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Newspaper of the Year



The Valley Profile has come out on top at this year's NZ Community Newspaper Association Awards, sweeping up the main prize: the Frank Veale Memorial Award for Best Community Newspaper.

The Profile also scooped the Best Community Involvement award, and senior reporter Alice Parminter was named runner-up in the Best Senior News Journalist category.

The ceremony for the national awards was held at Auckland's Crowne Plaza Hotel on May 21. The annual event is a celebration of excellence in the independent community newspaper industry, and the various award categories are keenly contested each year.

This year, the judges said competition for the Best Community Newspaper award was particularly fierce, with a field of high-quality entries. However, *The Valley Profile* stood out for its mix of hard-hitting news, heart-warming yarns, community-focused advertorials, and impressive circulation growth since its inception in 2020. "This year is one for the little battler;

Valley Profile senior reporter Alice Parminter, left, and feature writer Davidda Hikatangata. Photo: ROY PILOTT

CONTINUED ON P2

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'Little battler' shines at newspaper awards

CONTINUED FROM P1

a small paper that, against the odds, shone brightly in the company of bigger, better-resourced, and high-performing opposition," the judges said.

"It's amazing what's achieved in community journalism today, despite financially challenging times, and often, with few staff."

The paper was acknowledged for senior reporter Alice Parminter's investigation into methamphetamine use in Thames in the latter half of 2025, winning the award for Best Community Involvement.

Judges said the difficult subject was one many would have shied away from, as such stories risked negative publicity for the town. "The topic was well covered and handled with a sensitivity that only comes from experience," they said.

Alice was also recognised. She was named runner-up for Best Senior News Journalist, behind winner Rob Drent from *The Devonport Flagstaff* and *The Rangitoto Observer*.

The judges said Alice's portfolio highlighted her skill as a journalist and her

"This year is one for the little battler; a small paper that, against the odds, shone brightly in the company of bigger, better-resourced, and high-performing opposition."

close connection to her community. "[Her] pieces feature real sensitivity for tricky subjects as well as highlighting the big national issues affecting her area."

Alice said she was grateful for the acknowledgement *The Profile* received at the event.

"I love my community, and I feel so privileged to be trusted with its stories each week. Being recognised for our hard work is just the icing on the cake."

The Profile's owner and editor Teresa Maxwell said she was proud of her team.

"Taking home the top award was a huge surprise considering the large newsrooms we were up against," she said. "However, I'm very pleased our hard-working and extremely talented team have been recognised at such a high level for their efforts in representing our communities each week."

The Profile would like to thank our loyal advertisers and the community for their ongoing support. We rely on advertising to fund our award-winning journalism. To place a classified ad, advertorial or display advertisement, please contact Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885 or nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz.



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NEWS/EDITORIAL: Managing Editor/Owner Teresa Maxwell, Ph 0204 0944 853, editor@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Kelley Tantau, Ph 022 619 4889, kelley@valleyprofile.co.nz; Senior Reporter Alice Parminter, Ph 022 527 0988, alice@valleyprofile.co.nz.

LETTERS: All letters must include your full name and address, must be **250 words or less** and may be edited, abridged or rejected at editor's discretion. Email letters to the editor to: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz.

THE VALLEY PROFILE is independently owned and operated. We print 16,000 copies every week, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers, delivered to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Waihi, Ngatea, Thames and Thames Coast, with bulk drops throughout the Coromandel Peninsula, including Whangamatā, Whitianga, Pauanui, Tairua and Coromandel township.

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Thames Tides

Wed May 27		Thu May 28		Fri May 29		Sat May 30		Sun May 31		Mon Jun 1		Tue Jun 2	
4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm
Morning 3:45am 3.1 Afternoon 4:26pm 3.1		Morning 4:36am 3.1 Afternoon 5:20pm 3.1		Morning 5:24am 3.1 Afternoon 6:08pm 3.2		Morning 12:04am 0.9 Afternoon 12:27pm 0.8		Morning 12:46am 0.9 Afternoon 1:09pm 0.7		Morning 1:27am 0.8 Afternoon 1:49pm 0.7		Morning 2:07am 0.8 Afternoon 2:27pm 0.7	
10:03am 0.8 10:31pm 0.9		10:55am 0.8 11:20pm 0.9		11:42am 0.8		6:11am 3.1 6:52pm 3.2		6:56am 3.1 7:33pm 3.2		7:40am 3.1 8:12pm 3.3		8:22am 3.1 8:51pm 3.3	
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🌙 Set 3:07am Rise 2:31pm		🌙 Set 4:07am Rise 2:56pm		🌙 Set 5:08am Rise 3:24pm		🌙 Set 6:09am Rise 3:57pm		🌕 Full Moon Set 7:10am Rise 4:36pm		🌙 Set 8:08am Rise 5:21pm		🌙 Set 9:01am Rise 6:12pm	

MOON AND FISH KEYS

● New Moon ● First Quarter ● Full Moon ● Last Quarter

🐟 Good Fishing 🐟 Fair Fishing 🐟 Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	High	Mn	Low	Mn
Coromandel	-	0	04	-	03
Whitianga	-	0	01	-	05
Tairua	+	0	10	+	20
Whangamatā	-	0	03	-	06
Waihi Beach	-	0	21	-	16

Historic settlements for three Hauraki iwi

By ALICE PARMINTER

Three Hauraki iwi marked an historic occasion on May 13, as Parliament completed the third reading of their Treaty of Waitangi claims settlement bills, passing them into law.

Representatives of Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Ngāti Tara Tokanui, and Ngāti Hei attended the reading in Wellington. The passing of the three settlement bills has been 15 years in the making, with formal negotiations with the Crown beginning in 2011.

The long-running negotiations were settled with an acknowledgement of historical harm from the Crown, formal apologies, and financial and commercial redress packages worth a combined \$20 million.

The settlements mark a way forward for the iwi and the Crown, as they look to build future relationships. But the historical hurts will persist for many.

Event speakers and social media commentators reminded people that the wrongs of the past would not be erased by apologies and redress, with many acknowledging the ancestors who fought for their rights and did not live to see the settlements finalised.

“The settlement does not compensate for all that was lost or taken, the damage and harm caused, but it can provide a seed for new beginnings, for our tamariki and mokopuna,” Ngāti Hei said in a statement.

A statement from Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu had similar sentiments, saying, “the negotiations process was brutal at times”.

“It pitted iwi against iwi, forced us to fight for what should never have been questioned - our pā, our wāhi tapu, and the urupā of our rangatira, Te Ruinga.

“It brought to the surface many of the injustices our people have endured for generations.”

A spokesperson for Ngāti Tara Tokanui said the passing of the final reading was not an ending but a continuation, a recognition long overdue, and a platform from which



Representatives of Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Ngāti Tara Tokanui, and Ngāti Hei gather on the Parliament steps. Photo: SUPPLIED

the iwi can begin to build a stronger future.

“While no settlement can fully restore what was taken, we acknowledge this milestone with mixed emotions: pride in the resilience of our tupuna, our iwi, our post-settlement governance entity and the sober commitment to the work ahead for our mokopuna,” the spokesperson said.

“Underpinning the Ngāti Tara Tokanui Bill is the recognition of partnership. A number of our sites returning are cyanide-leaking goldmine sites which we are seeking to restore through genuine partnership arrangements.

“Yet, we are already seeing attempts to diminish those commitments, as well as the wider Crown assault on the Treaty principles, an abhorrent hypocrisy that speaks

partnership in this Parliament while legislating it out of existence. Partnership is a living construct, it cannot be hollowed out in one place and spoken into being in another.

“We can only put Aotearoa right through working in true partnership between iwi - Ngāti Tara Tokanui - and the Crown.”

Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister Paul Goldsmith said the passage of the settlement legislation was deeply significant.

“While no settlement can fully compensate for the Crown’s injustices... I sincerely hope this redress will support these Hauraki iwi to strengthen their economic, cultural and environmental aspirations, and provides a platform for enduring relationships between the Crown and iwi for generations to come.”

THE REDRESS PACKAGE

Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu will receive total financial and commercial redress of \$5.5 million; the right to purchase two commercial redress properties; and the vesting of 17 individual and two joint cultural redress properties.

Ngāti Tara Tokanui will receive total financial and commercial redress of \$6 million; the right to purchase for two years after the settlement date, the Paeroa College school site (land only) subject to its lease-back to the Crown; and the vesting of seven individual and two joint cultural redress properties.

Ngāti Hei will receive total financial and commercial redress of \$8.5 million; the ability to purchase three commercial properties; and the vesting of 15 individual and two joint cultural redress properties.

WAIHI

PUBLIC MEETING

2pm, Saturday

6 June

Waihi Event Centre

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Waihi



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\$10m water infrastructure upgrade complete

The completion of a major upgrade of the Waihou River pump station will ensure a more reliable water supply for the community, Hauraki District Council says.

The \$10 million upgrade includes a new 5.3 kilometre pipeline in the ground, two new storage tanks holding 4.6 million litres of raw water, and an upgraded pump station drawing from the Waihou River. The pipeline it replaced had reached the end of its life.

Before the upgrade, the Kerepēhi water treatment plant held about eight hours of raw water in reserve, drawn directly from the Waihou River and subject to tides and weather. If anything went wrong, that was all the time the team had to respond, council said. "The new tanks change that. The additional 4.6 million litres creates a 16 hour window of time to fix any supply problems before the treatment plant runs out of raw water."

Council's internal engineering services team undertook the design for the pipeline and internal project management office and contract management teams delivered the project.

Mayor Toby Adams said the investment reflects what responsible long-term planning looked like. "People in Kerepēhi and across the district turn on the tap and expect water. That doesn't happen by accident. It takes careful investment in infrastructure that most people never see, and this is a good example of that."

Switching from the old pipe-



Team members stand in front of one of two new raw water storage tanks. Photo: SUPPLIED

line to the new one was the programme's hardest test. The route crosses several private properties before passing under State Highway 2, which required careful co-ordination with landowners and contractors throughout. The switchover was completed recently without disruption to anyone's supply. The two storage tanks were designed and built by Reliant

Solutions Ltd, the same company that constructed the treated water storage reservoirs at the Kerepēhi site in 2018. Construction of both tanks ran simultaneously at the back of the treatment plant.

Council group manager service delivery Adrian de Laborde said the team delivered on the hardest part of the job.

"Switching from the old pipe-

line to the new one without any interruption to people's water supply was a significant technical challenge, and the team delivered that. The storage capacity we have added means Kerepēhi is in a much stronger position, and that is what this programme was always about."

He said he was proud of the council's internal teams who de-

signed the pipeline and delivered the project for our communities.

Work to complete the final commissioning of the Waihou River pump station is underway, with the new pump installed and the system already fully online.

Council said the project was one of the larger infrastructure investments the district had seen and was expected to last for 30 years.

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Movies from Thursday 28 May to Wednesday 3 June

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Tuner (109 mins) R13. A talented piano tuner's meticulous skills for tuning pianos lead him to discover an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, turning his life upside down.

Words of War (117 mins) M. The true story of journalist and human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya who fights to be a voice of truth for the Russian people in the midst of the war in Chechnya.

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.

Coming from Thursday 4 June: The Christophers: Starring Sir Ian McKellen. The children of a famous artist hire a forger to complete his unfinished works so they can be sold after his death. **Power Ballad:** Follows a wedding singer and pop star who come together to write a song to comedic consequences.



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June Featured Artists

JUDY GREEN-PHILPOTT

Judy captures the beauty of New Zealand landscapes in striking acrylic paintings inspired by her travels and the natural scenery of the Coromandel

CHRISTINE MC TAGGART

With a lifetime of interest in art, Christine is inspired by the beauty of flowers, butterflies, abstracts, and sunsets in her vibrant works

Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
Weekends 10am - 4pm

Looking after Hauraki

What this year's plan means for Hauraki

Clean water, safe roads, footpaths people can comfortably walk on. That's what we're planning for in Hauraki, and it's what this year's Annual Plan funds.

From 1 July, the average residential rates bill across the district increases by \$210, or 58 cents a day. For those connected to both water and wastewater, the average water bill increases by \$364, or \$1 a day.

These are district averages. If you'd like to know what the change means for your property specifically, get in touch at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or visit our service centre in Paeroa.

What's driving the change?

Our roads were revalued in 2024, and the real cost of maintaining them is higher than we'd previously accounted for. We're planning for what it costs to maintain them, spreading the adjustment over three years to keep the impact manageable.

Central government has lifted the standards water and wastewater systems must meet. The Paeroa wastewater treatment plant, our largest infrastructure project, is nearing completion, delivering modern, reliable wastewater treatment for the district.

This is the last water and wastewater increase we set. From 1 July 2027, Waikato Waters Ltd takes over those services and sets its own charges.



HAURAKI IS A PLACE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME

"We've stuck to the basics, cut back where we can, and focused on the services people rely on every day. The cost of living is tight and that's been front of mind the whole way through this plan."

The full Annual Plan is available at <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies/annual-plan>

For questions, visit any service centre in Paeroa, Waihi, or Ngātea, or email info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Mayor Toby Adams

What we are investing in this year

2026/27 Capital works programme - \$29M to fix, renew and improve.

For a full list of projects planned for the year go to <https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies/annual-plan>

Here is a snapshot of some of our services



Water supply

Four water treatment plants with 592 kms of pipes servicing 7,579 residential properties and 1,023 non-residential properties.

Wastewater

Seven wastewater treatment plants with 179 kms of pipeline servicing approximately 5,715 properties.

Stormwater

Assets include open drains, piped network, manholes and pump stations to remove surface water runoff.



Land transport

- 621 km of roads (509 km sealed and 112 km unsealed) maintained across the district.
- 120 km of footpaths connecting our communities.
- 145 bridges and major culverts.



Land drainage

650 kms of rural land drains and 50 kms of primary stopbanks.



Waste and recycling

- An average of 4,019 rubbish bins are collected fortnightly.
- Approximately 19,000kg of recycling is collected each week (from kerbside and transfer stations).
- Approximately 50% of all waste received from kerbside and transfer stations is diverted from landfill.

Animal control

- 4,199 dogs were registered in 2025.
- 97 dogs impounded (54 dogs returned to their owner and 32 dogs were adopted or rehomed).



Parks, reserves and playgrounds

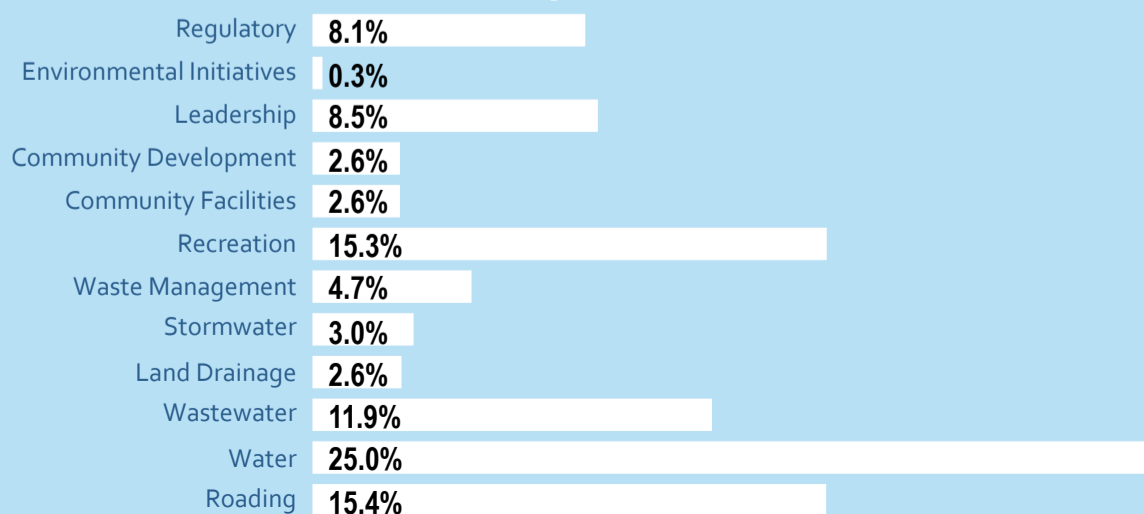
Maintaining 78 parks and reserves (433 ha) and 10 playgrounds across the district.



Libraries

Three libraries open across the district with an average of 1,698 visits per week and 2,179 items borrowed weekly.

What are the rates we collect spent on?



Kerbside collection change 1-5 June Recycling + Food Scraps



Collections will be **one day later than usual** due to King's Birthday holiday on Monday 1 June.

Place bins facing the kerbside by 7:30am on collection day

7:30 AM

Harvesting community at Paeroa Crop Swap

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Teresa Tosi has always loved gardening and growing her own kai.

It's part of the reason why she is front-footing the inaugural Paeroa Crop Swap event on May 31.

The keen gardener enquired on an online Paeroa community group about crop swap gatherings in town and received a lot of encouragement to kickstart one.

"Kai is just so expensive to buy at the moment. People are struggling with what's happening with fuel... This is [the] perfect timing for something like this," she told *The Profile*. "It's also a reason for some people to socialise."

The community is invited to head along to the event in the Paeroa War Memorial Hall side room to "share what you can and take what you need". People can take along fresh fruit and vegetables, seeds, seedlings and plant cuttings, home baking or preserves, fresh eggs, unwanted gardening tools, spare jars and even old seedling trays and plant pots.

People who aren't gardeners can also head along. "If you don't have any produce to bring, don't let that stop you from coming. Even if you don't garden, but you're keen to know a bit more, just come along and learn."

"If you've got an old favourite family recipe, write your recipe down and bring that," she said.

"I'm really hoping to find a couple of people that want to jump on board and help me with this, setting up tables and everything else that goes into it."



Teresa Tosi will kick off Paeroa's Crop Swap event on May 31.
Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The event will also be a time to share and learn from each other.

"There's lots of other gardeners around Paeroa. I've seen some beautiful gardens around here and, you know, we can all learn a little bit off [each other]."

Teresa will share a short presentation on growing kai in Grow Bags before everyone kicks into swapping items, sharing and connecting. Her plan is to host the event on the last Sunday of each month.

This event won't be Teresa's

first crop swap - she visited the Karangahake Crop Swap earlier this year, and recently presented to a Manurewa Crop Swap group about a product called Biochar through her home and gardening business Tee's Pots.

She has also led presentations and workshops at various farmers markets and different garden groups across the years in Waihi, Thames, Ngatea, Hamilton, Turangi, Whanganui and Feilding.

Her own garden was thriving since she moved to Paeroa around

a year ago from Waiouru, where there were minus 10 degree mornings, she said. "We didn't have snails and slugs and all the frogs [and] pests that they have up here, but we couldn't grow down there cause it was too cold."

In Paeroa, the options for growing fruit and vegetables were endless, she said, as she waved her arm across her backyard towards the various food storage areas, fruit and vege vines, trees, and assortment of raised garden beds.

"I remember going out with my

koro and nan. [Koro] had huge gardens, we were always gardening, we would go to the sea and collect seaweed that he used in his gardens and the old kina shells and mussel shells. You put them into water and he used that for the gardens," she said. "[I'm] starting to realise now that I've kind of been educating myself more around soil - it was happening right in front of me and I didn't even notice."

DETAILS: Paeroa Crop Swap, May 31 at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall side room from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

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On the Land

Path to Plant Pass a win for Waihi nursery

Since committing to stronger plant health and biosecurity practices, a small Waihi nursery is not only looking and operating smarter, but staff are taking more pride in their work.

Waihi Native Plants is one of nine Waikato nurseries working towards Plant Pass certification, which means it's actively transitioning from informal or "ad hoc" practices to a formal, verified biosecurity system.

Plant Pass is an industry-led plant biosecurity certification programme supported by Waikato Regional Council, a major plant buyer and planter.

It is New Zealand's voluntary certi-

fication scheme for plant producers, designed to reduce the spread of pests, weeds and plant diseases through plant supply chains.

Waihi Native Plants operations manager Warren Coffey said becoming Plant Pass certified was important to him personally and professionally.

"As a horticulturist and an ecologist, it matters to me that we're ecosourcing seeds, growing plants, selling plants and planting plants in a way that doesn't inadvertently spread diseases," he said.

The certification process requires plant producers to carefully consider how plants, people, vehicles and equip-

ment move through their operation, and how biosecurity risks are managed at each step.

Once registered, nurseries get training plans and resources, including guidance on weed, pest and disease identification, hygiene standards and procedures, and plant traceability.

"It's quite a big job but it's all good learning," said Warren, who is six months into the journey after completing an initial internal audit to identify gaps in the nursery's processes.

"Now it's streamlined and we have proper structures in place. It all looks so much better, and once we are certified, it will improve our outlook even more.

"It will allow our customers to visually see the biosecurity measures we have implemented – they can be confident they are receiving plants that are not compromised by plant pathogens."

Waihi Native Plants was started as the Habitat Enhancement and Landcare

Partnership (HELP) more than 20 years ago by volunteers wanting to beautify the town's historical areas, waterways, trails and walkways.

In the past three to five years, the nursery - now a more commercial arm of HELP - has expanded significantly.

It supplies plants and provides planting services to landowners, councils and other organisations, including nursery sales, site preparation, planting of native plants, pest plant control, ecological restoration assessments and project planning, and erosion control work.

Council pest plants team leader Darien Embling said Plant Pass certification reassured the council, as a plant buyer, that nurseries were taking biosecurity seriously.

"It means that if a pest or disease is found, there are systems in place to enable a response. We really value the commitment shown by nurseries choosing to go through this process."



Healthy plants at Waihi Native Plants, a nursery undergoing Plant Pass certification.



A staff member wears an apron while potting up a rust-susceptible Myrtle species. Photos: SUPPLIED

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On the Land

DOC proposes track removals at Cove

The Department of Conservation will prioritise investment in Coromandel's Mautohe Cathedral Cove as part of a proposal to remove two weather-damaged adjacent tracks.

Globally renowned for its rock arch, Mautohe Cathedral Cove is the main attraction for many visitors heading to the wider DOC-managed coastal reserve between Whitianga and Hahei.

However, the department said the area was prone to landslides and was vulnerable to weather damage, as seen following Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023 and Cyclone Vaianu earlier this year.

Recent efforts to reinstate the Waimata-Gemstone Bay Track and Hahei Beach Short Walk were undone by the January, 2026 storm.

Although DOC contractors were able to clear a large volume of debris from the main slip to reopen the track to Mautohe Cathedral Cove, responding to storm damage across the wider reserve in this way was not considered sustainable, the department said.

Tania Short, DOC Principal Advisor for Strategic Projects, said the situation had reached a "tipping point" and continued investment in the Waimata



DOC will prioritise investment in Cathedral Cove as part of a proposal to remove two adjacent tracks. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Gemstone Track and the Hahei Short Walk was not considered sensible or sustainable.

"When we committed to rebuilding these tracks, we cautioned it came with the risk of

further storm and landslide damage - unfortunately, that's exactly what has happened," Tania said.

"We had started a repair project at Waimata Gemstone Bay

which, ultimately, was thwarted by another extreme weather event impacting Coromandel.

The geological instability means we will continue to deal with storm damage at this site."

Tania said DOC staff were aware some people in the community would be disappointed by the proposal.

"DOC has limited resource and must prioritise its spending, hence the proposal to focus on Mautohe Cathedral Cove and remove the Waimata-Gemstone Bay Track and Hahei Short Walk.

"Over the last few years, the local community has made it clear Mautohe Cathedral Cove is the priority - and our proposal to remove these two nearby tracks responds to that.

"Continuing to rebuild infrastructure in less popular, highly vulnerable locations, where we know damage will reoccur, is not sustainable."

DOC staff have opened discussions with stakeholder groups and are now seeking public feedback on the proposal.

"We've added two option papers to our website.

They describe the rationale for the proposed removal of these tracks and outline the significant challenges we would face if we continued repairing them."

DETAILS: People can provide feedback on the proposal by emailing cathedralcove@doc.govt.nz, up until June 19.



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Chris Tate's award-winning Bunker House in Piha: "when art and engineering collide".



Architectural designer Chris Tate.

Photos: SIMON DEVITT

Building international success

By ALICE PARMINTER

Chris Tate could never have predicted that building and designing his own home would lead to an award-winning, international career.

The Ngatea-based architectural designer has been making a splash both in New Zealand and abroad, with his recently-completed project, the Piha beach home "Bunker House", collecting a stack of prestigious accolades.

Bunker House won the 2025 New Zealand Home of The Year award for its striking blend of engineering and appearance.

The house also won the 2025 TIDA International Home of The Year Awards, received Gold at the 2025 New Zealand BEST Awards, and was one of only 11 New Zealand projects featured on the 460-strong shortlist at the 2025 World Architecture Awards in Miami.

Bunker House was praised in judges' comments from the various awards for its boldness and innovative construction.

Chris and his wife Fiona, who run the architectural design company from their family farm, have a reputation for modern, clean lines and designs which look amazing,

complement their surroundings, and are straightforward to build. But Chris said he fell into the career by chance.

"It wasn't my intended pathway - I had a degree in social sciences," Chris said.

"But I designed and built my own home when I was in my early 20s. People had seen it and said, well, that's really good."

Before long, Chris found himself being mentored by New Zealand architect Richard Priest. "He really encouraged me to do this," Chris said.

"So I did a drafting course at Unitec for two years.

"I built another house, in a rainforest in Titirangi, while I was in the last year of my course. There were no real walls - it was just a glass box in a forest. And I built that to show people what I could do."

The Forest House made its way on to magazine covers and into architecture journals, Chris said, paving the way for his new career. It had been an amazing, rewarding journey, he said, and the best thing about it was the fact he could do it all from Ngatea.

"The way technology is now, I can work from anywhere," Chris said.

"I've got this amazing, international life that architecture's given me, I've been all around the world with it... and still living on the humble family farm in Ngatea. It's amazing."

Chris is passionate about Ngatea and has done a lot of

community-focused work as well. He's heavily involved with the Kerepēhi Brass Band, and is currently designing an upgrade to the band hall. He also teaches an introductory architecture module at Hauraki Plains College.

"It's kind of fun and it's not too serious. We do a little design project together," Chris said.

"I do a lecture at the start of each class. You know, this is the building code and this is the design and this is the plan - just different components. Not too much, just a little taste of it."

Chris said he wanted to show his students success was always possible.

"We can still run the farm and live here, but we've got a really good job as well," he said.

"I'm quite focused on that with them too - you can do anything."

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Gardening



June is the time to plant winter vegetables such as broccoli. Photo: PIXABAY

Bedding in for winter veges

June signals the first month of winter and it brings colder and sometimes wetter weather. It is a good time to plant deciduous fruit trees and winter vegetables for a continuous supply.

The garden takes on a whole different look with the leaf drop showing us the structure of the trees. This makes for more successful pruning.

VEGETABLE PLANTING

Winter seedlings need occasional cultivation to aerate soil and control weeds. Liquid feed to stimulate growth.

Plant cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and brussel sprouts, carrots and parsnips. Harvest any sown in December or January as they become ready, and continue to plant carrot seeds this month.

Continue planting winter lettuce like cos, which is a good choice at this time of year.

Rhubarb crowns which have been lifted and stored can now be divided and planted in permanent growing position.

For silverbeet and spinach and kale, it's best to harvest outer larger leaves to help plants to continue producing through winter. Make further sowings of these crops.

June 22 is the shortest day and garlic planting day. It requires a well-drained sunny site and will require frost protection.

Nature doesn't like bare soil so you might consider planting a green manure crop. This is a way of putting valuable nutrients back into the soil in your vegetable garden. Or mulch the gardens to provide warmth for better growth in cooler conditions.

Keep a watch out for aphids, whitefly and scale and treat accordingly.

STONE FRUITS

Leaf fall is almost complete so apply a winter copper spray to protect from disease.

OTHER FRUITS

For apples and pears, begin mid-winter

pruning to regulate fruiting characteristics and improve fruit bearing.

Citrus: severe winter cold damages shoot growth and fruit. Where possible lightly cover trees in case of frosty nights.

Feijoas: continue harvesting if any are still available.

Strawberries: now is the time to sort your strawberry bed if you want strawberries for Christmas. Full sun with free draining soil. Dig in strawberry fertiliser and liquid feed every fortnight.

Raspberries, boysenberries and loganberries: prune out last season's cane growth, tie new season's growth on to supports, select strongest, prune out spindly shoots.

FLOWERS

Early season winter annuals beginning to bloom are alyssum, calendula, pansy, poppy, snapdragon, stock, cineraria and primulas.

BULBS

Already planted out daffodils and freesias are well on the way due to the continued warm weather. The Lachenalia bulbs are getting ready to put on a glorious show over the next few weeks.

ROSES

The flowering season is almost finished. Stopping dead heading and allowing the rose to produce rosehips puts nourishment back into the plants. Prune in July. Apply a lime sulphur spray to clean up powdery mildew or moss on old bushes.

COMPOST HEAP

Turn all heaps this month. Add garden lime, sulphate of ammonia and nitrogen fertiliser to stimulate decay.

Old compost ready for the garden can be applied as mulch or incorporated into the soil when preparing gardens for spring.

Enjoy your garden and stay warm.

- Ngatea Garden Circle

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Non planting Day	2 Non planting Day	3 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	4 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	5 Non planting Day	6 Non planting Day	7 Non planting Day
8 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	9 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	10 Non planting Day	11 Non planting Day	12 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	13 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	14 Non planting Day
15 New Moon	16 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	17 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	18 Non planting Day	19 Non planting Day	20 Non planting Day	21 Non planting Day <i>Winter Solstice</i>
22 Plant above ground crops	23 Plant above ground crops	24 Plant above ground crops	25 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	26 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	27 Non planting Day	28 Non planting Day
29 Non planting Day	30 Full Moon	June 2026 Moon Planting Calendar			<i>Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms</i>	

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Keeping Cosy

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Our refreshed showroom now showcases a stunning collection of window furnishings, giving you the chance to see how the right curtains and blinds can completely transform a space. Whether you're updating one room or styling your entire home, window furnishings are the finishing touch that tie everything together.

From soft, elegant curtains that add warmth and texture, to modern blinds designed for privacy and light control, we offer options to suit every style

and lifestyle. With a wide variety of fabrics, colours, and finishes available, it's easy to find the perfect fit for your home.

We're also proud to offer a fantastic range of ready-made curtains — ideal for anyone wanting a quick, stylish solution without compromising on quality.

At Flooring Xtra, we believe great design goes beyond flooring. By combining our flooring expertise with beautiful window furnishings, we can help you create a cohesive, stylish home from floor to finish.

Visit us in-store and chat with our friendly team about the best options for your space.

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Flooring Xtra now has a beautiful new range of window furnishings on display.



100% Thames and Whitianga has a wide range of heat pumps and heaters on offer.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Stay warm all winter with 100%

For many, making the leap to installing a heat pump is an expensive gamble.

However, "understanding the pros and cons of heat pumps versus portable heaters can save users money in the long run," says Mark Milmine, owner of 100% Thames and Whitianga.

Portable heaters have their place. Understanding the basic costs and benefits of each type of portable heater could avoid a disappointing result. Heat pumps are now well-established as the primary heat source for kiwi homes. Further, a heat pump can cool a room as well as heat it, allowing you to use it as an air conditioner.

Before choosing a size, style or model of heat pump, you need to consider their pros, cons and cost-effectiveness. Pros include: warm, dry and comfortable; lower heating costs (usually); dehumidifying; air filtering; cooling.

Cons include: noise; not so good in low temperatures; draughts/breeze; initial dollar outlay.

100% Thames and Whitianga only stock reputable brands of heat pumps, including Panasonic, Mitsubishi Electric and General (formerly Fujitsu).

A free, no-obligation quote is the only way to ensure the right model is selected to heat the target space efficiently. Electric heaters can be expensive to run and aren't usually powerful enough to keep living areas warm. However, their low purchase price means they're often the best value for money in small spaces like the bedroom or study, or to provide a short-term boost for spaces heated by heat pump or wood fire. Oil column heaters provide efficient and cost effective heating for longer term use. Ideal for medium to large rooms needing constant temperature. Not useful for quick, targeted heating, however.

Oscillating tower fan heaters offer fast, even heating thanks to fan, large element and oscillation.

Good for quickly heating an office or rumpus room.

Panel heaters are fast and quiet,

they are ideal to warm up all objects and people in line with the radiant waves, providing a pleasant warmth. Convection heaters provide fast heating for medium to large-sized rooms and are perfect for rooms where occasional heating is required.

Personal fan heaters deliver instant directional heat.

Ideal to quickly heat a space and/or provide directional warmth.

Cheap to buy, often expensive to run long term.

The staff at 100% Thames and Whitianga are trained to assist customers in identifying their underlying needs and choosing a heating solution that is right for them.

Leading brands include Dimplex and Delonghi – both recommended by Consumer NZ.

"Understanding the goals of the purchase - heating what? How quickly? For how long? - is critical in avoiding an expensive mistake," Mark says.

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Thames student drives road safety doco

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When it comes to road safety, Abbygail Patterson is a proud advocate.

The 17-year-old is developing a new documentary, *One Split Second*, as part of a road safety project aiming to drive positive change.

Development of the documentary is in its early stages. Abbygail, a head student leader at Thames High School, said the documentary will be focused on dangerous driving, speeding, distraction, drink/drug driving and fatigue.

The safe driving advocate said her journey to the documentary began through her role as a national youth advocate in the Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) National Leadership Programme, where she said she saw firsthand the urgency of road safety. She told *The Profile* her role as head student gave her "a deeper understanding" of her influence as a role model. "I've realised that this position carries a weight of responsibility that extends far beyond the classroom. It has challenged me to be more intentional with my own actions, knowing that my choices can set a standard for my peers," she said.

"This documentary is an extension of that leadership to influence my community toward safer, more responsible decisions on the road."

The "true inspiration" for *One*



SADD national youth advocate and Thames High School head student leader Abbygail Patterson initiates new documentary *One Split Second*. Photo: SUPPLIED

Split Second came from a desire to bridge the gap between awareness and reality, she said. "I want to move beyond statistics and show the profound, ripple effect trauma that a single moment has on individuals, families, and entire communities. I chose a documentary because the film captures the raw

emotion that statistics can't," she said.

"While data shows the problem and still works great, stories from individuals show the human cost. It is the most powerful way to make my generation truly feel the weight of their responsibility behind the wheel."

Her primary vision is for the documentary to be integrated into the school curriculum as a way to ensure every student understood the real life impacts of dangerous driving.

Even though the project is rooted in protecting young drivers, she hoped the message would reach all

ages, and would tackle the multi-layered dangers of fatigue, substance impairment and the risks faced by restricted drivers.

It's clear how important the cause is to Abbygail.

"I have not fundraised money for this documentary, I am simply filming it on my camera from home and getting in touch with people. I am currently reaching out to the community for collaboration. I would love for anyone to get involved by sharing personal stories, relevant statistics, or local expertise," she said.

The change-maker said she also recently launched the first ever SADD group at Thames High School.

"My goal is to build a lasting legacy that continues to protect our community long after I finish [school] this year. By involving my peers and local community members in this documentary, I hope to create a powerful, collective voice that drives real change and ensures road safety remains a priority for generations to come."

To reduce dangerous driving, Abbygail said "we need to shift the culture from compliance to community care".

"It's not just about following rules to avoid a ticket, it's about acknowledging that every person on the road is someone's loved one."

DETAILS: Email Abbygail to find out more about the project: Abbygail-pat16@gmail.com.

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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



27 May 2026

Local government reform announcement

Many in the community will have already heard about the Government's latest announcement on reforming the local government sector.

Councils have until 9 August to submit a high-level proposal on joining with other councils to form unitary authorities that combine the functions of both local and regional councils.

Mayor Peter Revell says while he and his elected colleagues support the moves toward cost savings and efficiencies, our Council will still ensure there



is opportunity for all voices to contribute to any reform proposal that emerges.

The next step is for Council to discuss in public how the reform proposal will be approached. This will take place at the Council meeting on 26 May, and is open to the public in person or via our meeting livestream function on our website.

The report to Council on the Government's reform proposals, and the option to watch the meeting livestream, will be available on our website at www.tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

Thames Sport Precinct Feasibility Study adopted



Rhodes Park

Thames Community Board has adopted a feasibility study that recommends Council invest in keeping the sports fields at Rhodes Park playable as long as possible, while budgeting in the long term to buy land to secure space for sport in the future.

Rhodes Park is Thames' main sports park where rugby, football, cricket, touch and netball are played by approximately 850 people.

However, the fields are subject to regular flooding from three sources: the river, the sea and from the high water table under the park. According to calculations in the Council's Shoreline Management Plan, the fields are expected to become largely unplayable sometime between 6 and 11 years from now (2032-2037).

Read more at www.tcdc.govt.nz/thamessports

TOUGH CHOICES FOR LOWER RATES: FINAL DECISIONS NEAR

A big thank you to everyone who took time to share their views during our public feedback period on our proposed 2026/27 Annual Plan proposals.

We asked for feedback on four key trade-offs to help us lower the proposed rates increase. These were reducing mowing and garden maintenance, changing opening hours at some refuse and recycling transfer stations, increasing fees and introducing new charges, and reducing selected rates remissions.

Our Council reviewed the feedback at its meeting on Tuesday 26 May and is scheduled to make final decisions on Tuesday 30 June.

Watch this space for the latest updates and our final decisions. www.tcdc.govt.nz/AP2627



Calling all local businesses

If you own or manage a business in the Thames-Coromandel district, Thames-Coromandel District Council would love to hear from you.

Our Economic Development team is inviting local businesses to take part in a short annual survey to help us better understand the challenges you're facing, and what conditions would help your

businesses grow and thrive over the long term.

All completed surveys go in the draw to win one of three great prizes:

- a business advertising package on CFM
- \$150 petrol vouchers (two available).

Head online until midnight, Sunday 31 May 2026.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/EDSurvey2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER KING'S BIRTHDAY?



KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS

Kerbside collections will be a day later than usual following the King's Birthday public holiday on Monday 1 June. For year-round kerbside collection calendars, check your local schedule at www.tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

Our seven refuse and recycling transfer stations are open daily from 8:30am-4:30pm, including King's Birthday. www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts

OFFICES | DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Our offices (including AA services) and district libraries will be closed on Monday 1 June. You can still reach us 24/7 at 07 868 0200 or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

THAMES POOL

Thames Centennial Pool will be closed on Monday 1 June, resuming normal hours on Tuesday 2 June.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/pools

DOG RESTRICTIONS

Please keep your dog on a lead in urban areas such as town centres and roads. Look out for Council's traffic light signage and check the rules in your area at www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide

ALCOHOL BANS

An alcohol ban is in place over King's Birthday weekend from 4pm Friday 29 May to 4pm Monday 1 June.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

VISITOR EMERGENCY GUIDES AVAILABLE

We've received feedback that some visitors to our district can feel confused or alarmed when they hear the local fire siren. In some other areas and countries, sirens can signal an evacuation due to tsunamis or other emergencies, which is not the case here.

To support our Emergency Management Unit's work in building informed and resilient communities, we've developed new visitor-focused flyers that explain what local sirens mean, where to find trusted information, and what to do in an emergency. These are designed to help visitors feel informed and avoid unnecessary panic.

The flyers are now available on our website for download and printing via www.tcdc.govt.nz/EMvisitinguide



OUR NEXT THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WILL BE 10AM WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THAMES

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Simplifying local govt: but at what cost?

OPINION



By **WARREN MAHER**, Waikato Regional Council Chair

With central government releasing its proposed time frames and framework for the Simplifying Local Government reforms on 5 May, councils

across New Zealand have effectively been put on notice.

The message is clear: councils can either choose to participate early through the "Head Start" pathway by submitting proposals to establish new unitary authorities covering part or all of a region, or they can wait until the "Backstop" deadline in October, 2028, at which point central government will impose structural changes ahead of the local government elections.

Under the proposal, all new structures must be unitary authorities and must combine two or more district or city councils. Here in the Waikato, this means all 11 councils will need to carefully consider which neighbouring councils they may align with in forming future governance structures.

Importantly, the proposal also states that regional councils cannot independently submit proposals. However, any restructuring must avoid fragmenting essential regional functions that require co-ordinated management, such as catchment management and environmental protection.

The government has outlined five key criteria that all proposals must meet:

1. Deliverability – proposals must be realistic and capable of being implemented efficiently and within reasonable timeframes, particularly alongside the government's new Resource Management reforms.
2. Simplified governance – reducing duplication, consolidating decision-making, and improving alignment between councils within a region.
3. Economies of scale – achieving greater efficiency through larger organisational structures.
4. Cost affordability and efficiency – ensuring any new model remains financially sustainable for ratepayers.
5. Maintaining local voice – preserving fair and effective community representation.

At the recent Waikato Mayoral Forum, all Waikato councils indicated they intend to pursue the "Head Start" pathway. However, the concept of a single Waikato-wide unitary authority appears unlikely, leaving

the possibility of two, three, or even four separate unitary authorities still under discussion.

One of my major concerns is the cost of this process. To date, there has been no indication of direct government funding, raising the obvious question: will ratepayers ultimately be expected to fund these reforms?

Looking back at the Auckland amalgamation process, the costs escalated significantly over several years – from an original budget of approximately \$36 million to more than \$112 million. Despite the promises made at the time, the long-term trends do not clearly demonstrate lower rates increases or major efficiency gains.

Another critical concern is the preservation of local voice. How will larger governance structures genuinely strengthen communities, improve local representation, and build long-term economic resilience across the region?

As residents and ratepayers, it is important that you continue to hold your councils accountable throughout this process and expect regular updates, transparency, and meaningful public engagement as decisions progress.

We are now only 75 days away from the 9 August, 2026, deadline.

As Chair of the Waikato Regional Council, my fellow councillors and I will continue working closely with council staff, district mayors, and local councillors to ensure there is a strong understanding of regional council functions, how they are delivered, and how they are funded.

One example often overlooked is how Waikato Regional Council uses a region-wide rating base to fund plant and pest control programmes. The approximately \$15 per household contribution to the Natural Heritage Fund enables community groups across the Waikato to undertake important pest control work.

A significant portion of this funding comes from Hamilton ratepayers. While projects are funded within the city itself, many rural communities also benefit from this support – communities that would otherwise struggle to fund such programmes through their own smaller rating bases.

The same principle applies to flood protection and drainage infrastructure. Waikato Regional Council manages more than \$1.1 billion worth of flood protection assets that help safeguard homes, businesses, roads, rail infrastructure, and lives across the region.

These are just a few examples of why some functions require a genuinely regional approach.

As this process unfolds, the detail will matter enormously. I will continue keeping the community informed on Waikato Regional Council's position, concerns, and progress as discussions develop further.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Creative outlets on show

By **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA**

The month of June will be a real doozy at the Thames Art Gallery, with two different artists on display.

At the northern end of the gallery, Judy Green-Philpott is set to kick off her first ever art exhibition. Judy, who has been part of the art gallery for around two years, began her art expression through cake decorating and "it was just by accident too", she said.

Her sister was getting married and Judy said she would make the cake for her. "We came up with something that looked pretty good. So I ended up doing more and more and more of them."

She called it her "creative outlet", and carried on making cakes in her spare time or on weekends for around 12 years.

After she shifted from Hamilton to Cooks Beach, Judy shifted into painting as her creative outlet. She painted a gift for a friend's birthday and received encouragement for it, which gave her a reason to try other things, she said. "My paintings weren't that flash at the beginning, but they've evolved somewhat. Now I do acrylic landscapes, some quite large, some quite small. And I really enjoy it."

Judy also makes mixed-media collage and tile mosaics. The artist said the biggest lesson she learned through her creative outlet was to "just never give up" and "do what you enjoy".

At the southern end of the gallery, Christina McTaggart will have her water colour paintings on display.

Christina loves how the colours blend. Her specialty is flowers and abstract things, and she doesn't have a particular method to her painting - whenever she was ready to paint, she said she just sits down and starts.

Christina, who is originally from Singapore, said she grew up in the Catholic Church and was educated by a nun who was



The art of Judy Green-Philpott, above, and Christina McTaggart will feature in June exhibitions at Thames Art Gallery in Tararu, Thames.



Photos: SUPPLIED

also an artist. "That's how I got interested in art." Around 56 years ago is when Christina moved to New Zealand - a place she now calls home. The most fulfilling thing she said she has received from her art is being able to express her feelings and know she is accepted as an artist.

DETAILS: Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on weekends.

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

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Stock Exchange stymied by bogus information



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** searches through old newspapers to bring you the stories Thames Valley locals once read about themselves.

1906

A moonlight concert was held in the Paeroa Recreation Grounds to celebrate the opening of the band rotunda.

The night was beautifully fine, and people turned out in large numbers. The Paeroa Town Band and the Fire Brigade left the railway station at 8pm and marched to the Recreation Grounds where the band then played a number of selections.

The band rotunda, decorated with Chinese lanterns, was used as a platform for the concert. Songs and pianoforte solos were contributed by locals.

Bayonet exercises by the Ohinemuri Rifles and a tug-of-war between the band and fire brigade caused much amusement.

A sensation was created in mining circles when it became known information about Thames' Monowai mine published by the *NZ Herald* was totally bogus. A telephone message was received by a reporter saying that 30 pounds of picked stone had been selected.



Paeroa recreation grounds and band rotunda.

SUPPLIED

This caused a commotion in the Stock Exchange, prompting buyers to purchase shares at a fictitious value. The informant gave the name of Mr Adams, superintendent of Thames' Monowai mine, adding that he was sending the message by telephone as he was in a hurry to catch his boat. Mr Adams was in Auckland at the time, leaving that evening for Thames, so there was no reason to question the accuracy of the information.

But Mr Adams had not provided the information and he did not know of the alleged discovery until he was back in Thames. The message was false and he had been impersonated.

The matter was at once reported to the police and the tel-

ephone department, which did everything possible to assist in the discovery of the perpetrator.

At the Piako Swamp, steps were being taken by the government to invite tenders for the excavation of a large canal over a mile long. This would make available over a quarter of a million acres of good land.

An experiment conducted by the government on the land in planting flax and trees had been highly successful and the plants were looking splendid. The government surveyor was much impressed with the possibilities of the land, which would be called the Hauraki Plains. However, no tender was accepted as the price was considered too high.

Meanwhile, at Waihi, three

nights were spent debating spiritualism by Mr Foster, of the Church of Christ, and Mr Hicks, of the Waihi Spiritualistic Association. Mr Hicks argued that modern spiritualism was a belief in the existence of conscious intelligent entities who once inhabited this world. He gave examples of Biblical evidence of spiritualism, especially referring to visitations to Abraham and Lot. Mr Foster contended that the visitations Mr Hicks referred to were angels, and were quite different to modern spirits.

Although the debates had begun harmoniously, the meeting became noisy and disorderly, and long rambling discussions took place, the debates concluding in a most unsatisfactory way.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

- How many restaurants operate from inside the Eiffel Tower? a) None, b) one, or c) two?
- What is the name of the rat in the 2007 movie *Ratatouille*? a) Radicchio, b) Ratatouille, or c) Remy?
- What is the name used by the indigenous inhabitants of Easter Island to refer to their island?
- Capris are what kind of clothing? a) Gloves, b) pants, or c) shoes?
- The capital of Norfolk Island shares its name with the capital city of which of these nations: a) Jamaica, b) Japan, or c) Jordan?
- The Spanish term 'playa' best translates to what feature in English? a) Beach, b) forest, or c) mountain?
- Which of these names is a real book of the Holy Bible? a) Letters, b) Numbers, or c) Symbols?
- Which region is the largest by area in the North Island: a) Manawatu-Wanganui, b) Northland, or c) Waikato?
- Roughly how many babies are born globally each day? a) 37,000, b) 370,000, or c) 3.7 million?
- What is the name of this board game character, pictured below? a) Cavity Sam, b) Infection Ian, or c) Operation Otis?



ANSWERS: 1. c) Two, 2. Le Jules Verne and Madame Brasserie, 3. Remy, 4. a) Jamaica, 5. a) Jamaica, 6. a) Rapa Nui, 7. b) Numbers, 8. c) Waikato, 9. b) Beach, 10. b) 370,000, 11. c) Operation Otis, 12. a) Cavity Sam.

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Knowing isn't the same as doing

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

I used to think physio was a waste of money. I'd show up sore and hopeful, they'd run an ultrasound machine over the injury, do a bit of massage, send me home with a handful of exercises I probably wasn't going to do... and I'd come back to the next appointment thinking, This isn't working. Their tools didn't seem to be changing much. Their touch wasn't fixing me. But over time I realised I was missing the whole point. The value was never

mainly in the appointment. It was in applying their knowledge to my life. In actually doing the exercises. In practicing what I'd been shown.

And I wonder how often we do that with life. How many books have you read? Podcasts listened to? Inspirational videos watched? Wise conversations had? We live in an age drowning in information. Knowledge has never been more available.

But are we actually changing because of it? I remember walking alongside someone trying to get on top of budgeting. We talked through practical steps.

One simple shift was making lunch instead of buying it every day - because food costs were

chewing through the budget.

The knowledge was there. The strategy was there. But the steps were never taken. And the debt kept growing. Not because they lacked information, but because information without action changes nothing.

I reckon that's where many of us trip up. Not in learning - in activation. We confuse consuming wisdom with living wisely.

But knowledge alone doesn't transform us. Practice does.

What if we read a little less, consumed a little less, but acted a little more? What if after every good book, podcast, sermon or conversation we asked two simple questions: So what? Now what? What's one thing

I'm going to put into practice this week? Because often breakthrough isn't found in learning something new. It's found in doing the thing we already know. And if I'm honest, knowledge without action can actually make us more foolish - because we know better, but keep living the same. Wisdom isn't what fills your notebook. It's what shapes your life.

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.

Safety near power lines

Powerco is urging property owners to keep trees clear of power lines as part of its annual tree safety campaign.

Trees growing into power lines and falling branches cause around one in five outages on Powerco's network each year, damaging infrastructure, disrupting electricity supply and increasing fire and safety risks.

Powerco monitors vegetation near its network and issues 'cut or trim' notices when trees are found growing too close to power lines. If a notice is received, property owners are responsible for arranging trimming and ensuring the work is completed safely.

Powerco general manager of electricity Karen Frew said keeping trees clear was an important part of maintaining a safe and reliable electricity network. "Trees growing too close to power lines can create significant risks for people, property and the power supply. Keeping trees properly maintained helps reduce outages, protects our network and keeps people safe," she said.

Working near power lines is dangerous and can result in serious injury or electrocution. Tree trimming near power lines must be carried out by a Powerco-approved contractor and, once the work is complete, property owners must notify Powerco.

Karen said planning ahead when planting can help avoid future issues.

"The best time to think about tree safety is before planting. Choosing the right tree and planting it well away from power lines can prevent problems later and help keep the power on for everyone."

Pet Profile

Easygoing and happy-go-Lucky

Lucky is the kind of cat who acts like he's known you forever. This handsome black and white boy is incredibly friendly, confident, and full of affection. The moment you meet him, he's straight over for pats, scratches, and attention, more than happy to make himself right at home in your heart.

At almost two years old, Lucky was sadly surrendered when his owners could no longer keep him.

Unfortunately, adult cats like Lucky often spend much longer waiting for homes than kittens, despite making such wonderful companions.

With his easygoing nature and love for people, Lucky is ready to prove just

how special adult cats can be.

He loves following his people around, curling up nearby, and soaking up every bit of attention he can get.

Loyal, cuddly, and always keen for company, Lucky is happiest simply being close to his humans.

Lucky can be adopted through Thames SPCA. His health has been checked, he is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and up to date with flea and worm treatments.

DETAILS: Visit www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/644824/cat-lucky-thames to find out more.

Lucky is a sweet, affectionate two-year-old.
Photo: SUPPLIED



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I'm a firm believer in the value of physical media. Digital is an important part of it but there's a lot of misinformation which is totally unregulated in the internet space.

From a marketing point of view I see some value in sticking with something that's reputable and physical. There are still young and old people that see properties in the newspaper and buy properties at a staggeringly higher rate than you would think. For us, it's still one of our most important components in marketing and probably because there are still a lot of buyers that see it first in the newspaper.

Percentage-wise the quality of buyers that come out of a newspaper is considerably higher than what comes out of the internet - I would say it's 100 times better.

So that's why I still love newsprint, and obviously The Valley Profile is our local paper.

There's still some value in sitting down and drinking a coffee or a cup of tea and reading the paper."

- Karl Davis

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"As a locally run business I think the importance of local advertising is often overlooked in preference to digital/online options.

I feel that print ads provide good old fashioned, to-the-point, honest unfiltered marketing that we often lack in this day and age. We need to concentrate more on the mantra of locals supporting locals across all sectors and I think this format helps achieve this.

It is also nice to deal with someone face to face and to build that relationship, and we have found over the many years of advertising with The Valley Profile that we have a mutual respect and we have developed not only a business connection but also a personal one."

- Darrin Paulsen
Manager
Baxters Interiors



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

5	1			9				8
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EASY

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HARD

252

HARD

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MEDIUM

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EASY

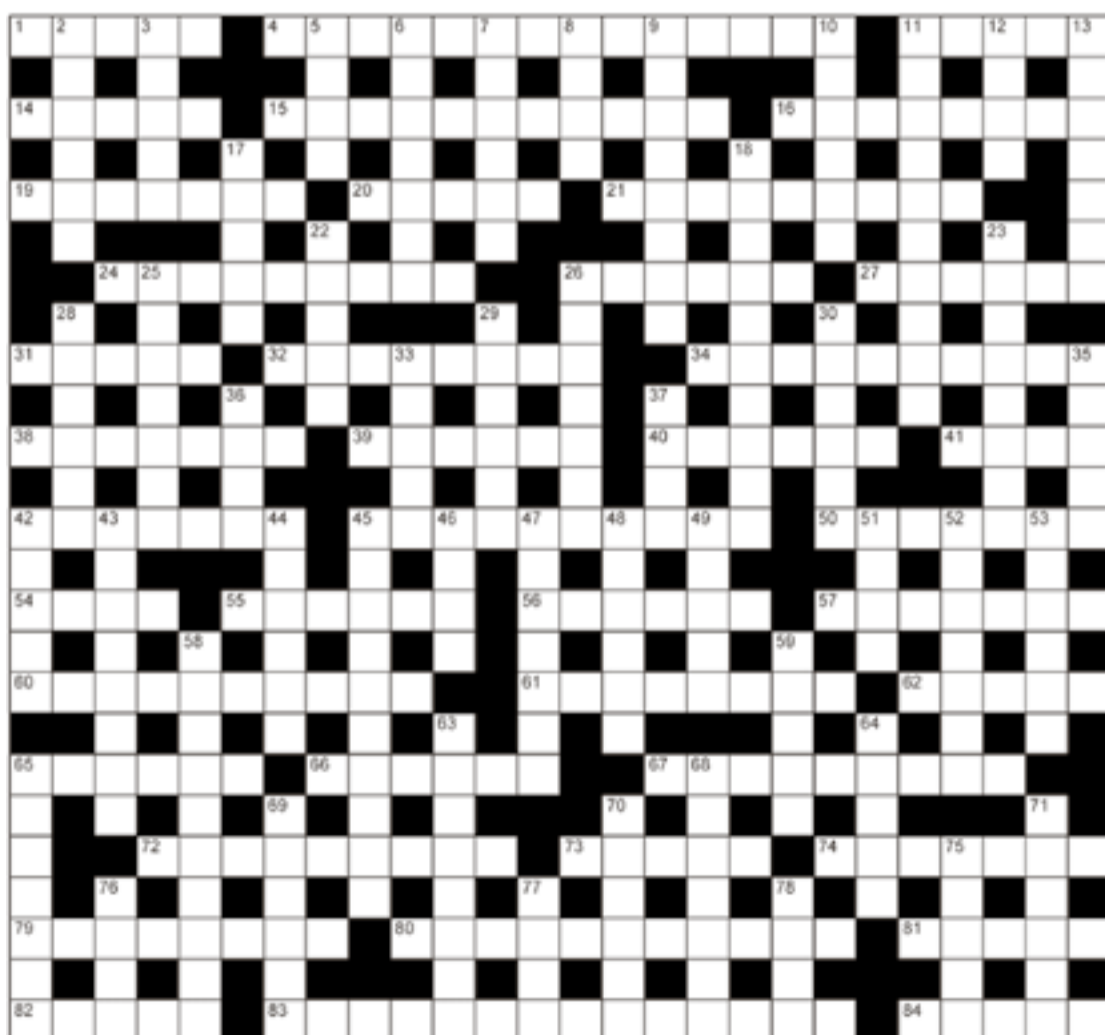
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8	3	1	2	6	4	5	7	9
9	2	6	5	3	7	1	8	4
7	5	4	9	8	1	3	6	2
4	8	2	3	1	9	7	5	6
6	9	3	8	7	5	2	4	1
1	7	5	4	2	6	8	9	3

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

272

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bread maker (5)
 - 4 Survival of the strongest (3,2,3,6)
 - 11 Vision (5)
 - 14 Old razor sharpener (5)
 - 15 Ice cream, jam flavour (11)
 - 16 Out at sea (8)
 - 19 Spreading plant (7)
 - 20 Heartless (5)
 - 21 Worried (9)
 - 24 Book producer (9)
 - 26 Treed street (6)
 - 27 Bends over (6)
 - 31 Similar (5)
 - 32 Mob member (8)
 - 34 Across the whole country (10)
 - 38 Bereaved man (7)
 - 39 Harvested (6)
 - 40 Underhand (6)
 - 41 Swoop (4)
 - 42 Violent wind storm (7)
 - 45 Inhospitable (10)
 - 50 Merchants (7)
 - 54 Deafening (4)
 - 55 Chanteuse (6)
 - 56 Pock-marked (6)
 - 57 Keep up (7)
 - 60 Extraordinary (10)
 - 61 Bathing costume (8)
 - 62 Managed (5)
 - 65 Purpose (6)
 - 66 Lessen (6)
 - 67 Vary up and down (9)
 - 72 Lousy tune (anag) (9)
 - 73 Paris river (5)
 - 74 Come after (7)
 - 79 Burn flamelessly (8)
 - 80 Embarrassing loss of face (11)
 - 81 Respond (5)
 - 82 Make mention of (5)
 - 83 Change one's opinion all the time (4,3,3,4)
 - 84 Garden tool (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Modifies (6)
 - 3 Run off to marry (5)
 - 5 Sailor's shout (4)
 - 6 Watch (7)
 - 7 Sore to touch (6)
 - 8 Duelling sword (4)
 - 9 Pulled out of the ground (8)
 - 10 Exertion (6)
 - 11 Believing to be guilty (10)
 - 12 Increase in size (4)
 - 13 Latticework structure (7)
 - 17 Stringed instrument (5)
 - 18 With precision (10)
 - 22 Ore analysis (5)
 - 23 Certain (8)
 - 25 Strange (7)
 - 26 Condense (7)
 - 28 Pigment-lacking animal (6)
 - 29 Daze (6)
 - 30 Admission pass (6)
 - 33 Inexperienced (5)
 - 35 Balances out (5)
 - 36 Curve (4)
 - 37 Second-hand (4)
 - 42 Flowering bulb (5)
 - 43 Gambling game (8)
 - 44 Oily fruit (6)
 - 45 Thankless (10)
 - 46 Sack (4)
 - 47 Stalemate (7)
 - 48 Fool (6)
 - 49 Smirks (5)
 - 51 Overwhelming defeat (4)
 - 52 US motor city (7)
 - 53 Brought up (6)
 - 58 Trained adviser (10)
 - 59 Broomstick traveller (5)
 - 63 Military leave (8)
 - 64 Line up (5)
 - 65 Cutting tooth (7)
 - 68 Maniac (7)
 - 69 Surpassingly good (6)
 - 70 Area (6)
 - 71 Airtight (6)
 - 75 Inexpensive (5)
 - 76 Outdoor sport (4)
 - 77 Elevate (4)
 - 78 Pollute (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Exclude, 4 Play it cool, 9 Compact, 13 Back, 14 Volume, 15 Hinted, 16 Bubonic, 19 Determined, 20 Bookshop, 21 Liken, 24 Stilts, 25 Aslant, 27 Abdicated, 32 Schooled, 33 Silage, 34 Fairway, 38 Province, 39 Insist, 40 Numb, 41 Knack, 42 Doyen, 45 Return to health, 52 Tests, 55 Easel, 56 Fist, 57 Cannon, 58 Premiere, 61 Blotter, 62 Impair, 63 Confetti, 66 Asteroids, 68 Gasket, 69 Stance, 73 Sinus, 74 Subpoena, 76 Racecourse, 81 Almanac, 82 Kitsch, 83 Arises, 84 Thug, 85 Sweeten, 86 Attraction, 87 Reduced.

DOWN: 1 Ebbed, 2 Cocktail, 3 Exotic, 4 Prune, 5 Aces, 6 Inhabit, 7 Condor, 8 Obeys, 10 Onus, 11 Provide, 12 Chisel, 17 Protection, 18 Solid, 22 Gardener, 23 Macaw, 24 Striped, 26 Silk, 28 Begonia, 29 Concur, 30 Clutch, 31 Mascot, 33 Swift, 35 Rinse, 36 Copy, 37 Omit, 43 Orally, 44 Erect, 46 Evil, 47 Untamed, 48 Nectar, 49 Owner, 50 Exorcist, 51 Horses, 52 Temptation, 53 Seek, 54 Spectre, 59 Lever, 60 Once, 64 Bogus, 65 Anarchic, 67 Sausage, 68 Graphic, 70 Willow, 71 Censor, 72 Veneer, 75 Point, 77 Alien, 78 Edged, 79 Late, 80 Taxi.

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CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Friday 5pm

Death Notice

PARKER, Keith Edwin:
Peacefully at Ohinemuri Home, Paeroa, on 20th May, 2026; aged 93 years. Dearly loved husband of Judy. Loved father of Vaughan and Jo, Bevan and Deborah, Neville and Annie, Dale and Leigh. Loved Poppa of Conal, Elise, Kirsty; Noah, Ava, Minka; Riley, Jayme, and Theo. In accordance with Keith's wishes a private cremation has taken place. Messages to: 9/100 Taylor Ave, Paeroa, 3600

TWENTYMANS

STOWE, Maisie (Nee Curren):
96 years. Wife of the late Fred, cherished mother of Leyland, Bruce (late), Brett (Australia) and loving daughter in laws Amilyn and Sandi (Aust) Grandmother to Jacob, Jerry and Ivan. A devoted mother above all else, resting in peace.

In Memoriam

DISHER, Sally-Ann:
14 years have passed and you are loved and missed so much. Still remembered everyday. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Kara, Paulette and families.

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Public Notice

Rating Information Database

Pursuant to Section 26 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 that the Thames-Coromandel District Council has available for public inspection a complete copy of the rating information database. The rating information database (RID) records all information required for setting and assessing rates and is available at the Council's principal office, 515 Mackay Street, Thames, during ordinary office hours, 8:00am - 4:30pm Monday - Friday, except public holidays. The database includes the following information relating to each rating unit: -

- (a) All information that relates to the rating unit that is included in the district valuation roll for the district; and
 - (b) All information that relates to the unit that is required to
 - (1) determine the category to which the unit belongs for setting general rates and
 - (2) determine the category to which the unit belongs for setting targeted rates.
 - (3) calculate the amount of liability for a targeted rate.
 - (c) The name and postal address of the owner unless Council has received a written request to withhold the owners' name or postal address (or both) from the database.
- No fee is payable for inspecting the rating information database but a fee is payable for being supplied with a copy of the particulars.
- Any ratepayer may object to the information contained in the database on one or more of the following grounds:
- (a) that a rating unit included in the district valuation roll has been omitted from the database;
 - (b) that information included in the district valuation roll has been omitted from, or inaccurately entered in, the database;
 - (c) that information included in the database, other than information entered from the district valuation roll, is incorrect;
 - (d) that there has been a failure to enter a lawful amendment to the district valuation roll into the database.

A condensed version (without name and address information) of the RID is also available on Councils website www.tcdc.govt.nz

Objections must be lodged in writing, setting out the grounds for the objection and forwarded to the Chief Executive, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Private Bag, Thames.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Friday 5.00pm

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Public Notices

Thames Community Cancer Support Group AGM
17th June 2026
@ 11.30 am
Croquet Rooms
Beach Road, Thames

Paeroa CPNZ Community Patrol (previously Night Owls) AGM
June 10, 7.30pm at the meeting room 6 Rotokohu Rd (next to Paeroa WINZ)

Auditions
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Public Notice

2026/27 Dog Registration Fees



Pursuant to Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 the Hauraki District Council by Resolution of Council on 8 April 2026 fixed the dog control fees for this Registration Year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. All registration fees include GST.

Registration type	Fee	Fee if paid after 31 /07/26
General dog (entire)	\$145.00	\$217.50
General dog (de-sexed*)	\$110.00	\$165.00
Responsible Owner Licence (ROL) dog (entire)	\$85.00	Loss of ROL \$217.50
Responsible Owner Licence (ROL) dog (de-sexed*)	\$70.00	Loss of ROL \$165.00
In excess of three dogs - fourth and subsequent dog(s)	\$50.00	\$75.00
Dangerous dog (entire)	\$217.50	\$326.25
Dangerous dog (de-sexed*)	\$165.00	\$247.50

* Proof of veterinary de-sexing certificate required

Pound fees	Registered dog fee	Unregistered Dog Fee
First time impoundment	\$100.00	\$155.00
Second time impoundment	\$135.00	\$185.00
Third time impoundment	\$190.00	\$250.00
Sustenance fee per day	\$18.00	\$20.00
Microchipping fee	\$40.00	\$45.00
Other fees	Fee	
Consent to keep more than two dogs in an urban area	\$60.00	
Responsible Owner Licence (ROL) application fee	\$40.00	
Responsible Owner Licence (ROL) property inspection fee (ROL transfer from another Council)	\$30.00	
Adoption fee	\$50.00	
Surrender/unclaimed or disposal fee	\$100.00	
Seizure fee	\$100.00	
Replacement tag	\$5.00	

Would you like a reduction in dog registration fees?

Have you thought about applying for Responsible Owner Licence (ROL)?

Council's Responsible Owner Licensing Scheme rewards those dog owners who keep their dogs under control at all times, and have a good Registration history, with a reduced fee (from \$145.00 to \$85.00, or \$70.00 if the dog is de-sexed).

The criteria to obtain a Responsible Owner Licence are:

- Complete the prescribed ROL application form and pay the non-refundable application fee of \$40.00.
- Have a good record of registration payment history and no complaints, impounding, infringement notices, etc in the preceding 12 months.
- Council's dog control staff will inspect your property to ensure the fencing meets our criteria.
- Pass a simple written examination on dog care and owner legal obligations.

The information pack and application form are available on our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, or at our Council offices at William Street, Paeroa; Rosemont Road, Waihi or Orchard West Road, Ngātea, or call us on 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (free call within District).

ROL applications are accepted from 1 June to 15 July 2026. Failure to reregister your dog(s) by 31 July annually will mean a loss of licence.

DA Spiers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

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Public Notice

Council and Committee Meetings in June 2026



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

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Tuesday, 2 June 2026 - 9.00am (if required)

Council
Wednesday, 10 June 2026, 9.00am

Regulatory Hearings Committee
Tuesday, 16 June 2026 - 9.00am (if required)

Policy, Planning and Emergency Management Committee
Wednesday, 17 June 2026 - 9.00am

Land Drainage Committee
Thursday, 25 June 2026 - 9.30am

Audit, Risk and Finance Committee
Tuesday, 30 June 2026 - 9.00am

DA Spiers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Restoration work revives historic hall

By KELLEY TANTAU

A significant roof restoration project has helped preserve the heritage-listed Kauaeranga Valley Hall, giving the 125-year-old community landmark a fresh lease on life.

Hall secretary and society committee spokesperson Cynthia Mills told *The Profile* the hall was established in 1902 and had been a focal point for the community ever since, first as a school, and then as a community meeting place.

The committee had a priority in 2026 to replace a section of roofing iron and prepare and repaint the hall's steeply pitched roof - which was last completed around 2000/2001.

Eric Zwaan, the property officer for the Kauaeranga Hall, said while they had the funding for the roof painting, the cost to scaffold the building was high and had been holding the job up.

But after learning about Thames-Coromandel District Council's Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, and successfully obtaining \$4346, the roofing work could finally begin in April.

"The main challenge when carrying out any of the work on the building is funding," Cynthia said.

"There are always jobs to do and as a committee, we prioritise the tasks and then fundraise to complete them.

"Eric puts in a large number of volunteer hours to source quotes from the tradespeople, and we are very grateful that we have him on the committee - like any local hall, finding committee members with the right skills is never easy."

Cynthia said preserving the building's historic character remained a key focus for the committee, with any restoration or maintenance work carefully carried out to respect the hall's original architectural style and heritage features.

And while some community halls across the wider Thames Valley face ongoing challenges, the committee said the Kauaeranga Valley Hall continued to attract strong support and regular use, with weekly yoga classes, meetings, music events, workshops and private celebrations held at the hall throughout each month.

"Community connection is important to us in the valley," hall society president Tom Nicholson said. "Maintaining the hall as a viable community facility provides people in our town and district with an opportunity to attend workshops and events or hire the hall for their own celebrations. We are excited and encouraged by the numbers using the hall which makes all of the maintenance work worthwhile."

"We are excited and encouraged by the numbers using the hall which makes all of the maintenance work worthwhile."

- Tom Nicholson



Kauaeranga Valley Hall under scaffolding during recent roof restoration and maintenance work. Photo: SUPPLIED



Image digitally enhanced. Boundary lines are indicative only

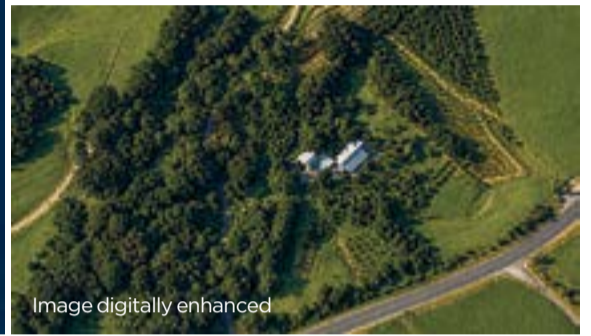


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Volunteering leads to 'sense of belonging'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Omar Arsilan didn't know what to expect when he went along to his first volunteering session at the Thames Valley Special Olympics basketball training.

"I just thought, yep, I would give it a go when the opportunity arose. I know nothing about basketball so it was a challenge for me," the 17-year-old Hauraki Plains College student told *The Profile*.

He found out about the volunteering opportunity ahead of Volunteer Week next month.

When he picked up some printing at the school hub recently, he was "ambushed" by student hub administrator Amanda Fitzpatrick, who received an email asking if she knew anyone who wanted to help with team training.

The year-13 student said he was convinced he could do it, and the rest was history.

Training coach Christina Stilwell said for more than 10 weeks Omar helped with drill set ups, made sure the training balls were pumped up and subbed in for even numbers in drills and games. "The team loves his quiet and friendly manner and are always happy to see him," she said.

"With Omar, the trainings run smoothly and we thoroughly enjoy seeing him each week."

Omar said the team loved it when he joined in with the



Omar Arsilan, left, volunteers at the Thames Valley Special Olympics basketball training. Photos: SUPPLIED

games because "I don't know what I am doing", but after 10 weeks he believed he'd gotten better. "I really enjoy it and it's something I probably never would have done without the encouragement from Mrs Stilwell and Mrs Fitzpatrick."

He said he learned "a lot about basketball" and how to play, including the rules, but he also learned about teamwork and communication.

The next thing he wanted to learn was how to get the ball through the hoop, he said.

One of the challenges he faced was being able to understand the different disabilities of the team members, which varied from speech to movement, along with communication.

"I have never worked with people with a variety of limited abilities and I have found I really enjoy it," he said.

Empathy and "a good attitude towards everyone" were important qualities for people who wanted to do volunteer work for people with disabilities.

What surprised Omar the most about his volunteering experience was how inclusive everyone was and how much happiness it brought to the group.

"I find it really rewarding," he said. Their commitment and motivation to persevere with all



challenges was something that inspired Omar.

His time with the group highlighted how inclusive the community was, giving him a "real sense of belonging", he said.

"I have really enjoyed being involved with the team and learning a new sport. I am more confident and definitely more patient, especially when it comes to dealing with people."

DETAILS: The Thames Valley Special Olympics basketball team will compete in a 5x5 basketball tournament in Pakuranga on June 7, and in another tournament in Tauranga on August 8.



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