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# Climbing for life



Lydia Lester, right, and her teammates tackle the Sky Tower. TOP RIGHT: Gloria cuts the first lock of Lydia's hair. Photos: SUPPLIED

By ALICE PARMINTER

**For every one of the 1103 steps Lydia Lester climbed on May 23, she was thinking of a little girl back home.**

Lydia was one of three Pūriri volunteer firefighters tackling the annual Firefighter Sky Tower challenge, along with mother-and-daughter duo, Shaz and Aria Kerebs.

Dressed in 25kg of firefighting gear, including breathing apparatus, Lydia climbed the 51 flights of steps in the Auckland Sky Tower,

all with the aim of fundraising for Blood Cancer New Zealand.

Lydia dedicated her climb to Gloria, a seven-year-old with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

"She's a member of our community [and] when I found out what she was going through, I reached out to mum and said, would you mind if I made her my official motivation for doing the stair climb?" Lydia said.

"And actually the day before the climb my

best friend's dad got diagnosed with blood cancer, so I was thinking of him as well."

Lydia completed the challenge in just over 21 minutes, shaving three minutes and 20 seconds off her time from last year.

"The first time was a big shock to the system, just being in that [gear] with the breathing apparatus," she said. "I paced myself a little bit better this time, and just knew what to expect... Every time I started feeling like, why am I doing this? I just thought about

CONTINUED ON P2

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**CONTINUED FROM P1**

Gloria - this is easy compared to what she's going through." Time wasn't the only thing Lydia shaved off in her fundraising efforts though. A week prior to the challenge, she invited more than 70 people to her home for an additional fundraiser, pledging money for locks of her waist-length hair. "My fundraising event was called Fleece You, Fleece Me - I take your money, you take my hair," Lydia explained.

She pledged 10cm of her hair per \$1000 raised. In the end, a total of 50cm was cut off, and sent to Freedom Wigs, an organisation which makes real hair wigs for cancer patients. The first cut was made by Gloria. "Gloria saved me from the buzz cut by opting for scissors, and then we could match [hairstyles]."

Attendees also donated toys and cash for Gloria's family directly. "We got \$500 to give to [Gloria] on the night and that's how much it costs for her to get a real hair wig."

Between the stair challenge and her hair fundraiser, Lydia has now raised \$7720 for Blood Cancer NZ.

Her fundraising page will remain open until June 30.

Gloria's mum, Martina, said her family was humbled and honoured by Lydia's patronage.

"She's amazing - the way that she has approached it and exceeded her goal, and her amazing fundraising event and climb," Martina said.

**"It's a trauma for any child having to go through this. But she has a good spirit, she's joyful and open to life"**  
- Martina

"It brings me almost to tears because it's a lot to go through."

"You can't go over it and you can't go under it - you just gotta go through it. And you can't probably possibly even understand unless you really have to go through it."

"But the community support and Lydia's events and actions are just mind-blowing."

Martina said Gloria, who is now in her second year of treatment, has remained positive despite her health ordeals.

"It's a daily dose of chemotherapy and pills... It's a trauma for any child having to go through this. But she has a good spirit, she's joyful and open to life and that's huge."

**DETAILS: Donations can be made to Lydia until June 30; visit firefighterschallenge.org.nz/lydia-lester.**

**In Brief**

**FATAL CRASHES**

Police are appealing for information following a fatal crash in Whangamatā. On May 31, around 3.50pm, Police were called to the single vehicle crash, where a car hit a tree on Tairua Rd. Two people were transported to hospital, one with serious injuries. Police have since confirmed a woman has died. Tairua Rd was closed while the Serious Crash Unit conducted a scene examination and it reopened around 11.10pm that night.

Enquiries into the circumstances of the crash are ongoing, and Police are asking for anyone who may have witnessed the crash to please come forward. They would also like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the driving of a black Toyota Aurion, or any concerning driving behaviour of another vehicle, in the Tairua Rd area between 3pm and 3.50pm on May 31. Contact 105, either online or over the phone, and reference file number: 260602/7611. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Meanwhile, a person has died after a two-vehicle crash on Paeroa-Kōpū Rd, Kōpū, on June

6. Emergency services were called to the scene about 9pm, Police said, and one person died at the scene. The Serious Crash Unit has examined the scene, and enquiries into the circumstances of the crash are ongoing.

**PAEROA DISTURBANCE**

Police were called to a family harm incident on Opatito Rd in Paeroa on June 7 at around 11.40am after reports of a disturbance possibly involving a firearm. Police confirmed the involved parties were known to each other. There were no reports of injuries and Police were unable to confirm whether a firearm was discharged. One party has been issued with a Police Safety Order as a result of the incident.

**REGIONAL RATES INCREASE**

Waikato regional councillors unanimously agreed on a 0.9 per cent increase in rates revenue from current ratepayers for 2026/27, down on the 1.4 per cent estimated in February's draft annual plan budget. The council said it achieved the lowered rate by applying unallocated prior year surpluses towards a one-off reduction in general rates revenue, as well as making changes to the budget setting process.

**PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT/ADVERTORIAL:** Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz; Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.

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

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**Thames Tides**

Wed Jun 10	Thu Jun 11	Fri Jun 12	Sat Jun 13	Sun Jun 14	Mon Jun 15	Tue Jun 16
Morning: 1:52am 3.1, 8:03am 0.8 Afternoon: 2:12pm 3.0, 8:27pm 0.9	Morning: 2:43am 3.2, 8:57am 0.7 Afternoon: 3:10pm 3.1, 9:28pm 0.9	Morning: 3:37am 3.3, 9:55am 0.6 Afternoon: 4:13pm 3.2, 10:28pm 0.8	Morning: 4:34am 3.3, 10:54am 0.5 Afternoon: 5:15pm 3.4, 11:26pm 0.6	Morning: 5:33am 3.4, 11:53am 0.4 Afternoon: 6:14pm 3.5	Morning: 12:22am 0.5, 6:34am 3.5 Afternoon: 12:49pm 0.3, 7:10pm 3.7	Morning: 1:17am 0.4, 7:34am 3.5 Afternoon: 1:43pm 0.2, 8:04pm 3.7
Sun: 7:27am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:28am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:28am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:29am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:29am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:29am 5:07pm	Sun: 7:30am 5:07pm
Fish: Best At 7:23am 7:46pm	Fish: Best At 8:10am 8:35pm	Fish: Best At 9:02am 9:30pm	Fish: Best At 9:59am 10:30pm	Fish: Best At 11:02am 11:35pm	Fish: Best At 12:09pm	Fish: Best At 12:44am 1:17pm
Moon: Rise 1:23am, Set 1:14pm	Moon: Rise 2:31am, Set 1:41pm	Moon: Rise 3:42am, Set 2:14pm	Moon: Rise 4:59am, Set 2:54pm	Moon: Rise 6:17am, Set 3:44pm	New Moon: Rise 7:33am, Set 4:46pm	Moon: Rise 8:40am, Set 5:57pm

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz

**MOON AND FISH KEYS**

- New Moon
- First Quarter
- Full Moon
- Last Quarter
- Good Fishing (Green Fish)
- Fair Fishing (Blue Fish)
- Not So Good (Red Fish)

**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	LOW	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	

# Arson charge after clinic fire

By ALICE PARMINTER

The owner of a Waihi dental clinic destroyed by fire says he's very motivated to get the practice up and running again as soon as possible.

A man has been charged with arson after the Waihi Family Dental Centre was destroyed by fire in the early hours of May 28.

A Fire and Emergency NZ spokesperson said the service was alerted to the fire at 3.48am.

Three fire trucks from Waihi and one from Paeroa attended the blaze at the single-storey address on School Lane, which was well underway when they arrived.

Practice owner Darryl Violich told *The Profile* he and his staff were remaining positive in the aftermath of the fire.

"Our mission is to look after [our] patients and their every need, and we're doing our very best to do that," he said.

"We're quite resourceful... It might not be in that building for a year, but you can still get a dental service until we rebuild."

Darryl said the practice thankfully did not lose any patient records, and he and his staff were remaining in touch with patients directly.

Police confirmed a 35-year-old man was charged in relation to the fire, and is due to appear in the Hamilton District Court on June 28 charged with arson.

"There's a big problem with mental health in New Zealand," Darryl said.

"And I believe the person responsible for the damage was suffering at the time, badly.

"It's a shame that someone couldn't



The Waihi Family Dental Centre was severely damaged by fire. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

have just had a little bit of a talk to him, and said, that's not a good thing to do... I think it's very sad that we've got people in our community who don't necessarily realize the gravity of their actions."

However, Darryl said he wanted to focus on looking forward and continuing to serve the community as best he could during the uncertainties of the fire's aftermath.

"We provide an essential service, especially for the young people," he said.

"Dental disease impacts on young people a lot and we're the only service providing for those young people in Waihi.

"We're motivated to get going again... in the very short future when we've got collegial assistance, the patients will be cared for right away."

# \$840k electric boost for rail trail

By ALICE PARMINTER

The Hauraki Rail Trail has received \$840,000 in the latest Government budget, for 14 e-bike charging stations.

Tourism and hospitality minister Louise Upston announced the investment on June 1, as part of a \$2.5 million package from the Electrifying the Great Rides fund, targeting five cycle trails across the country.

"E-biking is gaining real momentum in the regions, so it makes sense for the Government to invest in infrastructure supporting increased usage on the Great Rides, as well as on the wider network of rides. Great Rides deliver an economic boost of \$1.28 billion to regional New Zealand," she said.

The Locky Dock charging systems will be free to use, and are each capable of holding five bikes at a time. Hauraki Rail Trail chair Diane Drummond said the first of the charging stations is likely to be installed in spring, with plans for all 14 to be installed by March, 2027.

"We are very excited about this process... it's going to take away that range anxiety that people have when they're riding a bike," Diane said.

Meanwhile, the Trail trust is still committed to repairing storm damage along the trail, Diane said.

"This particular project hasn't cost the ratepayer anything... it's tagged funding [for the charging stations]," she said.

"It was an opportunity that presented itself that we grabbed, but I want people to be assured that we're still very much focused on the repair work that needs to be done on the gorge."



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Today, more intense weather events and higher tides are putting pressure on the service levels of these flood schemes. Population growth, urban development and changes in land use are also adding to the flood risk.

## Protection and risk

Flood protection schemes are designed to protect against events up to certain levels. In the Waikato region, design standards range from protection against events of a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP), which is commonly spoken about as being a 1-in-100-year event, down to a 10% AEP, or a 1-in-10-year event. Over time, different factors can impact how well a scheme works.



Climate change brings more intense rainfall events or sea level rise.



Land use changes, like urban development and farming, can increase runoff.



When assets wear out, rising costs and new technical requirements can make upgrades and maintenance more complex and costly.



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Indicates land that may be susceptible to flooding based on historical event records, flood modelling, flood protection and drainage scheme data, and elevation information.

● Scheme assets

## Your area

### Waihou Valley-Piako River scheme

- Constructed between the early 1960s and 1990s.
- Includes 300 kilometres of stopbanks, 131 floodgates, 52 pump stations, ponding areas and four detention dams.
- Provides protection against:
  - 100-year tidal flooding events
  - 50-year or 100-year river flooding events, depending on location
  - 10-year tributary flooding events for rural areas.
- Protects urban areas of Ngātea, Kerepehi, Te Aroha, Paeroa, Turua, Kopu and Thames, productive farmland, roads and state highways.

## Other schemes

### Lower Waikato-Waipā

- Constructed between the early 1960s and 1980s.
- Includes 253 kilometres of stopbanks, 298 floodgates, 72 pump stations, three control gates, six detention dams, managed natural storage areas (Lake Waikare and Whangamarino Wetland), and improvements to river channels, including river training and dredging.
- Provides protection against:
  - 10-year to 100-year river flooding events, depending on location and asset
  - 100-year tidal flooding events.
- Protects Ōtorohanga, Huntly, Rangiriri, productive farmland, state highways and the main trunk.

### Lake Taupō

- Includes flood schemes for the Tongariro River (protection against a 100-year flooding event) and the Tauranga-Taupō River (50-year flooding event).
- Schemes constructed between 2005 and 2008.
- Altogether, includes 8.5 kilometres of stopbanks and floodwalls, and 25 floodgates.
- Schemes protect Tūrangi, Oruatua and Te Rangīta, and neighbouring farmland.

### Coromandel Peninsula

- Includes flood schemes for Te Puru (100-year event), Waiomu (50-year event), Tapu (100-year event), Coromandel town (100-year event) and Graham's Creek (Tairua) (100-year and 50-year events).
- Schemes constructed between 2005 and 2016 in response to the "Weather Bomb" of 2002.
- Altogether, includes 2.6 kilometres of stopbanks and floodwalls, and five floodgates.
- Schemes protect certain areas of the communities only.

# \$1m for transfer station upgrade

By ALICE PARMINTER

The Waihi Recycling Transfer Station is receiving a \$1.079 million upgrade.

The upgrade will involve building a dedicated sorting area for construction and demolition waste, as well as increasing the station's capacity to receive recyclables and glass by an estimated 20 to 40 per cent.

Environment Minister Nicola Grigg and Minister of Climate Change Simon Watts announced the upgrade on June 5, saying the project will significantly reduce waste going to landfill, as well as boosting recycling capacity at the site.

The majority of the project - \$658,190 - is being funded from the government's Waste Minimisation Fund, which is for infrastructure projects that help reduce carbon emissions by diverting organic waste from landfill. A further \$420,810 will come from the Hauraki District Council.

The Waihi transfer station is the busiest transfer station in the Hauraki district, and it is used by people from both Hauraki and the Western Bay of Plenty.

Its upgrade will be a "game-changer" for Waihi, Hauraki Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams said. "The most important thing is that the stuff that is going into the landfill, that it's getting measured and weighed correctly, and the right people are paying for that," he said.

"I make no secret of it, we



Ministers Simon Watts and Scott Simpson, centre, with council staff at the announcement. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

were subsidising [Western Bay of Plenty District Council] for about \$650 grand a year, and we've been able to stem that back by having a weighed system where everybody's paying their fair share, and it's taken the burden off our ratepayers."

Minister Watts said the upgrade will have immediate benefits for waste management in the region. "There's a lot of growth within the community

so we need to make sure that our infrastructure is keeping up with that," he said.

"[And] continuing to reduce emissions from the waste sector was one of the key areas we targeted in our second emissions reduction plan. "Waste Minimisation Fund projects like this support our climate transition by reducing organic waste and emissions," he said.

The upgrade is scheduled to be

completed in 2028, and will divert an estimated 3,400 tonnes of material from landfill each year. This includes 3000 tonnes of green waste, 350 tonnes of paper and cardboard, and around 30 tonnes of construction materials.

The upgrades will also allow green waste to be mulched and reused in local parks and public spaces, with surplus material composted.

# \$4.5m Lotto winner urged to come forward

One lucky Powerball player from Thames had luck on their side after winning \$4.5 million with Powerball First Division in Saturday's live Lotto draw.

The winning ticket was sold at Paper Power Thames.

The prize is made up of \$4 million from Powerball First Division and \$500,000 from Lotto First Division.

Saturday's winner is the 12th Powerball multi-millionaire this year, and the win comes just days after a player in Ashburton scored themselves \$28.6 million.

One other lucky Lotto player will also be celebrating after winning \$500,000 with Lotto First Division in Saturday's live Lotto draw. The winning ticket was sold on MyLotto to a player from Auckland.

Meanwhile, a lucky Strike player will also be celebrating after winning \$200,000 with Strike Four. The winning Strike ticket was sold on MyLotto to a player from Auckland.

Anyone who bought their ticket from Paper Power Thames or on MyLotto should check their ticket as soon as possible in-store, on MyLotto, or through the MyLotto App.

Players can phone Lotto NZ on 0800 695 6886 if they want to enquire about the best way to claim a prize.

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## Dynasty Holtz

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# Councillors clash over accord

By KELLEY TANTAU

A newly-adopted accord intended to strengthen the relationship between Thames-Coromandel District Council and its five community boards has sparked debate inside chambers, with some councillors describing it as a “watered down” document that actually strips boards of their decision-making power. The Community Board Accord was adopted by council on May 26 after months of development by elected members, staff, and legal advisers.

However, speaking before the vote, councillor Flemming Rasmussen argued the accord was a “diluted” version of the 2019 Terms of Reference, a framework that previously outlined the decision-making powers and responsibilities of community boards.

He said the new accord reduced boards to “providing inputs, providing feedback, and making recommendations”.

Fellow Mercury Bay ward councillor Tony Brljević agreed, and said the 2019 Terms of Reference gave boards “unprecedented power” in order to serve the district’s communities better. “People want a stronger local voice and more local decision making. The [new] accord does not do that. The accord is not a document built on trust. The accord is a document built on control. It rips away all these rights of decision making and replaces them and replaces the boards as mere advisory committees.”

However, Deputy Mayor John Grant, who supported the accord, strongly disagreed.

He said claims that the accord weakened community boards were based on a misunderstanding of what powers the boards had previously held. “Please understand what that argument actually claims,” he said.

“It claims that something is being taken away that the Local Government Act never

gave in the first place.”

Cr Grant described concerns about lost powers as “a phantom loss defended against a real gain” and said the choice before council was whether to adopt the accord or maintain the status quo. “And the status quo is what everybody has been frustrated with.”

He argued that despite the existence of the 2019 Terms of Reference, relationships between council and community boards had deteriorated rather than improved.

“That is why we need to move on.”

The debate took another turn when Mayor Peter Revell invoked council standing orders to close discussion, prompting an objection from councillor John Freer, who had not yet spoken on the matter. “There are a large number of constituents across a district, and I’m sure they’re pretty keen to hear what every one of us has to say,” Cr Freer said. In a media statement issued after the meeting, Cr Freer said he had received several emails and phone calls urging him to retain the existing Terms of Reference, and wanted South Eastern Ward residents to understand why he ultimately chose to support the accord.

“Our boards have been vocal - and rightly so - on issues like the state of local council buildings, mowing of reserves, annual planning, and flood protection. These are the things that matter to people on the ground, and our boards have too often felt they were not being heard. “The accord directly addresses that. It commits council to early consultation with boards on decisions affecting their areas, reliable staff support, regular mayor and chairs meetings, clear timeframes when differences arise, and a dispute resolution path. The Terms of Reference document addressed none of this and was never designed to.”



Minister Simon Watts, right, said discussions were “constructive”.

Photo: SUPPLIED

# Local government reshape a hot topic for minister

By ALICE PARMINTER

Minister of Local Government, Revenue, and Climate Change, Simon Watts, was welcomed to Paeroa on June 5 for a series of meetings with local council staff from the region.

A major topic of conversation for the assorted councillors and mayors was the impending Local Government simplification, and Minister Watts said the talks had been constructive. “We are very keen as government to work with local government, not against it,” he said.

“There is an acknowledgement, particularly in this region that the future state of local government needs to be fit for the future.”

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said the meetings were an important opportunity for representatives from right across his con-

stituency to meet and discuss the amalgamation possibilities.

“You have all of Hauraki, all of TCDC, a very big portion of Western Bays, a little bit of Waikato District Council, and over the top you’ve got Waikato Regional and Bay of Plenty Regional.

“That’s an awful lot of local government for 70,000 people, represented by one MP,” he said. “Some councils are ready to think about amalgamations and that’s really what we’re trying to do, is give them the option.

“Every I doesn’t need to be dotted, every T doesn’t need to be crossed. Let’s have a concept plan and go from there.”

Ratepayers can also have their say on local government reform through public surveys on their council’s websites.

Thames-Coromandel District Council’s survey closes on June 15, while Hauraki District Council’s survey closes on July 17.



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## On the Land

# Waihi farmer fined for effluent discharge

Waihi dairy farmer Keith Torrens has been convicted and fined \$39,000 for the unlawful discharge of dairy effluent following a prosecution taken by Waikato Regional Council.

The fine was imposed by Judge Sheena Tepania in the Tauranga District Court after Mr Torrens pleaded guilty to a charge under the Resource Management Act.

The conviction comes after council compliance officers inspected the defendant's farm in October, 2023, having issued him with an abatement notice earlier that year for breaching dairy effluent rules.

During the inspection they found two unlawful discharges into the environment, one from the dairy shed and one as a result of overirrigation.

Both discharges posed a significant risk to contaminating groundwater.

The defendant had provided very limited storage capacity on the farm meaning effluent irrigation was likely when weather and soil conditions were unsuitable.

Council compliance manager Patrick Lynch emphasised the importance of farm owners providing adequate infrastructure and ensuring good management practices.

"Dairy effluent systems need to be fit for purpose, robust and carefully managed to avoid environmental harm.



A council officer samples the ponded effluent. Photo: SUPPLIED/WRC

"In this case, Mr Torrens had purchased an effluent storage bladder some years earlier, but had never installed it, despite the issuing of an abatement notice and formal warning for previous environmental breaches," Mr Lynch said.

In sentencing, Judge Tepania described the offending as careless, noting that Mr Torrens had an ongoing responsibility to provide efficient and effective infrastructure.

"As he had purchased a bladder, it makes no sense to the Court that he would not install it," she said.

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## On the Land

# ‘Blue economy’ targets major growth

By KELLEY TANTAU

A regional strategy aiming to double the Waikato’s aquaculture export value to \$180 million by 2044 is helping shape the future of the industry across the Thames-Coromandel.

The strategy, titled *Growing Together - Whakatupu Ngātahi*, was developed through collaboration between iwi, industry, local and central government, and other stakeholders to guide sustainable aquaculture growth over the next 20 years.

At the Waikato Aquaculture Forum, held last month at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre and organised by the Waikato Regional Aquaculture Group, Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell emphasised the district’s deep connection to the industry.

“Here in Thames and across the Coromandel, we have a strong connection to the aquaculture industry, it’s part of our history, our identity, and our future,” he said.

“For our communities, this is about jobs, resilience, and keeping our towns thriving year-round.”

The Waikato region currently produces \$91.6 million in aquaculture exports annually - around 17 per cent of New Zealand’s total aquaculture export value - with the strategy setting



Coromandel mussel farms.  
FILE PHOTO

a goal of doubling that figure by 2044.

The Thames-Coromandel district was a major contributor to the sector, producing 26 per cent of New Zealand’s mussels and 23 per cent of its oysters.

The industry currently em-

loys around 400 people in the district.

“Aquaculture matters to the Waikato,” Waikato Regional Council Chair Warren Maher said.

“Our coastal and marine environment offers significant

opportunity to grow a thriving blue economy, and if we get it right, aquaculture can be a cornerstone of regional prosperity for generations to come.”

The forum brought together voices from across the sector, including Under-Secretary for

Oceans and Fisheries Jenny Marcroft, representatives from Aquaculture New Zealand, the Coromandel Marine Farming Association, and local operators Gulf Mussels and Moana New Zealand.

Researchers from the University of Auckland and University of Waikato also outlined science priorities for the sector, including work on spat supply reliability and new species pathways.

The forum built on momentum from a 2022 event that led to the formation of WRAG and the development of the regional aquaculture strategy.

This time, the focus was on delivery; identifying priority actions for the next three years.

The strategy also places a strong focus on environmental sustainability, including maintaining coastal water quality and addressing sedimentation and pollution entering the Firth of Thames from land-based sources.

Another major focus is ensuring iwi and mana whenua play a central role in the industry, with the strategy recognising their cultural, environmental and commercial interests.

“One thing that’s clear: no one group can deliver this on their own,” Mayor Revell told the forum.

“It’s going to take iwi, industry, and government all pulling in the same direction.”

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# Goat impounding in Thames deemed 'evil'



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

## 1876

An 'evil existing in Grahams-town' was the impounding of goats by police who paid boys sixpence a head to herd them to the pound.

But the goats, far from being a nuisance, were seen by many as beneficial to poor families as a source of milk. A good goat was more useful than the majority of the mongrels which roamed the streets of Grahamstown. If the police would only look at the number of useless curs that attacked pedestrians between the Presbyterian Church and the West Coast butchery almost nightly they would be doing more real service than in attempting to deprive helpless children of their milk. If they were so hard up for something to do, it was suggested that they should be sent to work on the roads.

At the Thames Police Court, a woman entered the witness box with a plump, well-dressed little girl in her arms and asked for advice. A few years back she said she took a fancy



Grahamstown, Thames, in the 1870s.

Photo: SUPPLIED

to the child who a man sold to her for sixpence. She had kept and clothed her for three and a half years and now the man had come to claim her.

The woman had no husband but was well able to maintain the child. The magistrate remarked that the child looked well, but the law did not give him power to say that she could keep the child, or that the man who claimed her could take her away. The only person who could decide whether she or the man was entitled to the custody of the child was a judge.

Meanwhile, at Paeroa the first school under the Board of Education was opened. but there were fears there would be a very small attendance as the roads were such a frightful mess.

It was impossible for children living any distance from Paeroa to attend. The track to Waitekauri from Paeroa was also in a terrible state and almost impassable. Mr Goonan, of Paeroa, had to put men on to repair the worst places at his own expense.

The government were doing their best to open the Mackaytown-Waitekauri track, but they seemed to have entirely forgotten the track leading from Paeroa to the mines.

The gradients needed improving and the bush clearing so that the sun and wind could get at it. Its present condition was disgraceful, and storekeepers sending up pack-horses could never feel sure that they would return safely.

Over at Tapu a concert and

ball was held in honour of St Patrick. The hall was filled and everyone appeared to be delighted with the night. Some 40 or 50 couples joined in the merry mazes of the dance. An attraction of the evening was the recitation by Mr Greaves. He performed 'Byron's Waterloo' and 'The Downfall of Poland' in a style certainly never before heard at Tapu.

At the end of a comic song by Mr Canty one of the audience thought that, without inconvenience to himself, he could raise his feet to the same elevation as his hands and clap them simultaneously. To his astonishment, however, he lost his balance and rolled from his seat to the floor to the great amusement of the spectators.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. True or false: Elvis Presley's real hair colour was actually a sandy blonde?
2. The campfire snack formed by placing a toasted marshmallow, and sometimes chocolate, between two crackers is known by what name?
3. Which planet's orbit comes closer to earth's orbit: Mars or Venus?
4. In which country is the head office of gold mining company Oceana Gold located? a) Argentina, b) Brazil, or c) Canada?
5. Which movie released in 2023 featured actors Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling?
6. The secondary school known as Macleans College is based in which New Zealand city? a) Auckland, b) Christchurch, or c) Wellington?
7. What national capital is the furthest west in mainland America? a) Lima, Peru; b) Mexico City, Mexico, or c) Ottawa, Canada.
8. Round Liner, Round Shader, Curved Magnum and Magnum are the primary types of needles used for what purpose?
9. Which of these has never been an Olympic event? a) Axe throwing, b) hot air ballooning, or c) painting?
10. The first recorded marriage between an Asian man and a white woman in the United States was even more notable because a) the man was a conjoined twin, b) they weren't alive at the time, or c) they were both already married?



ANSWERS: 1. True; 2. A's more; 3. Venus; types of tattoo needle); 9. a) Axe throw- ing; 10. a) The man was a conjoined twin.



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**Disclosure Day (145 mins)** M. Steven Spielberg blockbuster that ponders what the current world would look like if we got undoubtable proof of the existence of alien life in the universe.

**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.

**The Christophers (100 mins)** M. Comedy starring Ian McKellen. The estranged children of a once-famous artist hire a forger to complete his unfinished works so they can be "discovered" and sold after his death.

**Power Ballad (98 mins)** M. Feel-good movie of the year. Musical comedy drama. Follows a wedding singer and a flagging pop star who come together to write a song to comedic consequences.

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

**Caterpillar (97 mins)** M. Follows a daughter, mother and grandmother (who has an obsession with raising monarch caterpillars and one day seeing the butterfly migration in Mexico) living in a leaky Wellington villa.

**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.

**Coming from Thursday 18 June: Moss & Freud:** A biopic about the life of era-defining supermodel Kate Moss, centred around her relationship with the acclaimed British artist Lucian Freud. Filmed in NZ, starring Ellie Bamber and Derek Jacobi. **Glenrothan:** Compelling family drama set in the Scottish Highlands. Donal (Alan Cumming) returns to his family-owned whisky distillery for the first time in nearly 40 years.

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# Parenting devices takes a community

**OPINION**

By MICHAEL WILKES



What does it look like to parent in a world that's changed so fast there's no playbook for what

we're facing? That's a very real question. Because when it comes to devices and social media, many of us feel like we're making it up as we go. We're the first generation of parents trying to raise kids in a world where the phone in their pocket has more pull than almost anything else in their day.

And I reckon part of the answer begins with something we've forgotten — community.

A few years back I wrote about how resilience often grows strongest when hardship is shared. When one person loses a house, they can suffer alone. But when a whole community walks through disaster — think Christchurch earthquakes or the storms we've seen locally — people rally. There's shared grit. Shared strength. People hold each other up.

I think parenting is meant to work more like that. But often it doesn't. We can be guarded. Independent. A bit proud, maybe. We don't always want others telling us

how to parent. And so we navigate some of the hardest decisions in isolation.

Yet at a recent parent night discussing devices and social media, one parent made a simple but profound point: when the parents in a friendship group agree on boundaries, it becomes so much easier to hold the line.

Of course it does. Because suddenly your child's "But everyone else has it!" loses its power.

And here's why that matters. Research keeps pointing to a troubling reality: the most "connected" generation is often reporting the deepest loneliness. Anxiety and depression have risen sharply

alongside device dependence. If social media were truly delivering connection, those numbers should be heading the other way.

And let's be honest — big tech is not neutral in this. Entire industries are designed to keep young people scrolling, clicking and hooked.

That means parents have to be intentional. Talk with the parents of your kids' friends. Share ideas. Agree on phone rules. Hold off social media longer. Delay smartphones if you can. Build common ground. Because this isn't about being anti-tech.

It's about refusing to let Silicon Valley do all the parenting. And

maybe that's my encouragement: don't walk this road alone.

Build a village.

Because when parents stand together, kids are stronger for it. And if your children are still young? Put good measures in place now.

It is far easier to build healthy boundaries early than claw them back later.

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

## Style Your Space ADVERTISING FEATURE



Soft throws, textured cushions and fluffy rugs can immediately increase comfort and help make any room feel warmer. FILE PHOTOS

### Time for winter styling for your home

The chilly weather has settled right across the country, and for people and families in the Hauraki-Coromandel - there's nowhere else quite as warm and cosy as home.

In this edition of Style your Space in *The Valley Profile*, we want to highlight just how simple it can be to revamp your house into a warm, inviting retreat with winter styling.

One of the easiest ways to create a cosy feel is through layering. Adding soft throws, textured cushions and fluffy rugs can immediately increase comfort and help make any room feel warmer.

Think wool, merino and cotton for natural fibres that can offer that snug feeling.

Something that can play a crucial role during winter is lighting. With the daylight hours reduced, table lamps, floor lamps and bulbs with warm tones can create a more relaxing environment for afternoons and evenings filled with reading, chatting or curling up on the couch with a blanket to watch a movie.

Candles are another soft touch to add to family gatherings in the living and dining areas.

It's also the perfect time to introduce richer colours such as deep greens, earthy browns, charcoal greys and warm terracotta blends to add to the winter mood. Those shades of colour work well through accessories such as candle holders, fruit bowls, coffee coasters,

artwork and soft furnishings such as throws or cushions.

It's not a bad idea to think about switching to heavier and thicker curtains to help retain the heat.

Making sure furniture is placed in a good position will also help to maximise the warmth from fireplaces and heat pumps too.

These simple steps can help people across Hauraki-Coromandel to make their homes not only warm and toasty for the coldest months of the year, but also stylish and welcoming whenever they arrive home.

**DETAILS:** To join the Style your space feature, call Davidda on 022 174 3988 or email: [Davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz](mailto:Davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz)

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Everyday people in the Hauraki-Coromandel are always on the lookout for service providers they can trust. That's exactly what the Experts feature in *The Valley Profile* is all about - connecting everyday people with dependable services.

If you're a business or service provider in the Hauraki-Coromandel, then this feature is a simple and easy way to let our readership know who you are, what you do and how you can help.

Readers are always in the market for someone to help get the job done whether it's a plumber to sort the pipes, someone to help fix a cracked windscreen, a tyre expert to help fit out a vehicle or an arborist to tidy up the hedge.

The Experts feature is a space for - well, Experts, to let the community know what they do best. It's also a great place for around 35,000 *Valley Profile* readers from throughout Hauraki-Coromandel to find you. Businesses who sign up for our Experts feature will not only get a weekly ad placement, they'll also receive a free editorial in this very spot which goes on rotation with the other experts.

The editorial will also be shared to *The Valley Profile* website, Facebook and Instagram, and also receive a service listing on the Coromandel App. If you want to reach more people and see results, get in touch today.

**DETAILS: To join the Experts feature, call Davidda on 022 174 3988 or email: Davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.**

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Children enjoy the new playhouse built by Hauraki Plains College students.

Photo: SUPPLIED

# Playing house at Playcentre

A brand-new playhouse is delighting children at the Ngatea Playcentre. The little wooden structure was built by Hauraki Plains College students and gifted to the centre. Kaimahi Morgan Hembrow said the early-childhood facility was delighted with the gift. "Ngatea Playcentre would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the students of Hauraki

Plains College for their incredible mahi in building our new playhouse. "This generous project has created a special new space where our tamariki can imagine, explore, and play, and it will be enjoyed for generations to come," she said. "The dedication, care, and hard work shown throughout this project has meant so much to our Playcentre whānau and

wider community. "It has been wonderful to see the students sharing and developing their skills in a way that leaves such a positive and lasting impact for local children and families. "We are truly grateful for this thoughtful contribution." **DETAILS: Ngatea Playcentre, Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11.30am. Contact [ngatea@playcentre.org](mailto:ngatea@playcentre.org) for more.**

## Pet Profile

# Ringo is looking for his best friend

At just six months old, Ringo is a handsome young tabby kitten with a big heart and plenty of love to give. This affectionate boy loves attention and is always happy to come over for pats, cuddles, and companionship. Ringo is a sweet boy and would love nothing more than to find a special person to be his best friend and constant companion. He also gets along well with other cats and has been paired with several different kittens while in care without any issues, making him a great candidate for a multi-cat household.

Ringo has some old healed scarring to one of his eyes, which gives him a unique look and does not require any treatment or ongoing care. Fully desexed, microchipped, litter trained, and up to date with his vaccinations, flea and worm treatments, Ringo is ready for his forever home. Ringo is available for adoption through Thames SPCA. Come and meet this charming young man—you may just find your new best friend. **DETAILS: To apply for Cookie or for more information, please visit [www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/665455/cat-ringo-thames](http://www.sPCA.nz/adopt/animal/665455/cat-ringo-thames) - Supplied by Thames SPCA**



Ringo loves attention and is always happy to come over for pats and cuddles. Photo: SUPPLIED

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**PAEROA** - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub  
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**TURUA**: Turua Dairy  
**KEREPEHI**: Kerepehi Dairy

# CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Monday Noon

In Memoriam	Handyman	Land Wanted	Personal	Public Notices
<p><b>SAINTY, Ruth:</b> Treasured memories of our dear Ruth, who left us on 10 June 2025. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Your absence is felt every day, but your love remains a guiding light in our lives. <b>Lovingly remembered and sadly missed.</b> From your family.</p> 	<p><b>An experienced handyman</b> covering all trades with over 20 years exp building trade. Please contact Laurie King 021 251 0246 ktpropertyservice.com</p> <p><b>Handyman Services</b></p>  <p><b>THAMES HANDYMAN &amp; BUILDING SERVICES</b> Building, home maintenance &amp; general gardening services <b>Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</b></p>	<p><b>Wanted to Lease/Rent land</b> while I look for another farm to buy anything considered Please call or text Richard 0279332015</p>	<p><b>My name is Stephanie.</b> With over 30 years in the relationship and friendship industry, I've introduced thousands of genuine men and women to compatible partners. If you're looking for love, companionship, or simply someone special to share life with - <b>I can help.</b> <b>Call 0800 446 332</b></p> 	<p><b>Thames Community Cancer Support Group AGM</b> 17th June 2026 @ 11.30 am Croquet Rooms Beach Road, Thames</p>
<p><b>For Lease</b></p> <p><b>Yards for lease,</b> Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101</p>	<p><b>Trades</b></p> <p><b>FENCING CONTRACTOR</b> Residential &amp; Rural Retaining walls &amp; more High quality workmanship Competitive prices <b>Call Matt 021 1727 148</b></p>	<p><b>Situation Vacant</b></p> <p><b>FULL TIME QUALIFIED DIESEL MECHANIC REQUIRED</b> Monday - Friday. Must be a team player and have a full drivers licence. Send CV to <a href="mailto:andrew@centralmotors.co.nz">andrew@centralmotors.co.nz</a> or phone Andrew on 027 285 0349</p>	<p><b>CLASSIFIEDS</b> Call Nikki: Ph 022 130 3885</p>	<p><b>U3A Hauraki</b> "Lifelong Learners Interest Groups"</p> <p> This months talk by:- <b>Diane Drumond</b> <b>NZ CycleTrails</b> <i>CEO of the Hauraki Rail Trail. Diane will explain the history, development and success of our NZ cycle trails</i></p> <p><b>Tuesday Jun 16th</b> 10am to 12noon \$10 cash at the door <b>Paeroa Baptist Church</b> 2 Wood Street Paeroa.</p> <p><b>All welcome.</b></p> <p>Join interest groups, stay young and informed.</p>
<p><b>Gardening</b></p> <p><b>STUMP GRINDING.</b> All sizes, all areas. Thames based. Ph 021 060 7659</p>	<p><b>Painter</b></p> <p><b>HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS</b> Over 12 years experience, interior/ exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312</p>	<p><b>Storage</b></p> <p><b>Storage Unlimited</b> 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m <b>Phone 07 868 9944</b></p> <p><b>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA</b> "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage <a href="http://www.safestorage.co.nz">www.safestorage.co.nz</a></p>	<p><b>Situation Vacant</b></p> <p><b>We are looking for</b> Tractor, car &amp; bike mechanics. Some experience would be an advantage but training will be given to the right applicant, WoF ticket is preferable. <i>Also</i> <b>A motivated, energetic go-getter to promote &amp; sell our Honda Motorcycle brand &amp; farm machinery.</b> You will need to be able to manage your own schedule &amp; territories, build strong relationships &amp; demonstrate product knowledge, provide solutions to existing &amp; potential customers and have a clean full drivers licence. A company vehicle will be provided. <b>If you're reliable and a team player send your CV to <a href="mailto:miles@hpmotors.co.nz">miles@hpmotors.co.nz</a> or ph 027 227 1121 for a chat.</b></p> 	<p><b>PAPER RUNNERS REQUIRED</b> We have 2 vacancies for paper runners One in Waihi. Immediate start... One in Kerepehi (fortnightly) <b>Please contact Geoff: <a href="mailto:admin@valleyprofile.co.nz">admin@valleyprofile.co.nz</a> for more information.</b></p>
<p><b>Garage Sale</b></p> <p><b>9 Kaikahu Rd Nth, Kerepehi.</b> Sat 13th June 8.30am. Shed equipment, electrical tools, drop saw, skill saws etc. Garden equipment, household goods</p>	<p><b>Builder</b></p> <p><b>Friendly licensed builder.</b> 40 years exp. All aspects .No job too small. Ian 021 540 376</p>	<p><b>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA</b> 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&amp;C's apply <b>021 67 67 99</b> <a href="mailto:info@totalstorage.co.nz">info@totalstorage.co.nz</a></p>	<p><b>House Cleaning</b></p> <p><b>Castle on the Coast</b> Cleaning Service. All housework, ovens, laundry, ironing. Ph 027 437 1195</p>	

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## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST for residential works and services

We're seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably experienced local contractors to deliver a package of private residential works and services as part of our proposed new subdivision on our Knowles Crescent/Barry Road property.

The project is still in the planning and approvals phase, so any contract award will depend on approvals being granted and final tender details being confirmed. The subdivision will feature 10 homes on individual titles (three with additional granny flats) and is intended to provide housing for our increased workforce, following the approval of the Waihi North Project.

This EOI relates to works required on each residential section, including service connections, driveways, fencing and landscaping. Bulk earthworks, wider subdivision civil works, and relocatable house construction will be delivered separately.

**We welcome interest from local contractors who can manage and deliver a mix of different types of work, coordinating subcontractors or trades to complete all of the works.**

For each residential section, the appointed contractor will be responsible for delivering:

- Power and water supply connections from boundary to house
- Stormwater detention/soakage pit installations and connection to house
- Wastewater connections from boundaries to houses and subfloor drainage
- Construction of decking, stairs, balustrades, and baseboards
- Construction of residential concrete driveways and parking
- Internal fencing and landscaping works.

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# SUDOKU

254

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

5	4		2	9	6			
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			4	1		5	7	2
	7							5
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HARD

254

HARD

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

EASY

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6	5	3	9	2	1	7	8	4
9	1	8	5	7	4	2	6	3
4	6	1	3	5	2	8	9	7
8	2	9	1	4	7	3	5	6
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# JUMBO CROSSWORD

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**ACROSS**

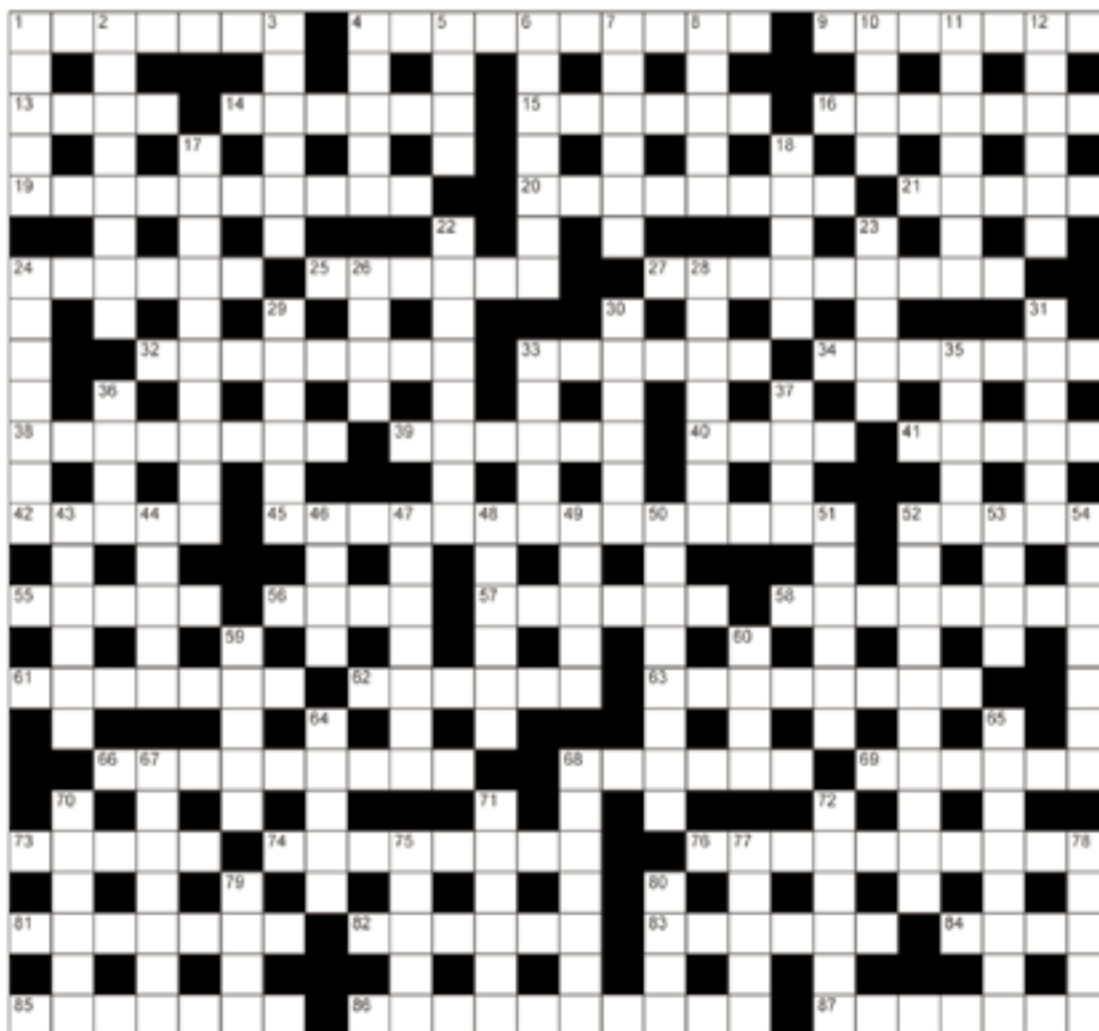
- 1 Ringed (7)
- 4 Pretend ostentatiously (3,2,2,3)
- 9 Court decision (7)
- 13 Church recess (4)
- 14 Ageism (anag)(6)
- 15 Parent (6)
- 16 Transporter (7)
- 19 Bad luck (10)
- 20 Photographer's workshop (8)
- 21 Decrease (5)
- 24 Vigour (6)
- 25 Of iron (6)
- 27 Con man (9)
- 32 Macabre (8)
- 33 Quiet! (4,2)
- 34 Bloodsucking bat (7)
- 38 Using guns (8)
- 39 Furrow (6)
- 40 Notion (4)
- 41 Pixie-like (5)
- 42 Giver (5)
- 45 "Friends, Romans, countrymen, \_\_\_\_\_" (4,2,4,4)
- 52 Tropical fruit (5)
- 55 Cake maker (5)
- 56 Jump (4)
- 57 Holds firmly (6)
- 58 Disdain (8)
- 61 Red in the face (7)
- 62 Court game (6)
- 63 Unmarried man (8)
- 66 Lacking training (9)
- 68 Customer (6)
- 69 Gable ornament (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Allege (5)
- 2 Fought against (8)
- 3 Drop in rank (6)
- 4 Irreligious (5)
- 5 Job (4)
- 6 Wandering (7)
- 7 Disposition (6)
- 8 Supportive yell (5)
- 10 Cheese (4)
- 11 Hard-wearing (7)
- 12 Make (6)
- 17 Lyricist (10)
- 18 Contact (5)
- 22 Devoid of (4,4)
- 23 Composition (5)
- 24 Pleased (anag)(7)
- 26 Love god (4)
- 28 Habitual activity (7)
- 29 Dog house (6)
- 30 Desk (6)
- 31 Snooping (6)
- 33 Tale (5)
- 35 Lively dance (5)
- 36 Settlement (4)
- 37 Eye droplet (4)
- 43 Sage (6)

**ACROSS**

- 44 Kilns (5)
- 46 Smooth (4)
- 47 Use up (7)
- 48 Motor (6)
- 49 Salvo (anag)(5)
- 50 Democratic state (8)
- 51 Provisions (6)
- 52 Systematic (10)
- 53 Senseless (4)
- 54 Porridge ingredient (7)
- 59 Office tables (5)
- 60 Religious image (4)
- 64 Incline (5)
- 65 Bisection (8)
- 67 Approaching (7)
- 68 West Indian beat (7)
- 70 Trial (6)
- 71 Business base (6)
- 72 Day's end (6)
- 75 US film award (5)
- 77 Work of fiction (5)
- 78 Pluck (5)
- 79 Narrow valley (4)
- 80 Dog biter (4)



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ACROSS: 1 Spine, 4 Light as a feather, 14 Cater, 15 Solve, 16 Microscope, 17 Ether, 19 Rut, 20 Villain, 21 Betrothal, 22 Regain, 25 Ambiguity, 27 Relief, 28 Bought, 33 Sandcastle, 35 Imp, 36 Jockey, 37 Lava, 39 Cue, 41 Circuit, 42 Tomato, 43 Maternity, 44 Rinse, 45 Employer, 50 Id, 51 Restless, 55 Basin, 58 Spectacle, 59 Swathe, 60 Cuckoos, 61 Emu, 63 Eden, 64 Devout, 65 Lie, 66 Forerunner, 68 Eddies, 69 Renown, 71 Desperado, 76 Writer, 77 Stiffness, 79 Outlook, 81 Loo, 84 Igloo, 85 Afterwards, 86 Orbit, 87 Trait, 88 Grease the wheels, 89 Camel.

DOWN: 2 Profit, 3 Navel, 5 Ibis, 6 Harvest, 7 Absorb, 8 Aloft, 9 Eyeball, 10 Twee, 11 Echoed, 12 Stern, 13 Protect, 14 Creator, 18 Similarity, 23 Musty, 24 Welcome, 26 Medical, 27 Ripcord, 29 Granite, 30 Racism, 31 Sitar, 32 Nettle, 34 Eros, 36 Jeans, 38 Abyss, 40 Fret, 45 Ensnare, 46 Pretend, 47 Oats, 48 Exceed, 49 Islet, 50 Insulin, 52 Sauerkraut, 53 Likened, 54 Shower, 55 Beloved, 56 Taped, 57 Chef, 62 Props, 67 Deficit, 68 Emulate, 70 Outrage, 72 Enslave, 73 Cellar, 74 Andrew, 75 Docile, 76 Woman, 78 Fetch, 80 Larva, 82 Nova, 83 Idol.



Boundary lines are indicative only

**Hikutaia 246 Maratoto Road**

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bayleys.co.nz/2630209

3.9919<sub>ha</sub> 3 1

**Asking Price** \$825,000  
**Phone for viewing times**  
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**Connor Davis** 027 496 4622  
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Boundary lines are indicative only



**Paeroa 6736 Wilson Road**

**A project property with scope to improve**

For those seeking to add value over time, this property offers a practical base with excellent infrastructure already in place. The large concrete floor half-round barn with three-phase power and a five-bay lean-to provides ample space for storage, workshop use, or future plans, supported by rural industrial zoning. The two-bedroom home offers scope to modernise and enhance, while a separate unconsented sleepout adds flexibility. Post and rail batten fencing defines the usable land. Set in the Netherton area, the property enjoys open farmland surroundings with Paeroa's schools, cafés, supermarkets, and everyday services close by, while Thames, Hamilton, and Tauranga are within easy reach.

bayleys.co.nz/2630248

6,627<sub>sqm</sub> 2 1

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4 2 3 2

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**Geoff Graham** 021 733 430  
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SPORTS

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# Ministock pits praise for rising racer

MINI STOCK CAR RACING

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Harris Green “didn’t really believe it” when he snapped up two awards at the Huntly Speedway Ministock Prizegiving in May.

The 13-year-old racer received the Mentors Choice for Most Improved First Year Driver and also picked up Personality of the Pits which was voted for by his peers.

The young zoomer, who is also a year-9 student at Hauraki Plains College, said the personality award meant the others really enjoyed having him in the pit. “They obviously think I am a cool character to have around,” he said.

Ministock racing was important to Harris’ family - the people he looked up to in the sport.

“My family has been in it for years, my dad used to crew for Greg Simpson, my older brothers [Thomas and Jared] were also into racing thanks to dad, so that got me interested.

“I reckon I was lucky not to be born at the track,” he said.

“Mum and dad are really supportive of my racing journey.”

When it comes to his own ministock car, Harris knows it inside and out.

“My ministock has a steel frame with [a] Datsun 120Y motor in it, a fibreglass body with a steel bonnet, steel side plates for the motor and a steel scoop at the front of the car to make all the air go to [the] radiator.”



Harris Green picks up several awards at Huntly Speedway Ministock prizegiving.

Photos: SUPPLIED

It has a steel wing, a quick release steering wheel and 4 point harnesses with a window net, he said. “My seat is a Kirkey 15ml, I have ratchet belts, [and a] fully steel roll cage. All the steel work is silver, the aluminium and fibreglass body is black with my dad’s company logo on it which is Ross

Green Contracting. My four-point harness is hot pink which represents Breast Cancer.”

The biggest improvement he made during the ministock season was on his drive lines and making sure he knew when and where to pass, he said.

He also managed to get his “set-

ups” right at all the different tracks thanks to his brother, Thomas.

The thing that goes through his mind before a take off was “please don’t flip, please don’t jump the start”, he said.

Besides speed, one skill Harris said he believed made a good ministock driver was the ability to



stay calm under pressure. Another top skill was “putting the car in nice and smoothly to the corners”.

He would love his journey to one day lead him to racing a stock car tank, he said, but in the meantime, his next goal was to win ministocks at Paradise Valley in Rotorua by “sharpening up my skills”.

His aim was to win it before his next birthday on February 26.

“I love to drive and just focus on the track to achieve my goal of winning.”

The young racer’s advice for other first year ministock drivers was simple: “take the first couple of meetings slow and when you are confident, go full noise and race your own race”, he said.

“Or as my brother says ‘lick the stamp and send it’.”

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