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Unravelled for a good cause

It's the end of an era for Ngatea - the town's iconic crochet Christmas tree has been decommissioned. ALICE PARMINTER finds out more

Ngatea's Crochet Christmas tree, made from thousands of crocheted squares, has been the highlight of the town's Christmas decor since it was first erected in 2019.

The idea for the tree came from the late Ngatea Lions Club member Kathy Karl, who had seen similar structures overseas.

Ngatea's version featured over 2000 squares, crocheted by volunteers across the town and sewn together by the Lionesses.

"We just put something out to the whole town and you wouldn't believe the number of ladies who said 'I'll do it'," Lions member Rae Dudding told *The Profile*.

"We supplied them with [yarn] and they set to work and did thousands of squares - it was just great."

The tree initially stood around six metres tall and was supported by a metal frame, constructed by Quinn Engineering from old playground equipment.

A second iteration of the tree debuted in 2022 and was even taller, towering between seven and eight metres into the sky. In later years, it was also lit from within by a light supplied by Hauraki District Council.

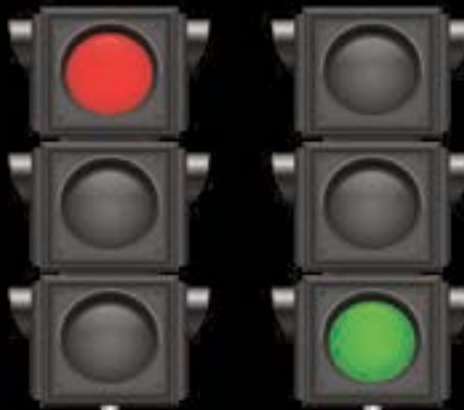
"It almost looked like stained glass when it was dark

CONTINUED ON P2



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CONTINUED FROM P1

and the light came through - it looked fabulous.

Now, however, the tree has been retired. Rae said the display was just getting too difficult to manage each year. "It became a really big job... we had to put half of [the squares] on the top while it was still lying down, and attach them all to wire netting and the frame," Rae said.

"The last time it took us a really long time, we were all exhausted. It does involve some climbing ladders and things, and we just decided we couldn't do that anymore. "It's just become too hard for old ladies."

All the lovingly hand-crafted pieces won't be going to waste, however. Most of the squares have been pieced into blankets for charity, and other yarn from the tree has also been made into jumpers and beanies.

"All those people that crocheted for us will be really pleased to know that we haven't just thrown them out - they've gone to a good cause," Rae said.

"Some of them have gone to Ukraine, the blankets, and some to Hamilton to a place called Winter Warmers."

There could even be plans afoot for the tree's frame, Rae said.

"We decided we'd let somebody else have a go at doing a tree for Ngatea... some of the younger men in the Lions have decided they might do something else with the frame," she said.

And although the crochet tree has now been felled, Rae said she and the Lionesses were proud of their efforts over the past seven years.



The process of putting up the tree took hours. INSET: The tree in all its glory.

Photos: SUPPLIED



Some of the tree was made into blankets, and jumpers and beanies were made with the yarn.



"The kids loved it because it had all the crocheted animals and toys and all sorts of things on it... Lots of cars stopped there all the time and wan-

dered around and took photos of their kids in front of it," Rae said.

"It's worked really well, and we're very proud of the fact that we did it."

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Thames Tides															
Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun		Mon		Tue			
Jul 1		Jul 2		Jul 3		Jul 4		Jul 5		Jul 6		Jul 7			
Morning 1:45am 0.9 8:00am 3.0		Afternoon 2:04pm 0.7 8:27pm 3.3		Morning 2:26am 0.8 8:41am 3.1		Afternoon 2:41pm 0.7 9:05pm 3.3		Morning 3:07am 0.8 9:21am 3.1		Afternoon 3:19pm 0.7 9:44pm 3.3		Morning 3:48am 0.8 9:59am 3.1		Afternoon 3:56pm 0.7 10:23pm 3.3	
7:32am		5:11pm		7:32am		5:12pm		7:32am		5:13pm		7:32am		5:14pm	
Best At 12:48am 1:13pm		Best At 1:38am 2:01pm		Best At 2:25am 2:47pm		Best At 3:10am 3:31pm		Best At 3:53am 4:14pm		Best At 4:36am 4:57pm		Best At 5:19am 5:41pm			
Set 8:29am Rise 6:03pm		Set 9:05am Rise 7:05pm		Set 9:36am Rise 8:07pm		Set 10:03am Rise 9:09pm		Set 10:28am Rise 10:10pm		Set 10:52am Rise 11:13pm		Set 11:16am			

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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	HIGH	Min	LOW	Min
Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04	
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05	
Tairua	+0	10	+0	20	
Whangamata	-0	03	-0	06	
Waihi Beach	-0	21	-0	16	

Volunteers recognised for rescue

What began as a casual early summer walk in Coromandel Forest Park turned into a full 24-hour rescue operation for an 80-year-old man in December, 2025.

But thanks to the co-ordinated efforts of Thames and Waihi Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR) groups, the operation had a successful outcome, earning the teams national recognition at last week's New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

Dressed only in shorts and a T-shirt, Richard Simpson set out for a trip to the Waiomu Kauri Grove on December 28, 2025. With favourable weather, he chose to continue further along the track, extending his walk beyond his original plan. When rain set in, and aware he was now a considerable distance from home, he decided to head to Crosbies Hut for shelter. However, just 100 metres from the hut, he fell and was unable to get back to his feet.

At around 10pm, he contacted his son to seek help. Fortunately, a woman and her two children who were staying at Crosbies Hut that night were able to be contacted by Police and asked to assist while rescue teams were en route. The family located the injured Richard and helped him cover the short but difficult distance to the hut - a process that took around two hours in worsening conditions.

The family provided first aid and kept him comfortable until further help arrived.

With helicopters unable to access the site, Thames LandSAR personnel travelled in on foot and helped stabilise Richard overnight at the hut.

An additional LandSAR group from Waihi was deployed with a mule stretcher in preparation for a stretcher carry the following morning, should weather conditions prevent a safe helicopter extraction.

The Thames group set off the next morning, carrying the injured man by stretcher. The terrain was steep and slippery, making progress slow and physically demanding. The second LandSAR group from Waihi joined the operation, along with Police Search and Rescue.



James Meager presents the award to Thames LandSAR's Justine Baverstock and Waihi's Darren Butler.

Despite the use of the mule wheel, the stretcher carry remained challenging due to the steep and slippery terrain, requiring careful, slow progress to ensure the safety of all involved.

It took more than 12 hours for the rescue team to bring Richard three-quarters of the way down the track to a location where a weather window opened, allowing the helicopter to successfully uplift the patient.

He was then transported to hospital and treated for hypothermia.

The groups' training, endurance, resilience, practical skills, and teamwork were critical in saving Richard's life and were recognised last week at the New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Awards.

Thames LandSAR, with support from Waihi LandSAR, were awarded with a Certificate of Achievement - Operational Activity at the annual event at Parliament on June 23.

Richard earlier told *The Profile* he was "highly impressed" by the rescue teams who came to his aid.

"It was really quite a cool thing," he said. "[The team] was like an orchestra - left, right, you could hear somebody in the front guiding. They were so well equipped, I just couldn't believe it."

Associate Transport Minister James Meager said the awards told a story of the "extraordinary lengths and efforts people have gone to, to help those in their time of need".

"Our country has one of the largest and most challenging global search and rescue regions."

"[NZSAR] covers more than 30 million square kilometres, which is one-twelfth of the Earth's surface. This makes the sector's work even more dangerous and treacherous."

Missing man's remains found after two years

The remains of missing Waihi man Samuel McAlister have been found, more than two years after his disappearance.

The 25-year-old went missing while kayak fishing in the Firth of Thames on September 11, 2023.

His mother, Haidee Ainsley, wrote in a recent social media post that Samuel's skeletal remains had been found by a sailor on Motukaramarama Island (Bush Island), just south of Colville, in January.

On June 16, she received confirmation that the DNA of the remains were a match.

Haidee, who is now raising Samuel's three children, said waiting for DNA confirmation over the past five months had been filled with emotions.

"Relief, heartbreak, gratitude, grief, love and sorrow all collided together," she wrote.

"It was as though every prayer, every sleepless night, every unanswered question and every ounce of heartache finally found its release. Samuel, my beautiful boy, Mama finally found you. All praise to God for answered prayer."

The family are now in the process of making funeral arrangements, and Samuel's death has been referred to the coroner.

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Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Thames students soar to EPro8 semi-finals

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Three groups of Thames High School students engineered a storm at the EPro8 Inter-School event in Hamilton on June 24 and June 25.

The annual science and engineering competition sees around 35,000 students from across New Zealand take part.

But the Thames High students didn't just take part, they dominated their challenges with two junior teams smashing out first and second places and the senior team snapping up fourth place.

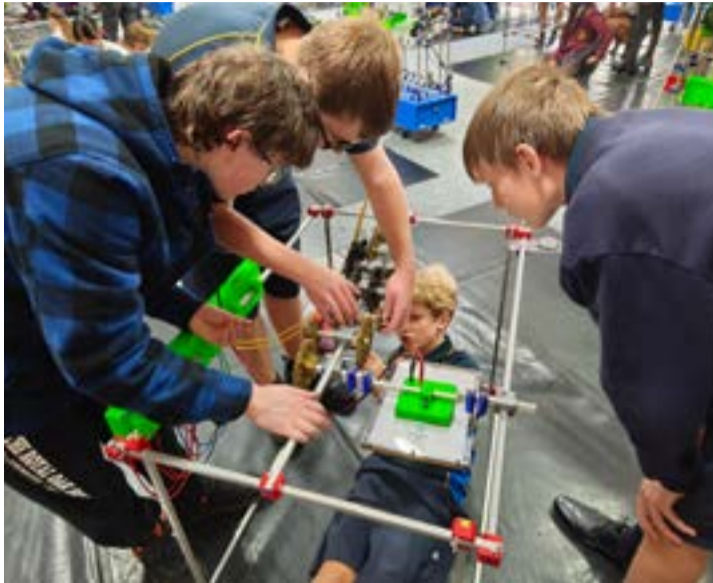
Each team has secured entry into the semi-finals, which will take place on June 30 for senior students and July 1 for juniors.

Year 10 Alex Atrill, whose team took out the top spot, told *The Profile* he was excited to head to the semi-finals and for the chance to progress on to the grand final and "maybe win".

Thames High digital technology teacher Jesse Watson said he was proud of the students and happy to see them go on to the next round after all their practice had come together.

Jesse coached the students for the last term and a half once a week after school leading up to EPro8.

He said the junior challenge involved students setting up a solar panel that followed the sun - or in this instance, a torch, from east to west.



The junior team works away at their EPro8 challenge.

Photos: SUPPLIED

It worked by connecting a motor to gears that turned the panel as the light sensor followed the light, he said.

"They then connected a sequence box so the panel would rotate around to rest in position for the next 'morning'."

It's undeniable the team worked well as a unit and all stepped up to the plate to make things happen.

Alex said he thought the team had a pretty good system.

"We all work together, flip flop around, do a bunch of different things. But a couple of people usually tend to work on electronics

more than others. Some people work on building a frame, and it's basically whoever comes up with a working idea first, just test it out, see if it works. If it does, great. We make sure everything's stable and working and get the judge to come check it out. But if it doesn't, then we can run through the next idea."

Alex said some people had tasks they enjoyed doing more than others.

"I know a couple of people that really enjoy doing electronics but don't particularly like the actual building.

"Anytime there's a math ques-



The second junior team, left, and the senior team work to bring the project together. BELOW: Juniors marvel at their work.



tion, I'm always the first one to volunteer for that. I always try to go for challenges with those ones because they're usually pretty quick."

Jesse said to prepare for the semi-finals, they would chat about what went well at last week's comp, what didn't go well and some of the traps and pitfalls that could happen and also practice.

Alex's advice for students curious to know more about EPro8 or joining the Wednesday practice group was "if you're interested, just give it a shot".

"You might find it's your thing, [or] might find it doesn't really suit you, but there's no harm in giving it a try."

It might interest students who are into machines, have a tech-



nical mind or like to take things apart and put them back together, Jesse said.

"If you like tinkering with things, finding out how machines work and watching them work, then you would probably be interested in this."

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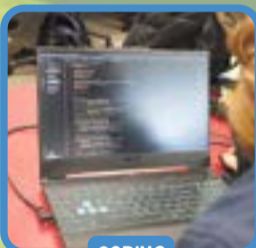
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT

At Thames High School we aim to give taiohi/ young people a wide range of experience with digital technologies so that they can follow their interests and passions in different areas of computer science and digital media. Students take on hands-on projects that give experience in different areas such as programming, photo editing and animation, website design, 3D modelling & video editing. Learners are encouraged to be creators of new technologies as well as proficient users.

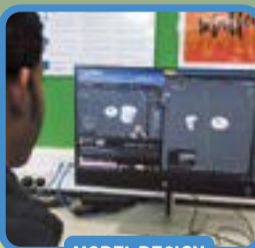
Digital Technology at Thames High School empowers students to take the reins of modern innovation.

Digital Technologies is introduced to our Year 7 & 8 juniors before branching out into a specialised, single subject at NCEA Levels 1, 2, and 3, where students develop vital skills in program design, creation, and testing.

Taiohi / Young people are encouraged to challenge themselves through hands-on, real-world engineering and problem-solving in the prestigious EPro8 Challenge, pushing the boundaries of their creativity. This innovative spirit is further brought to life with the addition of our 3D printer, giving students the cutting-edge tools they need to turn their digital designs into tangible reality.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

London dreaming for Ngatea musician

By ALICE PARMINTER

Former Ngatea musician Taylor Griffin has taken his sound to the streets of London, with the release of his new single *Here and Now*.

Featuring fellow Kiwi Sam Allen, the single captures the transition in Taylor's life as his family shifted to East Grinstead, south of London, nearly seven months ago.

"[It's] about new beginnings, seizing the moment and trusting your instincts," Taylor said.

"The allegory underpinning the piece is simple: to get to where you want to be, you have to breathe in a little deeper, walk over the threshold and start living your dreams."

Here and Now is from Taylor's upcoming five-track EP *The Dream Dancer*, which is set for release in August.

The EP is a deeply personal journey through life and sound, he said.

"I began recording this EP in London in 2023 during a brief excursion from a family holiday in Italy. The five songs were written and recorded in collaboration across Ngatea, Auckland, London and Treviso (Italy) with many phenomenal



Ngatea alumni Taylor Griffin, left, has taken his music worldwide with the debut of his new single, *Here and Now*.

Photo: SUPPLIED

musicians," he said.

"I worked closely with producer and saxophonist Nathan Haines, who also co-produced my first EP, *In Green*, with me. He's a superb and highly accomplished musician in his own right, and a true inspiration."

Also featured on the album

is a spoken-word piece from renowned American jazz and soul vocalist Marlana Shaw, woven throughout the title track *Intrinsically* and grounding the record's modern energy with a timeless, classic voice.

Taylor has been making the most of his time overseas so far - his London show is set to

debut on July 7 at Next Door Records in Stoke Newton, followed by a signing session at Black Gold Records in Amsterdam.

"Now that we have settled in, we are really loving it and enjoying all the opportunities that come with living near a major international city.

"London [has] a thriving music scene and connections all over Europe, both of which I intend to make the most of.

"Shout out to all the lovely people on the Hauraki Plains, especially my friends in Ngatea and Hauraki Plains College. [I'm] missing the characters, banter... and the pies."



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July Featured Artist

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Toy Story 5 (102 mins) G. Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang's jobs are challenged when they meet Lilypad, a brand-new tablet device that arrives with her own disruptive ideas.

Moana (Live Action) (115 mins) PG. Moana answers the Ocean's call and voyages beyond the reef of her island with the infamous demigod Maui on an unforgettable journey to restore prosperity to her people.

The Magic Faraway Tree (110 mins) G. Enid Blyton story of a modern family who find themselves forced to relocate to the remote English countryside with a magical tree and extraordinary and eccentric residents.

Michael (encore screenings) (130 mins) M. Biopic of Michael Jackson's early life beyond the music.

The Doors: The Final Cut (138 mins) R16. Psychedelic and powerful musical portrait of Jim Morrison.

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

The Sheep Detectives (109 mins) PG. About a shepherd (Hugh Jackman) who reads detective novels to his sheep, assuming they can't understand. A mysterious incident occurs, and the sheep become detectives.

Amazing Grace (88 mins) G. Music documentary capturing Queen of Soul ARETHA FRANKLIN.

The Way (15th anniversary) (121 mins) PG. An unlikely quartet of misfits from around the world on a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in France and Spain. In English.

New from 9 July: The Invite. Comedy. A middle-aged couple feeling stagnant in their relationship invite the younger, livelier couple from the apartment upstairs for a get-together that takes an unexpected turn. R16.

Primavera: In 18th century Venice, young orphan violin virtuoso Cecilia meets Antonio Vivaldi, a brilliant and ambitious composer who becomes the new violin teacher. (In Italian with English subtitles).



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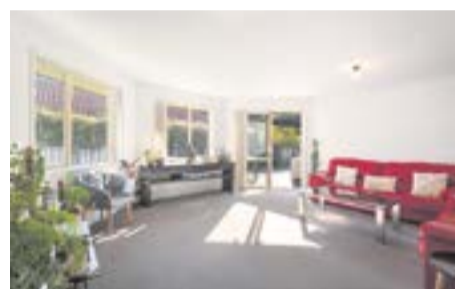
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Memorial chapel rises in the Hills

By ALICE PARMINTER

Progress is continuing at the Paeroa Hills development site, with the chapel and roundabout both scheduled for completion by Christmas.

Wayne Wright Jr told *The Profile* he remained committed to the development of the former racecourse, which was started by his late parents, Wayne Sr and Chloe, in 2023.

The site will eventually feature 300 house sites, an inclusive-living complex, a chapel, shops, a park and cycle trail, and other community amenities.

The chapel, a tribute to Wayne Jr's mother, will be the first finished building in the space once construction is completed in mid-December.

"We're putting the roof on at the moment... the building is all weathertight now," he said.

"It looks spectacular when you're inside it... it's very well laid out and it really reflects my mother's eye for design.

"We're currently just drawing up the front door entrance-way to the chapel, and I think we'll probably put a big arched *Chloe Wright Memorial Chapel* over those front doors so that we permanently enshrine her participation in that and her memory."

Elsewhere, Wayne's plans for the development have pivoted



Work continues on the chapel and roundabout at the Paeroa Hills development.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

slightly from the initial plans his father had laid out.

"We've decided not to build an apartment complex there, because I'm not satisfied that there's a call for one," he said.

"But we have doubled down on building the new Tote Res-

taurant and finishing out our pavilion that's right next to the chapel, to make it even more friendly for guests."

The restaurant, named in reference to the property's origins as a racecourse, will be located where the grandstand currently

sits, Wayne said.

"My father had intended to put the restaurant further back on the property line, but I've pulled away from that idea," he said.

"In my opinion, [the grandstand] doesn't really look the

part and I'm not sure how it could be best utilised. But I'm inclined to put the new restaurant basically in its place so we can get a better use of the site."

Wayne Family Investments Ltd intended to retain full ownership of the chapel, restaurant and pavilion, as well as the future shopping village, Wayne said.

"Our ultimate vision there is for the Wright family to retain ownership... so that we ensure that it has the highest level of quality, fit and finish for many years to come,

"I'm pivoting the Wright family's investments from just doing straight development works to having an eye to retaining key pieces of infrastructure in perpetuity as an investment portfolio for us, but also to ensure that long-term quality of service and product," he said.

Meanwhile, roadworks continue at the entrance of Paeroa Hills, where a roundabout will intersect with State Highway 26 to allow access to the development.

The roadworks began on June 8, and are expected to continue for approximately 15 weeks.

Access to the north end of Norwood Rd is currently blocked, with a detour available via Claremont Ave.

Seagull Centre celebrates 20 years

ADVERTORIAL

It was the year 2006 when The Seagull Centre in Thames first swung open its doors to the community.

Now, two decades later, and with a focus still centred on reducing waste, promoting reuse and driving the circular economy, the social enterprise is set to celebrate its 20-year milestone on July 5.

In true Seagull Centre fashion, the invitation to share in the momentous occasion is open to the whole community to head down to the 102 Burke Street location for a day of festivities.

Sustainability Co-ordinator Lucci Scott told *The Profile* the celebration would kick off at 9.30am with some celebratory cake, a free sausage sizzle and some of the current and past trustees and ex-staff members in attendance. "We'll cut the cake and we'll give it out for free to all the customers for the day. We have lots of regulars that turn up at 9 o'clock on the dot and we didn't want them to miss out.

"We'll [also] have sales throughout the day with 20 per cent off most things on site."

Everyone who makes a purchase will also have the opportunity to enter the kids raffle for a box of lego, or the adults raffle for a mix of goodies, including body washes, hand creams, food items and more.

Lucci looked forward to hearing people's



reflections and memories.

"It is so cool hearing people's stories like 'oh, I remember when it started, or when I first moved to Thames'... it's so cool hearing all the different experiences people have had at the Seagull Centre," she said.

"It amazes me how much the community loves the Seagull Centre and just the reputation it has. It's such a place where everyone wants to come and everyone finds treasures. I love the smiles on the customers' faces when they come in." The celebration will also include the big birthday auction at 1pm.

"We've got 76 lots," Lucci said. Boxes of shells, jars of buttons, a Queen Robe from the Queen tour, taxidermied loggerhead turtles and pheasant, vintage toys and games,



and historic books and maps are just some of the items up for grabs.

People can view the auction pieces in store or on the Seagull Centre website, and for people who couldn't make it in person, Lucci said they would also accept absentee bids.

Lucci said one of the original drivers behind the formation of the Seagull Centre was to encourage reusing items and diverting them from ending up in landfill.

"Today it is still a driver to divert from landfill, but we promote more of a circular economy rather than just keeping things out of landfill, we want to keep things in circulation for as long as possible," she said.

One of The Seagull Centre's "really big achievements" were the community grants and the successful impact they made in helping community groups, she said.

"For a long time, the Seagull Centre has helped people in need. There were lots of donations of good quality products then over the years the grants became more accessible and it was just another way of giving back to our community and also supporting the great work that is being done in the community."

Lucci said there were many community

groups in the Thames-Coromandel who did amazing work.

"It's such a blessing. I actually just feel so blessed to even be part of a Seagull Centre that can support these community groups and have some little contribution to their achievements.

"Also a massive shout out to the schools in the Thames area. They all have their own projects and their own way of helping the environment and looking after it. They're just amazing," she said. "They're really doing some good mahi within the community."

The impact of the community and how it affected the Seagull Centre was clear.

"Without our community, there is no Seagull Centre. We are so grateful to them and for everything that they do, whether it's donating items, shopping or liking our posts on social media or just, you know, spreading the word about the Seagull Centre."

DETAILS: Head down to The Seagull Centre at 102 Burke Street, Thames on July 5 from 9am to celebrate the 20 year milestone. Visit <https://www.seagullcentre.co.nz/auctions> to see the auction pieces.

By Davidda Hikatangata



On the Land

Development vs conservation: amendment bill concerns

By ALICE PARMINTER

Thames conservation activists celebrated a win at last week's public meeting addressing the controversial Conservation Amendment Bill, but say pressure on the government needs to remain high.

The June 25 meeting was held mere hours after Conservation Minister Tama Potaka announced a backtrack on a controversial clause in the bill, which would allow for the potential exchange or disposal of up to 60 per cent of conservation land.

The Minister made the announcement at the Environmental Defence Society conference in Auckland. He acknowledged the public outcry over the bill.

"We know how dear our pristine land-

scapes are to the hearts of New Zealanders and we will never dispose of those iconic landscapes," Minister Potaka said in a subsequent press release.

"But we were not clear enough about how the Conservation Amendment Bill improves outcomes for conservation... We have heard loud and clear the concerns about the potential disposal or exchange of conservation land, and we are acting on those concerns by removing those provisions from the bill."

However, Regional Development Minister Shane Jones told media there would still be a focus on economic activity on conservation land.

"The reality is that there are economic affairs that currently take place on DOC land - quarrying, mining, a lot of tour-

ism, and we want to ensure that economic matters have status in broader conservation debates," he said.

"It's ridiculous to assert that on 33 per cent of the land there should be no economic activity. We can't afford this Lud-dite thinking."

Those at the Thames meeting, including Coromandel Watchdog chair Catherine Delahunty, said the fight was not yet over, and called for the entire bill to be scrapped.

"This is what happens when the government drafts an utterly unacceptable bill and is forced to change it in the middle of the submission period. We want the Minister to immediately dump this draft and rewrite an amendment that doesn't prioritise development on Department of Conservation (DOC) land," she said.

The biggest cause for concern, she said, was proposed changes to the purpose of the Conservation Act.

The amendments explicitly outline

a shift in focus for DOC, with wording allowing the department to "recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other resources... to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable".

Catherine said the current bill still undermined the fundamental purpose of conservation land, which was protection, and places economic development at an equal or higher priority.

However, Catherine said she was heartened by the numbers of submissions made for the bill so far - more than 24,000 across the country - and urged people to make sure they still have their say. "You just talk your own truth when you're writing to a select committee... you don't have to use legal language. It can just be a couple of sentences," she said.

DETAILS: Public submissions close on July 2. Visit www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission to have your say.



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Hidden hazard: farm safety drive exposes substances risk gap

A safety push across sheep, beef and dairy farms has revealed significant gaps in hazardous substances management - and clear, practical ways to fix them, thanks to WorkSafe New Zealand.

Inspectors completed 680 assessments nationwide between October and December, 2025. The findings are now public, giving farmers across the country practical insights into where the sector needs to improve, and how WorkSafe can help.

WorkSafe project lead Carl Baker said the assessments were designed to understand what was happening on farms, not to catch people out.

"We went in to have honest conversations with farmers and figure out where we can help them lift their game. The response from the sector has been overwhelmingly positive."

Hazardous substances emerged as the highest-risk area, with 39 per cent of assessments requiring improvement.

Of improvement notices issued, 94 per cent related to missing safety data sheets or chemical inventories - a relatively straightforward fix with significant safety benefits.

Machinery and vehicle safety also featured. Inadequate guarding on power take-off (PTO) shafts was a common machinery issue, with 16 per cent of assessments requiring improvement, rising to 25 per cent in the South Island.

Farm vehicles, tractors, side-by-sides and quad bikes all featured - 14 per cent of assessments required improvement in

this area.

Most businesses assessed (81 per cent) had fewer than five employees, a reminder that even small operations carry real risk.

Mr Baker said many of the improvements identified were straightforward and low-cost.

"Keeping full and up-to-date records of hazardous substances on farms can prevent serious and often long-term harm.

"Safety data sheets and inventories are vital. They tell you how to manage chemicals and help emergency services respond. Without them, we don't know the risks.

"Keeping vehicles serviced, regularly checking brakes and tyres, ensuring workers wear seatbelts and helmets, and making sure PTOs are properly guarded are relatively simple measures. But they can save lives."

WorkSafe has a range of resources to help farmers act on these findings, including new online learning modules on hazardous substances covering inventory management, risk assessment, and emergency planning.

Mr Baker acknowledged the farmers who participated in the assessments, along with industry partners Safer Farms, Federated Farmers and DairyNZ.

"We know farmers take the safety of everyone on their properties seriously.

"We're here to support that - and we're all working toward the same goal, for everyone who works on a farm to get home safely at the end of the day."

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On the Land

Record hunt fundraiser for Hikuai School

The Hikuai School Hunting & Fishing Competition has celebrated its biggest and most successful year to date, with \$18,000 raised and a record 310 entrants taking part in the much-loved annual event from June 19-June 21.

Competitors and families gathered to celebrate the event with food, live music from Tim Santner and a presentation of prizes.

Teacher and organiser Nicola Russell said it was an "incredible" amount of money raised.

"All of that money goes back into the school. This year it is going towards buying new literacy resources and outdoor learning equipment for our tamariki," she said.

Nicola and the group of organisers estimated there were more than 300 people who attended the weigh-in and prizegiving.

It created a "fantastic atmosphere" of strong community spirit, she said.

This year's competition attracted both adult and child entrants with a prize pool of more than \$26,000, which helped to make the event one to remember.

Competitors provided 48 pigs for weigh-in, alongside a great turnout of snapper and a huge selection of critters, including hundreds of possums.

"The support we receive from our sponsors, the Friends of Hikuai School Charitable



Hikuai School student Gemma Laing scoops up her prize.



Young punters enjoy the day.



Organisers Nicola Russell, left, Stacey Clarke, Kristy Ralls, Sarah Waters.



Pigs are readied for judging during the fundraiser.



ABOVE: Winners pick up their prizes.



Pigs arrive for the weigh-in.

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WHICH WAY SHOULD TCDC GO? Have Your Say



SIMPLIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Now is the chance to have your say on three options
Thames-Coromandel District Council has shortlisted
for potential local government amalgamation.

Why is this happening?

The Government has said that they want councils to work together to decide new and larger structures for local government services and delivery. The new councils will deliver the functions and services of city/district and regional councils combined.

They said any proposal needs to cover the following criteria:

1. must simplify local government
2. must support the new planning system
3. must demonstrate economies of scale
4. must maintains local voice
5. must be deliverable

What you have told us so far

Through our initial community survey, you told us rates control and affordability were your main concerns for local government reforms. Also important were local representation, real simplification and partnering with councils of similar size and character.

The options

We identified three options to seek your views before we make a decision on which way to go.

Each option has potential opportunities and challenges. You can read more on these by reviewing our *Which Way Should TCDC Go?* booklet (see link below).

OPTION 1 Greater Waikato

This option would bring together all councils currently in the Waikato Regional Council area.



OPTION 2 North Bay of Plenty

This option brings together TCDC with Tauranga, Western Bay and part of Hauraki.



OPTION 3 East Waikato

This option brings together TCDC with Hauraki, Matamata-Piako and South Waikato.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Time is short. Our proposal needs to be with the Government by 9 August.

We, as your elected Council, very much want to hear your views by **Wednesday 15 July** before we decide which way to go.

Head to www.tcdc.govt.nz/localgovernmentreforms to find out more and fill in our online feedback form.

Not online? Pick up our *Which Way Should TCDC Go?* information booklet at our Council service centres and district libraries as well as a feedback form. You can also call us on 07 868 0200 and one of our team will ensure your views are included.

Make sure your voice is heard.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Unique copper artwork to show in Thames

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Helen Stuart is used to hearing people say her art is not that common. The creative, who makes art pieces from copper sheets, will have her work on display at the Thames Gallery for the month of July. It will be her second exhibition at the gallery.

The artist told *The Profile* she worked with a thin grade of sheet copper that most people weren't used to seeing, and people would tell her "I haven't seen anything like this before".

The sheet copper Helen used had a .25mm thickness which she said was "very nice to work with".

But it was "quite a big commitment" she said, as the copper sheet had to be purchased in rolls of 10kgs at a time.

Her creations consisted of copper fish, birds, flowers and more.

Helen's art journey with sheet copper started with her late husband Roger, who showed her the ropes.

"I started off [working] with my husband... he was a car painter by trade and he had a very good eye. He was very accurate in whatever he did."

One time, there was a whole lot of sheet copper left over and Helen said she had an idea.

That's when she decided to start making little shoals of tropical fish, and Roger would help her put it all together, she said.

"He made special tools which helped with the decorative part of the textures and indentations. I get the colour from heat and lacquer and am experimenting with a few inks, which are tricky to ap-



Helen Stuart at work in her studio.

ply," she said. "But when he passed away, which was 2009, I decided, 'oh, I wanted some markers for the garden', so I made little butterflies on a stick and carried on making the little fish.

"It just sort of grew from there and I just experimented myself," she said.

"I do have a passion for it. I enjoy it, that's the main thing. And I love meeting the people."

DETAILS: Helen Stuart's art will be on display at Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, from May 1, 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on weekends.



Helen Stuart's art exhibition kicks off at the Thames Art Gallery on July 1.

Photos: SUPPLIED

In Brief

WATER PLANT OPENS

The Matarangi community now has access to a more reliable delivery of safe drinking water. The Matarangi Water Treatment Plant was formally opened on June 24. The Thames-Coromandel District Council said it marked one of the last major milestones in a suite of improvements to its water infrastructure in recent years. Mayor Peter Revell said the opening event meant more than opening just a treatment plant. "It's an investment in the health of this community. It's an investment in resilience. And it's an investment in the future of Matarangi." The treatment plant, on Matarangi Drive, is designed to supply fresh, safe water to up to 2000 properties. Up until now, the Matarangi community's water was

supplied via a previous water treatment plant vulnerable to high sediment loads. This meant Matarangi was frequently subjected to water restrictions during and after weather events as well as during summer's visitor surge. The new treatment plant will help to futureproof Matarangi for generations to come through its improved resilience to weather events, the council said, helping reduce restrictions. Newer technology also means it fully meets updated drinking water quality assurance rules. Water is sourced from Opitonui River. In recent years, council upgraded treatment plants at Onemana, Tairua, Pāuanui, Whitianga, Coromandel and Whangamatā, equipping them with modern filtration and treatment systems. In December, 2025, the new Hāhei Water Treatment Plant was opened. Now, work will begin on construction of a new water treatment plant in Puriri.

Pet Profile

Sunny takes life in his stride

Meet Sunny, a laid-back puppy with a heart as warm as his name.

This easy-going young fellow takes life in his stride and is happiest spending time with people, enjoying cuddles, and watching the world go by.

One of Sunny's most adorable features is his cute pointy ear, which gives him plenty of character and makes him impossible to forget. With his calm nature and relaxed attitude, Sunny would make a wonderful companion for a family or individual looking for a loyal best friend.

Sunny is vaccinated, microchipped, and will be desexed this week, meaning he is ready to start the next chapter of his life with a loving family of his own.

Despite being a puppy, Sunny has a wonderfully relaxed personality and is the sort of dog who is happy to simply be part of the family. Whether it's joining you for a stroll, relaxing in the backyard, or curling up nearby after a busy day, Sunny is just happy to be included.



One of Sunny's most adorable features is his cute pointy ear. Photo: SUPPLIED

If you're looking for an easy-going companion with a sweet nature and plenty of love to give, come and meet Sunny at Thames SPCA: 395 Ngati Maru Highway, or www.spcan.z.

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- Dale Muir

Sales Manager, Valley Toyota



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The one-degree shift creates momentum

OPINION



By **MICHAEL WILKES**

If you're anything like me, the garage slowly becomes a dumping ground.

Tools left on the bench. Random bits with no real home. Piles that start small and somehow breed overnight. Bit by bit... the mess builds. And when it's the garage, it's probably not a huge deal.

But when that same buildup

happens in other parts of life — mentally, emotionally, spiritually — that can come at a cost.

Stress builds. Resentment builds. Clutter builds. And often we don't notice until life starts feeling heavy.

That got me thinking about something I wrote about in *The Unschooled Life* — the idea of the one-degree shift.

Not massive overhauls. Not "new year, new me" energy. Just one small adjustment. One thing to change, improve, or remove — and then stick with it. Because here's what I've learnt: small

changes don't look impressive.

Going to bed 20 minutes earlier. Walking three mornings a week. Putting your phone down at dinner. Having one honest conversation you've been avoiding. They feel tiny. But when tiny things become consistent habits... they become transformational.

Think of a plane leaving Auckland and shifting its course by one degree. At takeoff, it's barely noticeable. But over distance? It lands somewhere completely different.

Life works like that too. Most

of us fail because we try to change everything at once. We go full reset mode. New routines. New goals. Whole new personality by Monday. And by Thursday we're cooked.

But a one-degree shift? That's sustainable. That sticks. And often, it creates momentum.

I've seen it in fitness. In parenting. In faith. In marriage. The big breakthroughs usually start as little acts of faithfulness.

A small tidy-up. A small discipline. A small choice repeated. And over time, the clutter starts clearing. So maybe that's my

question this week: What's your one-degree shift? Not everything. Just one thing. One habit to build. One thing to tidy up. One small course correction.

Because a tiny shift in direction... can lead to a completely different destination. And that's good news for all of us.

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.



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Combat winter gloom with cheerful flowers

During the middle month of winter, days can be bleak and frosty, which make gardening difficult. It is not all gloom, for there are many cheerful flowers that emerge in the garden. They help to lift our spirits.

Snowdrops, daffodils, freesias, lachenalia and many flowering shrubs. Some of my favourites are Manuka, Kanuka, Hyacinth and Camelia. Cheer up, spring is just around the corner. It is a time for planning for the busy months ahead.

Tasks for the month

Late sowings of broad beans can still be made, but hurry. It is late but worth still doing. Stake or support broad beans as they grow.

Sow main seasons onions. Many seedlings can be raised in containers under shelter in the cold areas. Continue to make successive sowings of spinach, cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli and prepare the vegetable beds for spring sowing. Late winter and early spring flowering annuals and bulbs begin to bloom so cultivate carefully.

Complete pruning of deciduous fruit trees. Start planting new shrubs and trees. Check out our local nurseries for choice specimens.

For those gardeners who have been keen to get those rose bushes tidied up, well it's your time. July is the time to prune the roses and spray with lime sulphur and then again in two weeks.

Sow your favourite veges like beetroot, lettuce, mizuna, silverbeet, and kale. Cover where possible to protect.

Continue harvesting beetroot, carrots, cabbage, kale, leeks, rocket, silverbeet if lucky enough to have all this produce in your garden.

When planting new crops make sure you put plenty of slug bait and derris dust around the seedlings to protect from pests.

Flower Garden - Now is the time to plant Camellias, Viburnum, Hellebores, Dianthus, Leucadendron, Violets, Daphne, Kowhai.

Keep garden beds weed free and mulched.

Fruit trees — In the fruit garden it is all about planting new season fruit trees. Check for earliest signs of bud movement on early season plums and peaches. Inspect terminal leaf buds critically. Green tip sprays are vital for control of leaf curl and bladder plum disease. Apply copper spray or similar.

Citrus — Harvest citrus carefully, cut them instead of pulling the fruit off. This helps protect the trees from infection. Cold temperatures are responsible for intensifying skin colour, but it doesn't necessarily indicate full maturity. Tasting the fruit is often the best way to check for ripeness

Grapes — Select the strongest growing canes when pruning. Cut out old wood which bore last season's fruit. Remove those which are thin and weak.

Passionfruit — Apply copper spray to protect against grease spot disease.

Berry fruits — Complete pruning and plant additional vines if you have the room.

Strawberries — Carefully cultivate around plants, side dress with a balanced fertiliser. Make late plantings and mulch with either peas straw or pine needles.

Be wary of possible frosts so make sure you have frost cloth to cover susceptible plants.

Put tree prunings into the compost bin. Enjoy your garden, stay warm.

- Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle



Snowdrops and camelia are some of many cheerful flowers that emerge in winter. Photos: PIXABAY

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6 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	10 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day
13 Non planting Day	14 New Moon	15 Non planting Day	16 Non planting Day	17 Non planting Day	18 Non planting Day	19 Non planting Day Winter Solstice
20 Plant above ground crops	21 Plant above ground crops	22 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	23 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	24 Non planting Day	25 Non planting Day	26 Non planting Day
27 Plant above ground crops	28 Plant above ground crops	29 Non planting Day	30 Full Moon	31 Non planting Day	Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms	



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Waihi toddler dies after ingesting matches



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

Frederick Whitaker was woken around 11pm on an August night in 1906 by the crying of his two-year-old son, William.

He put his hand out to get a match and tried several which failed to strike.

Once he found one that did he saw by its light that about half a box of match heads had been sucked or bitten.

William had always had a liking for matches.

Consequently Frederick and his wife Agnes were very careful about them in the house, although William never showed any ill effects from ingesting them.

Wax Vesta matches had a wax stem with embedded cotton threads and a tip of phosphorus. They were named after Vesta, the Roman goddess of fire and hearth.

Two kinds of phosphorus were used in matches, red and yellow. The red phosphorous was not as flammable as the yellow and was applied to the match box sides and not the match head.

The yellow variety was used in matches which would strike anywhere. Half a grain of yellow phosphorus was enough

to be fatal and ingesting it caused many accidental and deliberate deaths.

The Whitaker household at Waihi, which included an infant, was currently being run by Edith Flowerdale, Agnes' sister while Agnes was in Thames hospital.

Three days after William ate the match heads he ate an excess of lollies which made him vomit, although he was alright afterwards.

About 3 the next morning, though, he became very restless. Frederick put it down to teething and gave him a Seidlitz powder which seemed to settle him. The next evening William deteriorated and Frederick went to see Dr Craig.

He told him that the child was very ill; he had eaten matches and was teething.

To Dr Craig, the match eating appeared to be casually mentioned and he was not led to believe that the incident had happened in Waihi, or recently.

He considered that it was the teething that was the trouble. He did not think it would be the phosphorous due to what he assumed to be a lapse of time. He advised a teaspoonful of castor oil.

About 3 the next morning Frederick was relieved to hear William laughing and talking. But in daylight he discovered that the child was delirious.

He went at once for Dr Craig who gave William an antidote but the child died about three hours later.

At the inquest, Dr Craig said he considered William had died from phosphorous poisoning. If an emetic had been given immediately after ingesting the poison, and an antidote administered, he would have recovered. Phosphorous poisoning was very deceptive, and secondary effects were very serious.

William is buried at Waihi cemetery.



Chris' Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter
- In which country were the 'Terracotta Warriors' (re)discovered in 1974?
 - Which of these is located in Florida, USA: Disneyland or Disney World?
 - True or false: modern birds do not have teeth?
 - Who shot Mr Burns is a famous episode of which cartoon family TV show?
 - True or false: the Australian city of Melbourne was founded by Batman?
 - In which year was the NZ Beehive completed? a) 1961, b) 1981, or c) 2001?
 - As reported in the June 23, 2026, issue of *The Valley Profile*, which local school has a surprisingly large proportion of twins (almost 10 per cent) on their school roll? a) Moanataiari School, b) Ngatea Primary School, or c) Waitakaruru School?
 - Which *Toy Story* sequel was released in

- June this year? a) *Toy Story 4*, b) *Toy Story 5*, or c) *Toy Story: to Infinity and Beyond*?
9. What does the letter A stand for in the football governing body known as FIFA?
 10. Which wing of the White House contains the 'Oval Office' used by the president? West or East?



ANSWERS: 1. China; 2. Disney World (technically Walt Disney World); 3. True; 4. The Simpsons; 5. True; Melbourne was founded by John Batman, whose original plan was to name it Batmania; 6. (b) 1981; 7. (c) Waitakaruru School; 8. (b) Toy Story 5; 9. Association (Federation Internationale de Football Association); 10. The West Wing.

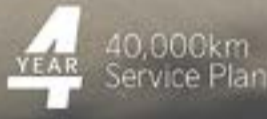
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Couples choose Burton's Catering

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It's been a whirlwind time of celebration for the owners and team at Burton's Catering.

On June 24, the team claimed high praise as the #2 Highly Commended Wedding Caterer for 2026 at last week's Couples' Choice Wedding Industry Awards for 2026.

Owner Kris Burton said she was really excited to snap up the award. "We actually got the same award last year. It was really cool to see that we got finalists again and knowing that we'd had the second tier last year as well. I didn't actually know what we were in for," she said. "It would always be nice to get number one, but when you are going up against New Zealand, there's catering companies that you haven't even heard of before. To still get top two, I think that's pretty cool."

It was a big thing, not just for herself and husband Elliot to be recognised, but for vendors across the wider Coromandel Peninsula, she said.

"A lot of people still bring those vendors from out of town. They're not actually shopping local and, you know, are they realising that

vendors in the area are award winning as well?," she said.

"They've got the standard just as much as everybody else."

Burton's was proud to make it an "easy breezy experience" for clients, she said, from the admin side to planning and obviously the top priority - food.

People remembered the taste of Burton's. Kris said brides and clients approached her to cater for them because they remembered tasting Burtons' food at other weddings they'd been to, or family members who used their catering.

Clients walked away thinking "mmmm", she said.

"It is nice because I absolutely love what I do. Catering is so much fun because you never know what you're going to get."

Kris said she wanted to thank her husband Elliot and family, all her Burton's Catering staff and all the team at Burton's on Pollen.

"I couldn't do it without them. It's a real team effort."

Kris and Elliot, who also own Burton's Butchery, were in the running for the second year in a row at the Bacon Awards for 2026 and will find out their results on July 1.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thames choir to perform *The Mikado*

One of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas will come to Thames this Saturday when St George's Community Choir presents the concert version of *The Mikado*.

First performed in 1885, *The Mikado* is known for its witty satire, colourful characters, and delightful music which has pleased audiences over time. Musical director Kolitha Jayatunge said he chose *The Mikado* because it combined "humour, unforgettable music, and timeless storytelling".

The Thames performance will feature a cast of nine soloists drawn from both the choir and from Hamilton. Highlighting the depth of musical talent amongst local singers, four of the principal roles will be performed by members of St George's Community Choir: John Mullon, Chris Dunn, Shelley Shelling, and Karen Ruddock.

Four more principal roles will be performed by experienced singers from Hamilton: Ian Cambell, Alistair Barnett, Vanessa Joyce, and Sally Rosenberg.

Kolitha will take on the dual role of conductor and leading tenor, singing the part of Nanki-Poo, while also directing the choir - who make up the citizens of the fictional town of Titipu.

"Singing Nanki-Poo while conducting has been a unique challenge, but it is incredibly rewarding to bring both the character and the music to life



Three Little Maids - Vanessa Joyce is Yum-Yum, Shelley Shelling is Pitti-Sing and Karen Ruddock is Peep-Bo. Photo: SUPPLIED

at the centre of the production," Kolitha said.

The singers will be accompanied by pianist Yi Ting Heng, whose dynamic playing meets the demands of the complicated score. Ting said many of the pieces were fast, with lots of key changes and "additional accidentals" which made the performance challenging but fun at the same time.

"The slower pieces are tender and lovely to play," she said.

A narrator will also guide the audience through the story, ensuring that everyone can follow the twists and

turns of the complex plot.

The performance will take place in St George's Church in Thames, which first opened in 1872, little more than a decade before *The Mikado* first appeared on the London stage.

The St George's Community Choir is an 'all-comers' choir - no auditions are required. The choir welcomes new singers and those who want to give choir singing a go.

DETAILS: *The Mikado*, July 4, 3pm, St George's Church, Thames. Tickets: \$25 (cash only) from Carson's Bookshop or at the door. School children free.

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CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Monday Noon

Death Notice

ROBINSON, Stephen John (NOOKIE):
 Born 5/1/55
 Father of Zane, Mark and Andrew.
 Sadly passed away unexpectedly on June 20th at home.
 It is a big loss for the Puriri community.
 A send off for Nookie will be held at the Hikutaia Bowling Club Saturday 4th July 1.30-4.30pm.
 All welcome



Church Notice

Thames Spiritualist Church, Sunday July 5th, 2pm Grahamstown Hall. Speaker: Clinton Arnold

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Public Notices

Thames Community Cancer Support Group
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 @ 11.30 am
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Thames Museum Society Inc
 Annual General Meeting
 1.30pm 18th July 2026
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 503 Cochrane Street, Thames.
 All Welcome.
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Whānau hui o ngā uri o Richard Rangī me Molly Rangī
 Whānau meeting for the descendants of Richard Rangī and Molly Rangī
 Date: 25 July 2026
 Time: To be advised
 Place: Kerepehi Marae
 Postponement date: 26 July 2026
 Online link is available for attendance by email request to: lesleymaudehetaraka@gmail.com
 For further information contact:
 Lesley Hetaraka
 Ph: 022 436 4541
Email: lesleymaudehetaraka@gmail.com

Council and Committee Meetings in July 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 July 2026 in the Council Chamber, 1 William Street, Paeroa (unless otherwise stated).
Regulatory Hearings Committee
 Tuesday, 7 July 2026 - 9.00am (if required)
Council
 Wednesday, 8 July 2026, 9.00am
Regulatory Hearings Committee
 Tuesday, 21 July 2026 - 9.00am (if required)
Council Management Committee
 Tuesday, 28 July 2026 - 9.00am
Extraordinary Council Meeting
 for the purpose of considering the Head Start Local Government Reform Proposal
 Wednesday, 29 July 2026 - 9.00am
 DA Speirs
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz


Notification of intention to conduct spraying within Whiritoa Sand Dunes and Beach Access Ways

 The Hauraki District Council sand dune maintenance contractor (HELP Waihi) will conduct a spraying programme in the dunes and near beach accessways in Whiritoa.
 The operational area will include the north end of Whiritoa Beach, amongst the sand dunes and near beach access ways, with spraying activity programmed to commence at the end of June 2026 until the end of July 2026. Work will be weather dependent and undertaken outside of school holidays.
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 For enquiries relating to the operation please contact Council at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or phone 07-862 8609. We thank you for your patience during these works.
 DA Speirs
 Chief Executive
 Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Public Notices

In the District Court At Waihi / Waihi
 CIV: 2026-079-000009
 Under the: Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
 in the matter of: An action to recover rates
 between: **Thames-Coromandel District Council**, a local authority under the Local Government Act 2002 having its administration office at 515 Mackay Street, Thames Plaintiff
 and **Aaron Matthew Williamson** of 233 Otahu Road Whangamatā, Occupation unknown Second Defendant
Notice of District Court Proceedings against Aaron Matthew Williamson
TAKE NOTICE that Thames-Coromandel District Council has filed a Notice of Proceeding, Statement of Claim and List of Documents Relied on in the District Court at Waihi for judgment against you for unpaid rates to the property at 233 Otahu Road, Whangamatā being all the land contained in Record of Title SA1298/69 (South Auckland Registry).
 This Notice is published pursuant to Section 64(2) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 and publication of such notice in this notice in this newspaper shall be deemed to be service of the proceedings upon you.
 This is to give notice that if you do not file a statement of defence at the District Court at Waihi and serve it on the Thames-Coromandel District Council within 25 working days from the publication of this advertisement, judgment may be entered against you. Copies of the proceedings may be obtained from Holly Maree Cassin, solicitor for Thames-Coromandel District Council at Cavell Leitch Limited, Level 3 BNZ Centre, 111 Cashel Street, Christchurch – telephone (03) 379 9940 or email dispute.resolution@cavell.co.nz
 Any person knowing the whereabouts of **AARON MATTHEW WILLIAMSON** is requested to bring this notice to his attention.

NOTIFICATION OF MASS AND/OR SPEED LIMITS ON BRIDGES

Regulation 11, Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974
 NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 11(3) of the Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974, Hauraki District Council has fixed the following maximum mass and speed limits for heavy motor vehicles and combinations including a heavy motor vehicle on the bridges described hereunder:

Name of road	Name of bridge	Mass Limits		Maximum speed limit (km/h)
		Maximum mass on any 1 axle	Gross mass (maximum sum of axle mass)	
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Crown Hill Road	Crown Hill Road Bridge (ID 109)		44,000 kg	
Waitawheta Road	Waitawheta No. 1 Bridge (ID 126)		30,000 kg	
Frankton Road	Frankton No. 1 Bridge (ID 71)		44,000 kg	

Attention is drawn to the applicable penalties and infringement fees set out in Schedule 1A or Part 3 of Schedule 1B of the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Regulations 1999, which apply to infringements of these limits.
 Date issued: 30 June 2026
 Adrian de Laborde
 Group Manager – Service Delivery
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	1		5		8		9	
3						7		
		3		6			7	2
9	6			4				
2					9		6	

HARD

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HARD

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

MEDIUM

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

EASY

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

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

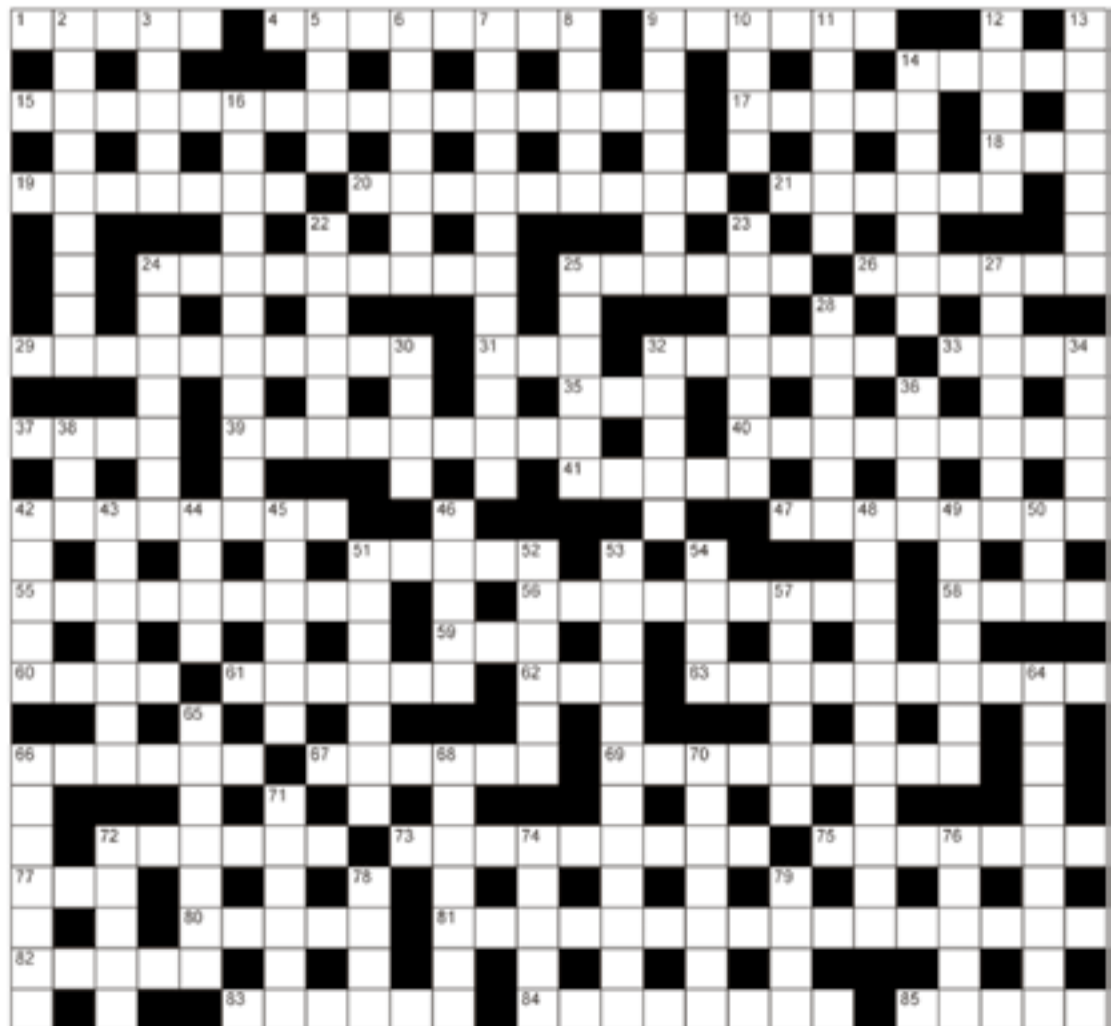
- 1 Dish (5)
- 4 Blunt criticism (8)
- 9 Disconnect (6)
- 14 Floating bombs (5)
- 15 Start behaving in a better way (4,4,1,3,4)
- 17 Bearlike animal (5)
- 18 Self-image (3)
- 19 Hug (7)
- 20 Grain-grinding disc (9)
- 21 Dirtied (6)
- 24 Wig (9)
- 25 Undamaged (6)
- 26 Searched out (6)
- 29 Drug dispenser (10)
- 31 Rabble (3)
- 32 Account book (6)
- 33 Optical glass (4)
- 35 Beam (3)
- 37 Closed (4)
- 39 Rude disrespect (9)
- 40 Manly (9)
- 41 Rot (5)
- 42 Large snake (8)
- 47 Devoted follower (8)
- 51 Stadium (5)
- 55 Crude oil (9)
- 56 Brass player (9)
- 58 Summon (4)
- 59 Permit (3)
- 60 Large jug (4)
- 61 Wild excitement (6)
- 62 Dudgeon (3)
- 63 Make up for (10)
- 66 Sharp explosive sound (6)
- 67 Official count (6)

DOWN

- 2 Tactless blusterer (9)
- 3 Male voice (5)
- 5 Uncommon (4)
- 6 Brief and to the point (7)
- 7 Mental confusion (12)
- 8 Illegal removal (5)
- 9 Extinct (7)
- 10 Sort (4)
- 11 Large gun (6)
- 12 Single (5)
- 13 Stun (7)
- 14 Duck breed (7)
- 16 Inoculation jab (11)
- 22 Divides (6)
- 23 Specialised school (7)
- 24 The rice (anag)(7)
- 25 Congenital (6)
- 27 Fissure (7)
- 28 Felt (6)

ACROSS

- 30 Notified (4)
- 32 Hang without trial (5)
- 34 Sugary (5)
- 36 Enormous (4)
- 38 Egg producer (3)
- 42 Sufficient (5)
- 43 Belgian port (7)
- 44 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 45 Cheerless (6)
- 46 Wobbly dessert (5)
- 48 Pungent root used for sauce (11)
- 49 Swift sharp reply (7)
- 50 Harp at (3)
- 51 Modified (7)
- 52 Static (anag)(6)
- 53 Playing card (5,2,5)
- 54 Long heroic poem (4)
- 57 House of worship (6)
- 64 Interpret (9)
- 65 Skilled worker (7)
- 66 Let go (7)
- 68 Rapidly (7)
- 70 Medical examination (5-2)
- 71 Pandemonium (6)
- 72 Sniff (5)
- 74 Precipitous (5)
- 76 Prod (5)
- 78 Family (4)
- 79 At a distance (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Scope, 4 Quick off the mark, 14 Spurn, 15 Gaunt, 16 Inspecting, 17 Allot, 19 Ewe, 20 Rescind, 21 Nourished, 22 Weaned, 25 Uppermost, 27 Butler, 28 Seemed, 33 Sacrosanct, 35 Err, 36 Plinth, 37 Tiff, 39 Gel, 41 Caribou, 42 Agenda, 43 Ultimatum, 44 Irate, 45 Calendar, 50 In, 51 Schooner, 55 Mourn, 58 Desiccate, 59 Falter, 60 Obscure, 61 Era, 63 Toil, 64 Senior, 65 Nun, 66 Frustrated, 68 August, 69 Paltry, 71 Magnitude, 76 School, 77 Powerless, 79 Working, 81 Rip, 84 Lofty, 85 Instigated, 86 Hatch, 87 Crust, 88 Dead as a doornail, 89 False.

DOWN: 2 Clawed, 3 Panic, 5 Urns, 6 Copious, 7 Occurs, 8 Fails, 9 Highest, 10 Moat, 11 Relief, 12 Fused, 13 Unheard, 14 Stunted, 18 Understood, 23 Amend, 24 Residue, 26 Porcine, 27 Bargain, 29 Moistens, 30 Banana, 31 Being, 32 Static, 34 Toga, 36 Plead, 38 Femur, 40 Ammo, 45 Cadet, 46 Lasting, 47 Nice, 48 Awaken, 49 Ruler, 50 Infancy, 52 Habitation, 53 Orchard, 54 Earned, 55 Medical, 56 Alone, 57 Beef, 62 Funny, 67 Asphalt, 68 Attract, 70 Tropics, 72 Abstain, 73 Toffee, 74 Albino, 75 Snacks, 76 Spout, 78 Eased, 80 Koala, 82 Dyed, 83 Yeti.

Lady ref calls the shots in Valley first

RUGBY

By ALICE PARMINTER

Holly Mackenzie has become the first female referee to run a premier game in Thames Valley, with her debut on June 20.

The Thames Community Board representative was selected to referee the Thames Valley Rugby Union match between Waihou Rugby and Sports Club and Mercury Bay Rugby and Sports Club at Boyd Park in Te Aroha in round 11 of this season's premier men's draw.

Mercury Bay came out ahead in the match, beating Waihou 52-15.

"It's the first time the men have been officiated by a woman," Holly said.

"Both teams were actually really receptive to how I ref, because every ref refs differently, let alone being refed by a woman. For starters, we sound different on the field, so they might not pick up the fact that we're telling them to stop doing that, and they don't often hear a woman in that space. So I think overall it was great."

Holly's rise to the top ranks has been swift.

"I only started refereeing in 2024. To now be receiving appointments to representative and high-performance pathway fixtures after such a short time in the game is something I am incredibly proud of and not something I would have imagined when I first picked up a whistle," Holly told *The Profile*.

"You've got goals, and you always want to try to achieve them, but you've just got to get yourself into the best position you can, fitness-wise, and law knowledge."

Holly's refereeing journey began with junior matches when her own children's teams were struggling to find refs.

"I've been in the rugby space for a long time with my children being in there, and knew the rules and was confident enough to



Holly Mackenzie is relishing her role as a referee for Thames Valley Rugby Union. Photos: SUPPLIED

just go out there and give it a crack."

Junior games very quickly led to youth games, and then on to women's and senior-B teams.

"The kids were amazing... That's where I figured out I really enjoyed this," Holly said.

"It's the best seat in the house really, being out there with them."

Along with her own hard work, Holly said her coach, Andrew Hartley, was a major part of her success. "I was fortunate enough to have Andrew as my assistant referee during a women's match in Whangamata in 2024, when I was still very new to refereeing. A few days after that game, he called and asked if I would like him to coach me because he saw potential in what I was doing," Holly said.

"At the time, I had no idea that referees even had coaches, but I jumped at the opportunity."

"His support, guidance, and belief in me have played a huge role in my development."

And Holly plans to keep on developing her refereeing career. She has recently been appointed to officiate the Under-18 North Island vs South Island fixture at St Peter's School in Cambridge in July.

She has also applied for selection into the Referee Regional Representative Squad, a grueling process involving endorsement from a provincial union referee educator, passing a fitness assessment, achieving at least 80 per cent in a law examination, having a game observed by a New Zealand Rugby representative, and submitting a motivational statement.

Selection to the squad would open the door to officiating representative rugby - from Heartland Championship level through to Farah Palmer Cup fixtures.

Holly said she hoped to be a role model for other women to get involved in the rugby space, whether that be as a player, coach, referee or manager.

"I have had a few women come up to me over the years and say, 'I didn't realise that we could get out there and do it'. I'm hoping this will encourage more women. I genuinely look forward to every Saturday, putting on the boots, picking up the whistle and being involved in a game that I love."

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