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Singing through clay

By ALICE PARMINTER

To walk into Mike O'Donnell's pop-up gallery is to enter a world of intention and synergy, where cultures, nature, and history are woven together in a spiritual journey.

The Friends of Aotearoa gallery, open on Paeroa's Belmont St until mid-October, is laid out in a timeline of sorts, with works from significant points throughout Mike's life.

"This is 50 years of working myself out through clay," says Mike, who worked with and learned extensively from late Coromandel potter Barry Brickell. "And my relationship with nature and ecologies and the sacredness of our waters and springs."

Pottery and paintings sit amongst protest flags and mixed-media pieces woven from natural materials. And at the rear, a darkened alcove holds a shrine, bearing the large clay sculpture *Song of the Fish People*: an homage to Mike's late wife, Min.

"What do you do with anxiety, with trauma? Well, the artist embraces it," Mike says.

"You do not run away from it. "Because that trauma is a

measure of the taonga that's inside you, the sacredness. And so the key is to express that through some medium."

Despite the sadness inherent in many of his pieces, the overarching theme throughout the gallery is of a quiet strength and belief in the teachings of the land.

Te ao Māori is a strong influence here - Mike has been embraced by several Māori elders and calls himself a "white Māori".

He subscribes deeply to the spiritual history of the land - but it goes deeper than that, he says, drawing also on his Irish roots and many other ancient cultures as well.

"[It's] a way of being at one with the law of nature, you know?" And everything is tied together by the waters of life.

Mike's pottery studio, Tarāiki, is set amongst native bush on Old Reservoir Rd, backed by a stream. He's spent his life listening to it. "That stream has a whakapapa and an intelligence, and hence it became my teacher for 55 years."

Song of the Fish People in the gallery also sings to Mike.

"[She] is singing her waters in

CONTINUED ON P2

Mike O'Donnell's *Song of the Fish People* bears the essence of a lifetime spent listening to the waters of the land.
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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CONTINUED FROM P1

the face of adversity, and that's the key," he says. "It's in our sacred waters - a symbiotic relationship between our waters and the waters of this earth."

Many of the older pieces on display hark to Mike's involvement with environmental causes. He talks of protesting against mining, recalling his participation in cross-country hikoi and parliamentary challenges as an advocate for the environment.

"These were all pieces that have been employed... these were submissions, these masks are masks that we actually wore into council."

But further along the timeline, the focus shifts.

Here there are works about creation myths, and Mike's hopes for the future. And this is where his need to reach the next generation comes to the fore.

In his years as an artist, Mike has worked extensively with children, including a six-month stint as artist-in-residence at Waikino School.

"I taught them that you are this clay vessel, given the waters of life from which came the breath... The power in the room was so formidable because every kid there knew they belonged," he says.

"When my daughter Emily was born, I was just, as a man, like, who are we to bring chil-



Paeroa potter and artist Mike O'Donnell.

dren into this world?

"I've workshopped [with] hundreds of kids and they're the ones I believe in so much... This is pro-environment and this is the heritage of our children, what they inherit."

Mike's story, and the timeline of the gallery, are echoed in his book, *Whakapapa of a White Man: The Reply*.

"I write this out for the children, from a child within me, and the trust and privilege they have given to me over the years and my journeying with them, listening to their seed and their waters talking," reads the dedication.

"This story is for the ones in between the old and the young."

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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Thames Tides

Wed Aug 26	Thu Aug 27	Fri Aug 28	Sat Aug 29	Sun Aug 30	Mon Aug 31	Tue Sep 1
Morning 5:34am 2.9 11:50am 0.9 Afternoon 6:10pm 3.1	Morning 12:10am 0.9 6:24am 3.0 Afternoon 12:33pm 0.8 6:51pm 3.2	Morning 12:53am 0.8 7:09am 3.1 Afternoon 1:12pm 0.7 7:30pm 3.3	Morning 1:34am 0.7 7:49am 3.2 Afternoon 1:49pm 0.6 8:08pm 3.4	Morning 2:14am 0.6 8:28am 3.3 Afternoon 2:27pm 0.5 8:46pm 3.5	Morning 2:54am 0.5 9:06am 3.4 Afternoon 3:06pm 0.5 9:26pm 3.5	Morning 3:34am 0.4 9:46am 3.5 Afternoon 3:47pm 0.5 10:08pm 3.5
 6:48am 5:52pm	 6:47am 5:53pm	 6:45am 5:54pm	 6:44am 5:55pm	 6:42am 5:55pm	 6:41am 5:56pm	 6:40am 5:57pm
 Best At 10:40am 11:03pm	 Best At 11:26am 11:49pm	 Best At 12:11pm	 Best At 12:33am 12:54pm	 Best At 1:16am 1:38pm	 Best At 2:00am 2:23pm	 Best At 2:47am 3:11pm
 Set 5:40am Rise 3:48pm	 Set 6:10am Rise 4:51pm	 Full Moon Set 6:36am Rise 5:55pm	 Set 7:01am Rise 6:58pm	 Set 7:25am Rise 8:02pm	 Set 7:50am Rise 9:08pm	 Set 8:17am Rise 10:17pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon

First Quarter

Full Moon

Last Quarter

Good Fishing

Fair Fishing

Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	MIN	HIGH	LOW
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	06
Tairua	+0	10	+0	20
Whangamatā	-0	03	-0	06
Waihi Beach	-0	21	-0	16

Red shoes, good yarns mark Lux's legacy

OBITUARY

CHRIS LUX

By KELLEY TANTAU

Chris Lux, Thames-Coromandel Mayor between 1998-2004, died on August 14 aged 75 after a two-year battle with cancer.

Mr Lux, also a former Hauraki Federated Farmers chairman, won the election after securing more than 50 percent of the vote to oust three-term Mayor Alasdair Thompson.

He was remembered for his sense of humour, hard work, and signature red shoes.

According to a family statement, Mr Lux was living with his American-born wife, Deete, in Arizona when he was diagnosed with cancer two years ago and began treatment.

He returned to New Zealand to spend his last few months at home with family at his coastal property in Tuatawa, northern Coromandel, where he farmed and built a coastal walkway that he donated to council.

Former Coromandel MP and TCDC Mayor Sandra Goudie said Mr Lux excelled at resolving long-standing issues of council and forging solid friendships across the political spectrum.

He belonged to the Resource Users Group, fighting district and regional council regulations; he treasured his success in securing \$330,000 from the government for clean up after a June, 2002, weather bomb; and he achieved success with the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs.

"Chris had a mischievous sense of humour and delighted in participating in all sorts of community activities," Goudie said.

"Especially being Elvis Presley at a Mercury Bay Area School fundraiser. He was also well-known for wearing red shoes."

Current TCDC Mayor Peter Revell also



Former Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Chris Lux has died aged 75. Photo: SUPPLIED

"Many people living in the district today will remember him for his sales prowess, but he never stepped away from governance and leadership, remaining involved in numerous local boards and committees," Mayor Revell said.

"As recently as 2022, TCDC awarded Chris Lux a Community Service Award in recognition of his contribution."

"On behalf of the elected members of the Thames-Coromandel District, we remember Chris Lux for his dedicated service, and send our heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones."

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said Mr Lux was always a proud ambassador for the Coromandel, its people and its prospects. "His mayoralty covered a time of significant growth and change for the district," he said in a Facebook post.

"There will be many who remember his staunch advocacy for the issues he saw as important to development, infrastructure and our natural environment."

"He had a 'can do' pragmatic approach to politics, life and business. Chris is well remembered for his dedicated public service and contribution to our local democracy."

The flag at council's main administrative building in Thames flew at half-mast on August 19, as elected members and staff paid their respects.

As his funeral hīkoi made its way through Thames, passing places of significance, many paused to reflect on Mr Lux's contribution to the district.

His coffin was carried on a truck from his son James Lux's civil construction company, a fitting tribute from family and community.

A talented songwriter and performer, Mr Lux's music provided the backdrop to his funeral at Twentymans in Thames on August 19, with red shoes adorning his coffin.

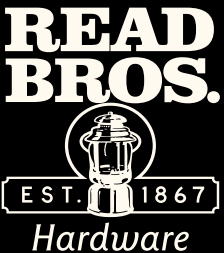
bush and lush farmland around his home in Tuatawa. That connection to the land, his can-do approach, and his love of a good yarn made Chris a natural in real estate.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

It was a day of sportsmanship and “fierce competition” for Thames High School at their recent annual sports exchange with Te Aroha College.

THS student leader and year 12 student Gracie Miller said it was a great day at the event which was hosted by Thames on their home turf.

It also coincided with Thames High's Spirit Week celebrations.

"I like how it falls in with Spirit Week here at school because we get to show examples of positive

sportsmanship to the rest of the school and the spectators really put in the effort to support those of us who are playing," Gracie said.

Spirit Week is a time for Thames High students, staff and whānau to “show off their school spirit”. From lunchtime karaoke, dressing as their favourite meme, to taking part in “anything but a bag day” - instead using such items as a stroller, basket or chilly bin - Thames High celebrated Spirit Week in style.



Simrat Kaur, year 11, holds on to the ball, left, while Takalia Turner shoots.



Sports student leader Gracie Miller, left, makes a run for it, while Lily McCarthy displays some fast footwork.



Thames High vs Te Aroha in rugby, left, while Ricky Anson, year 9, battles in badminton.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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New Whiti wharf charge challenged

By KELLEY TANTAU

Whitianga boat operators want council to rethink a new passenger charge, saying the fee was introduced with little notice and doesn't fairly reflect the wharf's role in the community.

At Thames-Coromandel District Council's Infrastructure and Finance Committee Meeting on August 13, Mark Jones from Glass Bottom Boat, and Zinnia Harris, who operates Ocean Leopard with her partner Justin from Whitianga, spoke to elected members about TCDC's new charging structure - specifically a \$1-per-passenger fee now being charged to commercial operators on top of their annual wharf fee.

Children aged under five years are exempt from the charge.

Harris said operators understood the need to contribute towards maintaining safe and reliable harbour infrastructure, but questioned the timing and fairness of the new charge. She said operators were notified on June 19 that the new fee would take effect less than two weeks later, on July 1.

Under the new structure, operators must also record daily passenger numbers and submit them to council each month for invoicing.

"Our concern isn't any one charge in isolation - it's about the cumulative impact, the timing, the fairness, and ultimately finding the right balance for everyone," she said.

Harris told staff during public forum that Whitianga Wharf was

different from other commercial wharves in the district because of its location at the heart of the town and its wider public use.

"Whitianga wharf forms part of our public waterfront and is naturally used by the wider community every day. Kids jump off it in summer, people fish from it, locals meet there, and families and visitors enjoy the waterfront and watch the boats come and go.

"Commercial operators certainly benefit from the wharf, but we are not its only beneficiaries," she said. "Where an asset provides significant community and recreational value, as well as commercial value, we believe its funding model should recognise both."

Harris said she and Mark were speaking to council with the support of other commercial fishing and sightseeing tour operators. "We're not asking council to abandon commercial wharf charges," she said. "We're asking for the new model to be reviewed specifically in the context of Whitianga, considering the wharf's significant community use, what operators already contribute, the economic value these businesses bring to Mercury Bay, and what a fair and sustainable contribution should look like."

As part of council's 2026-27 Annual Plan, fees and charges were increased by an average of 13 per cent, with the aim of keeping rates low. The increase also reflected lower-than-expected revenue from fees the previous year.

Hauraki District Council staff inspect the new Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant. Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



\$45m plant nears completion

By ALICE PARMINTER

One of Hauraki District Council's most ambitious infrastructure projects is expected to be fully up and running by the end of October. The \$45 million Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant sits alongside the town's existing treatment ponds just off Irwin Rd.

It is a fully automated, modern treatment plant fitted with membrane bioreactors, which work like very fine filters to treat the water to a high standard.

The plant upgrade will cater for a population of up to 7000, and the build has also been designed to allow for additional tanks and pumps to be added when future population growth requires it.

"It's always a big scary thing when you're spending that kind of money, but [we're] very pleased with how it's looking," Mayor Toby

Adams said. "When government talks about doing the basics better, that's all we've ever been doing.

"Our 'nice-to-have' is making sure that they've got drinking water standards that meet the criteria and good water and wastewater infrastructure.

"Now we're in a position where we're handing over really, really good assets [to Waikato Waters]."

The wastewater treatment plant has already begun operating in a limited capacity, and will be fully commissioned by the end of October.

However, the existing treatment ponds will remain as a fall-back system for overflow from storms.

The new plant would also be better for the environment, council said. The membrane technology will treat wastewater to a higher standard, and the plant also has upgraded equipment for extract-

ing and dewatering solids, and odour control.

Some of the treated water will be retained on-site for use as wash water, with the rest being released back into the Waihou River. The other byproducts of the treatment process, sludge and other solids, will be sent to landfill.

Spartan Construction project manager Chris McGillivray said there were two aspects to wastewater treatment.

"One is the capacity - so we've got the future capacity available within this plant, and then the other is the effluent quality. And this is going to be way, way better effluent quality than what we're [currently] getting.

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Tony (106 mins) R16. A 19-year-old Anthony Bourdain travels to Provincetown and stumbles into the chaotic world of a restaurant kitchen, setting off a summer that will shape the course of his life.

De Gaulle: Tilting Iron (158 mins) M. June 1940. France collapses and signs the Armistice. In the midst of the chaos, one man, Charles de Gaulle, refuses to give up. (Mostly in French with English subtitles).

Andre Rieu's 2026 Summer Concert: Viva Maastricht! (177 mins, including 15 min intermission) Sat and Sun 29 & 30 Aug 12.30pm. The 20th anniversary of his summer concerts on the magnificent Vrijthof square.

& Sons (120 mins) M. Writer Andrew Dyer (Bill Nighy) hasn't written a word - or left the house - in 20 years. In that time he fathered a child outside of his marriage, lost his wife (Imelda Staunton) and became estranged from his other sons. His sense of his mortality sets in, so he brings all of his children together.

Primavera ENCORE (110 mins) M. In 18th century Venice, a 20y.o. violin virtuoso meets Antonio Vivaldi, a brilliant and ambitious composer who becomes the new violin teacher.

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: Lomu A Tongan/Kiwi warrior who could run 100 metres in under 11 seconds. He was the youngest All Black to put on the jersey and still holds the record for the most tries scored in World Cup history.

NZ Mountain Film Festival (126 mins) Fundraiser for Te Puru School. Get in quick - Mon & Tues 7&8 Sept.

THE ODYSSEY Thought you'd missed it? 172 minutes that will blow you out of the water. Christopher Nolan's, The Odyssey, is a mythic action epic shot across the world. Brings Homer's foundational saga to film screens. Starring Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway and others. Rated M.

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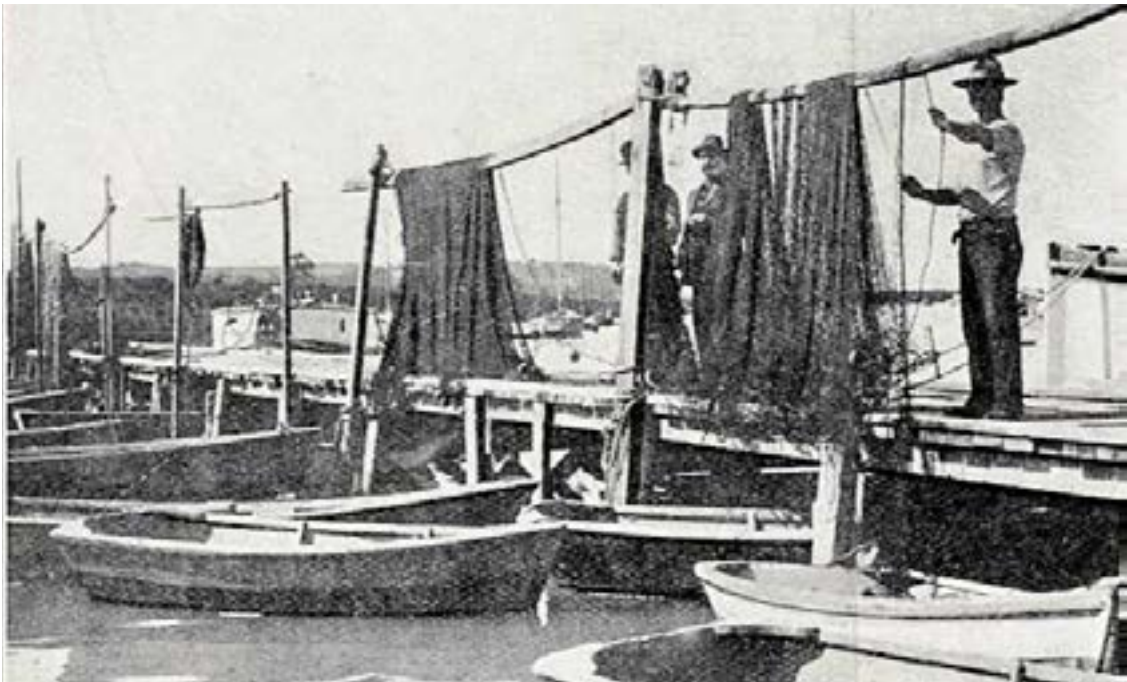
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Fish hawker German Charley dies after fall



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

German Charley had fallen heavily into one of the deep, timbered-lined drains in Thames's Richmond St, injuring his face and head. Four days later, although still suffering from the effects of the fall, he was out walking. The 79-year-old had been a fish hawker, part of Fishtown - a unique community of one roomed shacks near Shortland Wharf. Fishtown had had its heyday in the 1870s but in 1878 the establishment of a fish market in the area meant fish could be bought at any time. Residents no longer had to wait for fish to be brought round to their doors by the hawkers. As the years passed fishing operations were modernised and Fishtown and its hawkers disappeared. Over 30 years previously German Charley, whose name was Charles Schultze, had tried mining, working on the Mississippi claim with Edward Scott, a Shortland fisherman



Mending the nets at Shortland Wharf, Thames.

Photo: SUPPLIED

but abandoned his interest. Now, in August 1912, he lived in a Mackay St cottage with two other men. Life for indigent elderly men could be a struggle. The house where Charley lived was in a filthy condition and there was almost no bedding or furniture. Three years earlier Robert Ambrose had been found dead in bed at the house by Charley. After his fall Charley and his living conditions came to the attention of the police. Arrangements were to be made for his admission to hospital. The morning after Charley's walk, George Goodwin and

Edward Keoghan called at the house and found him lying on the floor, unable to get up. They made him some breakfast but Charley appeared to be in a very low state. Constable Beddick arrived soon after to organise hospital admission only to discover Charley had died, probably minutes before. At the inquest, Dr Lapriak said death was due to a skull fracture and brain hemorrhage. The injuries could have been caused by a fall into the drain, he said, but they might also have been caused by a fall in the house, Charley striking his head on something sharp. He was of opinion the injury

had been received after Charley's fall into the drain. Constable Beddick said that a man named Doidge lived with Charley. Doidge had left the house before Charley was seen walking on the street and there might have been a quarrel, Charley receiving his injuries from a blow. But no evidence of foul play was proven and a verdict of accidental death was returned. German Charley, who once sold fish and bought zinc and lead from boys who visited him on Sunday mornings at Fishtown to extract the silver from to make a few pennies, is buried at Shortland cemetery.

Chris' Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter
1. Cancer Society's annual fundraiser, on 28 August, is represented by which spring flower? a) Daffodils, b) hyacinths, or c) jonquils?
 2. In 2023, it was revealed that an employee at RNZ had been altering news updates so they were friendly to which country? a) Israel, b) North Korea, or c) Russia?
 3. Since 2009, Greece has banned which clothing item from its ancient sites: a) Hats, b) headbands, or c) high heels?
 4. At the 2026 Tour de France female race, concern was raised over competitors allegedly using which potential cheating method? a) Bra padding, b) GPS navigation, or c) hidden electric motors?
 5. James Cook named a beach in the Coromandel after a planetary transit he saw from that location. What is its name? a) Jupiter Beach, b) Mercury Bay, or c) Saturn Cove?
 6. How long does it take light from the Sun to reach Earth? a) 8.2 seconds, b) 8 minutes and 20 seconds, or c) 8 years and 20 days?
 7. Up until 2025, scaffolding for high-rises in Hong Kong were predominantly made of: a) Balsa, b) bamboo, or c) iron?
 8. The artificial 'snow' used in the filming of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) was actually pure: a) Amphetamine, b) arsenic, or c) asbestos?
 9. Why do the UK towns of Penistone, Scunthorpe and Clitheroe face issues with internet filters?
 - 10 As detailed in *The Valley Profile* on August 18, Thames-Coromandel District Council has recommended a new public pool for Thames is built where: a) Kopu, b) Rhodes Park, or c) Thames High School?

ANSWERS: 1. a) Daffodils (Bedford Day); 2. (for aerodynamics); 3. c) High heels; 4. a) Bra padding (aerodynamics); 5. b) Mercury Bay; 6. b) 8 minutes and 20 seconds; 7. c) Iron; 8. c) Asbestos; 9. Their town names contain words defined as offensive by internet bots, creating problems for residents trying to open accounts, or list and advertise their businesses; 10. c) Thames High School.

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Gardening

Spring growth set to ramp up

Spring has sprung. Daffodils are in full bloom and in some cases finished blooming. New blossoms and leaves on deciduous shrubs and trees are beginning to show. Hopefully they haven't been damaged by the frosts. As the temperatures rise spring growth ramps up.

Many shrubs, trees and perennials are in full bloom and spring flower gardens are a blaze of colour. Protect any new plantings from late frosts.

It's time to start planting summer crops and get your property ready for the warmer months. Harvest the last of the winter crops in the vegetable garden to make room for the new season plants.

If you have escaped the ravages of the cold weather, you will be still harvesting broccoli and cauliflowers. September is the month to start new planting in the next few weeks. Growing your own vegetables is a real bonus considering the ever-increasing prices of vegetables. I would encourage would be gardeners to give it a go, and they taste so good.

Now is the time to get your potatoes ready to go in the garden for the Christmas lunch. Put seed potatoes on a tray in a sunny position to sprout before planting. They like a sheltered warm spot in your garden or in pots or bags. Mound your potatoes as the shoots grow, to help warm the soil, which promotes better tuber development.

Complete your vegetable garden preparation by feeding your soil. Dig in some good compost, blood and bone and sheep pellets. If the soil is too wet just wait un-

til it dries out a bit more. Better, warmer weather is sure to arrive with spring. Any new plantings require the protection of slug and snail bait and keep your eye on the weather for late frosts. It is a good idea to consider mulching around new seedlings for added warmth.

Start planting Strawberries, Blueberries, and raspberries. Add pea straw or pine needles around your berry plants for soil warmth.

Prune passionfruit removing some of last season's excessive growth but remember they fruit on last year's growth so don't be too harsh. Feed berry vines, citrus and fruit trees with a citrus fertiliser or liquid fertiliser.

Refresh your herb garden with new plants either in the garden or pots. Trim back any old growth on woody herbs to refresh. It's time to also give the flower garden a refresh so check out the local garden centres to see what's available. I planted Polyanthus in pots early June and have been surprised how well they cope with the frost.

Make sure to protect new seedlings with slug bait and frost protection if needed. Feed roses, shrubs and flower beds and mulch. Plant Dahlia tubers and Gladioli corms for a summer display.

This month is the perfect time to sow a new lawn and over sow any bare patches in the existing lawn. Spray now for Onehunga weed for a prickly free summer lawn.

Enjoy your spring garden.
- Ngatea Garden Circle



Start planting Strawberries, Blueberries, and raspberries, add pea straw for soil warmth. PIXABAY

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

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On the Land

Cattle numbers up while sheep flock shrinks - survey

By RNZ

The number of farmed sheep in New Zealand continues to decline, while a global boom for beef is driving up cattle numbers.

It was estimated that Aotearoa had more than 22.7 million sheep and 3.96 million beef cattle, according to Beef and Lamb New Zealand's latest stock numbers survey.

In the year to June, sheep numbers fell an estimated 2 percent, while beef cattle numbers rose 3.3 percent.

The industry group's long-running survey combined livestock numbers from StatsNZ with a representative sample of livestock estimates from around

500 commercial sheep and beef farms.

Chairperson and farmer Kate Acland said the 2025-2026 season was generally favourable for sheep and beef farmers.

There were strong livestock prices across beef particularly but also lamb, improved returns for wool, and good feed available for most, she said.

"Good summer and autumn pasture growth supported stock condition, while stronger farm-gate returns enabled some farmers to increase fertiliser use, reduce debt, and strengthen their financial position.

"However, conditions were more challenging in some areas, and high store

livestock and input costs continued to pressure margins," Acland said.

Fewer sheep again, at 22.7 million

The North Island's sheep flock fell 3 percent to 11.14 million head in the year to June, driven by a 6.3 percent drop in the Northland-Waikato-Bay of Plenty regions, considered as a whole.

The flock in Taranaki-Manawātū fell 2.5 percent, while the East Coast's was down 1.6 percent. To the South Island, its flock fell 1.1 percent to 11.64 million sheep.

Numbers were relatively stable in Marlborough-Canterbury, down 0.5 percent, as an increase in hoggets offset part of the decline in breeding ewes.

Sheep numbers in Southland dropped 2.4 percent, while Otago's fell 0.8 percent.

The survey showed there was a 3.2 percent increase in the North Island beef herd to 2.71 million head, in the year to June.

Taranaki-Manawātū recorded the largest North Island increase, up 6 percent, followed by East Coast, which grew 2.9 percent.

The South Island beef cattle herd rose 3.6 percent to 1.25 million head, with a 6.7 percent increase in Southland believed to be driven by more weaners and trading cattle on finishing farms.

Acland said beef cattle rises were supported by strong returns, feed availability and farmers' preference for trading and finishing cattle.

"The world has an insatiable appetite for New Zealand beef, and these results show farmers are responding to strong market signals while continuing to produce high-quality red meat for discerning consumers around the globe."

She said the changes in livestock numbers reflected a longer-term structural shift in the livestock mix and land use.

"Total sheep numbers have fallen 46 percent since 2000-01, from 42.26 million, while beef cattle were 5.6 percent below 2000-01 levels despite increasing in each of the past three years.

"The long-term decline in sheep numbers reflects cumulative land-use change and changing farm policies, including dairy conversion, forestry and native planting, retirement of grazed land, urban development, and farmer decisions around labour, succession, and relative livestock returns."

Previous research by B+LNZ and the Meat Industry Association showed the red meat sector generated \$48.7 billion in spending across the economy and supported one in every 20 jobs. It earned \$12.8b in exports each year.

This story was first published on rnz.co.nz

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On the Land

Big hair, big laughs, big year for kiwi care

By KELLEY TANTAU

Thames Coast Kiwi Care is getting ready to trade traplines for bingo cards as its Bogan Bingo fundraiser returns, capping off another big year of protecting the birds.

The event will return to the Thames Civic Centre on Saturday, September 12, giving supporters a chance to celebrate the organisation's work while raising money for the next year of conservation efforts.

According to the organisation's 2025/2026 annual report, volunteers contributed 5532 hours during the year, completing 27,418 trap checks and removing 12,974 pests.

TCKC chair Moira Coatsworth said the year had marked another significant step forward for the community-led conservation project.

"I am in awe of what everyone has achieved together in predator control, monitoring, maintenance, community engagement, advocacy, education, and fundraising. This commitment has been the driving force behind our successes," she said.

"Whether checking traplines in challenging weather, collecting monitoring data, providing education and awareness-raising, helping with kiwi avoidance training for dogs... so



Last year, bogans turned up in droves to celebrate Thames Coast Kiwi Care.

File photo: SUPPLIED

many people have helped grow our impact."

Thames Coast Kiwi Care has also continued to expand its reach, growing from 2000 to 5000 hectares while increasing its trapping from monthly to mostly fortnightly.

The annual report recorded

encouraging signs for native wildlife, including confirmed long-tailed bat populations in the Te Mata and Waikawau catchments, and kiwi calls reported north and well south of the project area.

With another year of conservation work under its belt,

TCKC is now turning its attention to sustaining and expanding that work - with the Bogan Bingo event set to provide a lighter way for the community to rally behind it.

The event promises an evening of games, raffles, auctions, prizes, and plenty of question-

"I am in awe of what everyone has achieved together... This commitment has been the driving force behind our successes."

- Moira Coatsworth

ble fashion, with attendees encouraged to dress as their best bogan for the chance to win a prize.

There will be nine items going under the hammer in the live auction, while a silent auction will feature about 20 items. Raffles and game prizes will add to the night's fundraising haul.

Organisers are encouraging attendees to embrace the bogan theme and help raise an "Outrageous Fortune" for the local birds, with mullets, singlets, and jandals all encouraged for a truly choice night out - all while helping protect local kiwi.

DETAILS: Bogan Bingo will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 6:45pm at the Thames Civic Centre, Mary St. Tickets are \$40, including three bingo rounds and supper and available through www.thamescoastkiwicare.org.

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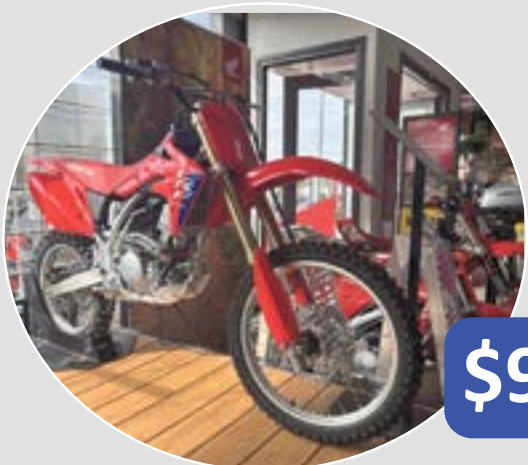
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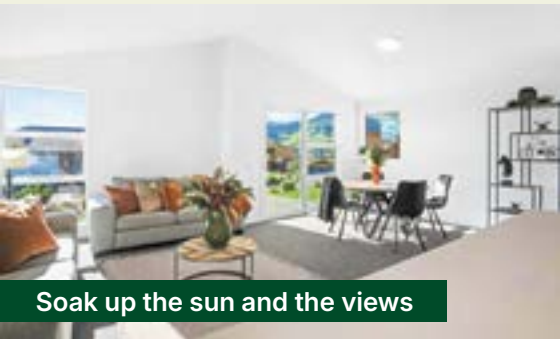
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Driving Miss Daisy is more than a transport service. Our friendly, trained drivers provide companion driving, supporting passengers from their home or facility, into the vehicle and safely to their destination.

Whether it’s a medical appointment, shopping trip, visiting friends, attending an activity or simply getting out for the day, we’re there to make the journey easier and more enjoyable.

For eligible passengers, the Total Mobility Scheme can also make getting around more affordable.

Total Mobility provides a 65 per cent subsidy towards transport for people who are no longer able to drive and who are unable to use public transport safely or easily.

Driving Miss Daisy is an approved Total Mobility provider. For many people, this support can help make regular outings and essential appointments more affordable, while providing the reassurance of a trusted companion along the way.

And it’s about much more than getting from A to B.

It’s about helping people maintain their independence, stay connected with family and friends, continue doing the things they enjoy and remain part of their community.

For families and carers, it also provides peace of mind knowing their loved one is supported throughout their journey.

Stay independent. Stay connected. Keep doing the things that matter to you.

Talk to your local Waihi-Katiki Driving Miss Daisy to find out more about our service and whether you may be eligible for Total Mobility assistance.

DETAILS: Phone Coralie and Greg McIntosh 07 393 0041 or 022 150 3084.

- Supplied by Driving Miss Daisy



Waihi-Katiki Driving Miss Daisy owners Greg and Coralie McIntosh.
Photo: SUPPLIED

Your story is gold

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Ever feel like you’ve got nothing to give? Like your story, your experiences, the things you’ve learned along the way - none of it really matters?

Let me tell you - you’re wrong. I learned this lesson the hard way. When I first started teaching resilience in schools, it felt fresh.

I’d seen how these tools changed lives, and I showed up full of passion and excitement, ready to pass them on. But then, over time, something shifted.

The lessons became second nature to me. They weren’t new anymore. And I started to lose my fire.

Why? Because I caught myself thinking, “everyone already knows this stuff”.

I assumed what had become familiar for me must be common knowledge for everyone else.

But here’s the truth - it wasn’t.

That’s the danger of familiarity. When we’ve lived with something long enough - an insight, a skill, a lesson hard-won

through struggle - we can forget its value. It stops feeling special.

But for someone else, hearing it for the first time could be life-changing.

The same goes for your story.

The things you’ve overcome, the mistakes you’ve made, the wisdom you’ve picked up along the way - those are pure gold.

And there are people out there who desperately need to hear it.

Maybe it’s a young person who thinks they’re the only one feeling this way.

Maybe it’s a mate who’s stuck and needs a glimpse of hope. Maybe it’s your kids, quietly absorbing how you handle life.

So don’t let the “ordinary” of your own life stop you from sharing it. Your familiar could be someone else’s breakthrough.

There’s someone out there in the dark of unfamiliar, waiting for a story like yours to light the way.

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 @michael-wilkes.kiwi. Enjoy these articles? Grab his book The Unschooled Life at michaelwilkes.kiwi.



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A header image for the 'Summer Sports' section. It features a green background with a soccer ball on the right and some sports equipment on the left. The title 'Summer Sports' is written in a large, white, stylized font across the center.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

It's a good time of year to start looking around the community for new activities to try out and new sports clubs to join. Whether it's bowls, 4-wheel driving or swimming - there are clubs all around the Thames Valley ready to take on new members.

THAMES VALLEY 4WD CLUB

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Turua Fire Station from 7.30pm. We are a diverse group of people of different ages, ethnicities, and vehicles. Some members prefer shiny trips and avoid scratching their vehicles, while others enjoy bush trips or participating in 4WD competition challenges. We organize day trips and sometimes longer trips all around the country. We will be hosting a National Trial in March, 2027, so don't forget to put it in your diaries. We look forward to seeing you.

THAMES BOWLS

The Thames Bowling Club is a great place to gather with friendly and social people who enjoy awesome company, excellent facilities and a friendly, or sometimes competitive, game or two. There's pool competitions on Wednesday nights from 5.30pm, RSA nights on Thursdays and club nights on Fridays. Prepare for raffles, membership draws and delicious roast dinner meals. To find out more, pop give the club a call or pop in and see us at 407 Court St, Thames.

THAMES SWIMMING CLUB

Looking for a new sport this summer? Thames Swimming Club welcomes new swimmers who are keen to improve their skills, build confidence and enjoy being part of a supportive team. Whether you're new to club swimming or ready to take your swimming to the next level, there's a place



Thames Swimming Club members.



Thames Valley 4WD Club for you at Thames Swimming Club. Come along and discover what being part of Team Thames is all about.



Students from Thames Valley sprint in the 800m race.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Benefits of a summer sport

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When it comes to playing a summer sport, there's more to it than just physical fitness. It's a wonderful way for people to move their body, work up a sweat and get the blood pumping of course, but there are lots of ways that it can support people's overall health and wellbeing. Whether it's riding a bike out on the Hauraki Rail Trail, running laps on the field at the Paeroa Domain, swimming in the Karangahake Gorge or surfing out at Waihi Beach, there are all sorts of ways people in Hauraki-Coromandel can clear their minds from the busyness and lower stress levels through summer sports. It's not just about trying to clear the mind or find peace and stillness either. Taking part in a summer sport can also help to ramp up the Vitamin D intake by getting a bit of sunshine to help boost your mood and energy levels. It's why people are sometimes chirpy

and balanced after a stroll on a summer's day or time spent at the park. Participation in summer sports isn't just an individual sort of thing, it can also help to foster community and connection. People can meet others who are like-minded and share common interests. It can even help to initiate friendships with people from completely different walks of life. There are team sports where people can build a little or even big community with people and create spaces to grow their confidence, skills and techniques, while also becoming part of a community. It can help people to learn the value of teamwork and even encourage folks to mix with others outside their usual circles. At a time when screen time and devices are a part of everyday life, summer sports can also offer space for people to unhook or unplug from technology. This summer season, make sure to look around and check out the sports clubs and options in the Hauraki-Coromandel.



It's the perfect time to check out what summer sports are on offer. Photos: PIXABAY/ ALICE PARMINTER

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A group of four young people in a swimming pool, smiling and posing for the camera. They are wearing swim caps and goggles.

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A black 4WD vehicle driving through a muddy track.

- Family oriented club involved in all forms of 4WDing
- Shiny Farm trips and safaris

A person riding a horse in a gymkhana event.

- Gymkhanas
- Pegged club fun days
- Interclub competition

Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Turua Fire Station starting at 7.30.p.m
Richard Cox Phone – 021 307 029

The logo for the Thames Valley 4WD Club, featuring a stylized 4WD vehicle and the text 'THAMES VALLEY 4WD CLUB'.

- Trips to local and international

A circular graphic with a gear-like border containing the text 'Traveling all over the country and overseas exploring 4wd tracks, seeing parts of the country most people don't get to see.'

- Family oriented club involved in all forms of 4WDing
- Shiny Farm trips and safaris

SPORTS

Email your sports news, reports and photos
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F2 Midgets success

STOCK CAR RACING

By ALICE PARMINTER

Waihi teenager Regan Le Cheminant has wrapped up his first midgets stock car season with a fifth-place title. The 16-year-old received a special dispensation to move up to the F2 midgets class last year, making him the youngest midget driver in New Zealand.

On March 14 he tackled the course at Baypark Speedway in Tauranga, vying with 21 other cars in a bid for the Aotearoa A1F2 title. Regan, having qualified in the middle of the pack, fought a hard race and ultimately came away with the fifth-place finish.

“It was a bloody good night,” Regan commented on social media afterwards; “Super happy with this finish.”



Regan Le Cheminant's first season in the F2 Midgets class has been a successful one. Photos: SUPPLIED

Regan was also named the F2 Midgets New Zealand Rookie of the Year, and came fifth overall in the club for F2 Midget points. He had 39 races over the season, recording 37 finishes.

Regan said his first season with the F2 midgets has been “epic”, and he was now looking ahead to next season with an eye to racking up some feature wins and a possible podium finish.

“Absolutely love these things, they are a blast and can’t wait for the 2026/2027 season,” he said.

In the meantime, Regan has also taken up Muay Thai, training with Fox Den Combat in Paeroa.

His first fight on March 29 saw Regan take the bout in the second round.

“I’m pretty pumped - I just like fighting in the ring,” he said.



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29 August 2026

11AM – 2PM

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Bright and cheerful

By ALICE PARMINTER

Around 120 people turned up in cheerful yellow for the annual Daffodil Day Luncheon at the Paeroa RSA on August 24. The event was filled with socialising, spot prizes, raffles and more, all fuelled by a tasty high tea-style spread. Organising committee member Elaine Lally was pleased with the turn out and with the group's fundraising efforts - although the final count won't be tallied until later in the week, she confirmed they had raised at least \$1165 from sales of fresh daffodils alone.



Marie's Kitchen laid on quite a spread.



Jackie, left, and Trish enjoy the colourful fundraiser.



Luncheon attendees in their finery.



From left: Jo, Marie, Lyn, Leonie, and Rose Marie.



Lorraine channels her inner daffodil.



From left: Mert, Sue, and Glenys.





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DAFFODIL DAY

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Support blooms at brunch

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The Lions Club of Waihi hosted its Daffodil Brunch Fundraiser on August 23 at the Waihi RSA.

Organiser Jennifer Chappel told *The Profile* the day was lots of fun, with around 76 meals served up. “The public really got in behind it and supported it well. The RSA were amazing, the meal was lovely. Everybody got into the spirit of things.”

People took part in the quiz,

raffles and enjoyed live music. Last year, the club planted and grew 1000 daffodils on a club members farm and at the Brunch Fundraiser, they auctioned off “a whole lot”, she said. They will also sell live daffodils on Daffodil Day, August 28, outside Barrons Pharmacy, New World Waihi and also at Waihi Beach.

“I’d like to thank everybody who came along and supported it and all our sponsors. The

town [Waihi] supported it by donating lovely prizes which were all welcomed when they were won yesterday,” she said.

The NZ Lions Clubs Free Skin Cancer Screening bus will also be in Waihi and Waihi Beach on August 29 outside Fresh Choice from 10am to 12pm and outside the United Church in Waihi Beach between 1pm and 3pm. It’s free and takes around 15 minutes for people to have the full body scan, Jennifer said.



Daffodil Brunch Fundraiser organising committee. Photos: SUPPLIED



Organiser Jennifer Chappel.



Happy punters enjoy the brunch.



People showed up to support the Daffodil Day fundraiser.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Exhibition to showcase many artists' works

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

For the month of September, instead of just one or two featured artists, the Thames Art Gallery will host the works from a group of artists for its Members Art Exhibition.

It all kicks off on August 29 with the opening from 2pm onwards with light refreshments provided.

Thames Society of Arts Inc secretary Wendy King told *The Profile* the exhibition was prompted by the late Dennis Raines, who made a donation before he passed as a memorial to the late Paul Heffernan, who was the president of the Thames Society of Arts.

"We decided to have a members' exhibition and use some of that money to be prize money for different categories," Wendy said.

Categories the members could enter their artwork in include prints, painting and photography, pottery and ceramics, wood and textiles and mixed media.

There was also an award created in memory of Paul Heffernan.

"With some of this funding that we decided to use as a kickstart for the exhibition, we actually made a colour award as one of them because Paul Heffernan was a very colourful character."

While there were around 130 Thames Society of Arts members, Wendy said around 30 artists had signed up to display their art work for the exhibition.

"One person's already dropped their items off because they're going to be overseas."

Wendy, who is also an artist who works with watercolours, said she was in the process of tweaking and making her work presentable to display in the exhibition.

"I've got at least one that needs to go into a frame. I've got another that needs a little bit of a tweak and it can go on the frame. And I theoretically would like to do a third thing, but it's kind of like, I don't need to be inspired, but it's got to be presentable."

Those who made time to head along to the exhibition during September could expect to see the different varieties of work that showcase imagination, skill and colour, she said.

"This is stuff that people are doing in their basements and their garages and living rooms."

DETAILS: The Members Art Exhibition, Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 4pm on weekends in September. The opening day begins at 2pm on August 29.



The members' exhibition kicks off on August 29 and will run throughout September.
Photo: SUPPLIED

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Former hostel hits the market

A former high-performing backpackers' hostel - converted into commercial corporate accommodation to house construction workers employed at one of Coromandel Peninsula's biggest infrastructure development projects - has been placed on the market for sale.

The property, previously known as Turtle Cove Backpackers, sits on the edge of Whitianga township's central business district.

The property was purchased by an infrastructure development firm around six years ago to house construction crews working on one of the company's large-scale projects.

Turtle Cove Backpackers subsequently ceased trading, while the infrastructure firm took advantage of the ready-made licensed room and amenities within the premises. The 430-square metres of lodge buildings sit on 1,622 square metres of freehold land, while its 16-room inventory is configured to support a raft of occupancies - ranging from what were bunk style room dormitories and single rooms, through to stand-alone shared twin and double rooms.

With most of the infrastructure development work project now complete and the worker's hostel now surplus to requirements, the

worker's accommodation venue formerly known as Turtle Cove Backpackers at 12-14 Bryce St in Whitianga is being marketed for sale at auction on September 3 through Bayleys Whitianga.

Salesperson Josh Smith said the time was right for the property to once again be used as backpacker accommodation or even potentially elevated higher up the guest revenue chain by converting it into a bespoke Air B'n'B style accommodation offering. "Turtle Cove was, and once again could be, a stereotypical New Zealand backpacker accommodation venue, catering to the budget end of the free independent traveller market in a style which has been immensely popular since the 1970s, and showing no sign of changing," Smith said.

"From a demographic perspective, Turtle Cove, like many backpacker establishments of its ilk, was configured to attract not only budget-minded backpackers aged in their 20s, but also a generation of 'Gen X' backpackers who first enjoyed the free-spirited style of accommodation some 30 or 40 years ago. Now, still wanting to hold on to that free-spirited environment during their travels, those former guests are coming back as middle-aged adults with their children."

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

The race for second place is going down to the wire as Thames Men FC beat freshly crowned champions Hillcrest United 3-2 at Rhodes Park, with Jake Hudson scoring another hat-trick.

Hoping to replicate their 8-2 victory in the reverse fixture, Hillcrest instead found themselves behind early on. Hudson pressured the Hillcrest defender into a mistake before moving into the box and finishing low at the near post. Thames doubled their lead after 20 minutes. A fierce tackle from Ben Taylor in midfield sent Darius King on his way. The winger burst forward, outpacing the fullback, before his low shot was saved by Benjamin Francis. Hudson was quickest to the rebound, firing home for his second of the game.

Hillcrest responded with their trademark slick passing and movement, with Jordan Grant Diftort curling a superb pass through to James Black, who raced in on goal, but Thames goalkeeper Matthew Burchell sprawled to his left to flick the ball wide with an outstretched foot.

Just before half-time, Diftort went close himself, curling a shot from the left that Burchell did well to beat away. The second half continued in frantic fashion. Yusuke Koizumi created a brilliant chance for Fale with a trademark disguised long pass down the right, but the finish flew high and wide. Hillcrest pressed forward more frequently and got their reward following a sustained spell of pressure.

A powerful low free-kick forced



Thames' Eli Fale holds off a defender. MARK BROWN/ONE OF A KIND PHOTOGRAPHY

an own goal as Xavier Brown's outstretched leg diverted the ball into the Thames net. With time starting to run out, chances came at either end.

Alex Langton volleyed a left-footed pass through to Michael Kim, but his chipped finish caught the wind and trickled agonisingly wide.

Diftort was then put through for a golden chance for Hillcrest, but Burchell cleverly stood tall to thwart the opportunity.

Thames restored their two-goal lead when Riyan Rattan curled a long ball into the path of Hudson, who controlled expertly before rounding the keeper and finishing for his hat-trick and 18th of the season.

There was no time to relax, however, as Hillcrest instantly responded. Diftort found space on the edge of the box and drove a powerful shot into

the top corner, before a nasty collision between captain Mickaël Deroncourt and Burchell left both with head and face injuries, adding to the tension late on.

Despite this, Burchell played on, pulling off two brilliant saves late on to ensure Thames held on to victory. The first was a fast one-handed reaction down to his right before tipping a close-range shot from a corner away to safety, ensuring Thames held on to a narrow victory.

"We learnt our lesson from the reserve fixture and neutralised Hillcrest with an aggressive approach on a difficult pitch," coach Ben Taylor said.

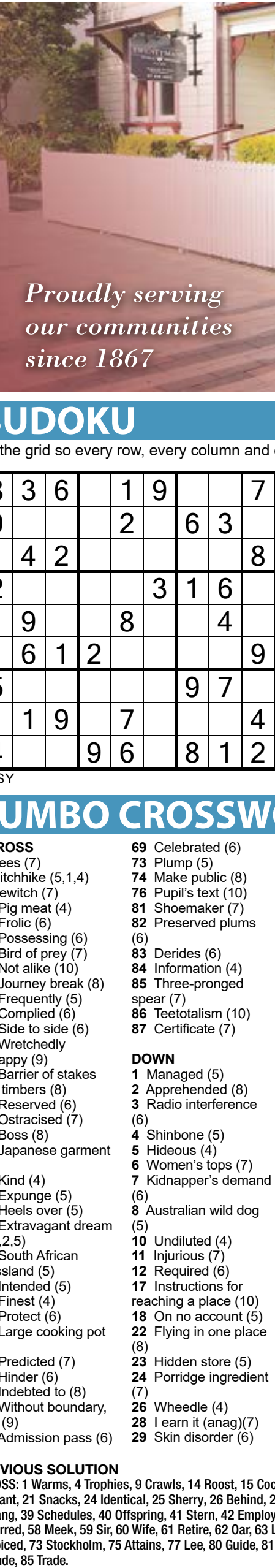
"We capitalised on the chances we created and every single player gave everything they had all the way to the final whistle. A very proud day"

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

265

265

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EASY

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

JUMBO CROSSWORD

285

ACROSS

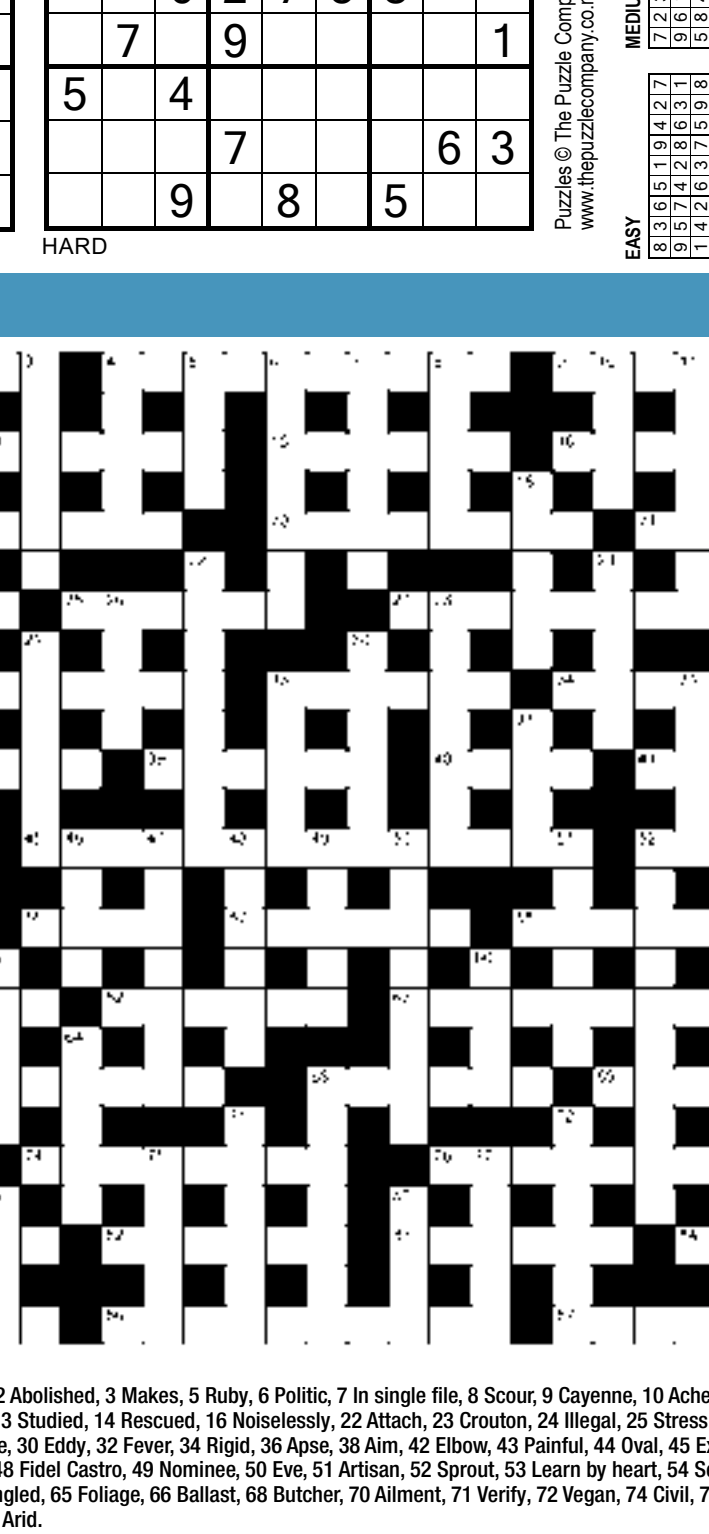
1 Fees (7)
4 Hitchhike (5,1,4)
9 Bewitch (7)
13 Pig meat (4)
14 Frolic (6)
15 Possessing (6)
16 Bird of prey (7)
19 Not alike (10)
20 Journey break (8)
21 Frequently (5)
24 Complied (6)
25 Side to side (6)
27 Wretchedly unhappy (9)
32 Barrier of stakes and timbers (8)
33 Reserved (6)
34 Ostracised (7)
38 Boss (8)
39 Japanese garment (6)
40 Kind (4)
41 Expunge (5)
42 Heels over (5)
45 Extravagant dream (1,6,2,5)
52 South African grassland (5)
55 Intended (5)
56 Finest (4)
57 Protect (6)
58 Large cooking pot (8)
61 Predicted (7)
62 Hinder (6)
63 Indebted to (8)
66 Without boundary, end (9)
68 Admission pass (6)

69 Celebrated (6)
73 Plump (5)
74 Make public (8)
76 Pupil's text (10)
81 Shoemaker (7)
82 Preserved plums (6)
83 Derides (6)
84 Information (4)
85 Three-pronged spear (7)
86 Teetotalism (10)
87 Certificate (7)

DOWN

1 Managed (5)
2 Apprehended (8)
3 Radio interference (6)
4 Shinbone (5)
5 Hideous (4)
6 Women's tops (7)
7 Kidnapper's demand (6)
8 Australian wild dog (5)
10 Undiluted (4)
11 Injurious (7)
12 Required (6)
17 Instructions for reaching a place (10)
18 On no account (5)
22 Flying in one place (8)
23 Hidden store (5)
24 Porridge ingredient (7)
26 Wheedle (4)
28 I earn it (anag)(7)
29 Skin disorder (6)

30 Fall asleep (3,3)
31 Baited (6)
33 Swell up (5)
35 Tend to (5)
36 Mimics (4)
37 Long narrative poem (4)
43 Refrigerator compartment (6)
44 Keyed up (5)
46 Gratis (4)
47 Narrow connecting land (7)
48 Accommodation house (6)
49 Oily fruit (5)
50 Rugby position (8)
51 Annually (6)
52 Open to attack (10)
53 Fat (4)
54 Burrows (7)
59 Sudden feeling of terror (5)
60 Foot cover (4)
64 Allegation (5)
65 US state (8)
67 Had a tippie (7)
68 Senator (anag)(7)
70 Hearsay (6)
71 Car's engine cover (6)
72 Deducted from wages (6)
75 Chocolate substitute (5)
77 Genetic copy (5)
78 Australian tree-climber (5)
79 Inert gas (4)
80 Related (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Warms, 4 Trophies, 9 Crawls, 14 Roost, 15 Cock and bull story, 17 Hinge, 18 Lid, 19 Oilskin, 20 Itinerant, 21 Snacks, 24 Identical, 25 Sherry, 26 Behind, 29 Adulterate, 31 For, 32 Frugal, 33 Spur, 35 Ewe, 37 Fang, 39 Schedules, 40 Offspring, 41 Stern, 42 Employee, 47 Defended, 51 Ashes, 55 Brigadier, 56 Preferred, 58 Meek, 59 Sir, 60 Wife, 61 Retire, 62 Oar, 63 Liveliness, 66 Bellow, 67 Rabbit, 69 Brainwave, 72 Voiced, 73 Stockholm, 75 Attains, 77 Lee, 80 Guide, 81 Have a heart of gold, 82 Spade, 83 Oyster, 84 Latitude, 85 Trade.

DOWN: 2 Abolished, 3 Makes, 5 Ruby, 6 Politic, 7 In single file, 8 Scour, 9 Cayenne, 10 Ache, 11 Lining, 12 Jowls, 13 Studied, 14 Rescued, 16 Noiselessly, 22 Attach, 23 Crouton, 24 Illegal, 25 Stress, 27 Implied, 28 Baffle, 30 Eddy, 32 Fever, 34 Rigid, 36 Apse, 38 Aim, 42 Elbow, 43 Painful, 44 Oval, 45 Exited, 46 Chose, 48 Fidel Castro, 49 Nominee, 50 Eve, 51 Artisan, 52 Sprout, 53 Learn by heart, 54 Seal, 57 Ravine, 64 Strangled, 65 Foliage, 66 Ballast, 68 Butcher, 70 Ailment, 71 Verify, 72 Vegan, 74 Civil, 76 Anger, 78 Tent, 79 Arid.



Matatoki 244 Matatoki Road

Exceptional lifestyle value with two dwellings

Offering two separate dwellings across 1.69 hectares (more or less), this Matatoki property combines lifestyle living, flexibility and excellent value. The refurbished three-bedroom character bungalow is complemented by a four-bay garage, three additional sheds, a woodshed and carport. Privately positioned with its own driveway, the near-new Lifemark-certified minor dwelling offers contemporary, easy-care living, generous outdoor areas, an office and sauna building.

bayleys.co.nz/2630095

1.69_{ha} 4 2

Asking Price \$949,000
View 11.30am-12pm Sat 29 Aug
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
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329_{sqm} 1

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Mangatarata 334d Mahuta Road

Elevated lifestyle living - HPC zoning

Located just eight minutes from Ngatea, this elevated 1.03ha (more or less) lifestyle section captures sweeping views across the Coromandel Ranges. With gentle contours, a sunny north-easterly aspect and a warmer microclimate above much of the Waikato fog and frost, it's an exceptional place to build your dream home. There's plenty of room for sheds, horse arenas, gardens, a pool, livestock or pets. Hauraki Golf Club is just 5km away, while Kaiaua's boat ramp provides easy Firth of Thames access. Schools, Hamilton and Auckland are all within easy reach. Following the quick sale of the previous foothills release, secure your slice of this stunning rural setting today.

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1.0379_{ha}

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 17 Sep 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 3.30-4pm Sun 30 Aug
& 2.45-3.15pm Sun 6 Sep
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
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Boundary lines are indicative only



Boundary lines are indicative only

Whitianga 12-14 Bryce Street

Where to from here?

- 1,622sqm (more or less) across two freehold titles
- Existing backpacker accommodation layout with owner’s residence
- Commercial and mixed-use zoning offering future flexibility
- Prime Whitianga CBD location near shops, cafés, marina and waterfront

Returning to the market, this substantial accommodation property offers existing infrastructure and endless potential. Re-establish accommodation, provide staff or contractor housing, or explore alternative residential or commercial uses (subject to any required consents). Secure the foundations and decide where they go next.

bayleys.co.nz/2202350

1,622sqm 430sqm

Auction (unless sold prior) 2pm, Thu 3 Sep 2026
1030 Victoria Street,
Hamilton

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

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Whangamata 105A Lindsay Road

Brand new units in Whangamata

- Secure a brand-new unit before completion
- High-spec industrial and commercial design
- Located in a tightly held industrial precinct

Construction is set to begin on Whangamata’s newest industrial and commercial hub, offering the opportunity to secure a brand-new warehouse or commercial premises before completion. Designed for owner-occupiers and investors alike, these high-spec units will provide modern, functional space in a tightly held industrial location with limited future supply.

bayleys.co.nz/2202325

3,032sqm

For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)
4pm, Wed 9 Sep 2026
7 The Esplanade,
Whitianga

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

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Scrum-believeable! Hauraki victors defend title

RUGBY

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When the Hauraki Plains College Girls First XV Rugby team realised what happened after the final whistle blew on August 1, their “emotions went through the roof”.

It was the grand final between Hauraki and Paeroa College for the Thames Valley Secondary School First XV Girls Rugby Competition.

“Our feelings were mixed. We didn’t know if we had won or not as Paeroa had been cheering after they had scored and [the] final play was the conversion. We then realised we had won and our emotions went through the roof,” HPC’s Sameera Hayes told *The Profile*.

Hauraki took the victory with a score of 40-31.

This is also the fifth year in a row the college has won the title and held on to the Allison Stewart Memorial Cup.

Coach Angela Forsyth said it was a tough final and she and the team were happy with the win.

“To win one final is awesome but to get five in a row, that’s quite an achievement.”

Paeroa “really came to play” and “made the team work for it”, she said.

It was clear she was proud of the champs. “Getting to know these young women and seeing them develop their rugby knowledge and skills as well as developing connections across the year levels



HPC Girls First XV Rugby win the Thames Valley Secondary School First XV Girls Rugby Competition. Photo: SUPPLIED

has been very rewarding.

“It’s been an important connection for me to continue over the past few years and also to work alongside some pretty cool young wāhine,” she said.

Meanwhile, Sameera said winning the championship five times in a row was “such a privilege”.

One thing the girls “put the hours into” this year was getting to know each other and “creating that sisterhood” and bonds that some teams didn’t have, she said.

“We are always bonding no matter what the situation is, we could be doing our structure and the girls would be always talking and laughing even if they got told off a couple times. That’s what I love about this sport, it’s always about having fun and being able to have fun with your teammates.”

Co-captain Amber Perry, 17, said the achievement was a great way to encourage girls in Hauraki to “give rugby a go”. She said it was great to end playing for the Girls

First XV “on a high”.

“Having been part of this team for five years, I have seen it go through many changes in players, coaches, and team dynamics.

“However, from an outside perspective, I believe people still see us as the same competitive team we have always been,” she said.

“That consistency reflects the culture we have built, where every new player contributes to maintaining the high standards and values that define our team.”

The next step for the team is the Provincial Cup and representing Thames Valley and Hauraki Plains College. “We plan to do what we have been all year, staying a united front and work even harder to hopefully make more history.”

They wanted to thank managers, coaches, referees, sponsors, parents and caregivers for “everything you’ve done for the girls this year - it will never go unnoticed”.

DETAILS: Keep up with their journey on Instagram - @hpcxvgirlsrugby.



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