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\$900k debt recovery 'highly unlikely'

Angry contractors and suppliers have been left tens of thousands of dollars in the red after the closure of a Paeroa company in March. ALICE PARMINTER reports



A shareholder says the PTS office/warehouse building at 3 Coronation St, Paeroa - which is currently up for lease, is still owned by a separate company in which Murray Hintz, right, is a majority shareholder.
Photos: ALICE PARMINTER/FACEBOOK

Professional Trade Services NZ Ltd (PTSNZ), a residential and commercial maintenance and renovations company owned by Murray (Muz) Hintz, went into voluntary liquidation on March 25.

According to the liquidator, PTSNZ owes an estimated \$900,000 to creditors, including Inland Revenue and finance companies. This also includes around \$135,000 owed to more than 40 building supply retailers and businesses - many from the Hauraki-Coromandel region.

Sam Tissingsh from Paeroa business TISS Electrical told *The Profile* he was owed around \$27,000.

"I always thought they ran their business a bit funny [but] they had always paid me in the past - always late, but they trickled money through," he said.

"But since they closed the doors, we were screwed. We were working hard-out for them right up until they just turned around and said, 'doors are shut'. So they were screaming at us to do jobs and prob-

ably had no intention of paying, which pisses me off."

Sam said the situation caused a lot of stress for his business.

"Twenty-seven grand for a company of three boys - there's a lot of money to take a hit on," he said.

"You've got to do \$100,000 worth of work before you start making back what you lost on that 27, you know?"

Another contractor, Mike Le Cheminant, said PTSNZ still owed him \$9115. "I subcontracted and painted [a] house for them... I got halfway through the house and asked for a progress payment, which took me quite a while to get," he said.

"I got it, but only because I threatened to walk off the job. Then at the end of the job, the owners paid him in full, and I've never seen a cent."

Mike said he had spent months trying to recover his money, to no avail.

"[Hintz] won't return my text, he won't answer my calls. He's obviously blocked me now," he said.

"He actually turned around and said to me that he would pay me

CONTINUED ON P2

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Woman's house a 'stripped out shell'

CONTINUED FROM P1

out of his private account - that was when they were still operating. Then when I spoke to the office... he denied that."

Mike said he was "gutted" about the financial loss. "I've paid my staff, I've paid for materials, and I lose money from this guy. It's just heartbreaking," he said.

"The stress it has put my family in has been unreal."

Licensed insolvency practitioner David Thomas, who was appointed to handle the liquidation, said PTSNZ failed in part because it wasn't able to bridge a substantial financial gap following the loss of some anticipated contract work.

"They tried to finance the bridging, but it was just too much to keep all the blokes on," David said.

"They were scratching around for work. And unfortunately, they got a bit gung ho, particularly with a woman's house, and they would have stripped it all out, and then she's got the stripped-out shell.

"And of course [PTSNZ] go into liquidation, so the [woman's] got a stripped out shell, and she doesn't have the funds to finish it, because I think she paid quite a bit."

David said he was now in the process of identifying and liquidating the company's assets, including a piece of land, to get as much money back as possible, but he said it was "highly unlikely" the full amount would be recovered.

An auction at the company's former

office and warehouse at 3 Coronation St, Paeroa, on May 20 raised around \$36,000 towards its debts. The assets sold include five vans, two trailers, a car, a forklift, and various tools, building materials, office equipment, and workshop goods.

Meanwhile, Hintz is still on the companies register as the director for two other companies - Professional Handyman Ltd, which was incorporated with the Compa-

"Unfortunately, they got a bit gung ho, particularly with a woman's house, they stripped it all out...and [PTS] go into liquidation, so the [woman's] got a stripped out shell, and she doesn't have the funds to finish it."

- David Thomas



The Professional Trade Services sign at its former premises at 3 Coronation St, Paeroa.

File Photo: SUPPLIED

to try and get some money back, and involved with the sale of all assets," he said.

"I'm out working for myself now... You've just got to deal with it and move on. It's just one of those things, bigger companies than us have gone under, and [there are] people in a lot worse condition.

"It's just because we're local, it hurts a lot more locals."

PTSNZ is a limited liability company, meaning its shareholder is only personally responsible for personal guarantees he has given to lenders or creditors.

Under the Companies Act, there is also nothing preventing directors from beginning new businesses, although people who are consistently involved in failed companies can be barred from serving as directors in some circumstances.

But David said company directors still had a professional obligation to do right by their creditors, citing sections 135-138 of the Companies Act.

"You can't trade recklessly, you can't incur a debt that you can't reasonably expect to pay. And if you do that, [or] if you trade insolvently, then actually, there's an argument there that you can become liable for those debts," he said.

"[But] it's not an easy thing to prove. In a lot of cases where you've got small companies and they've traded insolvently, the amount at stake is not worth going to a lawyer who's going to charge you a hundred grand to recover. The cost of it is prohibitive."

The Valley Profile made several attempts to reach Hintz for comment but he did not respond.

nies Office in 2018, and The Tradie Hub Ltd, incorporated in 2022.

Hintz is the sole shareholder for Professional Handyman Ltd, and 75 per cent shareholder for The Tradie Hub Ltd, along with former employee Anthony Bourke, who has a 25 per cent share.

Anthony told The Profile The Tradie Hub Ltd still owned the building at 3 Coronation St, Paeroa, which is currently up for lease.

Anthony said he worked for Hintz for four-and-a-half years and was still owed around \$6000 in wages, which he didn't expect to see back.

However, he believed the failure of PTSNZ was out of the company's control.

"One of our biggest clients - we used to do a substantial amount of months - basically just pulled the pin. That was probably anywhere from \$70,000 to \$80,000 of work," he said.

"You can't control the economy, can't control people. All you can do is always try and do your best but that doesn't mean you're always gonna succeed.

"It's not like it's a fly-by-night company, he's been going eight years. So it's not like he'd just come in, ripped everybody off and disappeared."

Anthony said he was "just an employee" at PTSNZ, and was informed about the liquidation at the same time as everyone else.

"I was employed by the liquidators to help finish off a couple of jobs at the end,

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz

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National NZ

Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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Thames Tides													
Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		Sun		Mon		Tue	
Jul 8		Jul 9		Jul 10		Jul 11		Jul 12		Jul 13		Jul 14	
4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm	4 am	6 NOON 6 pm
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
12:30am 3.2	12:49pm 3.1	1:19am 3.2	1:42pm 3.1	2:11am 3.2	2:42pm 3.2	3:07am 3.2	3:47pm 3.2	4:08am 3.3	4:53pm 3.3	5:13am 3.3	5:56pm 3.5	12:05am 0.6	12:32pm 0.3
6:40am 0.7	6:56pm 0.9	7:30am 0.7	7:55pm 0.9	8:25am 0.7	8:58pm 0.9	9:26am 0.6	10:02pm 0.8	10:30am 0.5	11:05pm 0.7	11:33am 0.4		6:18am 3.4	6:54pm 3.6
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🌑 Last Quarter	Rise 12:18am Set 11:42am	🌑 Rise	1:26am Set 11:14pm	🌑 Rise	2:38am Set 12:46pm	🌑 Rise	3:53am Set 1:30pm	🌑 Rise	5:08am Set 2:25pm	🌑 Rise	6:19am Set 3:32pm	🌑 New Moon	Rise 7:19am Set 4:48pm
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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 HIGH LOW Coromandel -0 04 -0 04 Whitianga -0 01 -0 05 Tairua +0 10 +0 20 Whangamatā -0 03 -0 06 Waihi Beach -0 21 -0 16													

Legal takes biggest hit to limit rates rise

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames-Coromandel district councillors have voted to trim \$450,000 from the council's annual operating budget by reducing spending across several departments, with Legal Services bearing more than half of the savings, while core services such as roads, water, and wastewater escape any cuts.

The decision forms part of the council's 2026/27 Annual Plan, which sets an average rates increase of 3.97 per cent.

It follows the council's May rejection of a controversial proposal to reduce mowing, garden maintenance, and weed spraying across the district. Those cuts were expected to save \$450,000 a year, so councillors instead directed staff to find the equivalent savings elsewhere in the organisation to help keep rates down.

While not every elected member supported the decision at the June 30 meeting, some said it challenged staff to find further savings while maintaining services.

"When I stood for this council, this was one of the things that I was standing about - getting rates down to a reasonable level," Councillor John Freer said. "We do have some risk here... there is risk in everything that we do, [but] I am comfortable with the level of risk we are talking about here," he said.

"This is a challenge to the staff.

We've only come part of the way to get to this annual plan, and we've actually got a lot further to go. We've heard this morning about the work that's gone on to get us from a 14 per cent [rates increase] to under four per cent. So here is the next challenge. What can they do as we move forward?"

Legal Services has been asked to find the lion's share of the savings, with its 2026/2027 budget reduced by 54 per cent - almost \$242,000.

Community Spaces, Information Services, and Corporate Services will also trim spending, while several other departments have been assigned smaller targets. No savings have been allocated to Roads and Footpaths, Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Solid Waste, or Infrastructure.

Councillor Alison Smith said she shared concerns raised by fellow elected members about the proposal, but believed the community had made it clear the council needed to reduce spending.

"Tightening our belt is not an unreasonable request," she said, "and it is the mandate that we have heard from the community."

However, she said she was uneasy because she could not be certain the savings would not eventually lead to reduced mowing services, despite councillors voting against those cuts in May.

"But I guess from my perspective, I need to trust that that's not going to happen."



Kris and Elliot Burton of Burton's Butchery snap up a silver medal for their Manuka Smoked Loin Bacon. Photo: SUPPLIED

Burton's sweeps up silver in awards

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Burton's Butchery takes home, well, the bacon for the second year in a row at the 100% NZ Bacon and Ham Awards.

The butchery based in the heart of Thames Valley snapped up a silver medal for its Manuka Smoked Loin Bacon on June 30.

"It's a good feeling," owner Elliot Burton told *The Profile* of his award.

"You know, we put a lot of work and effort into it, so it's good to be recognised as well and not from just our loyal customers [but also] from the judging panel."

It was a three-day process that pulled together a panel of experienced butchers and culinary experts, who made a careful assessment of 233 entries from across the motu, all made using 100 per cent New Zealand pork.

"So it's just quite a good thing to be up there with all the other players," he said.

Culinary judge Greig Buckley of Kai Foods said the competition helped shoppers take the guesswork out of choosing bacon and ham, and highlighted the quality products they could buy with confidence.

Elliot described his award-winning bacon as an "old-fashioned

sort of style", with a "real strong hint" of Manuka throughout, which came to life through the wood-fired smokehouse.

"Lots of commercial places or other bigger butcher shops, they have the electric sort of smokehouses and that these days, where[as] we're still out there tending to a fire."

One thing was certain, he had a lot of gratitude for his patrons.

"Without our customers, we wouldn't be entering awards and trying to keep improving our business," he said.

"The support of all our customers allows us to be able to do this sort of stuff."

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Young duo swims big for Coastguard

SWIMMING

By KELLEY TANTAU

Two 10-year-old Thames Amateur Swimming Club members have turned months of hard work in the pool into thousands of dollars for the NZ Coastguard after taking on June's Big Swim challenge.

Hikutaia School student Nyomi McKain swam 20 kilometres for the challenge, while St Francis School student Devyn Greene set herself an even bigger goal of 30 kilometres.

Together, the pair spent weeks fitting extra training sessions around school, family life, and other sporting commitments, all to raise money for an organisation they say helps keep New Zealanders safe on the water.

Nyomi and Devyn told *The Profile* they signed up for the Big Swim because they wanted to give back to a "great cause that helps a lot of people".

"Setting a goal of 20 kilometers was a big challenge for me," Nyomi said, "but it was also a way to show how serious I am about supporting this cause. I wanted to push myself and see what I could achieve."

Although she has been swimming with the Thames Amateur Swimming Club for almost a year, Nyomi said this was by far the most swimming she had ever completed in such a short period.

The cold water, however, proved to be one of the toughest obstacles. "Sometimes, the pool felt really cold, and it took a lot of courage to jump in. But I reminded myself of all the support I've received, and it helped me push through."

Helping make those cold training sessions a little easier was mum Te Aroha



Devyn Greene, left, and Nyomi McKain took on the Big Swim challenge. Photo: SUPPLIED

McKain, who had a hot milo ready after every swim.

Te Aroha said she was "filled with pride" when her daughter first shared her goal, but admitted swimming 20

kilometres initially seemed daunting for a 10-year-old.

"However, seeing the determination in Nyomi's eyes, I knew she was committed and ready to take on the ambi-

tious goal, and we decided to support her in every way we could," she said.

"We discussed the importance of balancing her schoolwork, training, and rest, ensuring she wouldn't be overwhelmed."

The Big Swim Challenge required a huge amount of commitment and training, more than Nyomi said she had ever imagined. Because the family doesn't live locally to Thames, they had to travel three times a week from Paeroa to train with the swimming club at the Thames Centennial Pool.

For Devyn, the biggest challenge had also been finding time for the extra training alongside winter sports and other activities. She trained for six to seven hours each week, fitting in extra swims whenever needed to stay on track for her 30km goal.

Together, the pair raised \$2850 for Coastguard NZ, with the funds going towards training and equipping more than 2000 volunteers, as well as helping fuel and maintain rescue vessels across the organisation's 62 units nationwide.

"I am incredibly proud of myself for raising over \$2000 for the NZ Coastguard," Nyomi said. "When I first set my goal of \$500, I never imagined we would go so far beyond that amount. It's been amazing, and every dollar raised feels like a huge achievement."

Te Aroha said watching both girls dedicate themselves to the challenge had been inspiring, with their determination and willingness to give back making their families incredibly proud.

"They have embraced every aspect of this challenge with enthusiasm and determination, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed," she said.



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For times, see our website, pick up a brochure by the cinema doors, or email or phone us.

The Invite (107 mins) R16. A middle-aged couple who are feeling stagnant in their relationship invite the younger and livelier couple from the apartment upstairs for a get-together that takes an unexpected turn.

Primavera (110 mins) M. In 18th century Venice, 20y.o. violin virtuoso Cecilia lives at an orphanage where, despite her talent, she remains confined, knowing that marriage is the only way out. Yet her life takes a turn after she meets Antonio Vivaldi, a brilliant and ambitious composer who becomes the new violin teacher.

Guided by Vivaldi and his music, Cecilia finds the strength to challenge the destiny that seemed inevitable.

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.

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 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.

New on 18 & 19 July: Iron Maiden: Burning Ambition (105 mins) M. Spanning five decades, this film charts the band's iconic rise to become one of the biggest bands in music history. **Two screenings only.**

Cinema winter closure Please note that the cinema will be closed from Tuesday 21 July to Thursday 13 August inclusive. From 14 August we'll be back with gusto, though - see the Coming Soon page of our website for the brand new films coming to Thames (H is for Hawk; Savage House; Colours of Time; etc).

Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



8 July 2026

Tough Choices for Lower Rates adopted: balancing costs, fairness and service delivery

Our Council has confirmed a package of changes aimed at balancing rising costs while keeping rates affordable.

Rates have been set at an average increase of 3.97%, significantly lower than originally forecast.

We consulted on four proposals as part of our Tough Choices campaign. Following feedback, we decided to increase fees and charges and decrease some rates discounts, withdraw our proposal to reduce mowing and gardening services, and amend proposed changes to rubbish and refuse transfer station opening hours to be more convenient.

You will notice some changes including higher fees for most Council services from 1 July 2026



– from rubbish tags to boat ramp parking. Users of transfer stations at Coromandel, Matarangi and Pāuanui transfer stations can expect to see opening hours reduce in the coming months. The first rates notice will be sent out in September and will include other rating changes made last year, including the shift from land value to capital value rating. While this shift does not change total rates collected by our Council, it does change how rates are distributed across properties.

The final plan reflects careful trade-offs. We have focused on keeping costs down while protecting services people value and reducing internal costs to limit impact on households.

Our Annual Plan is a yearly update to our Long Term Plan, setting out the budget and key work programme for the coming year.

Find our Annual Plan, fees and charges and other details at www.tcdc.govt.nz/AP2627

WHICH WAY SHOULD TCDC GO?

By now you've heard of the Government's plans to simplify local government. Councils have been requested to submit a proposal to the Government by 9 August.

We have shortlisted three amalgamation options that would meet the Government's requirements and we want to narrow this down to one.

You can help by ranking the three options in order of your preference. The options are: the Greater Waikato, Northern Bay of Plenty, or Eastern Waikato.

But time is short.

Head to www.tcdc.govt.nz/localgovernmentreforms before 15 July to find out more and have your say.

Not online? Paper forms can be accessed at your local Council service centre or you can call us on 07 868 0200 and our team will record your views.

Make sure your voice is heard.

Council services over Matariki weekend



KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS

There are no scheduled rubbish and food waste collections on Matariki public holiday, Friday 10 July. Collections in affected areas are one day later. For year-round kerbside collection calendars, check your local schedule at www.tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

Our seven refuse and recycling transfer stations are open daily from 8.30am–4.30pm. www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts

OFFICES | DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Our offices (including AA services) will be closed on Matariki public holiday on Friday 10 July, resuming normal hours on Monday 13 July. Our district libraries will also be closed on the public holiday, resuming normal hours on Saturday 11 July. You can still reach us 24/7 at 07 868 0200 or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

ALCOHOL BANS

Alcohol bans are in place over the Matariki long weekend from 4pm on Thursday 9 July to 4pm on Sunday 12 July. Check out www.tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its June meeting, the Board allocated a total of \$9,423 of discretionary funding to the following initiatives:

- \$2,379 for Kiaido Ryu Karate to buy equipment
- \$1,915 for Thames Sea Scouts to buy eight tents
- \$1,822 for Thames Gymsports to buy equipment
- \$1,368 for Thames Junior Rugby for equipment
- \$896 for Thames Amateur Swimming to buy coaches' jackets
- \$593 for Thames Football Club to buy footballs
- \$450 for St James Church to repaint visitor signs (yellow interpretation signs).

The next Community Board meeting is Wednesday 5 August at 10am. Meeting agendas and recordings are available at www.tcdc.govt.nz/meetings

New online boat ramp launch system

We're making it easier and more convenient to get out on the water. Our Council has introduced a new online boat ramp launch system, delivered in partnership with Stellar - a trusted provider of parking and boat ramp solutions across New Zealand.



The new system is designed to provide a smooth transition, minimal disruption and an easier experience for everyone. Find out more at www.tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps

Calling all local businesses

Entries are now open for the Claymark Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards.

The Awards offer several entry categories, each recognising different aspects of business success and impact. There are also three nomination-based awards for Service to Business and a People's Choice for both Thames-Coromandel and Hauraki.



Entries close 31 July. Submit your application, nominate or find out more at www.tcdc.govt.nz/HCBA

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On the Land

Te Radar to headline rural fundraiser

By KELLEY TANTAU

Mangatangi Hall is set for an evening of laughs later this month when the Mangatangi Maramarua Catchment Group brings comedian Te Radar's latest show to the district.

The community fundraiser on July 16 will feature *Kiwi Country - Rural New Zealand in 100 Objects*, a humorous look at Aotearoa's rural history through the "artefacts, gadgets, and ephemera" that have helped shape country life.

Catchment co-ordinator Robyn Budd said the group hosted a mid-year community event every year, and received

feedback that comedy shows were a real highlight.

"Someone on our committee suggested Te Radar. We mentioned this to our Rural Support local team, and they helped us confirm the event, as Te Radar does a lot to support Rural Support too.

"We have run the same format for the last three years, and it works well," she said.

"Farmstrong are sponsoring Te Radar and the sound system, and the ticket cost covers dinner - which means we can host the night at zero cost to our catchment group and everyone benefits.

"We hope our community comes together, catches up with old friends, meets some new ones, and has a good giggle.

"Farming can be a very stressful and lonely lifestyle, so this is one way to bring a bit of fun and joy to our community."

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Maramarua Rugby Club, continuing the catchment group's commitment to supporting local organisations that play an important role in the community.

Funds raised could be used for new uniforms or to help cover everyday club expenses, including the cost of running the floodlights.

"Our vision is to protect and enhance the Mangatangi and Maramarua environment by involving the whole community," Robyn said.



Comedian Te Radar. Photo: SUPPLIED

"Community connection is critical for our success - knowing each other, looking out for each other, feeling like you are part of a greater good, being reminded of the great people that we are working collectively with."

DETAILS: The Mangatangi Maramarua Catchment is bringing Te Radar's latest show, *Kiwi Country - Rural NZ in 100 Objects*, to Mangatangi Hall on Thursday, July 16 at 6.30pm. Tickets are \$30 and include a barbecue dinner. For tickets and more info about the catchment group, visit www.mmcatchment.co.nz.

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Pigs bite Turua man, Moanataiari horse

Chris' Quiz



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.

1878

At Turua, Mr Bagnall was severely bitten by a pig he was helping to catch at the Hauraki mills.

He came to Thames to have the wound attended to, Dr Payne dressing the hand, and the patient subsequently going on to do well.

Another pugnacious porcine seized a horse by the nose while it was standing on the Moanataiari tramway. The horse reacted violently but his swinishness held on, though frequently lifted off his feet. After a struggle of some minutes, the horse got rid of his tormentor, which skeddaddled away in shame.

Meanwhile, the installation of gas pipes and five iron lamp posts along Thames' Goods Wharf was celebrated when the gas was lit for the first time, grandly illuminating the wharf. The Thames Scottish Volunteer band, playing various airs,



A pig seized a horse by the nose on the Moanataiari tramway. Photo: SUPPLIED

marched from the Bank of New Zealand corner down to the wharf where a large number of citizens were enjoying the novelty of promenading under the gaslight. The band later adjourned to the Pacific Hotel to partake of refreshments dispensed by Host Curtis with his usual affability. Before dispersing they played a beautiful piece of music, entitled 'Close the shutters, Willie's dead', and drank to the success of the Thames Harbour Board. The lamp posts were the first public ones at Thames and promised to be of great service.

Over at Paeroa, a public hall

was built in record time. A few days previously several businessmen had met at Casrels and Bennett's Hotel, and it was proposed to canvas the town to see if it was possible to get voluntary subscriptions towards the building. The success exceeded all expectation and over £91 was subscribed in a few hours. A committee was at once formed and Mr Lavery gave an acceptable price for the building work. Mr Robson proceeded to Thames to buy an allotment in Normanby Street. By the energy of a few the whole affair was started and brought to a successful conclu-

sion within a few days, an admirable result considering the dull times and the small number of Paeroa inhabitants. The ceremony commenced with Mr Mitchell taking a spade and digging the first sod. When the hole was dug he deposited in it a bottle containing a sum of money and a piece of parchment with the following inscription "This bottle was placed here on the day the first block of the Paeroa Public Hall was placed in position." The parchment was signed by most of those present.

Persons who desired a quiet but charming retreat from the turmoil of business life for two or three weeks were encouraged to try Hastings (Tapu). The scenery was very attractive, the high mountain ranges looking down upon the little houses at their base, while the broad river formed the frontage. The pretty hamlet boasted a commodious hotel, a very good church, a post and telegraph office, and a school, with a weekly average of about 45 pupils. Fish abounded in the river, while on the beach pipis were found in great quantities. There was constant communication by steamer with Thames, Coromandel, and Auckland. This delightful spot was recommended to everyone who sought a quiet and inexpensive retreat from the hurly burly of life.

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. The city of Newcastle is located in which Australian state? a) New South Wales, b) South Australia, or c) Victoria?
2. The British public service broadcaster known as BBC stands for British Broadcasting what? a) Centre, b) Committee, or c) Corporation?
3. 'If it doesn't fit you must acquit' was a defence used in the closing arguments in the murder trial for which former sportsman and actor?
4. The TV show and book *Heated Rivalry* has increased the popularity and interest in which sport, which is central to the plot? a) Baseball, b) basketball, or c) ice hockey?
5. The island of Sulawesi is part of which island nation? a) Indonesia, b) Palau, or c) Philippines?
6. What is the name of the *Shrek* movie sequel to be released in 2027? a) *Shrek 4*, b) *Shrek 5*, or c) *Shrek 6: Ogre and Out*?
7. Which Australian cricket player holds the greatest batting average in test cricket history at 99.94? a) Don Bradman, b) Mike Hussey, or c) Steve Waugh?
8. Which of these US states uses Pacific Time? a) Alaska, b) California, or c) Delaware?
9. Which is generally heavier? An internal combustion engine vehicle or an electric vehicle of similar dimensions and shape?
10. Which former New Zealand politician established Kiwibank in 2008? a) Jim Anderton, b) John Key, or c) Peter Dunne?

ANSWERS: 1. a.) New South Wales; 2. c) Corporation; 3. O) Simpson; 4. c) ice hockey; 5. a) Indonesia; 6. b) Shrek 5; 7. a) Don Bradman; 8. b) California; 9. Electric vehicles are heavier (due to the weight of the battery); 10. a) Jim Anderton.

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Three shooting stars: make time to pause

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

It's officially getting too dark for my morning swims. This morning I was in the river before sunrise, basically playing ping pong off the banks, trying to stay on course by following the faint break between the stars and the tree line. Very technical navigation. After about 600 metres I stopped. Rolled on to my back. And floated.

First time I've ever done that in a river - just lying there, drifting in the dark, staring up. And in that short moment, I saw three shooting stars. Three. And something shifted in me. Because if I'm honest, life can feel like a grind. Maybe you know that feeling. There's work. Bills. Kids. Expectations. News cycles. Notifications. A thousand things demanding attention. And sometimes we can move through life so fast, so task-focused, that we forget to actually notice it. But floating there this morn-

ing, watching the sky put on a show, I was reminded there is beauty all around us. We just rush past most of it. And I wonder if that's costing us something. Because making time for moments of pause — really pausing — does something good to the soul. It builds gratitude. And gratitude is no small thing in an overstimulated world. Research even backs this. People who practice gratitude tend to be calmer, happier, and more resilient. But you don't need a study to tell you that

stopping long enough to notice beauty changes you. You can feel it. A sunrise. Kids laughing in the next room. The smell of coffee before the house wakes up. Stars above a dark river. These little moments don't remove the hard stuff. But they do remind us life is more than the hard stuff. And maybe that's why they matter. We spend so much energy trying to get somewhere else — next week, next season, next goal. Meanwhile life keeps offering

us wonder right where we are. So maybe my thought today is simple: Pause. Look up. Notice. Let beauty interrupt you. Because in a world constantly trying to speed us up, maybe slowing down is a quiet act of resistance. And who knows... You might even catch a shooting star.

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 Unschooling Life at michaelwilkes.kiwi.





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Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki has re-located its Whānau Health Centre services back to their main site at 210 Richmond St. Photo: SUPPLIED



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Te Korowai services re-unite at Richmond Street

After five and a half years at Thames Hospital, Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki have re-located their Whānau Health Centre services back to their main site at 210 Richmond St.

It was December, 2020, and our country's borders were closed.

Summer was almost here and the annual seasonal influx of domestic tourists to Hauraki was predicted to be larger than ever.

Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki answered the call from Waikato DHB to provide support to Thames Hospital emergency department over the busy summer period, setting up a temporary summer clinic in Thames Clinical Centre, Mary Street.

Four weeks later, the number of patients needing treatment at ED had halved as our Whānau Health Centre stepped in to provide care to those identified as non-urgent — so effective that the service was extended for the rest of the summer, and has remained at the site ever since.

This collaboration with other health services - to bring a co-ordinated response to the unique challenges that the global pandemic posed in our area - was a fantastic example of our core value of whanaungatanga: what rural communities can do when we work together to deliver services, not only to our enrolled whānau, but to our visitors too.



Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki answered the call from Waikato DHB during Covid-19. FILE PHOTO

Fast forward five years and we are facing new challenges that require a different approach, drawing on another of our core values - kotahitanga (unity).

Not-immune to nationwide health workforce shortages, the time has come to return our services to home base where the collective strength of our organisation can support our Whānau Health Centre to provide the manaakitanga (respect, generosity and care for others) that is at the heart of what we do.

DETAILS: Te Kauaeranga (Thames) Whānau Health Centre is now located at, 210 Richmond Street, Thames. Phone 07 868 0033 or FREEPHONE 0508 835 676.

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HARD

258

HARD

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EASY

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ACROSS

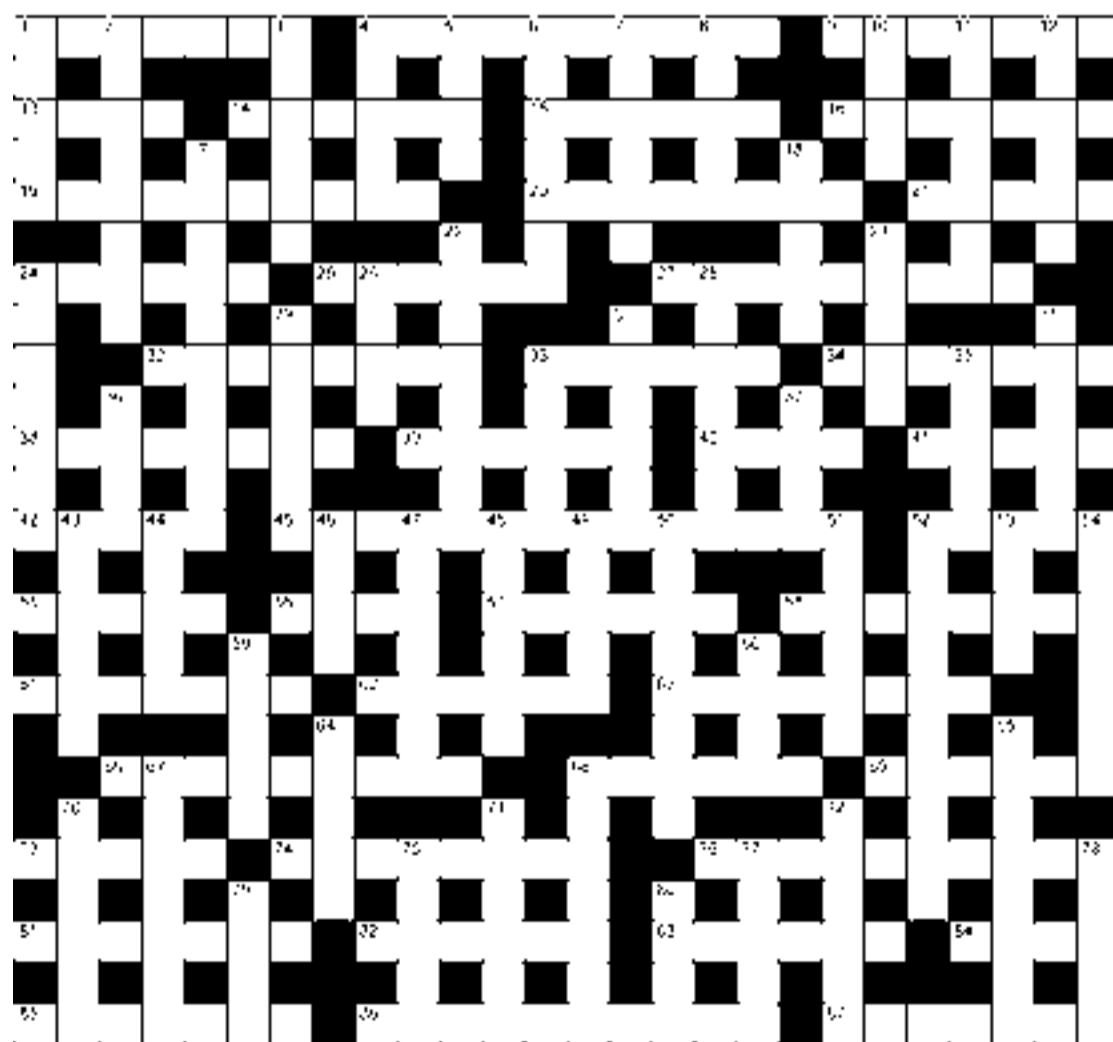
- 1 Military withdrawal (7)
- 4 Poker hand (5,5)
- 9 Expression of regret (7)
- 13 Nimble (4)
- 14 German composer (6)
- 15 Distant (6)
- 16 Plot together secretly (7)
- 19 Fool (10)
- 20 Meant (8)
- 21 Visit as a spirit (5)
- 24 Unvarying (6)
- 25 Powerful (6)
- 27 Brewer (9)
- 32 Star-shaped character (8)
- 33 Elder (6)
- 34 True (7)
- 38 Scholarly (8)
- 39 Black magic (6)
- 40 Calf meat (4)
- 41 Platform (5)
- 42 Steamy (5)
- 45 Pie contents (5,3,6)
- 52 Angle (5)
- 55 Burnt remains (5)
- 56 Journey (4)
- 57 Economically feasible (6)
- 58 Loss of status, importance or prosperity (8)
- 61 Own (7)
- 62 Reliable (6)
- 63 Mocking (8)

- 66 Lasting only for a short time (9)
- 68 Very cold (6)
- 69 Vacate (anag) (6)
- 73 Get (5)
- 74 Begin (8)
- 76 Curious (10)
- 81 Rational (7)
- 82 Talented (6)
- 83 Stringed figure (6)
- 84 Cut very short (4)
- 85 Act (7)
- 86 Extraordinary (10)
- 87 Settled (7)

DOWN

- 1 Gum (5)
- 2 Gathered in large numbers (8)
- 3 Vagrants (6)
- 4 Communication device (5)
- 5 Shout (4)
- 6 Lying in wait (7)
- 7 Restricts (6)
- 8 Glossy fabric (5)
- 10 Brace (4)
- 11 Ancestry (7)
- 12 Donating (6)
- 17 Deign (10)
- 18 Passenger boat (5)
- 22 Volume of recipes (8)
- 23 Deadly (5)
- 24 Green vegetable (7)
- 26 Double (4)
- 28 Developed over time (7)
- 29 Mental giant (6)

- 30 Open (6)
- 31 Border (6)
- 33 Danes (anag)(5)
- 35 Sum (5)
- 36 Placid (4)
- 37 Walk in water (4)
- 43 End result (6)
- 44 Thoughts (5)
- 46 Flag (4)
- 47 Pain-killing drug (7)
- 48 Counsel (6)
- 49 Daily record (5)
- 50 Mirage (8)
- 51 Woman's name (6)
- 52 Played the market (10)
- 53 Sailor's call (4)
- 54 Got thin (anag)(7)
- 59 Employing (5)
- 60 Left at sea (4)
- 64 Demon (5)
- 65 Shackled (8)
- 67 Sale document (7)
- 68 Liberty (7)
- 70 Swallow up (6)
- 71 Accelerate (6)
- 72 Stand up for (6)
- 75 Upper leg (5)
- 77 Himalayan country (5)
- 78 Fooled (5)
- 79 Caution (4)
- 80 Twirl (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Plate, 4 Brickbat, 9 Detach, 14 Mines, 15 Turn over a new leaf, 17 Panda, 18 Ego, 19 Embrace, 20 Millstone, 21 Soiled, 24 Hairpiece, 25 Intact, 26 Traced, 29 Pharmacist, 31 Mob, 32 Ledger, 33 Lens, 35 Ray, 37 Shut, 39 Insolence, 40 Masculine, 41 Decay, 42 Anaconda, 47 Adherent, 51 Arena, 55 Petroleum, 56 Trumpeter, 58 Page, 59 Let, 60 Ewer, 61 Frenzy, 62 Ire, 63 Compensate, 66 Report, 67 Census, 69 Oscillate, 72 Skimpy, 73 Dissected, 75 Pianist, 77 Elm, 80 Atoll, 81 The luck of the draw, 82 Salon, 83 Trendy, 84 Passport, 85 Beret.

DOWN: 2 Loudmouth, 3 Tenor, 5 Rare, 6 Concise, 7 Bewilderment, 8 Theft, 9 Defunct, 10 Type, 11 Cannon, 12 Unwed, 13 Astound, 14 Mallard, 16 Vaccination, 22 Splits, 23 Academy, 24 Heretic, 25 Inbred, 27 Crevice, 28 Sensed, 30 Told, 32 Lynch, 34 Sweet, 36 Huge, 38 Hen, 42 Ample, 43 Antwerp, 44 Oboe, 45 Dreary, 46 Jelly, 48 Horseradish, 49 Riposte, 50 Nag, 51 Amended, 52 Attics, 53 Queen of clubs, 54 Epic, 57 Temple, 64 Translate, 65 Artisan, 66 Release, 68 Swiftly, 70 Check-up, 71 Uproar, 72 Smell, 74 Steep, 76 Nudge, 78 Clan, 79 Afar.

SPORTS

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



The Hauraki Plains College A Netball team wins the Boulton Cup for 2026. Photos: SUPPLIED

Hauraki Plains holds on to Boulton Cup

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

At the start of the netball season, the Hauraki Plains College A Netball team set a goal to win the Boulton Cup.

On June 25, the sports stars made that goal come to life when they swept up all seven games at the Thames Valley Secondary School's Boulton Cup Netball Competition, and ultimately dominated their final game with a score of 20-8 against Morrinsville College.

"I'm incredibly proud of the girls," coach Bre Barker said.

"It was an awesome day and so good to keep the cup at home this year. The girls worked hard and looked after each other throughout the day which was so nice to see."

The coach said the team knew it would take hard work to win the cup so they focussed on building their team culture, strengthening their defence and improving their connections across the court. "It was especially rewarding to see our first-year players have such

a positive and enjoyable experience at Boulton Cup." The tournament helped the netballers "bond as a team" and "build stronger connections" with one another, she said.

Team member Amber Perry told *The Profile* "it felt so good" to retain the cup for another year.

"Luckily the rain held off until [the] semis and finals, but it wasn't too bad compared to last year when [it] rained all day." The 17-year old champion said it felt good that "all our hard work at training paid off" and great to see new combinations work together.

Whenever their side line cheered loudly, "it encourages us to play stronger", she said.

The team's success came from "everyone's love for the game", she said, as well as the coaches who helped them focus and improve their games.

The next goal the team will work towards is the Upper North Island Secondary Schools Netball Championships (UNISS) in September this year.



Hauraki Plains College and Paeroa College battle it out on the court during the Boulton Cup.



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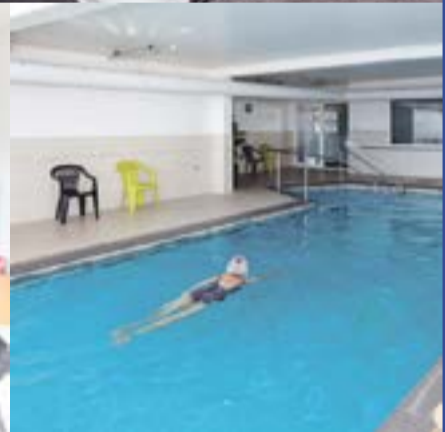
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Photo: SUPPLIED

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Profile



Five-year-old Olivia shows off her Flemish Giant rabbits, Elsa and Candyfloss at the Rabbit Council of New Zealand North Island Nationals held at Paeroa's War Memorial Hall on June 27. The event, hosted by the Hauraki-Piako Rabbit Club, saw more than 40 fluffy, floppy-eared rabbits of all breeds, sizes, and colours competing for various prizes. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Pet Profile

Curious, affectionate Matilda

Five-month-old Matilda is a gorgeous black kitten who has been waiting patiently for a family to call her own.

Having grown up in a loving foster home, Matilda is already comfortable with the everyday sights and sounds of home life.

She's a confident, affectionate, and curious kitten who enjoys spending time with people, happily accepting cuddles before heading off to play or relax in a sunny spot.

To help wonderful animals like Matilda find the loving homes they deserve, Thames SPCA is launching a Long Stay Animal Promotion from July 6.

During the promotion, all of our long-stay cats and dogs will have an adop-

tion fee of just a koha (donation).

The aim of this promotion is simple – to give our long-stay animals the fresh opportunity they deserve.

Many animals have been overlooked despite having so much love to give, and we hope this initiative encourages people to look beyond age, colour, or how long an animal has been waiting, and instead see the amazing companion they could bring home.

DETAILS: Visit Thames SPCA or check out our long-stay cats and dogs on our website. Your perfect companion may have been waiting just for you. Go to www.spca.nz/centre/thames-centre to find out more.

- Supplied by Thames SPCA



Matilda is a five-month-old kitten waiting patiently for a family to call her own.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tribute to aid RSA reno

Fleetwood Mac fans will have the chance to relive some of the band's biggest hits when Dreams - The Fleetwood Mac Experience comes to the Paeroa RSA this weekend.

The seven-piece New Zealand tribute band will perform at the RSA on Saturday, July 11, with proceeds from the evening helping fund the Paeroa RSA building renovations and earthquake proofing.

Described as an "authentic" Fleetwood Mac experience, the award-winning show features musicians from around New Zealand recreating the band's iconic sound, complete with costumes, and a professional lighting production.

Audiences can expect up to three

hours of classic Fleetwood Mac favourites, including *Dreams*, *Go Your Own Way*, *Rhiannon*, *Gypsy*, *Gold Dust Woman*, *Don't Stop*, *Songbird*, *The Chain* and *You Make Loving Fun*, along with earlier hits such as *Oh Well*, *Albatross* and *Black Magic Woman*.

The production aims to transport audiences back to the band's heyday of the 1970s and 1980s, with organisers promising a show that captures the look, sound, and atmosphere of Fleetwood Mac.

DETAILS: Dreams - The Fleetwood Mac Experience, at the Paeroa RSA, July 11. Doors open at 4.30pm, kitchen opens from 5pm. Tickets are \$30 and will be available at the door.

Public rescue equipment key to water safety

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services held a community education session on June 21 to support the rollout of 12 beach safety signs, each equipped with a Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) rescue buoy.

The signs were installed along a 10km stretch of coastline in late 2025, with the support of the Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

They are generally located near beach access routes and carparks from the main beach to Anzac Bay, including Bowen-town and Cave Bay.

Each sign indicates the conditions at that part of the beach, the location of the sign for emergency communication, and how to use the PRE.

The education session included an introduction to PRE and

a surf safety briefing covering rips, hazards, and what to do in an emergency. It was followed by a practical activity aimed at stronger swimmers using the PRE buoy.

Visitor Carola Ferronato, a marine scientist from Argentina, gave the rescue buoy a go with local lifeguard Cora Barrett-Hodgson acting as the patient. Carola swam out with the buoy and practiced floating with Cora, as recommended in the session, before attempting to tow her in.

Afterwards, she commented on how physically demanding it was, saying, "I am exhausted. I thought I'd have a couple of goes, but once is enough."

All the participants agreed that one of the biggest take-aways was that PRE buoy edu-

cation was just as much about knowing when not to enter the surf as it is about knowing how to use the gear.

Lucy Scown, the senior lifeguard who organised and ran the session, said: "It was a great real-life reminder that rescues are physically demanding, and that staying on shore, calling 111 and keeping eyes on the person in trouble may be the safest response for many people. Strong, confident swimmers may be able to assist using flotation support, but conditions and personal ability must always be considered."

The club urged people to keep an eye out for the beach safety signs. Only a few months ago, an off-duty lifeguard used the PRE buoy at Anzac Bay to rescue a person in serious trouble.



Beach safety signs and rescue buoys have been rolled out to beaches around Waihi Beach. Photos: SUPPLIED



Carola Ferronato, left, with lifeguard Cora Barrett-Hodgson.

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<p>PAPER DELIVERIES</p> <p>Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:</p> <p>NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy</p> <p>PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub</p> <p>WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Fresh Choice Waihi, Kenny St Dairy</p> <p>THAMES - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store</p> <p>TURUA: Turua Dairy</p> <p>KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy</p>	<p>Personal</p> <p>Alison is a beautiful, down-to-earth lady. At 5'4", with a lovely figure, blonde hair, and kind brown eyes, she's not only attractive but full of charm and warmth.</p> <p>She loves the simple pleasures in life - being outdoors, exploring new places, listening to music, gardening and cooking.</p> <p>She's hoping to meet a kind, affectionate man for friendship/companionship</p> <p>Please call 0800 446 332 Quote code 66</p>	<p>Storage</p> <p>Storage Unlimited 25 Ngati Maru Highway Kopu, Thames Clean, secure, dry Units available 7 x 3.6m and 7 x 5.5m Phone 07 868 9944</p> <p>STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz</p> <p>TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&C's apply 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz</p>	<p>Hydraulink THAMES</p> <p>Hydraulic Hose Technician</p> <p>Hydraulink Thames is looking for a motivated, mechanically minded Hydraulic Service Technician to join our busy Thames workshop. This full-time, permanent role includes some on-call and weekend work. Duties may include hydraulic hose and fitting work, rebuilding rams, motors and pumps, welding, machining, inventory control and customer service. Full training will be provided to the right person.</p> <p>To apply, send your covering letter and CV to hydraulinkthames@outlook.com Applications close 22/07/2026. Applicants must have NZ residency or a valid NZ work visa.</p>	<p>HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>Matariki Service Hours</p> <p>Thursday 9 July 11am - 2pm</p> <p>All service centres, libraries and Refuse Transfer Stations will be closed from 11am to 2pm while our team celebrates Matariki. Kerbside collections will continue as usual.</p> <p>Friday 10 July - Matariki</p> <p>All service centres, libraries and Refuse Transfer Stations will be closed for the Matariki public holiday. Thank you for your understanding and happy Matariki. www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz 0800 734 834 (freecall within district) or 07 862 8609</p> <p>Handyman Services</p> <p>THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283</p>



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Hauraki rugby star makes NZ U18 selection

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When Amber Perry runs out on to the rugby field, she says it feels like “my heart is racing at 100 miles per hour”.

But the second the whistle blows, every thought, nerve or bit of sickness she felt just disappears, the passionate sports star tells *The Profile*.

The 17-year-old’s footsteps into the sport of rugby began when she was a year-8 student.

“My friend actually dragged me into the team to come and play with her so she wouldn’t be the only girl, but after a while my passion for the game has only gotten stronger and stronger.”

It’s what makes her recent news a milestone moment.

The young athlete was selected by New Zealand Rugby to join the New Zealand Under 18 Girls’ Pathway Programme camp at St Peters School in Cambridge from July 5-10.

The promising player, who is also a Hauraki Plains College head student, said she was “really excited” and looked forward to “being a sponge” and picking up on the technical sides of the game.

She was prepared for the camp to challenge her and knew “I’ll be stretched outside



Hauraki rugby player Amber Perry, 17, will join the New Zealand Under 18 Girls’ Pathway Programme from July 5-10.

of my comfort zone”, she said. “I think this will be a test from them to see how everyone will react to it.”

Amber’s preparation for the camp was to “get my mindset right” as the most important thing in sport was “your top two inches”, she said.

She was inspired to chase after her dreams by the people in her life, such as dad Jake Perry and HPC First XV girls coach Angela Forsyth.

“These two [have] been support pillars for me with rugby. They support me in every way [and] shape possible. I wouldn’t be selected for this camp without them.”

The rugby prodigy said she was also interested to one day play in the Farah Palmer Cup and Super Rugby Aupiki.

“As a girl I think we’ve always heard boys say they wish to be an All Black, so with more girls wanting to play and get in-



Photos: SUPPLIED

involved with the game, I think there will be more girls saying I want to be a Black Fern.”

Her gratitude for the women in sport around her was evident.

“A strength of the Thames Valley is that every team I play for and against is full of amazing women. During this rugby season I have been playing in the Thames Valley Women’s competition for Te Poho O Paeroa.

“I enjoy playing with everyone in the team but playing alongside [Black Fern] Steph Te Ohaere-Fox has been a real privilege,” she said.

Not only was Steph a great mentor to learn from, Amber also said she was “one of New Zealand’s greats”.

DETAILS: Tune in to the Black Ferns Youtube channel from mid-day on July 9 to see the North Under 18 Girls go head-to-head with the South Under 18 Girls.

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