

# The Valley Profile

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## Jack Black in action

Thames was starstruck this week as Hollywood stars filtered into town to film scenes for *Obsidian*, the working title of the *Minecraft Movie* sequel.

By ALICE PARMINTER and DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Hollywood celebrities Jack Black, Jason Momoa, and Kirsten Dunst were among the stars confirmed to be in town for the filming of the *Minecraft Movie* sequel, which was largely taking place in a block of shops at the Grahamstown end of Pollen St.

Preparation for the filming had already begun over the weekend, with the film crew putting up temporary signage over existing storefronts to change the stores into shops from the fictional town of "Chuglass".

Filming began early on Monday morning. Pollen St was cordoned off between Pahau and Cochrane Streets, with many of the affected businesses taking to social media to confirm they had been asked to remain closed on Monday and Tuesday while filming was taking place.

Onlookers hoping for a glimpse of a movie star were rewarded for their patience when Jack Black stepped away from the set to engage with fans. The *Minecraft Movie* star was happy to chat and take selfies, even waving out and reacting to the crowds between takes.

An art director told *The Profile* the production was great business for Thames.

"We've tried to be as friendly as we can to the town, and employ locals and get local contractors - it's a good injection of money," he said.

"It's a big thing closing down a block of retail, it's not easy." He said the experience had been fantastic.

"It's a fun film. The cast are really nice. It's got a good vibe around it," he said. "It's quite surreal. You sort of know it as your local place and then all the actors are there - it just feels incongruous to  
CONTINUED ON P2

It was lights, camera, action for Hollywood star Jack Black, who raced into Thames yesterday to film scenes for the *Minecraft Movie* sequel.  
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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**CONTINUED FROM P1**  
your everyday.”  
Other onlookers were also thrilled to be a part of the experience.  
“It’s not every day something like this happens in a small town like Thames,” a traffic control staff member said.  
The Thames filming is week four of on-location shooting, with filming previously taking place in Huntly in April.  
Along with the Pollen St site, some filming work will be taking place in Victoria Park in Thames, where sets including an iron golem-themed playground have been constructed.  
A crew member said there was another week or so of filming due to take place in New Zealand before the production moved back into the studio.



Jack Black poses for a selfie with *The Profile's* Davidda Hikatangata.



Thames' Grahamstown and Victoria Park were transformed into the fictional town of Chuglass. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER

**In Brief**

**CLIFF DEATH**  
A person was found deceased following a suspected fall in Onemana. Emergency services were called to the location, on the coastline near Onemana Dr, about 9.30pm on May 13. The person has been recovered, Police are providing support to their family. Enquiries are continuing.

**CROQUET BURGLARY**  
A break-in at the Thames Croquet Club over the weekend of May 9-10 has caused nearly \$1000 worth of damage. The thieves damaged locks and broke a window to gain access to the building. Club treasurer Sheryl McConnell said it was a “mindless act”, with the perpetrators getting away with only a few packets of biscuits and some keys. “Thames Police were on the job promptly, fingerprints were sought and our club members got quickly onto repairing the damage.”

**MINE BLESSING**  
The Wharekairauponga underground mine was blessed and dedicated at a predawn ceremony on May 13. Work has already begun on the tunnel, which is part of the Waihi North Mining Project. OceanaGold said the project will be its “largest, most meaningful, most significant capital investment of scale” and is forecast to generate over NZ\$8 billion of export revenue for New Zealand.

**BOOK FAIR**  
The Waihi Lions Club Book Fair is on during King’s Birthday weekend at the Waihi Memorial Hall on Seddon St. Opening hours are May 30, 9am-4pm and May 31, 10am-2pm. Good quality books and games can be donated until May 25. Drop-off points are BP and Mobil in Waihi, Caltex in Paeroa, and Waihi Beach Home-ware. No magazines or encyclopedias.

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Thames Tides																																											
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<p><small>*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tideviz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz</small></p> <p><b>MOON AND FISH KEYS</b>                  ☉ New Moon    ☾ First Quarter    ☀ Full Moon    ☌ Last Quarter                  🐟 Good Fishing    🐟 Fair Fishing    🐟 Not So Good</p> <p><b>TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES</b>                  To determine tide times at the following places, add (+) or subtract (-) the given time difference from the Thames times listed in the calendar.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PLACE</th> <th>Hr</th> <th>MIN</th> <th>Hr</th> <th>MIN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coromandel</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>04</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitianga</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>01</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tairua</td> <td>+ 0</td> <td>10</td> <td>+ 0</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whangamatā</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>03</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waihi Beach</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>21</td> <td>- 0</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>														PLACE	Hr	MIN	Hr	MIN	Coromandel	- 0	04	- 0	03	Whitianga	- 0	01	- 0	05	Tairua	+ 0	10	+ 0	20	Whangamatā	- 0	03	- 0	06	Waihi Beach	- 0	21	- 0	16
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# Clock's ticking for councils

By ALICE PARMINTER

The government is giving local councils a three-month window to develop proposals for amalgamation as it works to "simplify and strengthen" the local government system.

The fast-tracked timeline for the local government reform programme was announced on May 5, introducing the "Head Start pathway". The voluntary process gives councils a chance to propose their own plans for restructure or amalgamation within their regions.

The government indicated a clear preference for creating unitary authorities, which combine the functions of regional and city or district councils.

Groups of councils can submit proposals to cover all or some of their regions.

Regional councils are not eligible to submit proposals, but can contribute to their development.

Any councils which do not take part in the pathway will instead face compulsory reorganisation by the government.

The Waikato Mayoral Forum had already been exploring the possibilities of restructuring, following the government's initial announcements about reform in November last year.

Forum chair Hamilton City Council Mayor Tim Macindoe said in a statement a four-stage programme to facilitate this process

had been developed.

Meanwhile, Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell said his council was supportive of the reforms, however, he wanted to ensure the community could still contribute to any potential proposals. The matter will be discussed at the May 26 council meeting on May 26.

"This [is] a very tight timeframe for the people of the Coromandel to contribute to this conversation," he said. "We have to be completely open and transparent through this process."

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams said conversations within his council were underway, but he would not be drawn on details.

However, the council said it would share information with the community as it became available.

Waikato Regional Council Chair Warren Maher said his council favoured a single unitary authority in the region and wanted to work with the Waikato Mayoral Forum to develop the option.

"Our council has always said change is needed in local government and now there's a pathway to join forces to do so," he said.

"We're focused on how we can operate at the right scale while improving efficiency and strengthening service delivery."

Successful Head Start proposals are expected to be finalised by 2027, with changes implemented ahead of the 2028 local elections.



Whangamatā Community Library closed in April following longstanding concerns over leaks and mould. FILE PHOTO

## Temporary home for library

By KELLEY TANTAU

The Whangamatā Community Library will reopen in a temporary location after King's Birthday Weekend, following the closure of its original site due to ongoing leaky building and mould issues.

Library committee chairperson Jacqui James said library services would operate from the corner of Port and Hunt Roads, at 119 Hunt Rd, while repairs were carried out at the library's usual premises.

She said the new location, while smaller than the original site, would allow most services to continue for members and visitors for up to 12 months.

Library staff had already begun sorting the collection, she said, with some books moving to the

temporary site and others being placed into storage until the library can return to its Port Rd home.

The Whangamatā Community Library is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers and only partially funded by Thames-Coromandel District Council, with Whangamatā ratepayers contributing \$79,133 this financial year.

The sudden closure of the library - which operated out of the Thames-Coromandel District Council-owned building - in April followed mould toxicity testing and longstanding concerns over leaks within the building.

At the time, community librarians Karen Corban and Katina Morgan described the closure as difficult but necessary, saying the building issues had persisted for

several years.

They said the facility served as far more than a place to borrow books, functioning as a community hub where residents could study, access the internet, attend programmes, and connect with local groups.

Jacqui thanked library members and users for their patience over recent weeks. "With our librarians and volunteer staff working together, we look forward to getting the temporary site operational."

She extended the library's thanks and appreciation to Coromandel Insurance Services, the Whangamatā Community Board, and Thames Coromandel District Council. The aim is for services to resume from the temporary location by June 2.



### Hato Hone St John Thames

**Youth program**  
Recently cadets from Thames and Ngatea attended the children's day in Thames and were active in demonstrating CPR and helping show people through one of the ambulances. Learning CPR from an early age has a positive impact on survival rates from cardiac arrest in the community.

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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## New Hauraki tradition celebrates excellence

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Instead of waiting until the end of the year to celebrate its students' successes, Hauraki Plains College has kicked off a new tradition to highlight high achievers earlier in the year.

Excellence Breakfasts are a time to pause, recognise and celebrate students who have earned NCEA excellence credits so far in 2026.

The school held a combined year 12 and 13 breakfast recently and a separate one for year 11, but next year they aim to have three separate events, principal Sharon Moller said.

They were a time for students and their families to eat breakfast together, with academic students leading the event with an introduction, karakia and speech about what NCEA excellences entailed.

Guest speakers also handed out certificates and badges to students who received excellence grades.

Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams and former student Rosemary Firth were the guest speakers at the event, sharing their views on topic of achieving excellence. The principal said students were excited and proud to be acknowledged for their excellence grades.

"They have attended the breakfasts with parents and grandparents. It has been lovely to celebrate these early wins together."

Three of the students who were honoured as part of the new school tradition were Lucia Suess and



Ben Martin, Keiley Howard and Lucia Suess celebrate their excellence grades.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Ben Martin, of year 13, and Keiley Howard, of year 11. They said the recognition encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence and boosted their confidence.

Lucia, who snapped up excellence grades in maths, English, classics and chemistry, said she was most proud of the English achievement.

"It was a very hard, lengthy topic to study [and] required a lot of

time on my part so I'm glad it paid off," she said.

The breakfast was a "new and exciting experience" and allowed students and parents to celebrate together the work it took to get there, she said.

Lucia learned that if she managed her time effectively "I can create less stress for myself".

"By doing that [I] have more time to do more things outside of

schoolwork."

One skill beyond academics that helped Lucia to succeed was "a happy positive outlook on life".

Meanwhile, Ben Martin said it was helpful to focus on other things, such as his social life and hobbies.

He was most proud of passing two calculus topics with excellence - topics he wasn't familiar with before this year, he said.

He believed the breakfast was a "good opportunity" to show his parents the work he'd done during the term, he said, and to "see the results" of his hard work.

A bit of planning was key for staying organised and motivated when he started to get busy, he said.

"I try to create a schedule of due dates and I prioritise in order of importance. Doing that allows me to concentrate more on the most important assessment," he said.

Fellow excellence achiever Keiley Howard said she stayed organised by ensuring she was "on top of the deadlines".

She also organised assessments in order of priority.

"This year I have really realised the importance of time and time management," she said.

Her excellence grades were in relation to her calculus and health, and she said she was most proud of her health assessment.

"I felt like I really made an impact on my community by giving a food basket to a struggling family."

It was her first year as an NCEA student, but her teachers really supported her and had "given me the confidence" to do well.

The encouragement the students wanted to share with others was to have confidence in what they could do.

"Surround yourself with positive people" and "take every opportunity you can get", they said.

More Than A School  
Hauraki Plains College

## RESERVED FOR EXCELLENCE



**Year 11:** Gemma Baker, Akeen Edvalson, Stella Hayward, Roanne Villon, Zeeva Hayes, Sadie McKay, Haven-Grace Monrad, Ujwal Parajuli, Katelyn Brunt, Marley Green, Keiley Howard, Shaira Paynandos, Sherwin Quintal, Jordyn Vincent, Naomi Dibble, Monica du Plooy, Angeline Kei, Culley Reid, Alena Tikaitoga, Sidney Wiki, Ruby Hedges, Cody Brown, Jorja Frater, Annie Kaur, William MacDuff, Pippa Pivott, Cohen Taaffe, Shirley Henry, Talita van Burick, Ava-May Dodds, Tayla Kennedy, Olivia Taaffe, Rebecca Johnson, Aidan Laurenzi, Bailey Soppet-Main, Nevaeh Veal, Adelle Johnson, Navanah-Lee McLean, Hana Fieten, Zac Cammell, Levi Frey, Cullen Garrett, Caylin Mitchell, Huinga Siemers, Max Tye, Lucy Wigley.



**Year 12:** Hannah Broadbent, Lily Hammond, Emma Joll, Faith Jones, Prajwal Parajuli, Ella Price, Willow Turner, Shyla Lindsay, Corey Oldershaw, Ashley Steffek, Stephanie Baigent, Liam Petersen, Carmen Smith, Noah Jenner, Mala Wilgermein, Alyssa Judd, Isabella MacLaurin, Tohaline Ikiua-Fuhiniu, Janko Lourens, Sage Miller, Khloe Nottingham, Mareikura Roper, Zana Slavic, Sefton Dickenson, Jessie Logan, Madison Mischewski, Madeleine Smith, Danika Bergersen, Karma Jones, Kate Banwell, Lily Kang, Teana Rangihika, Tyler Steel, Adam Kelly, Lily Kay, Arisha Ram, Madison Finn, Kate McSaveny, Emma Wiggins, Cohen Andrews, Oscar Joyne, Sophie Morrison, Hayven Selby.



**Year 13:** Elaise Goodson, Brandon Liu, Isabelle Logan, Greer MacDuff, Abbey Paton, Jorja Potter, Maddison Strickland, Lilly-Ann Blackburn, Sophia Bajon, Samantha Cooksley, Zara Culley, Jasmine Davis, Alysa Isbister, Awhi King, Ella Pivott, Vienna Syme, Paige-Emily Tevita-Williams, Loto Vaimagalo, Dylan van mil, Skylah Whitmore, Selwin De Haast, Ryker Faulkner, Rehan Gampala Waduge, Emma Tegg, Billy Grimmer, Denzel Apps, Genesis Blakelock, Mackenzie Braid, Tamzin Forsyth-Lees, Tiahna Hayes, Teigan Lange, Bridgette Marshall, Aseem Sohal, Zoe Chesham, Hamish Paterson, Ben Steinemann, Sophia Allen, Lily Maisey, Brooke McMeekan, Anabel Merz, Lucia Suess, Camryn Young, Izzy Bradley, Cameron Churchill, Angel Dean, Abigail Dovey, Georgia Green, Malia Mason, Amber Perry, Harmony Sarsfield, Tayler Gibbs, Max Goodhand, Zoe Morgan, Stevie Selby, Nirvana Shaw, Jenna Temple, Ella Vanhoovels, Olive Aitken Gummer, Carter Clifton, Harsharn Kaur, Lyla Roberts, Kacey Soppet, Benjamin Martin.



Rob Wood, centre, celebrates with relatives and friends. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

# Celebrating 102 years

By ALICE PARMINTER

Hetherington House resident Rob Wood isn't a fan of the limelight, but on May 15 he was the guest of honour at a very special morning tea.

The celebration saw the Waihi man celebrate his 102nd birthday, surrounded by friends and family members.

Born in Ashburton on May 17, 1924, Rob spent much of his life in public service. He served as a supplies clerk for the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the later years of World War II before moving to Wellington to take up various positions in the Education Department.

Rob also spent some years overseas working in Foreign Affairs, and in 1967 was appointed the Vice Consul for the New Zealand Embassy in Washington, DC in the United States.

Rob and his wife Joan retired to Tauranga, spending many happy years in Papamoa.

These days, Rob enjoys following various sports, having an interest in rugby, tennis, and golf, among others.

Rob was nonchalant about reaching his 11th decade, and when asked his secret to longevity he had some very sage advice, accompanied by a cheeky grin: "just keep breathing".

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**A Museum of Humanity: The Time Traveller's Guide to Hamilton Gardens (73 mins)** G. The story of how a city rubbish dump was transformed into a collection of gardens from ancient Egypt to the surreal future.

**Sgt Haane (88 mins)** M. True WWII story. The story of Sgt Haane of the 28th Māori Battalion, who leads a group of Battalion soldiers – all related, all cousins – up a precipitous cliff face and into the pages of history.

**A Private Life (103 mins)** M. French comedy starring Jodie Foster. When a renowned psychiatrist learns of the death of one of her patients she is deeply troubled. Convinced that it was murder, she investigates.

**Caterpillar (97 mins)** M. Follows three women living in a leaky Wellington villa. 16yo Cassie; her mother, a filmmaker on the brink of a breakthrough; and her grandmother, who has an obsession with raising monarch caterpillars and one day seeing the butterfly migration in Mexico.

**The Sheep Detectives (109 mins)** PG. A witty new mystery about a shepherd (Hugh Jackman) who reads detective novels to his sheep every night, assuming they can't understand. But when a mysterious incident occurs, the sheep become the detectives. Investigating human suspects, they become brilliant crime-solvers.

**The Devil Wears Prada 2 (119 mins)** M. 2026 movie. Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci return to the fashionable streets of New York City and the sleek offices of Runway Magazine.

**Michael (130 mins)** M. Musical biographical drama telling the story of Michael Jackson's life from lead of the Jackson Five to how his creative ambition led him to become the biggest entertainer in the world.

**Coming from Thursday 28 May: Tuner:** A talented piano tuner's skills for tuning pianos lead him to discover an aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down. **Words of War:** The true story of journalist and human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya who fights to be a voice of truth for the Russian people.

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# Shellfish harvesting rule changes mooted

By ALICE PARMINTER

Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) is calling for submissions on proposed changes to the management of recreational shellfish harvesting in the Auckland-Coromandel area amid ongoing concerns about overharvesting and sustainability.

The government agency is looking at several possible options, including full or partial closures of intertidal areas - the section of land which lies between the high and low watermarks on the shore - for recreational harvesting.

The proposed rules would encompass the east and west coastlines of Auckland and the Coromandel, extending 200m seaward from the high tide mark and including the rocky shore, rockpools, sand, and mud areas.

FNZ is also considering changes to the daily recreational limits for shellfish and other intertidal species.

Currently, people are allowed a combined recreational daily limit of 50 shellfish per person. There are also 11 named species, including bivalves, rock lobsters, kina and pāua, which are subject to individual daily limits. Toheroa take is prohibited.

One proposed rule change option is a combined recreational daily limit of 10 shellfish per person for any species not covered by an individual daily limit.

The agency is also considering narrowing the range of species allowed to be collected under the general daily limit, as well as adding new limits for species currently not covered by the restrictions, such as crabs, octopuses, squid, shrimps, and sea cucumbers.

Information sheets about the proposed changes said the intertidal area supported a diverse range of plants and animals vulnerable to impacts from human activities, including harvesting, sedimentation, and pollution.

"In recent months, Fisheries New Zealand has received increased reports of intensive shore-based harvesting from the rocky shore and rock pools at particular locations. Many of the species being targeted by recreational fishers, including limpets, whelks and periwinkles, are subject to a combined daily limit of 50 shellfish per person, which means a large amount of these shellfish can be taken by harvesters each day," the agency said.

"Fisheries New Zealand is seeking feedback on measures that aim to address sustainability risks associated



with shore-based harvest pressure."

FNZ is also seeking feedback on potential monitoring and education initiatives to support successful implementation.

**DETAILS: Submissions can be made until 5pm on June 12, by emailing [FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:FMsubmissions@mpi.govt.nz). See [www.mpi.govt.nz/shore-based-shellfish](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/shore-based-shellfish) for more info.**

# Death catches up to Norwegian seaman



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

When the schooner *Reeward* went ashore on its way from Oamaru to Auckland with a cargo of produce in May, 1887, the vessel immediately broke into pieces.

It was around 6.30pm, about 20 miles from the Māhia Peninsula near Portland Island.

The fog had been so dense that the captain could not see the Portland Island lighthouse.

Frederick Olin, a 29-year-old Norwegian able seaman, as well as the captain, the cook and two other seamen, made it into a boat but not far from the sinking *Reward*, the boat struck something and began filling with water.

The captain, cook and one seaman were drowned. Frederick Olin and Edward Lambert managed to reach land, stripped of their clothes. Local Māori found them the next day and took them to Māhia.



Frederick was working on the ketch *Reliance* when he fell. SUPPLIED

Fifteen months later, in August 1888, Frederick was busy scraping the masts of the ketch *Reliance* which was loading timber at the Turua mill in the Thames Valley.

The mill, the property of the Hauraki Saw Mill Co, was managed by Mr Bagnall and provided constant employment for about 20 workers. Extensive stands of kahikatea, or white pine, amounting to around 50 million feet, belonged to the mill.

Bagnall's sold timber as well

as constructing bee boxes, bee hives, flooring, ceilings, skirting boards and packing cases.

The mill had an output of 60,000 feet of kahikatea per week. Much of this was exported to Wellington, Christchurch, Oamaru and Australia on the several vessels coming and going from the mill's wharf.

Now Frederick sat high up among the masts at the wharf on some scaffolding he had constructed.

Suddenly one of the cross-pieces gave way and Freder-

ick was precipitated 40ft to the bottom of the hatchway. In the fall his arm struck the hatchway and was fractured, and his head, which he landed on, was badly contused.

He was picked up in an insensible state by Captain Pallerson, who was standing close by. The mill leant their steam launch to Captain Pallerson and Frederick was taken to Kōpū then on to Thames hospital on the top of a cab, his injuries preventing him from being placed inside.

The hospital was reached about 4.30pm, three hours after Frederick's fall. Dr Callan dressed the wounds and set the broken arm, but there did not seem to be much hope of recovery.

Captain Pallerson thanked the Messrs Bagnall for their kindness in giving such valuable assistance to the injured man.

Four days after the accident Frederick died; no inquest was considered necessary.

A few days later at a meeting of the hospital trustees the expenses of Frederick's burial were discussed. Captain Bayldon, harbourmaster, felt that the owners of the *Reliance* were liable for the expenses incurred and he was confident they would pay all the charges.

Frederick, having cheated death once, was buried at Shortland cemetery, Thames.

# New Māori Community Awards

Nominations are now open for the inaugural Te Pā Harakeke Hauraki Māori Community Awards, recognising the people whose quiet, consistent mahi (work) strengthens whānau and communities across Hauraki.

The awards were established by Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Women's Refuge. "These awards are about honouring those whose contributions often go unseen, but whose impact is deeply felt by our communities," Te Whāriki co-chair Tania Weidenbohm said.

The awards will be held on July 11 at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, during Matariki.

"There are people across Hauraki whose mahi holds our communities together, and most of them would never ask to be acknowledged," Te Whāriki co-chair Michael Barlow said.

Chief executive Denise Messiter added, "[This] is our way of saying: we see you, we honour you, and we are stronger because of you."

There are six award categories: whanaungatanga and collective empowerment; social and economic wellbeing - Rangatahi Innovator award; environmental wellbeing; community safety and resilience; cultural revitalisation and resilience; and wāhine Māori leadership.

**DETAILS: Nominations close at 5pm on June 19. Nominees can be an individual, whānau, kaupapa or rōpū whose work deserves to be recognised. See [form.typeform.com/to/yzbuATia](http://form.typeform.com/to/yzbuATia) for more.**

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## On the Land

# Modelling flood risk: 'Water finds a way'

A drop of water lands on a high mountain range. Which way will it flow? And where will it end up?

There may be inherent unpredictability in complex systems, but recent advancements in hydrological modelling and adjacent fields have led to significant improvements in the predictive power at our fingertips - especially in catchment-scale assessments and flood prediction.

In 2024, Waikato Regional Council mapped the entire Waikato Region in high-resolution 3D, providing a crucial dataset to underpin new models.

"Hydrological modelling utilises computer simulations that represent how water moves through the landscape, taking real data about rainfall, land surfaces, soils and waterways and using physical laws to predict where the water will go and when," council senior engineer Steven Cornelius said.

The council recently developed a pioneering hydrological model of the Hauraki Plains catchment from the data. The model now forms the basis of the risk assessment and a potential adaptation plan for the plain, providing expected flood water depths and extents for different scenarios in a scientifically advanced and robust way. "The work gives us a digital version of the entire Hauraki catchment - the basin-shaped area bounded by natural features, including hills and mountains, that ultimately drains water to the



Floodgates near the Criterion Bridge in Paeroa hold back flood waters.

Photo: SUPPLIED

sea," Steven said. "This lets us experiment with rain, river flows and flooding without having to wait for the next storm."

All models needed to be rigorously calibrated and validated against past events to provide confidence in their level of accuracy, with results released after robust checks against community feedback, council said.

Community engagement is underway in the Hauraki Plains area to provide this check and help people understand that modelling is inherently complex and no model is 'perfect'. However, the model will provide insights into the way

the catchment system works. The sessions also enabled residents to get to grips with what the modelled projections and scenarios show and how they might inform future initiatives.

Real-world scenarios illustrate the potential and importance of increasingly advanced models. On January 21, when remote sensors along the Ohinemuri River upstream of Paeroa alerted the council to rising water levels, the flood gates were able to be closed well before the road and parts of the town could be affected by what ultimately swelled into a raging torrent.

"Sensors give us data to act on in real time," Steven said.

"In the case of Paeroa, we rely on water level gauges in the Ohinemuri River to trigger closure of the gates that protect the town. We are now able to run forecast and recorded rainfall through a hydrological model to predict river levels in advance. This gives additional preparation time for our field crews to close the gates and additional lead time for emergency response planning.

"Dealing with complexity is where hydrological modelling comes into its own. Using detailed topography with idealised current

and future rain conditions, we can predict what might happen in future weather events, even at scales we've never seen before."

This enhanced council's ability to proactively plan and reactively support communities, he said.

"It means we can better prioritise cost-effective asset maintenance and construction in the best places, to optimum specifications. And it means, when another sensor starts blinking at us, we can make better real-time decisions to keep communities safe."

Looking to the future, hydrological modelling will also enable the exploration of different climate change projections and the development of more effective nature-based solutions where feasible to help absorb, redirect, work around and identify opportunities in natural flow patterns, rather than attempting to hold back change.

"Water always finds a way," Steven said.

"The beauty of hydrological modelling is that, instead of trying to fend off the forces of nature, it seeks to understand them and anticipate them - informing solutions that work with them to achieve better outcomes for communities".

The council is in the process of developing catchment-scale hydrological models for catchments across the region and expects to be in a position to start sharing these with communities beyond the Hauraki Plains during 2026.

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# On the Land

## Wilding pine control

Wilding pine control on sacred land near Whangamatā will restore the mauri of the Māori land block and help the economy of the coastal town, tangata whenua guardian group Tunaiti Kaitiaki Roopu says.

Waikato Regional Council is undertaking the control on the 200 hectare coastal Tunaiti-Otahu block as part of its 10-year strategic plan to work with landowners and communities to contain and reduce the spread of wilding pines on the Coromandel Peninsula.

The control work, by contractor Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel, started in January after a site blessing. It follows the removal of wilding pines from the wildlife sanctuary Hauturu Motu/Clark Island, off the coast in Whangamatā, in 2024.

"This wilding pine control will restore the taonga of this place by improving the habitat for our native wildlife," Tunaiti Kaitiaki Roopu chairman Errol Gilbert of Uru Ngawera/Ngati Pu said.

"The community will also benefit. Making our land healthier and prettier to look at is good for the economy – it attracts people, so, it's good for tourism and jobs."

Wilding pines are a significant pest plant issue across the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula. They are one of the most invasive tree species groups in the world because of their ability to spread seed and grow fast and tall across many different ecosystem types and landscapes.

They outcompete native plant species and impact on native fauna through habitat loss, thereby desecrating sites of cultural significance and affecting amenity and landscape values, particularly coastal areas that are of importance for tourism and recreation.

"For Uru Ngawera/Ngati Pu, this land

is sacred," Errol said.

"It has numerous archaeological sites, including pepeha areas, urupā and pā sites.

"From a heritage point of view, it's important to stop invasives from taking over. Wilding pine control is a big piece in the jigsaw of cultural and ecological restoration to restore the mauri life force of this land."

For the three-year project, Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel is training two young people from Uru Ngawera/Ngati Pu in wilding pine control: hand-pulling, hand sawing and pasting, drilling and filling, and felling by chainsaw.

"Longer term, it's about succession planning and providing opportunities for tamariki to be involved in this kind of work," Errol said. "It's about creating enthusiasm and appetite, along with the skills required, to become contracted service providers in their own right; kaitiaki of their own rohe."

Council pest plants team leader Darion Embling said wilding pines were not only an ecological problem, but an expensive one as well.

"In terms of controlling them, each tree comes with its cost, and new pines will quickly appear from the seed that's already been spread," Darion said.

"To be successful, we need to keep going back to remove any regenerating pines, so they don't become a big problem again and we lose the ground we've made.

"This is why it's important to have collaborative relationships in wilding pine control.

"Success depends on funding availability and contributions, landowner and community awareness for control, and availability and capability of contractors."

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# Local Legends

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Top tier service at Auto Super Shoppe Thames

It was on the strength of its reputation that Barrie Richards Auto Repairs at 801 Pollen St, Thames, was invited to join the nationwide Auto Super Shoppe's network last year.

Owner Barrie Richards said that as part of its new chapter, the business also refreshed its name to Auto Super Shoppe Thames.

Even though the name on the building was new, everything else has remained the same - including the friendly team of technicians, Nancy (Barrie's mum) in the office, and the top tier customer service.

"It's almost been nine or 10 months since I joined the Auto Super Shoppe group. You still own your business, but you're part of a nationwide group of garages. There's about 120 of us," the local legend told *The Profile*.

"The business model has been going for 20 years. It's an invite-only thing. You have to be asked to join, and they only ask businesses that have been in business for a while and have a good reputation."

Barrie's shop was identified and selected by Auto Super Shoppes as a premium workshop in the area, trusted for their high standards, skilled workmanship and outstanding service.



Auto Super Shoppe Thames owner Barrie Richards. Photos: SUPPLIED

The trusted mechanic said the collaboration was "really good for us" for a multitude of reasons.

"I've had customers that have either shifted out of the district or they're looking at buying a vehicle out of the district, or they've faced vehicle troubles

while in another area."

Barrie now said he can recommend any one of the Auto Super Shoppes out of town to assist people. "It's a good group of people. I've met quite a few of the owners. Whangamatā is the closest one to us here, [then] there's one in Morrinsville, and



one in Whitianga," he said.

"It's just handy being part of something like that."

Looking after cars is something Barrie has always been passionate about.

He first rolled open the doors to his shop as a new business in Cochrane St in 1999, and after 11 years shifted into their current building in the main street.

"I was 28 when I started by myself and it was all just by default really. I finished my mechanic apprenticeship and did several years at another couple of jobs. And then I decided to open up a workshop and it just kind of grew from there."

He said his team slowly grew

from one staff member, to two, to his current team of five - four technicians including himself, and his mum in the office.

Barrie said he couldn't do it without his staff.

"It's just been a slow, steady kind of growth."

It should go without saying, Barrie said, that he and his trusty team were grateful to the community for their unwavering support across the years.

"I've had and have a really cool bunch of clients over the years. A lot of them have been with me from the start," he said.

"I'm proud to have been in business this long."

- By Davidda Hikatangata

# Barrie Richards Auto Repairs is now



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# Thames' Firestarters chase BBQ glory

By KELLEY TANTAU

What started as a free competition entry and a shared love of cooking over fire has turned into a full-blown barbecue adventure for The Firestarters.

The team - made up of Thames-based Edwin Booth and his brother-in-law Jacques Engelbrecht - launched their competitive barbecue journey in April, 2024, after receiving a complimentary entry into Smoke on the Coast through the NZ Woodfire Community Facebook group.

"With us both being from South Africa with a lifetime's experience cooking over wood and live fire - braai - we thought we would have no problems tackling the competitive scene. This has yet to be proven," Edwin joked.

But before stepping behind the smokers themselves, the pair had spent time judging barbecue competitions, which inspired them to try their hand on the "other side of the fence".

Since then, they have been learning the highs, lows, and unpredictability of the competitive barbecue world - including the occasional disaster.

"Unfortunately, a lesson was learned by me the hard way," Edwin said. "Rule number one: don't have too many beers the night before comp day. Leave that 'til after you have cooked and handed in all your proteins."



Firestarters Edwin Booth and Jacques Engelbrecht.

Another memorable mishap involved a rack of overcooked ribs that nearly fell apart before judging.

"I managed to pivot by leaving the foil boat open and letting the steam escape over a few minutes, and the meat slowly sucked back onto the bone," Edwin said.

"Other than that, you learn to pivot pretty quickly and solve most disasters as you go."

One of the team's biggest highlights so far was competing at Meatstock 2025, where they went up against seasoned barbecue teams from New Zealand and overseas.

"Being novices, it was an awesome experience to battle it out against not just local New Zealand legends, but international ones too. We managed an overall placing of 44th out of 55 teams, and placing in the top half for



Edwin handles the ribs and pork shoulder, while Jacques takes on the brisket and chicken.

Photos: SUPPLIED

both chicken and ribs," Edwin said. "That was a huge surprise."

Growing up around braais and woodfire cooking, Edwin said the pair tended to cook a variety of meats at once, so they didn't have a particular cut they loved cooking most. But when it came to competitions, Edwin took charge of the ribs and pork shoulder, while Jacques handled the brisket and chicken.

Edwin was now looking at selling barbecue platters locally

through the community Facebook noticeboards in Thames to help fund future competition entries and meat costs.

The team was also calling for support from local businesses, particularly butchers, who may be interested in helping sponsor competition proteins.

"A huge shout-out to David from Mitre10 Thames who assisted us with store credit last year - that was a huge help getting us through our first year,"

Edwin said.

While work commitments and the cost of living have slowed their competition schedule this year, The Firestarters are already planning their next outing at a Cambridge competition in September.

Long-term, the pair are aiming for a Top 10 finish, and hoping Meatstock returns to New Zealand in 2027.

**DETAILS: To follow along, find The Firestarters on Facebook.**

## Foodies

ADVERTISING FEATURE

### Kaimai Distilling strikes gold again

Kaimai Distilling has once again placed Waikino on the international stage, with its Eliza's Claim Dry Gin being awarded Gold and named New Zealand's Best Classic Gin at the World Gin Awards.

This latest win follows last year's success, where Kaimai's Eliza's Claim Gold Gin took out New Zealand's Best Contemporary Gin, cementing the small Waikino distillery's growing reputation for producing world-class spirits from the heart of the Karangahake Gorge.

For owner and distiller Wayne Chowles, the award is particularly satisfying because the Dry Gin represents a very different style of gin.

"Last year's Gold Gin is bold and contemporary, with a unique botanical profile and gold flakes," he said.

"The Dry Gin is the opposite approach. It's clean, classic and precise. There's nowhere to hide in a classic gin, so to see it recognised internationally is incredibly rewarding."

Produced in small batches using carefully selected botanicals, the Dry Gin was designed to showcase balance, structure and purity of flavour, qualities highly valued in international judging.

Kaimai Distilling has developed a loyal following through its cellar door experiences, online sales and appearances at food and gin festivals around New

Zealand. Wayne said the awards are not just recognition for the distillery, but for the wider Waikino community.

"We're a small local business doing things by hand, in a small town, and competing against some of the best distilleries in the world.

"That's something the whole region can be proud of. There's a story in every glass."

**DETAILS: Eliza's Claim Dry Gin is distilled at the Waikino Tavern, 8541 State Highway 2, Waikino. Ph: 07 863 8381 or email info@waikinohotel.nz.**



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# SUDOKU

251

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

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

EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

251

HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

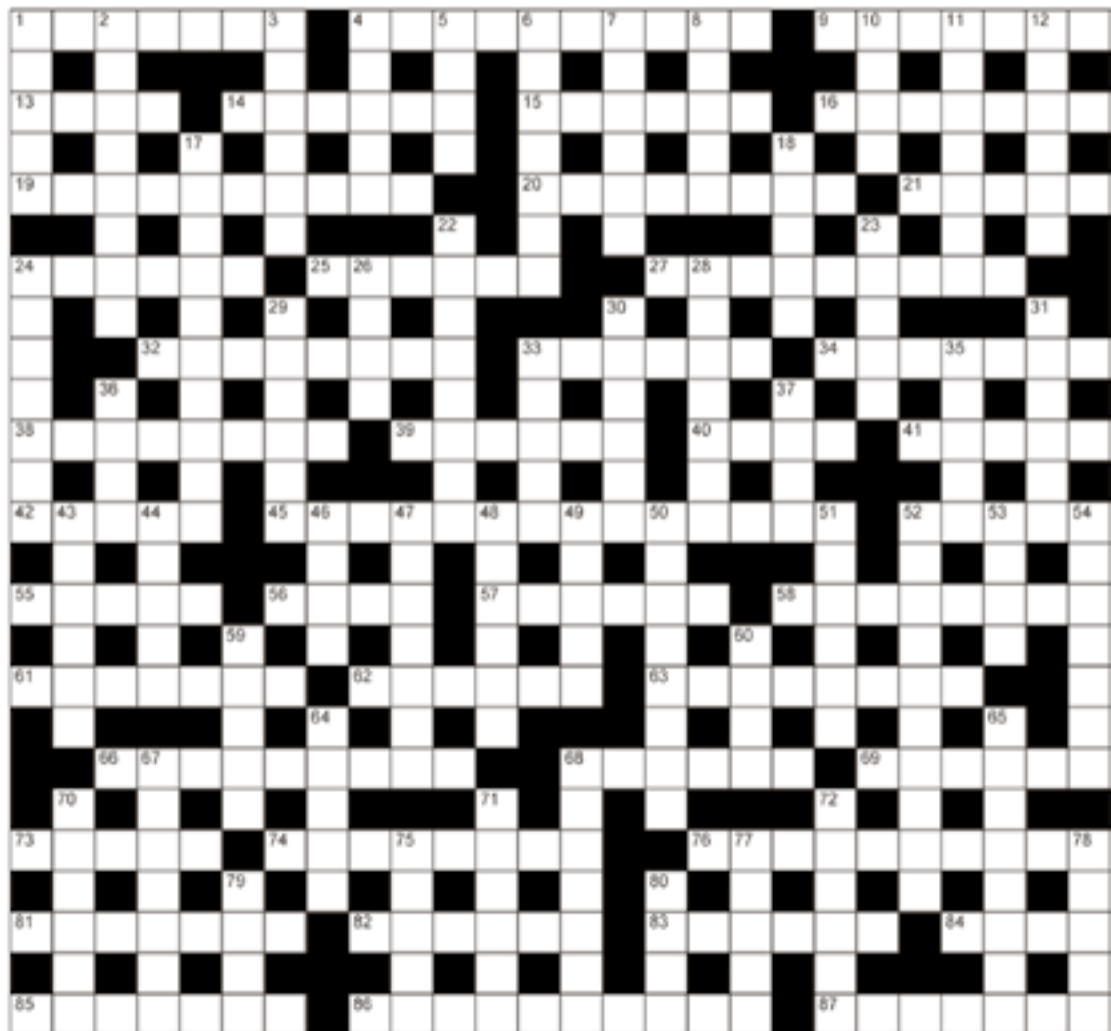
9	7	8	4	2	1	3	5	6
6	3	4	5	8	9	2	1	7
2	1	5	6	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	7	1	5	2	9	6	4
5	6	9	7	4	8	1	2	3
1	4	2	9	3	6	7	8	5
8	9	6	3	1	5	4	7	2
7	2	3	8	6	4	5	9	1
4	5	1	2	9	7	6	3	8

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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

271

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shut out (7)
  - 4 Act nonchalantly (4,2,4)
  - 9 Consolidate (7)
  - 13 Give support to (4)
  - 14 Loudness (6)
  - 15 Implied (6)
  - 16 Black Death plague (7)
  - 19 Doggedly purposeful (10)
  - 20 Retail outlet for readers (8)
  - 21 Compare (5)
  - 24 Leg-extending poles (6)
  - 25 At an angle (6)
  - 27 Renounced the throne (9)
  - 32 Educated (8)
  - 33 Fermented fodder (6)
  - 34 Golf course avenue (7)
  - 38 Region (8)
  - 39 Be emphatic (6)
  - 40 Without feeling (4)
  - 41 Special skill (5)
  - 42 Senior group member (5)
  - 45 Recuperate (6,2,6)
  - 52 Trials (5)
  - 55 Artist's stand (5)
  - 56 Closed hand (4)
  - 57 Big gun (6)
  - 58 First public performance (8)
  - 61 Ink-soaking paper (7)
  - 62 Mar (6)
  - 63 Wedding paper (8)
  - 66 Celestial bodies (9)
  - 68 Joint-sealing packer (6)
  - 69 Position (6)
  - 73 Head cavity (5)
  - 74 Legal writ (8)
  - 76 Track (10)
  - 81 Yearbook (7)
  - 82 Vulgar worthless art (6)
  - 83 Crops up (6)
  - 84 Hoodlum (4)
  - 85 Sugar (7)
  - 86 Magnetism (10)
  - 87 Marked down (7)
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Receded (5)
  - 2 Mixed drink (8)
  - 3 Not native (6)
  - 4 Dried plum (5)
  - 5 High cards (4)
  - 6 Occupy (7)
  - 7 S. American vulture (6)
  - 8 Follows orders (5)
  - 10 Responsibility (4)
  - 11 Furnish (7)
  - 12 Sculptor's tool (6)
  - 17 Shelter (10)
  - 18 Dense (5)
  - 22 Plot tender (8)
  - 23 Tropical parrot (5)
  - 24 Banded (7)
  - 26 Glossy fabric (4)
  - 28 Waxy-flowered plant (7)
  - 29 Agree (6)
  - 30 Grasp tightly (6)
  - 31 Team's talisman (6)
  - 33 Fleet (5)
  - 35 Wash out (5)
  - 36 Duplicate (4)
  - 37 Miss out (4)
  - 43 By mouth (6)
  - 44 Construct (5)
  - 46 Heinous (4)
  - 47 Wild (7)
  - 48 Drink of the gods (6)
  - 49 Proprietor (5)
  - 50 Ghost expeller (8)
  - 51 Shores (anag)(6)
  - 52 Enticement (10)
  - 53 Look for (4)
  - 54 Ghost (7)
  - 59 Prize (5)
  - 60 Long ago (4)
  - 64 Sham (5)
  - 65 Lawless (8)
  - 67 Use a gas (anag)(7)
  - 68 Vividly described (7)
  - 70 Cricket bat wood (6)
  - 71 Film cutter (6)
  - 72 Thin covering (6)
  - 75 Tip (5)
  - 77 Outsider (5)
  - 78 Moved gradually sideways (5)
  - 79 Deceased (4)
  - 80 Cab (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Users, 4 Scramble, 9 Direct, 14 Eject, 15 Thrown to the lions, 17 Cupid, 18 Eel, 19 Closing, 20 Freighter, 21 Gutter, 24 Skedaddle, 25 Settle, 26 Rotten, 29 Gymnastics, 31 Eta, 32 Afraid, 33 Acts, 35 Rip, 37 Tame, 39 Convinced, 40 Forgetful, 41 Sorry, 42 Coleslaw, 47 Actually, 51 Mains, 55 Miniature, 56 Heartburn, 58 Dogs, 59 Ego, 60 Arid, 61 Behind, 62 Wit, 63 Nutriments, 66 Tugged, 67 Batter, 69 Restricts, 72 Ragged, 73 Stressful, 75 Turmoil, 77 Moa, 80 Louse, 81 Love at first sight, 82 Excel, 83 Sentry, 84 Sideline, 85 Weeds.

DOWN: 2 Scholarly, 3 Roots, 5 Cook, 6 Adhered, 7 Belligerence, 8 Epoch, 9 Dessert, 10 Rack, 11 Cyprus, 12 Fewer, 13 Stilton, 14 Edition, 16 Nonsensical, 22 Ration, 23 Glorify, 24 Sincere, 25 Shards, 27 Tactful, 28 Citric, 30 Skit, 32 Apart, 34 Salty, 36 Beau, 38 Ado, 42 Comma, 43 Longing, 44 Scar, 45 Abused, 46 Aired, 48 Tennis court, 49 Address, 50 Log, 51 Medical, 52 Shower, 53 Easter Island, 54 Stun, 57 Upturn, 64 Tarnished, 65 Seagull, 66 Trimmed, 68 Totally, 70 Soulful, 71 Secure, 72 Ranch, 74 Eaves, 76 Maize, 78 Sect, 79 Iron.

# Keep the main thing the main thing

**OPINION**



By **MICHAEL WILKES**

I was out four-wheel driving recently for a mate's stag do, and there were some proper gnarly sections — the kind where you're fully locked in, picking your line, heart pumping, loving every second. But between those moments were long stretches of slow, bumpy road. Just crawling along. And if I'm honest, I got bored. My mind started wandering. I even caught myself thinking I'd rather be out running.

Then we came to a small stream crossing with a steep bluff dropping away on one side. I cruised into it a bit too casual, not really thinking, not choosing my line properly — and suddenly the truck slid into a rut and my wheel dropped toward the edge. Things got real in a hurry. It gave me a fright, but it also gave me a reminder.

Life's a bit like that. There are moments that are exciting, intense, memorable — but most of life is made up of the slow, bumpy road in between. The routines. The ordinary. The unseen work.

And often that's where we lose focus. Not in the dramatic mo-

ments, but in the mundane ones. Whether it's building a family culture you care about, staying present in a marriage, succeeding in study, or sticking at something that matters — there's always a lot of ordinary in the middle of anything worthwhile. And that's often where mission drift happens.

Not because we consciously walk away from what matters, but because we slip into cruise control and let our attention drift.

So here's a thought as you head into your day: pause for a moment and remember what matters most to you. Remember why you're doing what you're

doing.

Because often the danger isn't the big dramatic blow-up — it's slowly losing sight of the main thing.

And if there's one lesson a sliding truck on a muddy bluff taught me this weekend, it's this: even in the routine, even in the hard yards, keep the main thing the main thing.

*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

- Flight numbers for QANTAS flights all start with which two letters as a prefix? a) AU, b) QA, or c) QF?
- Which fictional character in *Harry Potter* is often referred to as 'He who must not be named'?
- Which is the only country to have a banknote featuring an image of a fungus? a) Australia, b) Malta, or c) New Zealand?
- The 'Tillies' is a nickname for the Australian national woman's team playing which sport? a) Netball, b) rugby league, or c) soccer?
- The cricket term 'out for a duck', means a batsman has been dismissed after scoring how many runs?
- The 8th of May was David Attenborough's birthday; how old did he turn?
- The term 'jardin', used in both French and Spanish, translates to: a) garden, b) green, or c) guard?
- What type of meat is from a sheep intermediate in age between lamb and mutton?
- Tikapa Moana is the te reo name for which geographical feature in the Hauraki area? a) Kopuatai wetland, b) The Hauraki Plains, or c) The Hauraki Gulf?
- Which social media platform introduced a feature called 'poke' in 2004? a) Bebo, b) Facebook, or c) Snapchat?

ANSWERS: 1. c) QF; 2. Lord Voldemort; 3. c) New Zealand (our \$50 note contains the wētāwētā-kōkako, a blue mushroom species); 4. c) Soccer; 5. 0; 6. 100; 7. a) Garden; 8. Hogget; 9. c) The Hauraki Gulf; 10. b) Facebook

## Pet Profile

### Echo: a pup with potential

Echo is a very gentle, quiet young dog with a sensitive soul and a heart full of potential.

This sweet boy is currently in a loving foster home where he is learning about everyday living, including crate training, walking on lead, and recall — all coming along beautifully.

Echo can be nervous in new situations and may hide from visitors while he takes time to assess his surroundings.

He is looking for a calm, kind household willing to offer patience, reassurance, and plenty of love as he continues to build confidence.

Once Echo feels safe, his affectionate side shines through. He loves sitting

beside his foster carer on the couch, quietly soaking up pats and attention. He absolutely adores other dogs and would thrive in a home with a confident canine companion.

A quieter home would suit Echo best, though with time he may come around to respectful children.

Echo is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and up to date with flea and worm treatments.

Meet and greets are by appointment only due to being in foster care in Whitianga.

Available from Thames SPCA.

**DETAILS: For more information, view Echo's profile online: [www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/658474/dog-echo-thames](http://www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/658474/dog-echo-thames).**



Echo is a sweet, gentle pup of six months old. Photo: SUPPLIED

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Students seek the essence of love

This month's Thames Music Group Free Friday Lunchtime Concert will feature students from the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music Voice Department.

Thames Music Group provides this annual opportunity for Thames music lovers to experience performances by some of New Zealand's most remarkable emerging young professionals from the popular Postgraduate and Undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Waikato.

The programme being presented by Gina Sanders on Friday 29 May is entitled *Proving the Passions - Viva L'Amour, Love Everlasting, Viva L'amore,*

*Ewige Liebe...* – a programme seeking to find which nation has the ultimate understanding of the passions, perils and power of love.

Voice and piano students from the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music will enchant the audience with music spanning several centuries and continents, on the quest to capture the essence of love expressed in song.

Come and enjoy beautiful music and help support the next generation of Aotearoa's vocal talent.

**DETAILS: Waikato Conservatorium of Music Voice Department students, May 29 at 12.15pm, St George's Church, Thames. Free entry, koha/donation appreciated.**



Students from the University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music Voice Department.

Photo: SUPPLIED

# SPORTS

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



Lindis Parsons, left, presents Dennis with his life member badge. SUPPLIED

## Life member appointed

### CROQUET

Thames Croquet Club celebrated one of its long-standing members with a life membership at its annual general meeting on May 12.

The honour was awarded to club captain Dennis Karl, who the club described as a "stalwart" member of over a decade.

"He has helped many new players learn the game of golf croquet, played in many tournaments around New Zealand representing our club and been a life-saver of the club croquet lawns," club treasurer Sheryl McConnell said.

"The committee and members were pleased to honour him with life membership."

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Trades	Handyman	Personal	Public Notices	Situations Vacant	
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<b>Painter</b> <b>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</b> Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312	<b>House Cleaning</b> <b>Castle on the Coast</b> Cleaning Service. All housework, ovens, laundry, ironing. Ph 027 437 1195		<b>Storage</b> <b>Storage Unlimited</b> 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m <b>Phone 07 868 9944</b>	<b>Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School</b>  <b>Board Administration Support (Casual)</b> We are seeking a friendly organised person for this newly expanded role. You will report to the Presiding Member and work collaboratively with the Principal and Board Secretary.  In this role, you will provide vital support to the Board, which is required to meet at least 8 times per year and typically meets 9-10 times annually.  Key responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend and minute after-hours full Board and committee meetings (Property, Finance and Discipline, as required) and Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu</li> <li>Time includes presence at meetings and preparation and follow-up as needed.</li> </ul> Typical Hours of Work: Meetings (twice per term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Board: 5.30 – 7.30 pm or 8.00 pm</li> <li>Committee meetings: 5.00 – 7.00 pm</li> <li>TAMSO meetings: 6.30 – 8.00 pm</li> <li>Administration: as negotiated</li> </ul> Full details: <a href="http://www.thameshigh.school/vacancies">www.thameshigh.school/vacancies</a> <b>Applications close: Thursday 28 May 2026 (4.00 pm)</b>  <b>We may begin interviewing suitable applicants as applications are received and may appoint before the closing date.</b>	
	<b>Land Wanted</b> <b>Wanted to Lease/Rent land</b> while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015	<b>For Lease</b> Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101	<b>Gardening</b> <b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659	<b>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage <a href="http://www.safestorage.co.nz">www.safestorage.co.nz</a>	

## PAPER DELIVERIES

Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

**NGATEA** - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station,

Ngatea Purple Dairy

**PAEROA** - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square,

Paeroa Information Hub

**WAIHI** - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info Centre, Daffodil Dairy,

Fresh Choice Waihi, Kenny St Dairy

**THAMES** - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin

Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4

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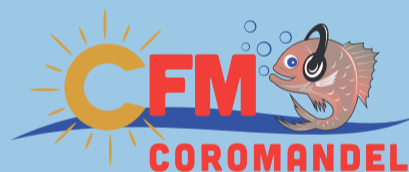
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**MORTGAGEE SALE**



**Purangi 501 Purangi Road**

**Mortgagee sale**

No viewings available. Located just minutes from Cooks Beach, this 23.7-hectare (more or less) property holds an elevated position with expansive views across the Purangi Estuary and out towards Cooks Beach itself. The property features a four-bedroom Lockwood home complemented by a detached garage and several additional structures across the block. Adding further character, there is a stream and waterfall on the property. A substantial separate building featuring a bar and dining area has previously been used to host hospitality events. With the property being sold through mortgagee, there's strong motivation to see a result.

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**Tender (will not be sold prior)**  
Closing 4pm, Wed 3 Jun 2026  
459 Pollen Street, Thames  
**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399  
glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz  
**Maddy Aislabie** 027 780 4389  
maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 4 Jun 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 10-10.30am Sun 24 May

**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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459 Pollen Street, Thames

**View** by appointment

**Geoff Graham** 021 733 430

geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Music Month event to spotlight songwriting

By KELLEY TANTAU

Songwriting will take centre stage in Waihi this New Zealand Music Month when acclaimed singer-songwriter Jan Hellriegel brings a workshop and live concert to The Theatre Waihi on May 22.

Organised by Waihi musician and educator Liam Ryan, the event is an extension of the Air Sculptures songwriting workshops he has been running over the past two years.

In that time he has worked with 30 local songwriters and said there was a “push” to hold a songwriting festival in Waihi this year.

“[But] we thought it would be a good start just to bring a noted songwriter this year and bring the local songwriters together,” Ryan said.

The evening will include a songwriting forum and live concert featuring Hellriegel, who is also an author and head of the New Zealand music publishing company Songbroker.

After the success of her 2019 Sportsman of the Year album, book and tour, Hellriegel’s new live show is titled *If Not Now, When?*, blending piano-driven songs, humour, personal stories, and “theatrical flair”.

“Piano was my first instrument,” Hellriegel said.

“I’ve wanted to do a show like this since I was a kid. If not now... when?”

The Waihi event will also



Acclaimed singer-songwriter Jan Hellriegel will perform in Waihi.

showcase local talent, with Katikati-based songwriter Dan Sharp opening the concert.

Dan has toured internationally and performed with musicians Dave Dobbyn, Hollie Smith, Tiki Taane, and Ciaran McMeeken.

“He came and spoke at one of our Air Sculptures workshops last summer and was very inspiring,” Ryan said.

“Great songwriter, singer, and good guy.”

Ryan earlier told *The Profile* that the Air Sculptures Songwriting Workshops - which offer a four-evening course where songwriters can develop their work - provided an opportunity to engage in lyric-writing and



The curtain call for Liam Ryan’s Air Sculptures concert held last year.

Photos: SUPPLIED

composition, as well as “explore the process of songwriting from first thoughts right through to a finished song”.

Ryan, a professional musician, composer and music educator, was motivated to run the workshops after seeing “the tidal wave” of songs being released online using AI (Artificial Intelligence).

“With tens of thousands of songs being generated online

each day, the craft of real songwriting is being buried.

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

Ryan said the workshops aimed to demystify songwriting, teaching participants how to capture first ideas, shape narratives and connect music with lyrics.

“Music is so big - and so important for people,” Hellriegel said.

“It’s a good trade to be in.”

**DETAILS:** *The Songwriting Forum and Concert with Jan Hellriegel takes place at The Theatre Waihi on Friday, May 22, as part of New Zealand Music Month celebrations. Tickets and info at [www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/jan-hellriegel-dan-sharp-in-concert/waihi](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2026/jan-hellriegel-dan-sharp-in-concert/waihi).*

Advertisement for Carswell Construction Ltd. The ad features a grid of images: a building under construction with scaffolding, a modern grey metal building with a large garage door, a white brick building with a garage door, a blue metal building with a garage door, a close-up of a white garage door, and a close-up of a grey garage door. Logos for 'KIWISPAN', 'SKYLINE BUILDINGS', and 'Garador' are visible. The text on the right lists services: Houses, Garages, Farm Sheds, Commercial, Garage Doors, and Auto Openers. It also states: 'We take care of everything from start to finish, including consents'. At the bottom, it says 'Trade Qualified | Licenced Builders | Licenced Designer On Site'.

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