible to all.

The project began with a social media post, Live Well Waihi Beach said.

"A local resident asked a simple question: 'How can my partner in a wheelchair reach the water?'"

"Since then, volunteers, organi-

sations, funders, engineers and families have worked together tirelessly to remove the barriers that prevented people with mobility challenges from accessing the coastline," the organisation said.

"Today, many whānau and tamariki who once watched from the carpark can now experience Waihi Beach without obstacles, with the community's beach mats and wheelchairs available all year round."

The new changing facility in-

cludes a ceiling hoist, adult-sized change table, accessible shower, and toilet facilities. The features are designed to ensure dignity, comfort, and independence for people with higher support needs.

Organisers said the facility had been entirely community-led, supported by local organisations and champions passionate about making Waihi Beach one of New Zealand's most accessible beaches. They hoped the project could become a national model for ac-

cessible recreation. "This project proves what happens when communities come together around inclusion," Live Well Waihi Beach accessibility ambassador Dave MacCalman said. "Everyone deserves the freedom and joy of the beach, and we're proud to show how achievable that is when accessibility is put first."

To celebrate the March 7 opening, Achilles New Zealand and Parafed Waikato are hosting a day of inclusive activities, including

wheelchair beach races, adaptive surfing, demonstrations of accessible beach equipment, and whānau activities for disabled children and adults.

The facility will be officially opened at 3pm by Dame Catriona Williams, alongside elected members and community representatives.

**DETAILS: Waihi Beach adventure day, March 7, 10am-2pm at the Waihi Beach Surf Club, 2 Beach Rd. Changing facility opening 3pm.**

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**Midwinter Break (90 mins) M.** A compelling story about lost faith, commitment, and the enduring power of love, as a longtime couple takes a life-changing trip to Amsterdam.

**Good Luck to You, Leo Grande (97 mins) M.** Emma Thompson embodies the candor and apprehension of retired teacher Nancy, and newcomer Daryl McCormack (Peaky Blinders) personifies the charisma and compassion of sex worker Leo Grande. Nancy and Leo find a surprising human connection.

**EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (96 mins) PG.** Elvis sings and tells his story like never before in a new cinematic experience from visionary filmmaker Baz Luhrmann. Features long-lost footage from Presley's legendary Las Vegas residency in the 1970s, rare 16mm footage from Elvis on tour, precious 8mm from the Graceland archive, and recordings of Elvis telling "his side of the story" rediscovered during Luhrmann's research for his Best Picture Oscar-nominated 2022 film Elvis.

**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.

**Fackham Hall (97 mins) M.** A spoof that crosses Downton Abbey with Flying High and Monty Python, it follows a lovable pick-pocket Eric as he lands a job at a unique English manor house. He quickly rises through the ranks, and a forbidden romance with lady-of-the-house Rose blossoms.

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

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# On the Land

## KiwiSaver change for young farmers

Federated Farmers is celebrating a major win for young farmers, with the government allowing them to use KiwiSaver funds to buy a first home or farm.

"Young Kiwi farmers have been incredibly frustrated that they haven't been able to access their KiwiSaver to help get a foot on the property ladder," Federated Farmers dairy chair Karl Dean said.

"This change announced by the government... removing those barriers - is a huge step forward for the next generation of farmers.

"We're immensely proud to have led the charge on this issue, advocating for a change to the KiwiSaver rules for three long years."

Finance Minister Nicola Willis and Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Scott Simpson announced on March 1 that they will be making a technical change to the KiwiSaver Act.

It means farm staff in service tenancies (living on farm) will soon be able to use KiwiSaver to purchase a house without immediately moving in.

"Until now, you could only use your KiwiSaver to purchase a house you'll live in," Dean said.

"That's unfair because farm staff, along with the likes of rural teachers and rural police, haven't been able to get on the property ladder, all because they live remotely and in employer-provided accommodation. They've been denied the same opportunity as their urban counterparts.

"This change means young rural workers can finally access their

savings to secure financial security and begin building equity, even if they keep living in accommodation provided by their employer.

"It's a massive result and I know there'll be many young farmers out there celebrating right now."

The changes will also allow first-time farm buyers to use their KiwiSaver balances when buying through a commercial entity they majority own, provided it will be their principal place of residence.

Dean said the impact of the changes couldn't be overstated, highlighting the challenges young farmers face in buying a farm.

"So many young farmers have worked hard to save a decent deposit but just aren't able to get the bank's backing to invest in their first farm. Letting those farmers use their KiwiSaver will be an enormous help in pulling together a larger deposit.

"It will put them in a stronger financial position with their initial equity, but they'll also have less debt - which means they'd be paying less interest too.

"All of that gives our next generation of farmers a better chance of building wealth and putting themselves in a good position come retirement."

Getting the KiwiSaver rules amended has been a key priority for Federated Farmers, forming part of its 12-point policy agenda for the incoming government in 2023.

The National Party committed to making the change, announcing so on the eve of the 2023 election.

"It's taken them a long time to deliver on that promise, and we've made sure to keep reminding them about it," Dean said. "We're grateful the government has finally come through for farmers."

One young farmer celebrating the news is Waikato sharemilker Danielle Hovmand, who challenged the government several times to deliver on its 2023 campaign commitment.

"Talking with young farmers across the country, their most-asked question is: 'When are we going to be able to use our KiwiSaver to better ourselves now, rather than having to wait until we retire - just because we're farmers'.

"I'm very pleased to hear the government are finally changing the rules to make that possible.

"Many young people's goal is to buy their first home and get on the property ladder, so it's refreshing to see farmers will be able to achieve this too."

Hovmand said this would open doors for young farmers, and have an impact on their financial position.

"Hopefully, in years to come we'll see the flow-on effects of more young people being able to purchase their own herds and then achieving farm ownership earlier.

"I think this will have a huge impact on farmers across the country and will continue to help strengthen the agriculture industry for many years to come."

Legislation giving effect to the changes will be introduced to Parliament in the middle of the year.

# Pet Profile

## Titan: smart, silly, ready for love

Meet Titan – a handsome, goofy, big-hearted boy ready for his forever home.

Just under two years old, this tall brown lad with a white chest is full of energy, love, and personality. Titan is smart, obedient, and always eager to please, whether it's learning new tricks, going for long walks, or snuggling at the end of the day.

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Titan thrives on attention and affection and will quickly become your loyal companion

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Titan is fully prepared for his new home: he's de-sexed, microchipped, vaccinated, toilet-trained and up to date with his flea and worm treatments.

If you're looking for a clever, loving, and fun-loving friend who brings laughter and cuddles in equal measure, Titan is your guy!

Visit Thames SPCA to meet Titan and see if he's the perfect match for your family, or view online: [www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/660802/dog-titan-thames](http://www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/660802/dog-titan-thames).

Meanwhile, last week's *Pet Profile*, Earl the kitten, had two interested parties and has been adopted.

- Supplied by Thames SPCA



Titan has a wonderfully playful side, often sprinting around with unstoppable enthusiasm, ears flopping and tongue lolling. Photo: SUPPLIED

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## On the Land

# Rugby background fuels rural career

By KELLEY TANTAU

After a professional rugby career that included time with the New Zealand Sevens and playing overseas, Craig Hudson was forced into an early rethink when illness ended his time on the field.

That shift ultimately led him into agribusiness, and to his recent appointment as chief growth officer at AgriSea.

Craig said while his career had taken him through agribusiness and international technology companies, his understanding of farming and what made rural businesses work remained central throughout.

After finishing school, he moved to Christchurch to join the Crusaders Academy and played club rugby while living on local farms.

“That was my first real introduction to farming life,” he said.

“It gave me an appreciation for how practical farmers are and how closely decisions are tied to value.”

A professional rugby career followed before illness cut his playing days short.

“Walking away from rugby was tough, but it also made me



Craig Hudson in his playing days.

Photo: SUPPLIED

step back and look at what I was good at outside of sport,” Craig said.

That next phase included roles with Organic Direct and McFall Fuel, where Craig worked closely with farmers and rural contractors across the country. He says those conversations helped shape his approach to business.

“Farmers don’t have time for fluff. If something doesn’t stack up, they’ll tell you,” he said.

“That taught me to focus on practical outcomes, long-term thinking and building trust.”

After several years in the United Kingdom with Xero, Craig returned to New Zealand as the managing director and has now taken up the role of



Spending time on farms early in his career helped Craig Hudson understand what drives farmers. PHOTO: Artzentao Photography

chief growth officer at AgriSea NZ, a Paeroa-based company developing seaweed-derived products for use across agriculture and other sectors.

In his new role, Craig is focused on identifying growth opportunities and supporting the export of AgriSea’s intellectual property into international markets.

The company’s research and development work is supported through a partnership with BSI – Scion Group.

“For me, this role brings together everything I’ve learned - from farming communities, technology and innovation through to scaling local businesses globally.

“AgriSea is grounded in ag-

riculture, but it’s also looking outward, which is an exciting place to be.”

Craig said staying connected to rural New Zealand remained important.

“The best ideas still need to work on the ground. That’s something farmers are very clear about, and it’s a mindset I bring with me every day.”

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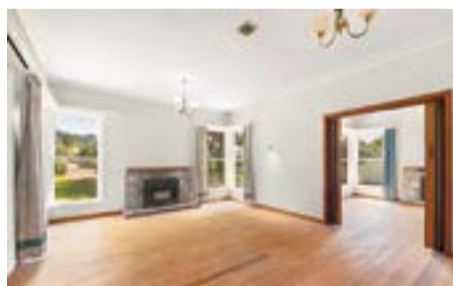
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# Revving in Paeroa

The sun was shining for the annual Rotary Paeroa Car and Motorcycle Show and Swapmeet on February 21. Cars, motorbikes, and vehicles of all descriptions poured into town from early in the morning and filled Paeroa Domain with modern and vintage machines, while trade enthusiasts browsed the wares at the Swapmeet. There was plenty of entertainment too, from the rock'n'roll dancers to the musicians, and competitions including a motorcycle burnout, tug-of-war, and tyre change challenge. **KATHY BLAND** captured the excitement on the day.



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Photos: KATHY BLAND



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Logan Humphrey with his work. BELOW: Sally Samins in her studio. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Art Escape's 20th year

Pauanui sculptor Logan Humphrey has his cutting tools and grinders on overdrive in preparation for the Mercury Bay Art Escape event.

The youngest of the exhibiting artists at only 22 years of age, Logan isn't much older than the event itself.

Logan's a dab hand with the tools used to create his hand-made, authentic sculptures. He may be young, but he's put a good number of years in.

"I got my first real tools on my fifth birthday - a socket set and some spanners. I was a visual learner and loved to make, build and fix from a young age. My family are all practical, number-8 wire types so I was always included in fixing and problem solving," Logan said. "Metal and welding are my thing, and I love to repurpose items."

The Mercury Bay Art Escape will be celebrating its 20th year over two weekends in March, when around 50 visual artists will open their studios and showcase their creativity. The mediums showcased by the various artists during the event include pottery, mosaics, black smithery, painting, print making, weaving, sculpture, photography, pen and wash, glass fusing and ceramics.

At the other end of the age spectrum from Logan is 93-year-old Betty Collings, who will also be exhibiting.

Described as a "distinguished artist and innovator in sculpture, painting and ceramics", Betty is one of the founders of Art Escape. Her enduring aspiration has been to promote and develop the growth of the visual arts in the Mercury Bay area in particular, and the wider Coromandel Peninsula in general.

Mercury Bay Art Escape co-organiser Sally Samins said the annual self-drive event was a fabulous way to promote and develop the growth of the visual arts in the area.

The event was free and offered a wonder-



ful day out traversing the beautiful coastline, en route to the many open studios, she said.

Art Escape also provides the opportunity for the public to visit and chat with member artists in their creative spaces, see their work in progress, find what inspires them and what new art they are working on.

Thames-Coromandel District Council economic development spokesman John Freer said the Art Escape provided a raft of benefits to the wider region.

"While artists get the opportunity to market and sell their works, our accommodation, hospitality and tourism sector benefits from providing their services to the many visitors the Art Escape attracts," he said.

There was plenty to love visually, too, he added. "The raw beauty of our local art is being displayed, while sitting behind it is the natural beauty of the Coromandel Peninsula."

The 20th Mercury Bay Art Escape will kick off with a gala night on March 6, with celebrated NZ artist Dick Frizzell as guest speaker. This will be held at Hot Waves Café, Hot Water Beach, where examples of the artists' work can be enjoyed at a Showcase Exhibition.

**DETAILS: March 7-9 and 14-16, 10am-4pm. Gala Opening night: March 6, 6pm, Hot Waves Cafe: www.mercurybay-artescape.com.**

## Motorbike rumble excitement

February 19 saw a thrilling sound rolling through Hetherington House Rest Home and Hospital in Waihi - the rumble of more than 40 motorbikes arriving for a very special show organised just for residents.

The impressive lineup of bikes created quite a spectacle, with a wide variety on display for everyone to admire.

From classic models to modern machines, there was something to capture every interest. As the bikes arrived, residents gathered eagerly, many reminiscing about their own riding days.

For some, it was a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Smiles lit up faces as familiar bike names were spotted - brands they had once owned, ridden, or admired. A few residents even enjoyed the opportunity to sit on some of the bikes, describing the experience afterwards as "an awesome morning."

When the idea of hosting a bike show was first suggested, it immediately sparked excitement among residents, and anticipation had been building for weeks, organisers said. Residents said the event certainly lived up to expectations.

Riders travelled from as far away as Taupō to be part of the occasion, demonstrating the strong community spirit behind the event.

"A heartfelt thank you goes to Thom Wert from Moto Mingle, whose call-out to the motorcycling community resulted in an outstanding response," organisers said.

"Appreciation is also extended to Women on Wheels, the Waihi-Thames Valley Branch of Ulysses Club, Royal Enfield of Tauranga/Coromandel, and members of the wider community for their enthusiastic participation.

"Thanks to their generosity and support, Hetherington House residents enjoyed a memorable, fun, and exciting morning, one filled with stories, smiles, and the unmistakable rumble of friendship."



A Hetherington House resident checks out the wheels on display. Photo: SUPPLIED

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- Karl Davis

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Precision Windscreens owner Liam Gillbanks. Photo: SUPPLIED

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Keegan Govind, left, Nick Rado and Joel Vinsen will entertain at Matatoki School. Photo: SUPPLIED

## Relax and laugh at comedy show

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A night of entertainment is set for the Matatoki School community with a comedy showcase ready to bring some laughter, but there's a catch - it's just for the grown ups.

The Comedy for a Cause fundraiser event will showcase three of the 'best comedians' from the New Zealand International Comedy Festival: Keegan Govind, Nick Rado and Joel Vinsen on March 13 at the Matatoki School hall.

Gillian Downes, who is a member of Matatoki friends of the school, a group of parents who come together to support things within the school, said although the school was not new to fundraisers, this one was actually a bit "out of our wheelhouse".

"We do more rural-based things, you know, like we've hosted a pig hunt and Calf Club is a good fundraiser for

us. But to have something that's a little bit more of a night out, it's a little bit out of our wheelhouse," she told *The Profile*.

While the proceeds from the event were not yet allocated toward one specific thing, Gillian said there were always extra things around the school that needed enhancement such as the school gardens and play spaces for the children.

Tickets for the event can be purchased online, and also include the grazing table for everyone to "mix and mingle".

"We just thought it was an easy and really fun way to be social and stand around and chat and eat and drink," she said.

"I really want to see a fun community thing. I'm actually secretly a little bit excited that it's just adults only.

"Every parent puts heaps into their kids and so many school things are focused [on

kids], which of course they should be.

"But it's really nice every now and then to have something for the adults.

"It means we can all go and, you know, meet each other in that relaxed social situation," she said.

"I think obviously there's going to be some adult themes and things in there, which really, it's a great icebreaker, isn't it?"

"For those new people in the community, it's a great way to come and just relax and have a laugh about some possibly inappropriate things, some possibly appropriate things as well."

**DETAILS: 18+ event; Comedy for a Cause on March 13, at Matatoki School Hall, 9265 State Highway 26, Matatoki. Doors open at 6pm, show starts at 6.45pm. Purchase tickets online at [www.comedyforacause.nz/event/ms26](http://www.comedyforacause.nz/event/ms26).**

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John Psathas' Island Songs bring sun, surf, and a dash of Kiwi cool - no sunscreen required.

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ing with Eliodoro Sollima's Tre movimenti, leaping from atonal intrigue to melodic surprises faster than you can say "cin cin".

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And it all ends with Nikolai Kapustin's Divertissement, the ultimate musical cocktail: equal parts classical poise and jazz swagger, shaken (not stirred) into four sparkling movements.

**DETAILS: Thames Music Group's Sunday Concert series presents NZTrio, Sunday March 8, 2pm, St George's Church, Mackay Street, Thames. Duration approx 60min, no interval. Tickets \$20/Adult, \$15/TMG Member, Free entry/Under 18 yrs old. Contact [thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:thamesmusicgroup@yahoo.co.nz).**



Thames Music Group presents NZTrio. Photo: SUPPLIED

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Death Notices	Handyman	Wanted To Buy
<p><b>SMITH, Frances Caroline:</b> Passed peacefully on 21st February, 2026. A private cremation has taken place. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Francie's life at The Salvation Army Citadel, 713 Pollen Street, Thames on Monday 9th March at 2pm.</p> <p><b>SMITH, Geoffrey James (Geof):</b> Peacefully at Tararu Care Home on 27th February 2026; aged 63 years. Loved father of Ossian and Mace, and father-in-law of Teina. Cherished grandfather of Sola, River and Rya. As per Geof's wishes, a private cremation has taken place. A Memorial to celebrate Geof's life will be held on a date to be confirmed. Communications to: Ossian 020 400 98703</p> <p><b>SUNLAY, Ernest James (Ernie):</b> Peacefully at Thames Hospital on Friday 27th February; aged 66 years. Loved son of the late Jack and Hora Sunlay. Beloved brother and brother-in-law of Edith and Gary. Cherished uncle of Tania, Natalie, Emma, Barbara, James and Thomas. Treasured great-uncle and great-great-uncle to all his great-nieces and nephews. A service to celebrate Ernie's life will be held at The Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street Thames, on Tuesday 10th March at 11am, followed by private cremation.</p>	<p><b>An experienced handyman</b> covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com</p> <p><b>Mowing, hedges, fencing, gardening, carpentry, painting, retaining walls, welding, waterblasting.</b> Work is good quality and I will not attempt to work outside of my skills. Insured. Dennis Schuler 022 129 0169</p> <p><b>Land Wanted</b></p> <p><b>Wanted to Lease/Rent land</b> while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015</p> <p><b>Sheep Shearing Services</b></p> <p><b>Mobile shearing, crutching, hoof trimming &amp; drenching</b> For lifestyle block owners, competitive rates. Call Richard 022 128 0852 Or email richard.collier@xtra.co.nz for details</p>	<p><b>Small Aluminium dinghy</b> up to 12 FT, must be in good condition. NO trailer wanted. TEXT OR PH 0211387860</p> <p><b>Trades</b></p> <p><b>FENCING CONTRACTOR</b> Residential &amp; Rural Retaining walls &amp; more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148</p> <p><b>Builders</b></p> <p><b>Reno's, decking, fencing.</b> For free quote ph Phil 021 088 63559</p> <p><b>Friendly licensed builder.</b> 40 years exp. All aspects. No job too small. Ian 021 540 376</p> <p><b>Painters</b></p> <p><b>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</b> Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312</p> <p><b>Professional roof painter.</b> Mario Kerkhof 027 961 4055</p> <p><b>Piano Tuner</b></p> <p><b>Sharyn Clark</b> Piano Tuner &amp; Technician 'Fully Qualified' and Covering all areas of Hauraki and Coromandel <b>M: 0274 485 089</b> sharynclark22@gmail.com</p>

**TWENTYMANS**

## For Lease

**Yards for lease,** Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101

## For Rent

**3 bdrm, 2 storey home** unit with carport in Tararu, Thames. \$475 pw. No dogs. Refs req. Contact Sharron 027 366 6058

## For Sale

**Firewood for sale.** Pine. \$100 per cube. Ph 027 385 2806

## Garage Sale

**In partnership** with Thames Menzshed annual fundraiser, behind Waiomu Beach Café, on Saturday 7th March, 8.30am start.

## Gardening

**STUMP GRINDING.**  
All sizes, all areas.  
Thames based.  
Ph 021 060 7659

# 100 years for Betty Smith

A milestone gathering for centenarian Betty Smith took place at Richmond Villas in Thames on February 6, as she celebrated her 100th birthday in style with family and friends from near and far. The momentous occasion was filled with laughter, cake and a special speech by Betty's daughter, Anne. Festivities continued for the centenarian with a morning tea put on by fellow residents.



A cake to celebrate 100 years, left, and Betty receives Royal acknowledgement.



Family travel from near and far to celebrate Betty's 100th birthday in Thames. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Phone Nikki: 022 130 3885  
Phone Davidda: 022 174 3988

# CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12 noon Monday

## Situation Vacant

**Full-Time & Part-Time Drivers Required**

We are currently seeking reliable drivers with a Passenger (P) Licence - Class 1 and/or Class 2. Shifts may include early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

To apply, please email thamestaxis@xtra.co.nz or call 021 0295 2879 for more information.

**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](mailto:miles@hpmotors.co.nz) or ph 027 227 1121 for a chat.

## Public Notices

**Thank you Valley Toyota** for servicing Patricia's Auris last Monday afternoon. Much appreciated.

**Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Dianne Blackburn, who found Pete in the February 3rd edition in the Contact CARE advert. Go to page 2 for details on how to enter.**



**FARMERS** it's fire season. Get your extinguishers checked for FREE. Call Richard 027 933 2015. 20 years experience. I also do smoke alarms.

**PAEROA RSA & CITIZENS CLUB INC.**  
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the RSA Clubrooms Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 1pm  
Election of Officers & General Business  
**A. Rohrlach Secretary**

## Public Notices



**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 on 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>





**DIRECT CREMATION** within 15kms of Thames: \$3225.00\*  
**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](http://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.



Please advise your Vet of your wish to use Forever Pets Crematorium



Visit the website: [foreverpets.co.nz](http://foreverpets.co.nz) for further information.

CONTACT: Forever Pets 07 868 6003.

We guarantee the ashes you get back belong to your pet and only your pet.



# SUDOKU

240

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

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

EASY

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2	9							
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		2		6	1	8		
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MEDIUM

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HARD

240

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

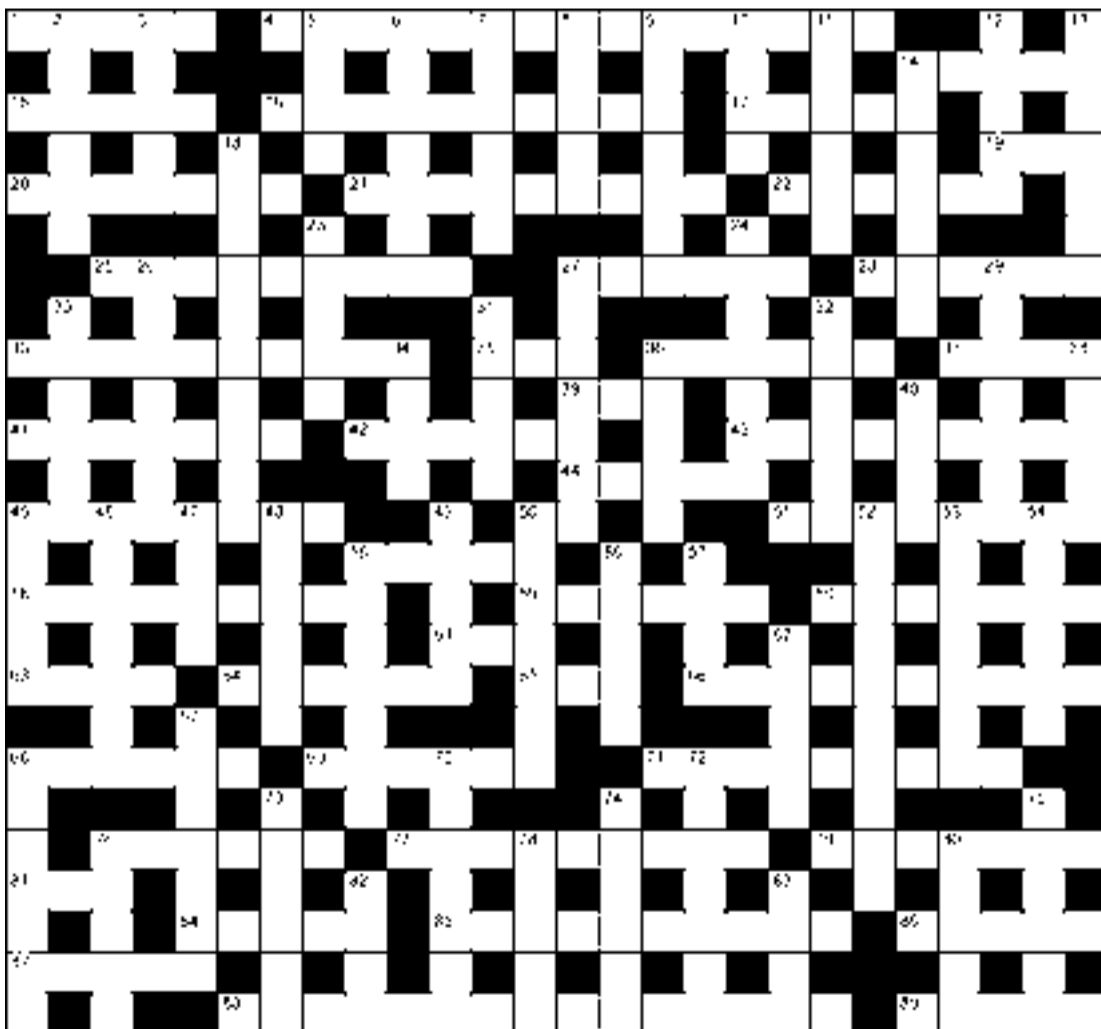
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6	3	1	7	2	9	5	4	8	
8	9	2	5	6	4	3	7	1	
5	7	4	8	1	3	9	6	2	
7	8	6	3	4	1	2	9	5	
3	2	5	6	9	8	4	1	7	
4	1	9	2	7	5	6	8	3	

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company  
[www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)

# JUMBO CROSSWORD

260

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swamp (5)
  - 4 Completely calm, self-possessed (4,2,1,8)
  - 14 S American country (5)
  - 15 Small wood (5)
  - 16 Irish sprite (10)
  - 17 Bid (5)
  - 19 Moose (3)
  - 20 Germ (7)
  - 21 Statue (9)
  - 22 Spring-flowering corn (6)
  - 25 Academic (9)
  - 27 Preacher's platform (6)
  - 28 Scarcity (6)
  - 33 Venture (10)
  - 35 Make public (3)
  - 36 Winged child (6)
  - 37 Black marketeer (4)
  - 39 Animal's coat (3)
  - 41 Sharp raceway bend (7)
  - 42 Rich, elaborate cake (6)
  - 43 Moving ahead (9)
  - 44 Soldier's decoration (5)
  - 45 Legal representative (8)
  - 50 Myself (2)
  - 51 Printing character style (8)
  - 55 Set into surface (5)
  - 58 Rebuke formally (9)
  - 59 Paper fastener (6)
  - 60 Perform surgery (7)
  - 61 Small measure of spirits (3)
  - 63 Candle cord (4)
  - 64 Prosperity (6)
  - 65 Pixie (3)
  - 66 Retraction (10)
  - 68 Sea animal (6)
  - 69 Malicious or spitefully critical (6)
  - 71 Spoke haltingly (9)
  - 76 Lampoon (4-2)
  - 77 Doggedly persistent (9)
  - 79 Presaging ill-fortune (7)
  - 81 Gratuity (3)
  - 84 Provide food (5)
  - 85 Tepid claim (anag) (10)
  - 86 Characteristic (5)
  - 87 Creepy (5)
  - 88 Friendly understanding between states (7,8)
  - 89 Air holes (5)
  - DOWN**
  - 2 Frightened (6)
  - 3 Chop off (5)
  - 5 Bullocks (4)
  - 6 Songlike (7)
  - 7 In poor health (6)
  - 8 Fashion by hand (5)
  - 9 Keep in check (7)
  - 10 Debatable (4)
  - 11 Exertion (6)
  - 12 Ceramic squares (5)
  - 13 Slightly hungry (7)
  - 14 Thin dry biscuit (7)
  - 18 Osmosis (10)
  - 23 Craze (5)
  - 24 Open-minded (7)
  - 26 Farewell expression (7)
  - 27 Scent (7)
  - 29 Copy (7)
  - 30 Toddler (6)
  - 31 Doomed (5)
  - 32 Detailed critical inspection (6)
  - 34 Cheese type (4)
  - 36 Unrefined (5)
  - 38 Lacking clarity (5)
  - 40 Gambler's stake (4)
  - 45 Direction indicator (5)
  - 46 True-to-type (7)
  - 47 Sudden short attack (4)
  - 48 Tooth coating (6)
  - 49 Slow-moving animal (5)
  - 50 Enigma (7)
  - 52 Fantastic but vain hopes (4,6)
  - 53 Pardoned (7)
  - 54 Short sleep (6)
  - 55 Halcyon (7)
  - 56 Social blunder (5)
  - 57 Talon (4)
  - 62 Postage sticker (5)
  - 67 Incinerator (7)
  - 68 Recorded on paper (7)
  - 70 Pharmacist (7)
  - 72 Huge destructive wave (7)
  - 73 Sheep meat (6)
  - 74 Neater (6)
  - 75 Daintily odd (6)
  - 76 Reject with contempt (5)
  - 78 Savoury meat jelly (5)
  - 80 Health worker (5)
  - 82 Liberate (4)
  - 83 Sense (4)



## PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Lance, 4 Well-earned rest, 11 Corns, 14 Probe, 15 Demonstrate, 16 Turncoat, 19 Apparel, 20 Terms, 21 Uncertain, 24 Pseudonym, 26 Gutter, 27 Galley, 31 Swabs, 32 Outcasts, 34 Watertight, 38 Albumen, 39 Devour, 40 Origin, 41 Kiss, 42 Pending, 45 Protection, 50 Fatigue, 54 Ours, 55 Employ, 56 Genial, 57 Fans out, 60 Fraudulent, 61 Gendarme, 62 Alien, 65 Tooted, 66 Errand, 67 Apprehend, 72 Stalemate, 73 Atlas, 74 Tigress, 79 Dressing, 80 Camaraderie, 81 Queue, 82 Naked, 83 Down in the dumps, 84 Leads.

DOWN: 2 Abrupt, 3 Cobra, 5 Eyes, 6 Loosely, 7 Assume, 8 Norm, 9 Detonate, 10 Taunts, 11 Confidante, 12 Room, 13 Satisfy, 17 Debut, 18 Vegetarian, 22 Bogus, 23 Flaggging, 25 Subdued, 26 Gastric, 28 Twelve, 29 Escort, 30 Belief, 33 Cheer, 35 Taste, 36 Sewn, 37 Gobi, 42 Proof, 43 Narrator, 44 Gamble, 45 Palindrome, 46 Onyx, 47 Engaged, 48 Tenant, 49 Osaka, 51 Away, 52 Insulin, 53 Unused, 58 Advertised, 59 Smart, 63 Pastrami, 64 Choir, 65 Tread on, 68 Plateau, 69 Cloned, 70 At ease, 71 Issued, 75 Rouge, 76 Desk, 77 Fast, 78 Limp.

# National tournament trophy returns to Thames

**BOWLS**

By ALICE PARMINTER

A team of four Thames wāhine (women) have emerged victorious from this year's Aotearoa Māori Bowls National Tournament, winning the overall Women's Section trophy.

The team, made up of players Chrissy Peers, Debbie Bishop, Delamere Graham, and Val Findlay, competed at the event last month.

But although they were competing as representatives of the wider Tainui region, their victory has also meant something special for the Thames Bowling Club. "It's the first time [the trophy]'s been won by people from Thames. Not Tainui, but Thames," the women said.

"And the original people that started Māori Bowls were from Thames. So, it was pretty prestigious to win it."

The annual event has been taking place for 52 years, since its inception in 1975. This year it was hosted by Bowls Waiariki in Rotorua.

The tournament event was the first time the foursome have competed together, as well as being Debbie's first tournament. Per competition rules, three of the competitors have to be of Māori descent,



The wāhine of Thames Bowling Club celebrate their win at the Aotearoa Māori Bowls National Tournament.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

with one member of the team allowed to be non-Māori.

"We asked Debbie, just coming out of her first year of bowls, to come and play with us," the others said.

"It was a bit nerve-wracking,

the greens were just covered with people, and you've got the TV cameras on [you]."

But despite their nerves, the team made it through their round-robin line-up with only one loss, before charging on to

take out both the semi-finals and the finals.

For a couple of the players, it wasn't the first time their name has graced the trophy. Chrissy was on the winning women's team in 2011, while Debbie's

mother also won in 2004.

The trophy was formally presented to the Thames Bowling Club on February 27, where it will sit in pride of place until next year's tournament, to be held in Taranaki.

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Boundary lines are indicative only



**Maramarua 880 Kopuku Road**

**Established 16ha grazing - build your dream lifestyle**

In a strong North Waikato location, this 16-hectare block (more or less) combines productive grazing land with generous scale and flexibility. Fertile soils, well-maintained pastures, established infrastructure, and gently rolling contours support practical farm use, while reliable water access adds confidence for ongoing management. There is scope to shape the land around a lifestyle base, including designing a home to capture wide rural views while building on what is already established with a geotech report and resource consent in place. The location balances rural space with practicality, placing Hamilton and Auckland's southern fringe within 75 kilometres.

bayleys.co.nz/2630208

16.3<sub>ha</sub>

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

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 11-11.30am Wed 4 Mar & Wed 11 Mar

**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



Boundary lines are indicative only



**Hikutaia 246 Maratoto Road**

**A refreshed rural home at the gateway to the valley**

Set near the mouth of the Maratoto Valley, this thoughtfully modernised home sits confidently within a strong rural setting, with much of the groundwork already complete for easy country living. Recently relocated onto a new subfloor, it features durable monolithic cladding and practical upgrades that support everyday comfort. The flat 3.99ha (more or less) offers generous yet manageable space, allowing flexibility to shape the land over time. Inside, the layout suits modern life, while the deck provides a place to pause and enjoy wide rural views. There is scope for additional shedding, complemented by a well-established orchard and a friendly rural community.

bayleys.co.nz/2630209

3.9919<sub>ha</sub> 3 1

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

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 12.30-1pm Sun 8 Mar

& 11.15-11.45am Sun 15 Mar

**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



Boundary lines are indicative only



**Paeroa Wani Road**

**Support block**

This block of 26.4-hectares (subject to survey) is located just 8kms from Paeroa. Currently run as part of a large dairy unit however, crossing the road for cows is becoming more challenging. Town water supply, 15 well fenced paddocks - mostly two wire electric, central race to many paddocks with troughs in most. A 4-bay half round barn and adjacent stock yards plus a large, enclosed gable shed complete the package. This block is currently being subdivided from a larger block with six chicken sheds under construction on the adjoining property. This package with all its advantages is priced attractively with the owners wanting a sale as soon as possible.

bayleys.co.nz/2314630

26.4 ha

**Asking Price** \$1,090,000  
**View** 12-1pm Tue 10 Mar  
**Mike Fraser-Jones** 027 475 9680  
 mike.fraserjones@bayleys.co.nz  
**Neville Jacques** 021 774 190  
 neville.jacques@bayleys.co.nz  
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



**Ruamahunga - Thames Coast 37 Otuturu Crescent**

**Vendors relocating overseas, it's got to go**

Disregard all previous pricing. Set in an elevated 4,460sqm (more or less), private position just moments from the Ruamahunga Boat Ramp, this substantial executive residence captures expansive views across the Firth and delivers unforgettable sunsets. The 215sqm (more or less) brick and cedar-clad home features light-filled open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge areas, warm timber detailing, multiple decks and balconies for effortless indoor-outdoor living, and generous accommodation including four bedrooms. Excellent heating provides year-round comfort, while extensive shedding — including a dedicated boat shed caters perfectly to coastal and boating lifestyles.

bayleys.co.nz/2180923

4 2 2 4

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 19 Mar 2026  
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** by appointment  
**Robyn Cruickshank** 027 308 7110  
 robyn.cruickshank@bayleys.co.nz  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

# BAYLEYS

**OPEN HOME**



**Thames 110 Karaka Road**

## Close to town - Ready to sell

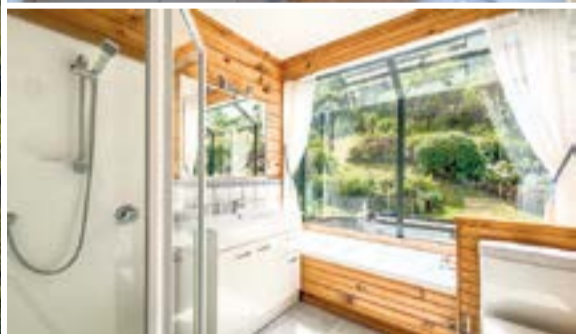
With the vendors ready to move on, this elevated 506sqm (more or less) property offers an opportunity just minutes from Thames township, with views across the Firth of Thames. The three-bedroom home offers good internal space, supported by a family bathroom. A heat pump provides year-round comfort, while the home is comfortable to live in as is, with clear scope for new owners to refresh and enhance it over time. The grounds offer plenty of space for gardening and outdoor enjoyment, and the deck provides a sunny spot to sit back and take in the outlook. Located close to the hospital, schools, shops, and cafes, the property is well placed for everyday living.

bayleys.co.nz/2180924

3 1 1 1

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 26 Mar 2026  
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** 10-10.30am Sun 8 Mar & Sun 15 Mar  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389  
 maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz  
M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

**OPEN HOME**



**Thames 39 Te Ana Lane**

## Easy living with rural views

This elevated 7,000sqm (more or less) property provides generous space, rural views, and a private setting just minutes from Thames township. Framed by native bush and birdlife, creating a peaceful environment that remains practical and accessible. The home is thoughtfully arranged and comfortable to live in, featuring two bedrooms including a master with its own ensuite, a family bathroom, a spacious kitchen connecting to a large dining and lounge area, study and heating via both a wood burner and heat pump. Step outside onto the deck and take in the expansive rural views. The property also includes a single garage, with a carport converted with one bedroom and bathroom (unconsented).

bayleys.co.nz/2180919

3 1 3 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 26 Mar 2026  
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton  
**View** 10.45-11.30am Sun 8 Mar & Sun 15 Mar  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389  
 maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz  
M H REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Painting the town

The inaugural Thames Paint Out event was a resounding success, with 42 artists taking part.

They spent the day spread out across Thames on February 28, pencils and brushes in hand as they captured the charm and heritage of the town.

Once the paintings were returned to Grahamstown Hall, they were judged and put on display for an exhibition and silent auction. Around 50 people crowded the hall to view the paintings, and many were sold on the day.

Organiser Laurie Spier said she was thrilled with the turnout at the exhibition, the engagement from artists, and the variety of paintings created at the event.

**RESULTS: Professional: Martha St Thames by Ben Ruskin; Adult: Calm Day at Burke St Wharf by Miyuki Neufeld; Teen: Begonia Princess by Lucy Wong; Child: Untitled Nature by Amelia McKay; Spirit of Thames Award: Lest We Forget by Reuben Warren; People's Choice Award: Thames School of Mines by Alice Parminter.**



Reuben Warren works on his painting, *Lest We Forget* in Cochrane St.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Marti Wong and Kathryn Engebretsen.



Paul Cornwell with his work.



Artist Laura Shepherd.



People's Choice: Alice Parminter.



Adults winner, *Calm Day at Burke St Wharf* by Miyuki Neufeld, and Professional winner, *Martha St Thames* by Ben Ruskin.





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**A Lifestyle Village In Thames on the Coromandel**  
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**Our spacious villas provide you with plenty of warmth and light and garden patios to enjoy. There are a variety of layouts including 2 bedroom villas, and 2 bedrooms with a double garage. All residents enjoy the use of the Village Community Lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure.**

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