

The Valley Profile

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By KELLEY TANTAU

A Waihi family is seeking to make urgent home changes for their son, whose rare neurological condition is rapidly taking away his independence.

Tina Wright says life changed dramatically two-and-a-half years ago when her son, Daniel Wright, was diagnosed with neurodegenerative ataxia, a condition that causes progressive damage to the brain.

Daniel, 46, had been working as a cook at an end-of-life care facility in Rotorua when early symptoms began to appear.

“He had very sore knees for a while and was using a walking stick,” Tina told The Profile. “[He] had a couple of accidents that seemed strange and showed his coordination was out of kilter.”

After several doctor and hospital visits, Daniel was referred to a neurologist. The diagnosis came eight months later.

“It became obvious that he couldn’t keep working; however, that in itself brought more problems,” Tina said. “On just one wage, they couldn’t afford their rental and were facing living in their car.”

Daniel and his wife Eliza moved in with his parents on September 30, 2024.

At that stage, he could still walk short distances using sticks and hoped he might return to work. But over the past year, his condition has declined significantly.

He is now permanently reliant on a motorised wheelchair, has use of only one arm, and is losing both his speech and hearing. He has no feeling in his face and mouth, making eating difficult and increasing the risk of choking.

“When they first came to live with us, we bought a cabin so that they had their own place, but after 12 months, he couldn’t manage

Home upgrade needed



Daniel Wright at his Waihi home, where his family is working to make modifications to support his care. INSET: Mum Tina is asking the community for help. Photos: SUPPLIED



the three steps up or down from the room,” Tina said.

Despite Tina and her husband Keith’s efforts to adapt their home - including building a deck with two ramps so that Daniel could get outside in the summer - the family

has reached a critical point. They now need to convert their bathroom into a wheelchair-accessible wet room - a project expected to cost around \$25,000.

If they can’t renovate the bathroom, Daniel will need to go into

care.

“Daniel is only 46. He and Eliza have been married for 16 years,” Tina said. “He doesn’t want to go into care as that would mean a rest home or Waihi hospital [and] he and Eliza don’t want to be sepa-

rated. “Putting in the cabin and the deck has used up all our savings and we just couldn’t afford to do the bathroom.”

Tina and Keith are both pensioners, with Tina well-known

CONTINUED ON P2

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Less mow, more grow as rate rises slow

By KELLEY TANTAU

Residents tuning into an online Thames-Coromandel District Council town hall on April 23 heard proposals to scale back mowing and garden maintenance as part of efforts to rein in rising rates.

The changes, which could save up to \$450,000 annually, form part of the council's draft 2026/27 annual plan, which targets a rates increase of no more than 3.8 per cent.

Under the proposal, mowing would occur less frequently across parks, cemeteries, road berms and medians, while seasonal flower beds would be replaced with simpler, lower-maintenance planting. Some shrub gardens could be removed or maintained less often, and the council is also proposing to stop its annual Onehunga weed spraying programme.

The change would lower the average rates increase by \$17.94, or 0.38 per cent.

During the town hall, one attendee questioned whether reducing garden maintenance could make public spaces appear "untidy and unkempt," potentially deterring tourists and leading to increased litter and vandalism.

Mayor Peter Revell acknowledged the concern about how reduced maintenance could affect the district's appearance, but said the visual impact might not be as significant as some feared - particularly during winter.

"One of the things that did become apparent to us when it was proposed... was that in the winter, we're in a situation where the grass doesn't grow quite as quickly as it does in spring and autumn, but also when we go mowing in the winter, the mowers can just carve the soil and make things sort of ugly."

"So there is an element where perhaps reducing mowing over those winter periods may not visually have the impact that perhaps we all think when we say, 'well, we're not going to mow something for two months'."

However, he accepted that maintaining the district's image remained important.

"We do want our district to look good. It's about getting the balance right," he said.

Thames-Coromandel District Council currently maintains more than 200m² of garden beds in "high-profile locations" that require replacing annually - including flower beds.

The draft annual plan proposes to replace these beds with lower-maintenance options such as shrubs, grass, or in some cases, hard surfaces.

The proposal would also see the council review and reduce the number of roads classed as "tourist routes" that currently receive regular berm mowing. In areas removed from the list, mowing would stop, while remaining sites - such as traffic islands, median strips, council-managed land and berms near properties with existing agreements - would continue to be maintained, but less frequently.

Mayor Revell stressed the proposals were part of a broader effort to address what he described as "unsustainable" rates increases in recent years.

"We've been very single-minded in ensuring we are putting in place for the next annual plan, a rate increase which is significantly lower than what we have experienced over the last three or four years," he said. "But in order to get there, we're having to make some tough choices."

A final feedback forum will be held with the full council on Thursday, May 7.

Help needed

CONTINUED FROM P1

in Waihi for her generosity, having run The Gift Box community food pantry for five years. She was also a Hauraki District Council OnYa Award recipient in 2022 for her services to the community.

Alongside painting and selling garden signs and ponytail beanies, the family has set up a Givealittle page to help fund the bathroom upgrade - which has so far raised around \$8000.

The project involves removing the existing shower and basin and installing a watertight, non-slip wet room that Daniel can safely access in his wheelchair. "We need to get the bathroom sorted as soon as we possibly can," Tina said.

"Just a couple of days ago, Daniel had a spasm that affected his whole body. He couldn't move in any direction. It could have been really nasty but Keith managed to squeeze into the bathroom and get him sat down and gradually the muscle relaxed and he could be taken back to bed. With the Givealittle page - we have been so touched by the generosity of strangers and the Waihi community," she said. "Having to ask for help is a very humbling experience - Waihi definitely has a heart of gold."

DETAILS: To donate, visit givealittle.co.nz/cause/wright-way-to-shower



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The Sheep Detectives (109 mins) PG. In this witty, new mystery, George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realise they must become the detectives. As they investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

A Private Life (Special Mothers Day advance screening) (103 mins) M. French comedy starring Jodie Foster. When renowned psychiatrist Lilian Steiner learns of the death of one of her patients she is deeply troubled. Convinced that it was murder, she decides to investigate... (Sunday 10 May 3.40pm).

The Devil Wears Prada (119 mins) M. Almost 20 years after their iconic turns as Miranda, Andy, Emily and Nigel—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 in the eagerly awaited sequel to the 2006 phenomenon.

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. Michael has surpassed Oppenheimer for the biggest opening day ever for a biographical film.

Coming from Thursday 14 May: Caterpillar. Set in a run-down Wellington villa in 2003, Caterpillar follows three women living separate lives under one leaky roof. 16yo Cassie is all bravado and vulnerability as she searches for belonging. Her mother Maxine, 52, is a formidable single parent and filmmaker on the brink of a long-awaited breakthrough—if she can land a star. Holding everything together is Huia, Cassie's grandmother, 80, whose life has been defined by quiet service to family and a private obsession with raising monarch caterpillars, dreaming of one day witnessing the legendary butterfly migration in Mexico.

Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

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Thames Tides

Wed May 6	Thu May 7	Fri May 8	Sat May 9	Sun May 10	Mon May 11	Tue May 12
Morning 3:53am 0.9 4:09pm 0.8 10:09am 3.1 10:33pm 3.2	Morning 4:36am 0.9 4:48pm 0.8 10:50am 3.0 11:15pm 3.1	Morning 5:21am 1.0 5:30pm 0.9 11:31am 3.0	Morning 12:00am 3.0 12:15pm 2.9 6:08am 1.0 6:16pm 1.0	Morning 12:49am 3.0 1:01pm 2.9 6:58am 1.0 7:07pm 1.0	Morning 1:39am 3.0 1:52pm 2.9 7:49am 1.0 8:05pm 1.1	Morning 2:31am 3.0 2:47pm 2.9 8:42am 0.9 9:06pm 1.0
7:02am 5:27pm	7:02am 5:26pm	7:03am 5:25pm	7:04am 5:24pm	7:05am 5:23pm	7:06am 5:22pm	7:07am 5:21pm
Best At 3:15am 3:40pm	Best At 4:06am 4:31pm	Best At 4:56am 5:20pm	Best At 5:44am 6:07pm	Best At 6:30am 6:53pm	Best At 7:15am 7:37pm	Best At 8:00am 8:22pm
Set 11:06am Rise 8:18pm	Set 11:51am Rise 9:16pm	Set 12:30pm Rise 10:17pm	Set 1:03pm Rise 11:20pm	Last Quarter Set 1:32pm	Rise 12:23am Set 1:58pm	Rise 1:27am Set 2:23pm

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MOON AND FISH KEYS
New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter
Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

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

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

Council charts clearer path for pool

By KELLEY TANTAU

A clearer path forward for the future of the Thames Centennial Pool has been approved by a council committee, following calls from the public to “get stuck in” and move the project ahead.

The Thames Centennial Pool, built in the 1970s, is nearing the end of its life and must be removed by 2027 under an agreement with Ngāti Maru, with the site at Tai-pari Reserve to be restored. The decommissioning process is expected to take around 18 months.

Last week, Thames-Coromandel District Council’s Infrastructure and Finance Committee agreed to recommend a more structured, long-term approach to progressing a new aquatic facility, shifting the project from a series of investigations into a co-ordinated programme of work.

The proposed programme will bring together multiple workstreams under a formal governance structure, aimed at ensuring decisions were “evidence-based, affordable, and achievable” and in line with the council’s wider planning - particularly ahead of the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

The decision followed a public forum presentation from Thames resident Anne Barker, who urged councillors to support the recommendations and push the project forward.

“There is a desperate need for a competition standard pool that is supported not only by committed local people, but by our council, so that pool provision is not condemned to hobble along lurching from one economic crisis to the



The Thames Centennial Pool is nearing the end of its life and must be removed by 2027.

File Photo: KELLEY TANTAU

next,” she said.

Anne told the committee Thames was the logical location for such a facility, describing it as the district’s service centre and warning it should not be left “a desert” without any aquatic provision.

“Last year the LAWA [Land, Air, Water Aotearoa] site listed the presence of E.coli in the Kauae-ranga river and it failed to meet water quality standards,” she said. “The sea around Thames is more liquid mud with a drizzle of water over the top. Where will our children be able to safely play and develop life-saving water skills if not in a pool?”

The proposed structure put for-

ward to committee members will see a steering group overseeing the project, supported by senior council staff, a dedicated programme manager, and representatives from council, mana whenua and the community, with separate workstreams covering funding, community partnerships, policy development, the closure of the existing pool, and construction of a new facility.

At the meeting, Thames ward councillor Greg Hampton supported the recommendation, saying the process was well thought out and robust; however, he clarified it did not lock council into any “particular direction or investment

at this point in time”.

“At any stage through the proposed programme development, council will be updated and have the ability to provide direction, change direction, and so forth,” he said. “So I think this is a well-pitched programme that recommends a way forward, [a way] we can get progress, but still include council and community in that decision.”

The next steps include setting up a steering group to oversee the project, confirming key roles across the programme, and beginning regular meetings to “provide oversight and endorse workstream priorities”.

Firearms incident in Coroglen

Armed Police were deployed to the Coromandel on April 28 after reports of a firearm sighting at a property.

The incident began at around 7pm on Tairua Whitianga Rd in Coroglen, a Police spokesperson confirmed. “Police attempted to engage with the man, however he did not respond to calls to exit the address,” the spokesperson said.

“A cordon was established and Police continued to appeal to the man, and then deployed tactical options including a drone and gas.”

The 37-year-old man was taken into custody about 3am, and Police recovered two air rifles from the address. He was due to appear in Hamilton District Court on April 29 on a charge of presenting a firearm/restricted weapon, and was remanded in custody. He is scheduled to reappear on May 4.

Meanwhile, three people were forced to shelter at the nearby Coroglen Tavern while the Police operation was underway. The business later acknowledged the incident via a social media post.

“We are all okay and our thoughts are not with those closely involved. We’re incredibly grateful to the Police and emergency services for the work they do, keeping everyone safe,” the post read.

The Coroglen Tavern declined to comment to *The Valley Profile*, saying they wanted to respect the privacy of the family involved.

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New look, focus for business advocates

By ALICE PARMINTER

The Thames Business Association (TBA) is in the midst of a major transition after recent staff changes, and is looking to its members to determine its next steps forward.

Chief executive Sue Lewis-O'Halloran stepped down at the end of 2025 after five years, marking the end of paid staff as the TBA adopts a volunteer-led structure.

The association is now run by a committee of Thames locals. Robyn Forster, Adrian Hunt, Stu Robinson, Karyn Russell, Peter Richardson, and Nicole Phillips own businesses in and around Thames, and they have begun work on a new charter and strategy to ensure the association is providing value to its members.

The changes are largely being shaped by feedback from a recent member survey and discussion forum, committee member Nicole told *The Profile*. "The overwhelming response that we have had from the forum was that members were so refreshed that we were asking them, involving them in the planning," she said. "They felt really heard and engaged. And I think that participation has created a lot of positive momentum. We've had members emailing through ideas - they're putting their voice forward."

Planning for the changes has already begun, with the TBA calling for tenders to revamp its business website and develop a public member directory. The website was likely to be up and running

within six months, Nicole said.

The TBA is also planning to develop member-only resources such as online service hubs.

"The website and an active member directory were really important to our members," Nicole said. "We're really hopeful that the new digital platform and new brand and things that we're working on will help with that."

Advocacy and security/crime prevention was to remain as key functions of the TBA, Nicole said.

"What members really valued in Sue's role was that advocacy," Nicole said. "We can't provide you with legal advice... we can use our networks for introduction and support [but] we had to redefine with our members what advocacy looked like for them and how we can support them with issues."

"The security, crime prevention was something that was really valued and an angle that we went with there was updating the terms and conditions and the scope of our BizWatch, which is that business network [for] information sharing around anti-social behaviour and things that are happening in Thames."

And although the association will continue to organise events such as the Santa Parade, and run the Thames Info Centre, Nicole said the TBA's main focus now will be its members. "That was the tourist audience rather than the business audience. We're not dropping any balls... we're trying to focus on the things that the members are asking for most."

Storm costs estimated at \$5.83m

By ALICE PARMINTER

Damage from January 21's tropical storm is expected to cost the Hauraki District around \$5.8 million to repair, according to a document tabled at the council's April 8 meeting.

Costs include \$1.19 million for roading network repairs, up to \$4.38 million for repair and resilience improvements to the Ohinemuri river trail, up to \$60,000 for dune repair, an estimated \$50,000 for repairs to the Waihi Wastewater Treatment Plant, around \$50k to remediate slips at the Whiritoa Wastewater Treatment Plant, and up to \$100k to repair the boardwalk at Waihi's Gilmour Lake.

The report showed the weather event resulted in a cumulative rainfall of more than 350mm over 24 hours in Whiritoa, and 370mm in Golden Valley. Two red stickers, seven yellow stickers, and three white stickers were issued to properties affected by the storm.

In Whiritoa, the slips at the wastewater treatment plant caused the ponds to overflow directly to the river for several days, resulting in a notice to avoid swimming at the southern end of the beach. General manager of service delivery Adrian de Laborde told councillors the overflow was mostly stormwater, and while it was untreated it would have been significantly diluted. The council is undertaking geotechnical work to determine the extent of the damage and identify what remedial work will be needed, the report said. A planned project to upgrade the plant is also on hold while the site is repaired.



Up to \$4.38 million will be spent on repairs to the Ohinemuri River Trail.

During the meeting, councillors also heard a report from the Water Services Team, containing updates on the district's water treatment plant upgrade projects.

Two new raw water tanks are now operational at the Kerepehi Water Treatment Plant, the report said, doubling the Plains Network's raw water storage capacity.

In Waitakaruru, investigations are underway to determine the cause of multiple power interruptions which have caused several disruptions to its operation.

Meanwhile, divers were needed at the Paeroa Water Treatment Plant to clear a hardened silt layer and large rocks obstructing the intake screen at the Waitāwheta River after the January storm.

Meanwhile, the council has also approved funding of up to \$10,000 plus GST for Paeroa Rotary from its Community Development Grant, as well as a one-off grant of \$1700 for community magazine *Whiritoa Tidings*.

The Rotary grant will go towards a beautification project along Paeroa's main street, involving initiatives such as floral planters, dog water bowls, and decorative lighting. Rotary said the project will "create a more vibrant and welcoming town centre".

Whiritoa Tidings will use its grant to help cover printing costs for the magazine, which is published seven times a year. The magazine's grant application said the grant was needed due to rising printing costs stemming from the fuel crisis. Councillors debated the grant's approval; while they agreed the magazine met the criteria for the fund by contributing to the vibrancy of the Whiritoa community, some said it could set a precedent of council providing a "blank cheque" to bolster community news organisations.

In the end, most of the councillors agreed to a one-off grant for *Whiritoa Tidings*, with four against.

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This May, our team is coming to you. Come along to hear what we're learning about how flooding could change across our district, and where the project is heading next. We want to hear from you too – your knowledge of this place, and what matters most to you here, will shape the decisions ahead.

- Ngātea Market – Sunday 10 May, Ngātea Memorial Hall
- Tūrua Market – Sunday 17 May, Tūrua Hall

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Hauraki Plains Netball Centre 50 years

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Half century legacy for Hauraki netball

For half a century the Hauraki Plains Netball Centre has been more than just a place to gather for sport.

It's been a cornerstone of the community that's shaped players, friendships and memories for generations.

Current life member Jane Robinson, who is one of three current living life members, said before the centre was formed, teams from Hauraki Plains College travelled on buses to play Saturday morning netball in Paeroa for many years.

Women from the Plains also joined teams in the Paeroa competition.

In late 1975, the then principal of Hauraki Plains College Bert O'Brien touted the idea of starting up a netball centre in Ngatea to service the Hauraki Plains area, she said.

Plans began to take shape and in 1976, after an inaugural meeting in the college library, the Hauraki Plains Netball centre was formed.

All games were played on the front courts at the college, where each round was announced by a megaphone borrowed from the rowing club.

Things were different back then.

The "office" for Saturday mornings was a shelf in the caretaker's room and each player had to pay court fees of 10 cents to cover the day's games.

It was 1977 when the Netball Centre had its first representatives at Thames Valley level. Jane said a glance back at the team registrations from the early days seemed as though every local woman at the time was part of a netball team.

In 1976, netball was played and administered only by women.

Now men were involved in every aspect of the game, she said.

Some clubs at the centre remained strong over the years, she said, but one in particular stood out.

"[A] special mention must be made of North Golden Oldies, who regularly attended Golden Oldie events all over the world.

"They fundraised, played and socialized ferociously, always keeping their eyes on



Around 1976: Hauraki Plains Netball stalwarts at Hauraki Plains College by the caretakers room, which was used as a control centre.



Representing Thames Valley, 1977.

the next tournament," she said.

It was 2010 when the Centre relocated to the new courts at Hugh Hayward Domain, where many players, families, supporters and community members showed out to support the milestone.

While the game of netball is now much faster, more physical and a lot of rule changes have taken place - the dedication and commitment to the centre, and love for the sport remains strong in the Hauraki community.

Friendships were forged through netball and even after 50 years, they remained strong, Jane said.

Now, with a goal to honour the past, celebrate the present and inspire the future, the Centre is set to celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 8 at the Ngatea Rugby clubrooms. "The centre is celebrating its achievements and honouring those who



The Hauraki Netball Golden Oldies attended events all over the world.

Photos: SUPPLIED

have made it all happen over the years."

The event will gather former and present players, coaches, volunteers, administrators, supporters and friends of the Centre to reminisce on the early days, reflect on the achievements along the way and look toward the future of netball in the Hauraki community.

"They plan to rekindle old friendships, acknowledge achievements and look forward to the growing future of the centre."



Opening of the new courts, 2010.



Ex players enjoy a game at the 2010 opening.



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Huge funeral for 'sartorially elegant' Thamesite



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

"Jolly Joe Williams is building a large hotel at Kōpū on the Thames River," announced the *Observer* newspaper in 1883.

Joseph was a unique character who paid remarkable attention to his appearance and was always immaculately turned out. In his early Thames days he wore long, well oiled ringlets and a wavy beard.

The smart Welshman had arrived in New Zealand in 1863 by the ship *Queen of the Mersey* when he was 16. He experienced the many hardships typical of new settlers, turning his hand to various kinds of employment, including working on a government contract with his brothers.

He later went to the West Coast goldfields, where he tried alluvial mining, returning north to spend some time prospecting in the Waikato, where he also worked at bridge building.

In July, 1867, with the Thames goldfield opening imminent, Joseph tried his luck there. He became director of the Young American mine, experiencing numer-

ous changes of fortune. He had the miner's true 'nose' for gold and was instrumental in discovering the junction of two reefs which yielded about 10 tons of gold in 10 months, enabling the company for a whole year to declare fortnightly dividends of from £10 to £25.

When the Young American amalgamated with the Caledonian Goldmining Company, Joseph became the landlord of the Provincial Hotel in Queen St, Grahams-town. His whisky was known all over the Coromandel Peninsula, as well as his shining curls rigidly parted in the centre. Every mining venture got free and full discussion at his bar.

He was one of the founders and a strenuous worker in the Thames Fire Brigade. He would be a member for nearly 20 years, and was captain at two different times. He was also a member of the Thames Volunteer Engineers and in May, 1869, was appointed one of the Guards of Honour at the Auckland reception of the Duke of Edinburgh, an event he never forgot to mention. Joseph was a member as well of the Loyal Charles Bruce and Waikato Lodges.

At the end of December, 1869, Joseph married Phyllis Nicholl and they would go on to have 12 children. Joseph had remarkable skill in pulling off a mining deal and his large, well groomed figure, his confident carriage and his persuasive voice were seen and heard whenever shares were rising or falling.

Joseph was of opinion that Thames must have a harbour, that the proper place for a harbour was Kōpū and a hotel was needed there. Although the har-



Joseph Cornwell Williams, 1900.

bour never eventuated at Kōpū, the hotel did, opening in 1883 after great difficulties in getting a license through the objections of Māori. The family did not live at Kōpū, however Joseph was widely and popularly known to travellers.

Tragedy struck in 1888 when the twin daughters of Joseph and Phyllis died seven months apart, aged 4 and 11 months respectively.

Their last child, Albert, was born in 1891. Albert was blind and very clever, recognising people by their footsteps from a young age.

In 1892, the family moved to Kōpū. In his later years Joseph sacrificed his long curls and beard, but he remained true to smart attire, his small bowler hat often

sporting a feather stuck in the band.

By 1895 little Albert, aged 4 1/2, had become quite a musical prodigy. He played a number of airs with accuracy on a tin whistle and also correctly accompanied Joseph's songs on the piano.

In 1896, while helping one of her unwell married daughters, Phyllis also became ill, unexpectedly dying from a complication of lung inflammation. She was 45 and remembered as "a good mother and a true helpmeet". Joseph married again in 1900, his wife Margaret Mary Trotter, of Waioimu.

The sartorially elegant Joseph died at Thames hospital in 1916, aged 69. His funeral, at Shortland cemetery, was one of the largest seen in the district. Besides the great number on foot there were about 50 vehicles in the cortege. Many townspeople and settlers from surrounding districts attended to farewell one of the very few remaining old Thamesites.

His son, Albert, became like his father a rather remarkable figure. He had an extremely retentive memory for voices, and knew all the boys who returned to Kōpū from World War I as soon as they spoke within his hearing.

He could find his way without hesitation into any Thames shop. Albert took a keen interest in all local and national affairs, and was very well informed.

He was an excellent musician and a master of pianoforte music. He composed several high class musical numbers, mostly dance music. A member of the Thames Band Contest Committee, his services were much in demand at social events. Albert died in 1953.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. What is the name of the ship that ran aground on the Astrolabe Reef off the coast of Tauranga in October 2011?
2. In Greek mythology, what is a creature called that has the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse?
3. Recently, Spanish budget airline Volotea controversially asked existing ticket holders to do what due to increased fuel prices? a) Leave heavy electronics or books at home, b) pay a little extra for fuel, or c) take a train instead of flying?
4. Who was the only actor in the *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy to have met author JRR Tolkien in person? a) Christopher Lee (Saruman), b) Ian Holm (Bilbo Baggins), or c) Sir Ian McKellen (Gandalf)?
5. In the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise, what is the turtles' favourite food?
6. What was the name of the Australian cricket player caught using sandpaper on the ball in 2018? a) Cameron Bancroft, b) David Warner, or c) Steve Smith?
7. New Zealander Rochelle Vinsen was famous in the 1960s as an a) actor, b) athlete, or c) singer?
8. In which of these countries is it illegal to conduct a personal DNA test? a) Albania, b) China, or c) France?
9. What is a colonnade? a) An architectural feature, b) a body part, or c) a drink?
10. After Jesus, whose name is mentioned the most in the Bible? a) David, b) Mary, or c) Moses?

ANSWERS: 1. The Rena; 2. A centaur; 3. (b) Pay a little extra for fuel (7 Euros per ticket); 4. (a) Christopher Lee (Saruman); 5. Pizza; 6. (a) Cameron Bancroft; 7. (c) Singer; 8. (c) France. This due to concern that paternity tests might negatively affect relationships; 9. (a) An architectural feature (a long row of columns); 10. (a) David (974 times).

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On the Land

Brothers snag a stag, find a hind

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

One thing that makes a good hunter is the ability to stay quiet.

It's a skill that helped Hikutaia brothers Leon and Noah King to successfully hunt and shoot two deer on a recent hunting trip.

Sixteen-year-old Leon and 11-year-old Noah went hunting with their grandad on family land near Napier/Taupō during the April school holidays, Leon said.

The hunter, who is also a year-12 student at Paeroa College, said he shot a 9-point Red Stag with a Brown x Bolt 308 Rifle, while younger brother Noah shot a Red Deer hind.

It wasn't Leon's first rodeo - the seasoned tracker said it was the sixth deer he'd hunted.

"My granddad taught me how to hunt. He has been a hunter for years."

The young tracker said he always wanted to do it and "now I love it too".

One of the challenges for deer hunters was getting close without the stag seeing or smelling them, he said.

"The weather can play a big part but we were lucky this time the wind was going to the right so he didn't smell or hear us."

A top piece of advice Leon wanted to share with new hunters was to always hunt with the wind in their face or "you're wasting your time" as the deer would smell them before they started.

When he was getting ready to take a shot, his thoughts revolved around making sure "I don't miss".

His dream animal to hunt was a Sika Deer, he said.

Meanwhile, younger brother Noah said the most important thing he would tell a new hunter was to be safe and



Leon King, 16, is proud of his 9-point Red Stag, left; while his brother Noah, 11, takes his first shot and snags a hind.



Photos: SUPPLIED

shoot the shoulder or the neck.

The hunting trip with his grandad and brother was a significant one for Noah.

Not only did the young hunter shoot a Red deer hind, it was also his first time behind the rifle.

"This was my first time I got to have a go at shooting a deer.

"I have been hunting before with my brother and granddad but this time I got to have a shoot," he told *The Profile*.

The hunter-gatherer, who is also a year-7 student at Hikutaia School, said it was a challenge to keep the rifle steady and he was nervous he would miss.

"It felt like it took a long time. Once I had taken the shot I yelled. I dropped it with a big smile and my brother Leon said 'shot Noah'."

The animal at the top of his dream hunt list was a Red Stag Deer.

There were two things he said he always made sure of

before any hunting trips.

"We always check we have walkie talkies and we are safe before we head off hunting."

Noah believes two things that make a good hunter are being quiet and knowing how to roar.

"I want to become a good and safe hunter," he said.

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On the Land

Fuel support for rural schools applauded

Extra support for small, rural and isolated schools to help them manage fuel cost pressures is timely and very welcome, Federated Farmers says.

"The huge spike in fuel prices - particularly diesel - from the Middle East conflict has hit rural schools particularly hard," Feds education spokesperson Richard Dawkins said.

"Students and teachers in rural areas face longer distances when travelling to and from school.

"Smaller rural schools have the same or similar fixed costs to much bigger schools but when your roll is a couple of dozen, vs 200-300-plus, dividing costs that are per-pupil based across that smaller roll is a lot tougher."

The government recently announced a package of targeted relief, including \$37 million to accelerate work to replace diesel boilers at up to 70 schools, and a temporary increase to Relief Teacher Transport Allowance mileage rates.

It will also provide one-time cash grants of \$2500 to all schools with fewer than 100 students to cover extra mileage costs.

There will also be a 30 per cent increase in the conveyance allowance to help eligible families with the cost of getting children to school or the nearest bus route, benefiting 5000 further students.

"This is sensible, financially prudent and targeted assistance that will make a difference for rural schools," Mr Dawkins said.

"Federated Farmers has been working closely with the Rural School Leadership Association and Rural Women NZ over our successful campaign for a review of school

bus routes and eligibility criteria.

"I think through that campaign we've heightened awareness among MPs that schools are an essential part of rural communities, and that they enable families and farm staff to live and work in more isolated areas."

Earlier in the month, the three groups had written to the government seeking an increase in the conveyance allowance, which hadn't been reviewed since 1985.

"The rural National Party MPs have been supportive of our advocacy and we thank Education Minister Erica Stanford and Cabinet for listening, and taking this action," Mr Dawkins said.

In the medium term, the government will invest \$2.35 million per year for two initiatives to grow the workforce and ensure rural schools have a good pipeline of teachers, funded through reprioritisations.

The Go Rural programme, where student teachers receive \$4000 to cover the costs of undertaking a professional experience placement in a rural and isolated school, is being expanded by a further 87 places per year, from the 2026-27 financial year.

The number of places available in the Teacher Bonding Scheme will increase by 50, from 185 places to 235 per year. This scheme supports teachers with up to an additional \$40,000 over five years for working in hard to staff schools, the majority of which are rural and isolated.

"These changes are positive for the future of rural schools - an investment not just in education of rural school children but in farming and rural communities," Mr Dawkins said.



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Mining licence revoked in appeal

By ALICE PARMINTER

A judgement at the Court of Appeal has revoked a licence granted to OceanaGold for the construction of mining ventilation shafts in the Wairekurauponga Forest, ruling it unlawful.

Mining company OceanaGold holds a permit for subterranean exploration and mining activities at the Wairekurauponga orebody. The company has plans to access the orebody via an underground access tunnel on company-owned land. However, the company is not able to avoid above-ground structures altogether, as ventilation shafts are needed for safety.

The forest is administered by the Department of Conservation, which would require OceanaGold to negotiate a separate access arrangement with the Minister of Conservation for any above-ground structures. However, there is also a paper (unformed) road through the forest, which is owned by the Hauraki District Council (HDC).

In 2021, HDC granted OceanaGold a 40-year licence to occupy the paper road, allowing it to construct up to four ventilation shafts, with a footprint of up to 150 square metres, and protruding around eight metres above the ground. Environmental interest group Ours Not Mines Ltd opposed the licence, saying HDC did not have the power to grant it. The case was heard at the High Court in 2024 and found in the council's favour.

However, Ours Not Mines Ltd appealed the decision, and the licence was ruled unlawful on April 21. The judgement stated council-owned roads, whether formed or unformed, were held on trust to facilitate the public right to pass over the road. "Accordingly, the council may only grant a licence over a road if the licenced

activities or structures will not 'appreciably' interfere with the public's right of passage. To do otherwise would be to authorise a public nuisance, which is beyond the scope of the council's common law powers as landowner," the judgement summary read.

"The final structures will be approximately 10 metres wide, taking up roughly one third of the road's width... [and] the land within the licensed areas is rendered unavailable for any other use, including public passage, for decades."

The judgement was applauded by the Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki Group. "[This decision] is great news for the public as it means paper roads cannot be used for industrial purposes and remain for the benefit of the public. It also highlights the weaknesses in the Fast Track laws which prevented the public from being heard on the wider mining issue and allowed no cross examination of the evidence about the impacts of mining."

OceanaGold's senior vice president for legal and public affairs Alison Paul said the judgement was "disappointing". "While we are surprised by this decision, it is important to understand that it in no way affects the Fast-track approval of the Waihi North Project which we received in December 2025 or the company's plans."

Meanwhile, HDC chief executive David Speirs said the council accepted the Court's finding. "Wairekurauponga is part of the Coromandel Forest Park and we understand why people value this area. The Court confirmed that councils hold the power to grant licences over roads they own. In this case, the decision came down to the scale and length of this particular licence. We will consider the implications carefully."

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Cup Heroics, Big Wins & Last-Gasp Drama – Thames FC Round-Up

Traveling south to face a strong Te Awamutu side last Monday, Thames Women progressed in the prestigious Kate Sheppard Cup after a thrilling encounter. Thames twice took the lead, first through Emily Ratcliffe and then via a stunning chipped finish from Isabelle Bray. On both occasions, Te Awamutu responded, with Lydia Profit scoring twice, the second a late equalizer that forced extra time. At the end of 120 minutes, there was nothing to separate the two sides, and penalties were needed to find a winner.

An enthralling shootout followed, with Vita Dryden making several key saves in the Thames goal, setting up Jess Randall to send Thames through with a cool finish from her trusty left foot. "It was a very tough game with plenty of back and forth, but we played out of our skin," coach Xavier Brown said.

"Penalties are a tough way to end such a hard-fought match, but I'm very proud of the ladies for digging in right until the final kick. Kudos to the players who stepped up in a high-pressure situation. Now it's on to the next round."

Thames Reserves made it three wins on the bounce with an emphatic away victory over Huntly AFC Thirds. A tight first half saw the score locked at 3-3, but Jack Macdonald's side lifted the intensity after the break, scoring six unanswered goals to seal a 9-3 win in Waikato Division 4. Jake Hudson and Darius King led the way with a hat-trick each, while Jack McLaren impressed with a brace. Criswin Jose capped the performance with a sensational solo goal. "It makes me incredibly proud to see how far these guys have come, especially considering the team didn't exist six weeks ago," said manager Jack Macdonald. "The camaraderie among the boys is



Keegan Apperley plays the ball forward.

Photos: Mark Brown- One of a Kind Photography

something even a team 10 years in the making would be envious of. It's onwards and upwards with a run of home games coming up." Third draw in a row for Thames Firsts Thames Firsts left it late but maintained their unbeaten run with a dramatic 94th-minute equalizer.

Northern United Debacles took the lead early as Bradley Mardon finished from a cross from the left. Thames dominated possession but were limited to shots from distance, while Matthew Burchell produced a string of fine saves - the best a low one-handed stop to his left. Chances

came and went in the second half, with Fernando Bassem close and Xavier Brown unable to convert a Mike Kim cross. Deep into stoppage time, Yusuke Kiozumi picked out Raegen Winslow, who jinked into the box and bent a shot into the far corner to rescue a point.

"We just kept piling on the pressure, and in the end it paid off," said defender Keegan Apperley. "It's a well-deserved point with good passing play and plenty to build on, and now it's onto the next one - hopefully we can start turning these draws into wins."

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Health & Wellbeing

Weight loss advice at Health Ngatea

Whether you are male or female, at different times in our lives, most of us have tried the latest trend in diets. Remember the Bread Diet, Blood Group Diet, Atkins, Keto, Jenny Craig, Weight Watchers, you get the picture. Come along and join us on June 8 at 6pm at Health Ngatea or June 10 at Health Te Aroha, where Dr Hayley Scott will present an educational evening "Lose the Weight, Gain A Lifestyle".

Perhaps you are interested in knowing what your current options are? Gain an understanding of how the medicine works in order to assist you in making an informed decision, in conjunction with a clinical consultation.

Most commonly prescribed medication for weight loss may include Saxenda, Contrave and Wegovy. There are also pathways that include Gastric Sleeves/Bariatric surgery. The quest to maintain weight loss after achieving it becomes the challenge. Let's discuss options to create



a lifestyle that assists you in maintaining your goals without medication. Entry is by donation only which will be gifted to both Volunteer Fire Brigades in Ngatea and Te Aroha. Catering supplied by Subway at Health Ngatea and Villa 9 in Te Aroha. Kindly sponsored by Novo Nordisk.

Meanwhile, the beginnings of winter is well and truly upon us and we have already held three Flu/Covid Booster Clinics. If you are wanting to have this done, please contact the practice to make your appointment.

-Supplied by Health Ngatea



Previous owners Peter and Heather, left, with new owners Solinna Toul and Ricky Ping Eu Lee.

Best care, service at The Eye Place

It's been a little more than one year since owners and optometrists Ricky Ping Eu Lee and Solinna Toul have been at the helm of The Eye Place.

The eye-care professionals took over the reins of the business, previously known as O'Hagan Vision Care, when Peter and Heather O'Hagan retired from their roles as owners and optometrists in 2025 after many years of dedicated service to Paeroa and the surrounding community.

Since their fresh start a year ago and under the new name - The Eye Place, new owner Ricky told *The Profile* it felt like "such a privilege" to see how welcomed they were by the community. "We have seen patients from all parts of the community, from two-months old to over 100 years old."

The team of optometrists Ricky, Solinna and Martin van der Most cover four practices across the Hauraki-Coromandel in Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waihi and Whangamatā.

Ricky understood the changeover could be a difficult thing to process for some people

as they were clients of Peter and Heather for more than 40 years, he said.

Rest assured, they planned to continue to offer the best care, advice and service to all their clients, as well as maintain the values established by Peter and Heather over the years.

They would also keep up to date with the latest technology developments.

The Eye Place was well-equipped with diagnostic technology to detect eye conditions such as glaucoma and macular degeneration, he said.

Good eye care isn't just about seeing clearly today, it's about taking care of one's vision for the years ahead. The team at The Eye Place is ready to help people feel confident in the way they see the world.

DETAILS: Go to www.eyeplace.nz or visit The Eye Place in your town - 2B Willoughby St, Paeroa, 07 862 8978; 186 Whitaker St, Te Aroha, 07 884 8015; 2 School Lane, Waihi, 07 863 7019; 612 Port Rd, Whangamatā, 07 865 0007.

- By Davidda Hikatangata



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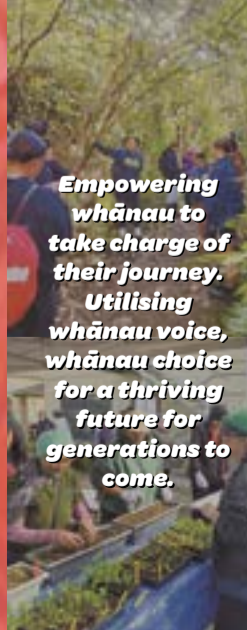
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Conceived in passion - raised in grit

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Dreams are a lot like having kids.

They're exciting at conception—full of hope, fire, and imagination. You can't stop thinking about them. You talk about them to anyone who'll listen. And just like those early moments in pregnancy, your brain's pumping with endorphins. It feels real before it is real.

But let's be honest—concep-

tion is the easy part. It's the birth and raising where things get gritty. I've lived this. For years, I had big dreams. Big talk. Big ideas. I'd tell people about them with spark in my eye and passion in my voice.

And then one day, someone called my bluff - in the best way.

Her name was Lynne, and she said, "Let's do it."

So we did.

We set up a trust. Formed a board. Held endless meetings.

I stopped taking paid work so I could write programmes from scratch. It was boring.

Onerous.

Late-night fatigue and second-guessing.

I was nurturing this newborn dream, and it needed constant care.

Eventually, it started walking. We ran our first programme. (Still unpaid - but with amazing support from my wife.)

And we saw breakthrough - real transformation in young people.

But it took years of grind before that dream could stand on its own two feet.

Now, I've got a team of incredible youth workers deliv-

ering programmes I once ran solo. I hear stories of growth I'm not even directly involved in. It's a dream driving itself.

Well... sort of. I'm still out back hunting for fuel - writing grants, fundraising, hustling for the next tank of gas.

But here's the thing. That dream? It's real. It exists in the world, not just in my head. And that only happened because I pushed past the rush of conception and chose to stay through the labour.

We live in a culture that sells us dreams in highlight reels. Instant results. Overnight suc-

cess. But dreams aren't microwavable. They're grown through rhythm, grind, and relentless love.

If you've got something burning in your heart, let me say this: Don't abort the dream just because the grind kicks in. The struggle doesn't mean it's wrong. It means it's real.

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

Pet Profile

Big boy Vader ready for a fresh start

Meet Vader, a large and lovable lad who is ready for his next chapter after life as a much-loved boy who has found himself needing a new home.

Now tipping the scales at over 8kg of pure, huggable cat, he's a solid sweetheart with plenty of love to give.

Don't let his size or his name fool you - Vader is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, litter trained, and up to date with flea and worm treatments.

He has a gentle, easygoing nature and a quiet charm, taking his time to feel comfortable while learning that new people mean kindness and care.

Once settled, Vader shows his snuggly side and enjoys quiet company, soft spaces, and simply being near his humans.

He would suit a calm home where he can relax,

stretch out, and be given the time he needs to shine.

Beneath his big frame is a soft-hearted cat who is just a little quiet and looking for security, comfort, and companionship once again.

Vader can be adopted from Thames SPCA. Please visit during our open hours at 321 Ngati Maru Highway, Thames, or express interest online, or call 07 868 6830.

For more information, view Vader's profile online: www.spcanewzealand.org/adopt/animal/664693/cat-vader-thames.

Don't let his size or his name fool you - Vader has a gentle, easygoing nature and a quiet charm. Photo: SUPPLIED



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Photo: SUPPLIED



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Colourful debut for Thames artist

By ALICE PARMINTER

Bursts of colour brightened up the walls of the Vessel Art Gallery in Thames for a local's artistic debut.

Thames Lifestyler Jack Moskowitz opened his two-week-long show, titled *Jack's Exhibition*, on April 18 to a large supportive crowd of friends and family.

It was the first solo exhibition for Jack, and the culmination of around 15 months of hard work.

"I've been working on these paintings for a little while," he said.

"There's so much stuff I'm actually learning now [about] how to set this gallery up, working in this gallery."

Jack's Exhibition featured 32 artworks of portraits, landscapes, and cars. Several of the portraits were of Jack's own family or people he knows; others were of celebrities he admires such as rapper 50 Cent.

The works were rendered in



Jack Moskowitz with his first solo art show, titled *Jack's Exhibition*.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

a number of different mediums, including pastels, water-colour, ink, and dye. But the defining theme throughout the exhibition was colour.

"My dad used to like colours as well," said Jack, who said he gets a lot of his inspiration from his family.

"My dad was an artist and

my grandpa from America was an artist - he used to do water-colour mostly.

"I have been doing art since I was five years old. Now I am

36, still doing art, and I will be doing art for my whole life."

Jack received tutoring and support from a number of artists in preparation for his exhibition, including Sue Clark, Laurie Spera, Amanda Ewing, Deb Brock, Nigel Sparrow, Samantha Claire, Simon Clark, Iona Matheson, and Leigh Ann Lomas from the Artsider workshop at the Supported Lifestyle Hauraki Trust.

The exhibition was a huge achievement for Jack, who said he felt really happy to see his art up on the gallery walls. It was also well-received by the public, with many of his pieces selling quickly.

Jack also included a number of screen-printed t-shirts in the exhibition. He has plans to print and sell more of his t-shirt designs through his Instagram page, and also hopes to stage another exhibition in the future, this time at a friend's art gallery in Auckland.

DETAILS: Find Jack on Instagram by searching @jackFM2.

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We need your help

Volunteers for operations
At an operational level, we are looking for more volunteers to help with the work we do to keep the doors open at *The Treasury* in Thames..

Located in Thames, *The Treasury* is a completely volunteer-run organisation. From our governance group of eight to our current 20 operational volunteers, *The Treasury* is a vital part of the region's heritage network. Volunteers are crucial; helping with collecting, preserving, cataloguing, indexing, and digitising historical records (photos, maps, documents). Tasks for volunteers also include helping create oral history projects, archival work to safeguard community stories, and regular public historical presentations along with visitor reception and grounds & property maintenance.

People with an interest in regional history, heritage, and storytelling. Individuals interested in learning new skills in archiving and research. People who can meet and greet visitors to *The Treasury*, help them navigate our library, guide them in researching the archives, talk to them about some of the region's history or help them choose books to buy from our catalogue. And, most of all, those who enjoy working as volunteers with like-minded people in a community setting.

Board Secretary volunteer
At a governance level, we are looking for someone to be the Secretary to The Coromandel Heritage Trust, the Board that governs *The Treasury*.

After many years of service, our Board Secretary has stepped aside. We are keenly missing his service and are looking for another person to step into the role of fulfilling this valuable service to the trust.


Who are we looking for:

Operations: People with an interest in regional history, heritage, and storytelling. Individuals interested in learning new skills in archiving and research. People who can meet and greet visitors to *The Treasury*, help them navigate our library, guide them in researching the archives, talk to them about some of the region's history or help them choose books to buy from our catalogue.

Governance: Someone who has good secretarial skills and can; help the chair prepare and distribute meeting agenda and related papers, attend Trust Board meetings (in person or online), transcribe and distribute meeting records and, help ensure the Trust meets its statutory obligations.


The vital work our volunteers do ensures that historical records are kept secure while making them accessible for family and local history research. Volunteers are the backbone of *The Treasury*, helping to maintain and share the rich history of our communities.

If you would like to discuss your contribution as an operational volunteer at *The Treasury*, contact Geraldine Dunwoodie, Patron & Volunteer Supervisor, *The Treasury*, geraldine@thetresury.org.nz or phone 021 612 946 or to discuss your contribution as board secretary for The Coromandel Heritage Trust, contact John Sandford, chair@thetresury.org.nz or phone 021 926 942



Our history our people

Public Notices



THAMES WORKINGMEN'S CLUB (Inc).

Notice of AGM Saturday 23rd May 2026 10:00am


AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Manager's Report
- Presentation of Statement of Accounts
- Subscriptions
- Confirmation of Returning Officers
- Election of Board of Appeal
- Election of Auditor
- Election of Committee
- General Business

President B. Harper
CARD CHECK AT DOOR

Last month's winner of the lotto ticket was Lyn Torstonson, who found Pete in the April 21 edition in the Hauraki Taxation advert.

Go to page 2 for details about how to enter.



Public Notices

Thames-Coromandel District Council Meetings – May 2026

Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings, at the time of publishing, will be held during May 2026.

Council Meetings
Annual Plan Proposal Feedback Forum
Thursday 7 May 2026 - 09.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Ordinary Council
Tuesday 26 May 2026 - 09.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Citizenship Ceremony
Tuesday 12 May 2026 – 09.30am, Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, 200 Mary Street, Thames.

Committee Meetings
Planning and Regulatory Committee
Thursday 14 May 2026 - 09.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Risk and Assurance Committee
Thursday 28 May 2026 - 09.00am, Thames Council Chambers, 515 Mackay Street, Thames

Please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/meetings for copies of Agendas and Minutes.

A Lawrie
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Thames-Coromandel District Council



www.tcdc.govt.nz

PAPER RUNNERS REQUIRED

We have 2 vacancies for paper runners in Waihi. Immediate start...

Please contact Geoff: admin@valleyprofile.co.nz for more information.



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SUDOKU

249

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

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HARD

249

HARD

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EASY

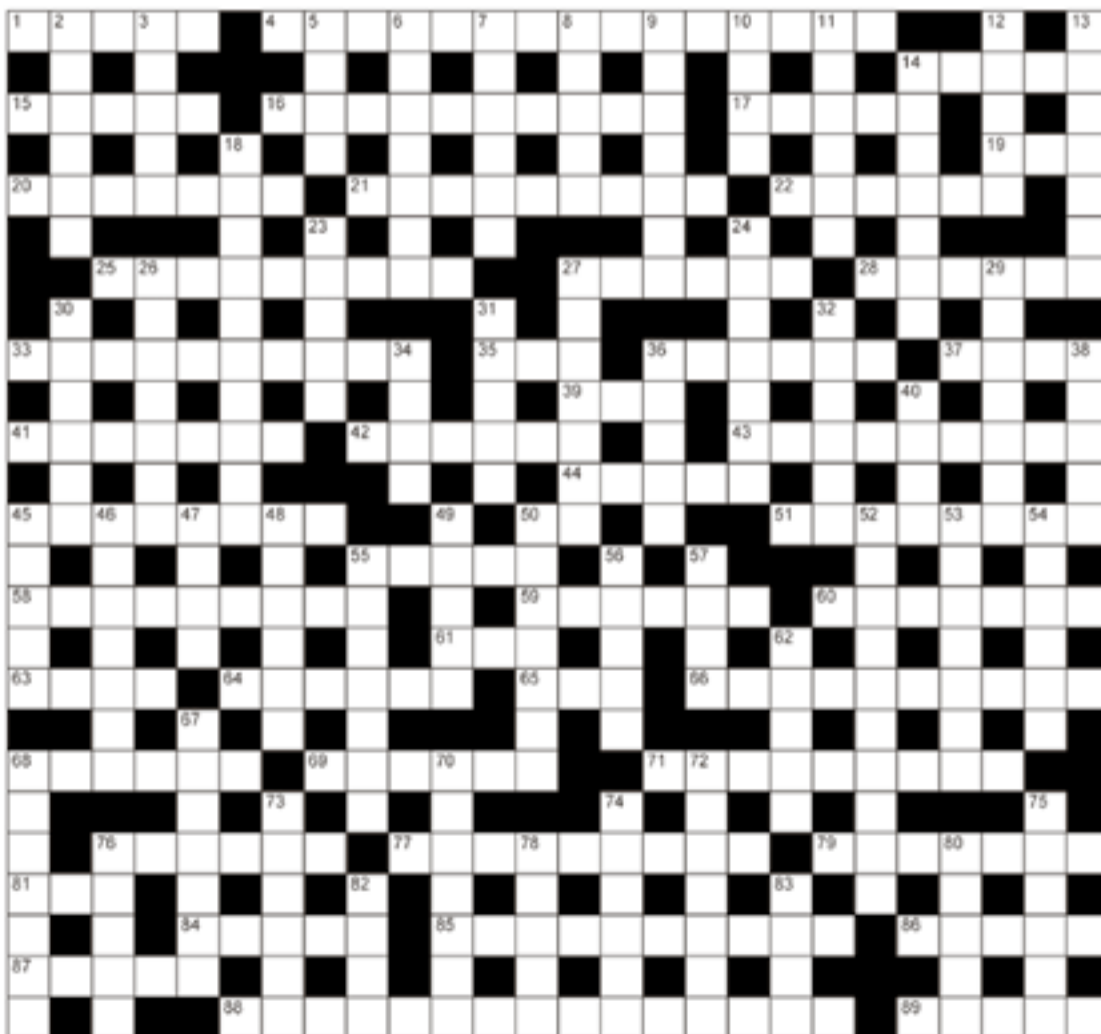
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7	9	8	3	6	1	4	5	2
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Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

JUMBO CROSSWORD

269

- Across**
- 1 Trunk (5)
 - 4 Occasionally (5,3,3,4)
 - 14 Have faith in (5)
 - 15 Icy rain (5)
 - 16 Not known or experienced (10)
 - 17 Anaesthetic liquid (5)
 - 19 Plaything (3)
 - 20 Recipe (7)
 - 21 Defamatory (9)
 - 22 Consternation and distress (6)
 - 25 With plumage (9)
 - 27 Alcoholic drink (6)
 - 28 Airborne (6)
 - 33 Lullaby (10)
 - 35 Digit (3)
 - 36 Gun-loading stick (6)
 - 37 Hair-tidying article (4)
 - 39 Born (3)
 - 41 Baking container (4,3)
 - 42 Climb (6)
 - 43 Non-vowel (9)
 - 44 Thrill (5)
 - 45 Vision (8)
 - 50 Doctor (1,1)
 - 51 Madcap, foolhardy (8)
 - 55 Defence of being elsewhere (5)
 - 58 Light metal (9)
 - 59 Dolt (6)
 - 60 Heighten (7)
 - 61 Mined material (3)
 - 63 Dines (4)
 - 64 Least (6)
 - 65 Groove (3)
 - 66 Uncurl (10)
 - 68 Golfer's helper (6)
 - 69 Lipped (anag)(6)
 - 71 Scatter (9)
 - 76 Snigger (6)
 - 77 Rally driver's assistant (9)
 - 79 Count in (7)
 - 81 Sailor (3)
 - 84 Eagle's nest (5)
 - 85 Arousing revulsion (10)
 - 86 Small pier (5)
 - 87 Pondered (5)
 - 88 React with great anger (2,3,3,4,3)
 - 89 Map (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Empty inside (6)
 - 3 Water vapour (5)
 - 5 Air hole (4)
 - 6 Become conscious or aware of (7)
 - 7 Sounds (6)
 - 8 Revolve quickly (5)
 - 9 Help develop, grow (7)
 - 10 Layer (4)
 - 11 Of race (6)
 - 12 Stale-smelling (5)
 - 13 Not going (7)
 - 14 Crush underfoot (7)
 - 18 Sparkling (10)
 - 23 Underneath (5)
 - 24 Pull a face (7)
 - 26 Eternal (7)
 - 27 Perfumed (7)
 - 29 Set apart (7)
 - 30 Covenant (6)
 - 31 Say (5)
 - 32 Rebound (6)
 - 34 Wind blast (4)
 - 36 Majestic (5)
 - 38 Public swimming pool (5)
 - 40 Barb (4)
 - 45 Rub out (5)
 - 46 Burst open (7)
 - 47 Flower (4)
 - 48 Young cow (6)
 - 49 Fulcrum (5)
 - 50 Manlier (anag)(7)
 - 52 Persuasive, credible (10)
 - 53 Hates (7)
 - 54 Holy (6)
 - 55 Memory loss (7)
 - 56 Condition (5)
 - 57 Intimate contact (4)
 - 62 Ordeal (5)
 - 67 Polluted (7)
 - 68 Actor's garb (7)
 - 70 Round of applause (7)
 - 72 Building apex (7)
 - 73 Oddball (6)
 - 74 European river (6)
 - 75 Newspaper boss (6)
 - 76 Tie up (5)
 - 78 Send out (5)
 - 80 Bloodsucking worm (5)
 - 82 Coral bank (4)
 - 83 Shortly (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Harms, 4 Rake in the money, 11 Clamp, 14 Image, 15 Insecticide, 16 Scimitar, 19 Butcher, 20 Fuses, 21 Sculpture, 24 Separated, 26 Finish, 27 Choose, 31 Venom, 32 Tasmania, 34 Disconnect, 38 Minimum, 39 Adjust, 40 Chimed, 41 Shop, 42 Printer, 45 Implicated, 50 Entered, 54 None, 55 Hidden, 56 Lashes, 57 Relieve, 60 Adroitness, 61 Gangster, 62 Feted, 65 Canopy, 66 Corral, 67 Obstinate, 72 Displease, 73 Scone, 74 Learner, 79 Location, 80 Hairdresser, 81 Ducat, 82 Synod, 83 Babes in the wood, 84 Leads.

DOWN: 2 Armour, 3 Magic, 5 Aunt, 6 Execute, 7 Nutmeg, 8 Hock, 9 Medicine, 10 Yachts, 11 Comprehend, 12 Alto, 13 Perfume, 17 Delay, 18 Classified, 22 Canal, 23 Together, 25 Emotion, 26 Frantic, 28 Senior, 29 Annual, 30 Scheme, 33 Madam, 35 Taped, 36 Sure, 37 Scot, 42 Panda, 43 Ignorant, 44 Reigns, 45 Indisposed, 46 Pony, 47 Illegal, 48 Absent, 49 Evens, 51 Need, 52 Eminent, 53 Envied, 58 Pinpointed, 59 Petty, 63 Trespass, 64 Onset, 65 Candles, 68 Bandsaw, 69 Aplomb, 70 Scorch, 71 Repaid, 75 Rouse, 76 Scan, 77 Iron, 78 Veto.

BAYLEYS



Boundary lines are indicative only




Waitakaruru 33 and 92 Back Miranda Road

Two titles, land, location, and layered potential

Rarely available, this 41.79 hectare (more or less) holding brings together scale, contour, and a well-placed setting for a versatile rural holding. Offered across two titles near the Firth of Thames, it suits a range of uses. Currently supporting dairy grazing, it also lends itself to lifestyle living, with a defined building platform near the front. Cattle yards with a loading race ensure practical stock handling, complemented by a high-stud implement shed. The dual titles provide purchasing flexibility. Located within a connected rural district, it is around 13km from Ngatea, 15km from Thames, with schooling nearby and coastal amenities within easy reach.

bayleys.co.nz/2630230

41.7958_{ha} 

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 2pm, Wed 13 May 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

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



Boundary lines are indicative only



Waitakaruru Back Miranda Road

Room to create your country home

Set across 4.2370 hectares (more or less) in Waitakaruru, this lifestyle block offers a clear canvas with a building platform ready for your plans. The contour suits a range of builds, from a generous country home to a compact design, with space for gardens, sheds, or a pool. With no covenants, you can shape the layout to suit. The nearby Firth of Thames coastline adds appeal, with leisure options including golf and coastal escapes. Schooling includes Hauraki Plains College and local primary schools. A flexible landholding with scope to build and develop over time.

bayleys.co.nz/2630229

4.237_{ha} 

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)
2pm, Wed 13 May 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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



Ngatea 2 Benner Drive

Four bedroom home, double garage + big workshop

Positioned within a well-regarded township, this home offers convenient access to Thames, Auckland and Hamilton, while the wider Hauraki region provides a variety of ways to enjoy your downtime. From exploring the Karangahake Gorge, cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail and launching the boat at Kaiaua. The home itself presents a generous layout, featuring four bedrooms, two bathrooms, complemented by a light-filled open plan living and dining area. This central space extends effortlessly to a private deck, creating an inviting setting for entertaining. The kitchen offers ample bench space and storage. An internal double garage plus a large external workshop provides flexibility.

bayleys.co.nz/2630204

1,175 sqm 4 1 2

Asking Price \$850,000
View by appointment
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
 connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
 seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

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



Boundary lines are indicative only



Boundary lines are indicative only

Thames 59C Totara Valley Road

Clear instructions – must be sold

This is a genuine opportunity to secure a well-positioned section on Totara Valley Road, just a short drive from Thames. The property has returned to the market, and the vendors are highly motivated – it must be sold. Set on an elevated site of approximately 1,257sqm (more or less), the section enjoys a peaceful rural outlook with space and privacy that's increasingly hard to find so close to town. The land's contour is ideal for maximising the surrounding views, offering a great foundation for your plans. Whether you're building a permanent home or creating a weekend retreat, there's flexibility here to bring your vision to life.

bayleys.co.nz/2180960

1,257 sqm

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 21 May 2026
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 10-10.30am Sun 10 May
Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz
Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389
 maddy.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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

BAYLEYS




Whitianga 55 and 92 Racecourse Road

Urban-edge Whitianga development opportunity

- Positioned to benefit from Whitianga's population growth and tourism
- 141.8564 ha (more or less) of flat, usable land
- Ideal for visionary investors seeking a prime development opportunity

A rare large scale landholding on the edge of Whitianga offers a compelling opportunity for experienced developers or well capitalised investors. Positioned alongside the town's urban boundary, this flat greenfield site suits a comprehensive master planned community incorporating residential, commercial, tourism and community amenities, subject to council approval and long term growth potential overall.

bayleys.co.nz/2202229

141.8564 ha 

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 4pm, Tue 26 May 2026
7 The Esplanade, Whitianga

View by appointment
Josh Smith 027 229 8865
josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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



Thames 520 Pollen Street



High profile retail location with holding yield

Positioned in the very heart of Thames' established retail precinct, this high-profile main street property presents a rare opportunity to secure a tightly held asset with both immediate income and compelling future upside. Held by the same ownership for over 40 years, the property has long been home to the iconic Snowden's Menswear store — a testament to the strength and consistency of this location.

Now offered to the market for the first time in decades, the property provides flexibility to suit a range of buyers, with options for continued income or a fresh start.

bayleys.co.nz/2180958



471 sqm  300 sqm 

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 4pm, Thu 21 May 2026
459 Pollen Street, Thames

View by appointment
Geoff Graham 021 733 430
geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz

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






Kopu 52 Kopu Road

Vacant “entry level” industrial opportunity.

Unlock this opportunity to secure a strategically located industrial property at an affordable price. Situated next to the newly established Kopu Marine Servicing and Business precinct, this small-scale, high-potential asset is ideal for land bankers, entrepreneurial investors, or owner-occupiers. The property features two independent, free-standing industrial sheds with a combined floor area of 260sqm (more or less) on a 556sqm (more or less) industrial-zoned site. Offering absolute flexibility, you can occupy one shed for your own business while generating rental income from the other. Both buildings are structurally sound, with positive earthquake ratings of 60% NBS and 80% NBS.

bayleys.co.nz/2180959

556_{sqm}  260_{sqm} 

Tender (unless sold prior)

Closing 4pm, Fri 22 May 2026

459 Pollen Street, Thames

View by appointment

Geoff Graham 021 733 430

geoff.graham@bayleys.co.nz

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Boundary lines are indicative only





Kopu 9 Ngati Maru Highway

- 3,568 sqm (more or less) high-profile site
- Returning \$136,742pa + GST & outgoings
- National tenant, Farm Source

A high-profile industrial investment positioned on busy Ngati Maru Highway in Kopu, just south of Thames. This well-maintained 940.4 sqm (approximately) facility comprises a retail showroom, warehouse, offices, and a secure yard, and is fully leased to Farm Source - the retail arm of Fonterra, New Zealand's largest company and a global dairy leader. Supported by a strong rural catchment and located alongside established national and local operators, the property offers a reliable income stream and long-term appeal in one of the country's key dairy regions.

bayleys.co.nz/2180954

3,568_{sqm}  940_{sqm} 

Auction (unless sold prior) 2pm, Thu 21 May 2026

1030 Victoria Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Josh Smith 027 229 8865

josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz

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SPORTS

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

Davis goes the full 418 for Hauraki North

RUGBY

By KELLEY TANTAU

After 418 senior games and more than four decades tied to the club, Karl Davis figured the milestone of receiving his long-awaited Hauraki North blazer deserved more than just a moment - it deserved a full week.

The blazer recognised Karl's 418 senior A games for Hauraki North, but his overall contribution to the club stretches well beyond that - with more than 100 additional appearances across under-21 and second division rugby, bringing his total games for the club to well over 500.

Karl, who was recently named Bayleys New Zealand's number one country real estate agent, said he made the most of the occasion by wearing his new blazer for a full week.

"I wore it every day to real estate and slept in it the first night," he said.

"I've probably spent close to five decades earning it, so I thought it was only appropriate to wear it for a week."

Karl's journey with the club began in 1988, when an injury meant he was called in to play a third-round match in Coromandel. He then progressed through under-21s into senior rugby in the early 1990s, eventually playing his final senior match last year.



Karl Davis, centre, celebrates the 2024 Meads Cup champion win with Thames Valley.

Photos: SUPPLIED

His longevity has seen him evolve across nearly every position on the field. Starting as a winger, then moving through centre and fullback, he eventually found his place in the forwards.

"In the forwards... you just got 100 chances to make a difference," he said. "And I quite liked the crash bash."

The milestone blazer itself came with a twist. After a four-

year hiatus due to a back injury, Karl returned for one final game - making him eligible under club rules.

"Because I played a game last year, they decided that could be my 100 game blazer, which was a 400 game blazer, I suppose," he said.

And the presentation of the blazer was made even more special by the man who handed it to him - his dad, Mike Davis,

himself a passionate rugby figure who once played against the British and Irish Lions in 1971.

"He would always have stories - I've probably heard some 100 times - but he played against some players who were folk heroes in New Zealand, like BG Williams, Pine Tree Meads and Gareth Edwards; legends of the game," Karl said. "So I probably grew up hear-



Karl Davis in his Hauraki North blazer with Colin Parker.

ing about it and becoming infatuated with the stories and wanting to then go on and make my father proud, he was inspiring and very passionate about sport."

For Karl, however, rugby has always meant more than milestones. Reflecting on its place in rural New Zealand, he said it felt far more central to community life in the 1980s.

"Rugby seemed to mean a bit more back in the 80s," he said. "It was your nightclub, it was your fitness, it was your camaraderie, it was your mental health."

For him, it was those long-running connections at Hauraki North - including playing alongside both fathers and their sons, and even grandsons - that kept him in the game year after year.



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