

The Valley Profile



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By KELLEY TANTAU

Hauraki Plains’ young rugby stars have struck gold in Queenstown, taking out the major award at the 2026 Global Games.

The Year 8 Under-13 team competed at the Queenstown NZ Junior Rugby Festival last month, taking on three opponents on the road to the finals and coming away with three wins.

Team managers Sharyn Nielsen and Courtney Luke said the trip began with a simple vision to give the players an opportunity to take their love of rugby to a bigger stage.

“We wanted a chance for our kids to compete, represent themselves, team, club, and families on a bigger stage,” Courtney told *The Profile*.

“What started as an idea, soon became a shared goal.”

Courtney said the team’s road to the finals was “nothing short of incredible” - with the players facing three “great” opponents, and showing “determination, courage, and a never-give-up attitude” to clinch all three wins.

“It was pretty cool that we got to play with our Thames Valley rugby ball as well,” she said.

The team was commended for its efforts and received the games’ Major Award - the highest honour awarded to one team across all age groups, that demonstrated “outstanding performance, sportsmanship, and overall excellence throughout the event on and off the field,” Courtney said.

When the team found out

Crowned in Queenstown

Hauraki Plains rugby team takes top prize at Global Games



Hauraki Plains’ Year 8 Under-13 team competed at the Queenstown NZ Junior Rugby Festival as part of the Global Games. Photo: SHARYN NIELSEN

they had won, shock quickly turned into celebration, because for the players, reaching the Global Games had been a two-year journey of hard work, commitment, and fundraising.

Courtney said local sponsors played an incredibly important

part in making their dream a reality, and thanked them as well as the coaching and management team of Luke O’Neil, Roger Magon, Brendon Nielsen, and Sharyn Nielsen.

“Along the way, we all put in countless hours, sweat, and

tears,” Courtney said.

“It’s been a long road but we never gave up.

“We are so proud of what these kids have achieved. This journey has been much more than getting to the Global Games - it has taught them the

value of commitment, team-work, perseverance, and never giving up on a goal.

“They worked for this, they earned this, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped them get there,” she said.

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Coroner criticises psychiatrist over death

By FELIX WALTON, of RNZ

A Whangamatā man, who died after taking conflicting medications, suffered ‘serotonin syndrome’, which caused his organs to fail. A coroner says better oversight by his psychiatrist could have helped prevent his death.

Blake Williams had been taking tranlycypromine, a powerful and rarely prescribed anti-depressant, for 18 months when he started hallucinating on August 9, 2022.

The 26-year-old was living with his grandparents, who noticed he was “dripping in sweat and really agitated”, before rushing him to the Thames Emergency Department that evening. Less than 24 hours later, Williams was dead.

In a report on his death, coroner Ian Telford concluded Williams, who had depression and anxiety, had taken several unprescribed medications that conflicted with his prescribed anti-depressant.

Telford said the medicines that contributed to his death were anti-depressant citalopram and stimulant Ritalin, which belonged to his uncle living in the same house, and antihistamine chlorphenamine, which he likely obtained from a pharmacy.

“Blake appears to have lacked a full appreciation of the risks associated with taking these additional drugs in conjunction with the tranlycypromine prescribed by his psychiatrist,” Telford wrote.

When he arrived at Thames ED, Williams was sweating profusely, hallucinating, and moving involuntarily and aggressively.

“By 9.50pm, Blake’s condition had deteriorated further, and nursing assessment established that his heart rate had risen to 188 beats per minute, his temperature to 39.5 degrees and his blood pressure had dropped,” Telford continued.

Williams stayed at the ED overnight, until he was next assessed at 2am on August 10.

“By this time, Blake’s condition had deteriorated markedly,” Telford wrote. He was soon diagnosed with serotonin syndrome, caused by an oversupply of serotonin in the brain and nervous system. Williams was taken to the Waikato Intensive Care Unit, where he died at about 2pm.

Coroner Telford said Williams’ use of tranlycypromine should have had more oversight. “The clinical consensus is that tranlycypromine is a particularly high-risk medication,” he wrote.

The psychiatrist, referred to as Dr P in the report, had started Williams on 10mg of tranlycypromine and, over seven months, increased his dosage to 60mg, but MedSafe only recommends dosages of up to 20mg a day. “Dr P stated that he was not aware of this guidance, but had consulted his clinical community regarding the upper limits for tranlycypromine,” Telford wrote.

“However, all other clinicians who contributed to my inquiry noted - often with some concern - that the maintenance dose of 60mg prescribed for Blake significantly exceeded the maximum dose recommended by MedSafe.” While giving evidence at the inquest, Williams’ mother, Kim Williams, criticised Dr P’s conduct during an after-hours phone call. “I explained to him that

Blake was in the emergency department,” she recounted. “I asked him whether or not there was anything he could tell me that I could share with the medical professionals there. To say he was unhelpful would be being generous. He actually said to me: ‘I’m at home, I don’t have his records, they’re at the office’, and ‘you’ll have to call in the morning to get that information’.”

Dr P claimed not to remember that phone call, which appalled coroner Telford.

“Although he was notably articulate in responding to questions, a central feature of his oral evidence was a repeated inability to recall material matters.”

“The absence of any recollection of this particular call is striking. On Kim’s evidence, this was not a routine administrative exchange. It was an after-hours call from the mother of a patient taking tranlycypromine, during an acute hospital presentation, shortly before that patient’s death.”

Telford referred Williams’ death and his findings to the Medical Council, “particularly as it pertains to the treatment provided by Dr P”, he wrote. “For the avoidance of doubt, I make no determination as to whether those matters raise issues of competence, conduct, health, fitness to practise or any other regulatory response. Those are matters for the Medical Council.”

Coroner Telford made several recommendations, including suggesting a public campaign urging people not to take other people’s prescribed medicines, and not to keep and take old medicines.

This story was first published on rnz.co.nz



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Thames Tides

Wed Sep 9	Thu Sep 10	Fri Sep 11	Sat Sep 12	Sun Sep 13	Mon Sep 14	Tue Sep 15
Morning: 4:54am 3.2, 5:27pm 3.4 Afternoon: 11:07am 0.6, 11:40pm 0.6 Sun: 6:28am 6:04pm Best At: 10:27am 10:53pm Rise: 5:13am, Set: 3:50pm	Morning: 5:58am 3.3, 12:04pm 0.5 Afternoon: 6:21pm 3.5 Sun: 6:26am 6:04pm Best At: 11:18am 11:42pm Rise: 5:45am, Set: 5:01pm	Morning: 6:54am 3.4, 7:11pm 3.6 Sun: 6:25am 6:05pm Best At: 12:05pm New Moon Rise: 6:12am, Set: 6:09pm	Morning: 1:23am 0.4, 1:40pm 0.3 Afternoon: 7:44am 3.5, 7:57pm 3.6 Sun: 6:23am 6:06pm Best At: 12:28am 12:51pm Rise: 6:38am, Set: 7:16pm	Morning: 2:09am 0.4, 2:24pm 0.4 Afternoon: 8:29am 3.6, 8:42pm 3.6 Sun: 6:22am 6:07pm Best At: 1:13am 1:36pm Rise: 7:03am, Set: 8:22pm	Morning: 2:52am 0.4, 3:06pm 0.4 Afternoon: 9:12am 3.6, 9:25pm 3.5 Sun: 6:20am 6:08pm Best At: 2:18am 2:21pm Rise: 7:29am, Set: 9:26pm	Morning: 3:33am 0.4, 3:48pm 0.6 Afternoon: 9:53am 3.5, 10:07pm 3.4 Sun: 6:19am 6:08pm Best At: 3:08pm Rise: 7:57am, Set: 10:30pm

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good

TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

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

Funding boost to help restore rail trail

By KELLEY TANTAU

A further \$400,000 boost for the Hauraki Rail Trail will help tackle some of its worst storm damage, but the funding is only the beginning of the work needed to restore the trail to its former glory.

Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust chief executive Diane Drummond said the latest government funding announced last week, matched dollar-for-dollar by Hauraki District Council, gave the trust \$800,000 to put towards repairs between Waihi and Waikino.

“That was the area that was severely damaged during the storm, which resulted in the tunnel being closed for two months, and also the vast majority of the trail between Victoria Battery and Lawrence Rd being closed due to the trail being completely washed out.

“The \$400,000, however, isn’t enough to actually restore the trail to its former glory.”

The latest funding, provided through the New Zealand Cycle Trail Fund via the International Conservation and Visitor Levy, builds on the \$300,000 announced earlier this year for urgent safety work after major storm events - including when the Ōhinemuri River flooded in January.

This takes total government support for the trail’s recovery



Repairing the Karangahake Tunnel is the trust’s immediate priority.

File Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

to \$700,000.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said the investment recognised the trail’s importance to the region, with more than 32,000 people previously reported to use it each year and around \$12m spent in the local economy.

“That’s a significant boost for the many small businesses that benefit from visitors to the trail - from local retailers, restaurants

and cafes, to accommodation providers.”

Diane said overall trail usage was down 15 per cent on the same period last year - although numbers rebounded quickly when sections reopened. With the latest funding now secured, the Karangahake Tunnel was the trust’s immediate priority, with riders currently being asked to dismount and walk because of its rough surface and

water crossing the trail.

“It’s open to a walking standard, not a cycling standard at this early stage, but now that the \$400,000 has come in and matched, that’s going to be a priority for us, to sort the tunnel out.”

Resilience work in the area will also be prioritised to reduce the risk of further storm damage. Diane told *The Profile* the trust was continuing to work

with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, council, and other funding partners to find further funding mechanisms.

“We know we don’t have the money we need to restore the trail to where it was at this time,” she said. “We’re very focused and positive that that will eventually come, but it’s just not the timeframe that we were hoping for.

“But we’re very, very grateful, and we’re very appreciative, and we’re going to be placing this investment where it makes the best sense.”

Alongside its regular repairs and maintenance role, Hauraki District Council has put additional funding into the trail by matching the government contribution received.

“The January flooding caused real damage, and a large share of that damage was here in our rohe,” Mayor Toby Adams said.

“This additional \$400,000 is a big step forward, and council is proud to do its bit - through matched funding, practical support, and the day-to-day care that helps keep the trail safe and enjoyable.”

The trust is also continuing its annual trail surveys, with the Ministry requiring 300 to 500 responses each year, using feedback to identify problems and prioritise its limited maintenance budget.

Applications closing soon!

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Hauraki District creative COMMUNITIES nz

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- Provide creative opportunities for the community
- Engage young people (under 18 years)
- Celebrate and promote local arts and cultural traditions

Applications are open to individuals and groups, with project taking place between 1 October 2026 and 30 September 2027.

QR CODE

Applications close 4pm, 11 September 2026

Find out more and download the application - www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme

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John Bertrand Collectables Are Buying in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions This Week

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "This week will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables. "We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated
Director and Buyer
John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd
Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Very High Prices

Over the last couple of years, we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is still at historically high levels. So, gather up all your unwanted items and make an appointment to see the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc.), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week, are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items. "If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue. Mr Grant is in Thames, Hauraki and Coromandel Regions this week on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before. Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant. Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars. General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to purchase pre-1946 New Zealand Silver Coins and World Silver Coins. "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) ARE BUYING NOW!!

OLD GOLD

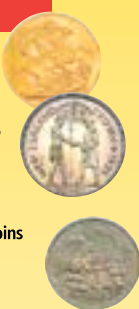
- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
- Gold Watch Cases
- Alluvial (River) Gold
- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets

No Pennies or Halfpennies Please



BANKNOTES

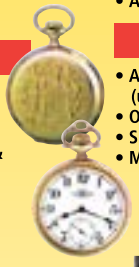
- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissory Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
- Show Pieces
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver

No EPNS or Silver Plated items Please



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- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)

No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please



TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand



COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand



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COROMANDEL TOWN	Fri 11 Sept	Coromandel Citizens Hall, 455 Kapanga Road	2 pm to 4 pm
WHITIANGA	Sat 12 Sept	Whitianga Town Hall Supper Room, 24 Monk Street	9 am to 10.30 am
TAIRUA	Sat 12 Sept	St Francis House, 244 Main Road	12 noon to 1.30 pm
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Hair hair! Students raise \$8k for cause

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When the Hauraki Plains College community set out to raise life-saving funds through Shave for a Cure for kiwis who live with blood cancer, they didn't expect to almost triple their target amount.

It all started on June 19 with a goal of \$3000 and currently sits at a whopping \$8094 raised so far by the Hauraki students for the cause.

"I never thought it possible to raise over \$8000 with a small group of students," Hauraki year 13 student and organiser Emily said.

"For organising it's always better to have a good team behind you, and we did. I was so overwhelmed with the money raised and found it so cool to see so many happy faces."

Emily, who had her ponytail chopped off, was joined by a group of students including Jack Barry, 13, who had his head shaved for the cause on August 28.

"We had 10 people shaving their hair off, four cutting their hair, but it snowballed a bit at the end and there were a few more students," she said.

Emily's ponytail was cut off by Rebecca Higgins, while Jack said Mrs Fitzpatrick shaved his hair.

Jack's motivation to be part of the fundraiser and shave his head was something that hit close to home.

"I had a family friend that had breast cancer so wanted to sup-



Jack Barry's hair is shaved for the cause, left, alongside others at the college taking part in the Shave for a Cure fundraiser.

port the Shave for a Cure," he said. "The impact is that I am happy in myself and that I have helped some people out. I look forward to doing it again when my hair has grown back, my hair is slow growing."

What surprised Jack the most about people's willingness to donate was their generosity and "seeing family friends compete against each other to donate the largest amount," he said.

His individual goal was to raise \$300, but he changed it to \$750 and ended up raising \$1260.

Meanwhile, Emily said she just "didn't expect the generosity".

Her first individual goal for fundraising was \$200, but was "really surprised and so grateful" to reach \$1375.

It was her family who encouraged Emily to think about and help others, she said, while Jack said it was his family, friends and



HPC students Emily Povey, 17, and Jack Barry, 13, support Shave for a Cure.



Photos: SUPPLIED

Mrs Fitzpatrick.

The cause was a significant one for both Emily and Jack as it was "so important" to raise awareness - and even just a small number of students could "make a huge difference", they said.

"People now ask where has my hair gone and it starts the conversation on Shave for a Cure."

The impact it had on her was a positive one that made her "feel like I am more confident in my-

self".

"It was a big change for me, but having the cause behind me backing me up encourages me to talk about it and spread the word."

"I am hoping as a council prefect that the Shave for a Cure happens annually and we pass the baton for next year."

DETAILS: To donate to the cause, visit shaveforcure.co.nz/fundraisers/haurakiplainscollege.

SUPERPRICE FURNITURE OPENS IN WAIHI

From humble beginnings in a garage to opening a third store, the Superprice Furniture story continues with the arrival of its newest location at 94 Seddon Street, Waihi.

The family-owned furniture business will officially open its doors on Friday, September 11, 2026, with exciting grand-opening specials available across a wide selection of products.

Why did you choose Waihi for your newest store?

Since establishing Superprice Furniture in 2019, Kamal Singh and his family have built successful stores in Thames and Whitianga by forming genuine connections with their local communities.

"Our experience has shown us that people in smaller towns appreciate quality products, personal service and dealing with a local family business," Kamal says.

"Many people around the region already know Superprice Furniture through our Thames and Whitianga stores. Opening in Waihi felt like the natural next step, allowing us to serve another wonderful community while continuing to grow our market."

Who will be the face of the Waihi store?

The new shop will be managed by Kamal's brother-in-law, Sanket Gurung, who has played an important role in the family business through his experience in retail, information technology, logistics and website management.

Sanket will be the friendly face customers see in the Waihi store, supported by the wider Superprice Furniture family.



"Although Sanket will manage the shop, we are a close family business, so everyone will remain involved," Kamal says. "Each person brings different strengths, but we all share the same goal—to look after our customers properly."

What can customers expect to find?

The Waihi showroom will offer an extensive selection of sofas, lounge suites, recliner chairs, New Zealand-made beds and headboards, bedroom furniture and home-wares.

Superprice Furniture's point of difference has always been straightforward: offering good-quality furniture at affordable prices, supported by helpful, personal service.

The team can also assist with furniture assembly and packaging removal, making the entire experience easier—from choosing the right piece to having it ready to enjoy at home.

What does this expansion mean to the family?

For Kamal and his family, opening a third location represents another proud milestone in a journey that began with only three lounge suites in a garage.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received in Thames and Whitianga," Kamal says. "We are now excited to meet the people of Waihi, understand what they are looking for and become part of the local community."

Visit the new Superprice Furniture showroom at 94 Seddon Street, Waihi, and meet Sanket and the team.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm; Saturday, 9am–1pm.

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Turua Hall set to celebrate 100 years

By ALICE PARMINTER

A Turua resident is in search of memorabilia and stories as plans take shape to celebrate 100 years of the rural village's community hall.

The Turua Hall Centenary on September 26 is set to be a social affair, with a full afternoon of activities.

The afternoon will kick off with a parade of vintage cars and period costumes, stopping at significant sites within the village including the native kahikatea stand behind Turua Domain, the boat ramp, and Turua School.

Next up is a presentation on the history of the hall, followed by the AGM.

Organiser Marina Wigmore told *The Profile* she was looking for historical photos and documents to go along with maps of the original sections that were auctioned off in Turua, as well as stories and information that people in the area might have about their families.

"There's a lot of old names around here... this is actually quite an old settlement," she said.

"The original hall was over at Aegis Oil and was from the 1880s - the [current] hall was opened here on the first of October, 1926."

The centenary will also be a chance to celebrate the hall's newly-installed Portacom building extension with an official opening ceremony.

"My husband passed away three years ago, but he was the instigator for trying to get the portacom here," Marina said.

"[The] new community facility will house the library, emergency response, and a meeting room... It will be great to get people to come and have a look."



Marina Wigmore is calling on the people of Turua to help celebrate 100 years of the community hall.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

The portacom was acquired from Barnardos and installed behind the hall in January, 2025.

Turua Library is already operating from it, after being moved from its old home in the leaky annex at the front of the main hall.

The annex will eventually be renovated as part of the committee's \$1.3 million long-term plans to restore and modernise Turua Hall.

Meanwhile, the centenary event will wind up with a buffet meal and social, which will be the time for dancing, music, and memories.

"It's a chance for old residents and people who have been here for a while just to catch up and reminisce."

DETAILS: Turua Hall centenary celebration, on September 26 from 3pm onwards. Buffet dinner will commence at 6pm: limited tickets are available at \$60 per person. Contact Marina at wigcorp@xtra.co.nz for more information.



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On the Land

Farmers to fund OSPRI's new NAIT software

By MONIQUE STEELE of RNZ

Farmers are facing higher levies for a mandatory livestock tracing programme from September 1, despite most opposing cost increases.

OSPRI - funded by industry and government - runs the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) programme, tracking livestock movements for biosecurity and animal disease management.

Its board decided to raise prices for NAIT ear tags by 39 percent to \$1.35 for deer and cattle, and slaughter fees up 28 percent to \$1.91 per cattle beast.

During consultation in June and July, levy increase proposals were supported by industry groups like DairyNZ and Beef and

Lamb New Zealand.

But 63 percent of 69 submitters - including farmers and meat processors - opposed them, due to concerns about affordability, governance and confidence in delivery.

Deputy chief executive Simon Andrew said it made the decision around levies carefully.

"There were mixed views on the levy increases itself, and that's understandable in terms of an added cost of their business," he said.

"So we had to balance those concerns around the affordability themselves with our responsibility to modernise the NAIT system and maintain a fit for purpose and reliable traceability system."

Levies would help fund a new replace-

ment software for the NAIT service.

Earlier reports cited concerns about the current platform's unsatisfactory farmer user experience, frustrating technological barriers to compliance and limited data access.

Andrew said it was working with an experienced New Zealand third party provider - which he did not name - to build and develop the new software.

"First and foremost, it's going to be modernised to the point that it's enhanced for modern-day applications, whether that's on your phone, a tablet or your desktop computer.

"The current system is not effective in terms of that particular situation. It's very clunky to use on your phone, for example."

Andrew said it would have guided workflows for required actions for its users, and link up with other third-party integrators, like the Livestock Improvement Corporation's MINDA herd management system, among others.

West Otago sheep farmer Mike McElrea of Tapanui agreed the NAIT software was hard to use for particular functions like downloading information, that he hoped would improve.

Farming an area once considered a bovine tuberculosis (TB) buffer zone in the 1990s, he said disease testing was most important.

However he said testing was not as frequent as it should be, which representatives told him were due to funding issues.

OSPRI faced a \$1.38 million funding

shortfall due to historic undercollections of beef and dairy levies, that new levy revenue would address.

Andrew said levies were based on forecast slaughter numbers, which did not always line up.

"The levy increases are also on the basis of undercollection and recovering undercollection in terms of the levy previously," he said.

"It's important that we go through a reconciliation process and set the levies based on that moving forward as well."

The consultation document said it would contribute levies to the undercollections to "restore the intended funding contribution split between industry and government."

OSPRI also worked to tackle bovine tuberculosis in livestock herds by controlling possums, a common vector of the disease, in addition to Mycoplasma Bovis testing and surveillance.

Recently, OSPRI announced changes to its TB-Free programme, including carrying out less blanket testing across all farms in surveillance areas and doing more testing in higher risk areas it said would reinvest savings back into possum controls.

There were 17 herds infected with TB nation-wide, including five in Hawke's Bay, four in Waikato, three in Otago, and one herd each in Bay of Plenty, Canterbury, Manawatu-Whanganui, Marlborough and the West Coast.

TB-wildlife risk remained across 4.8 million hectares.

This story was first published on rnz.co.nz



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New lifejacket legislation welcomed

Waikato Regional Council welcomes the passing of the third reading of the Maritime Transport (Lifejackets on Recreational Craft) Amendment Bill in Parliament, which will introduce a national requirement for lifejackets to be worn on recreational vessels six metres or less while underway.

Regional Harbourmaster Chris Bredenbeck says the legislation will bring national consistency to a safety rule that has been part of the Waikato Navigation Safety Bylaw for more than a decade.

"Having differing rules around the country creates confusion for boaties and enforcement challenges for our maritime officers," he said.

"About 30 per cent of the boaties using Waikato waters come from neighbouring regions, and we regularly hear people say they didn't know about the requirement because the rules are different where they came from.

"A national standard will make things clearer for boaties, improve compliance, and ultimately make our waterways safer."

Waikato Regional Council was the first regional council in New Zealand to introduce a compulsory lifejacket-wearing rule for vessels six metres or less, adopting the

requirement in its Navigation Safety Bylaw in 2013 and moving to enforcement several years later following an extensive education campaign.

"We've been leading the charge on this issue for years because the evidence is clear. The majority of boating drownings occur on smaller vessels, and requiring lifejackets to be worn is one of the simplest and most effective ways to save lives."

The council has issued between 100 and 200 infringement notices annually in recent years, with a large proportion relating to lifejacket offences.

Mr Bredenbeck emphasised that the new law does not change the requirements for larger vessels.

The council will update its Navigation Safety Bylaw once the legislation comes into force to align with the new national requirements.

"We're pleased to see the rest of the country moving to a consistent approach that will help save lives."

The Bill must now receive the Royal assent before it becomes law.

The law will apply to all people using paddleboards, jet skis, dinghies, trailer sailors and small motorboats.

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On the Land

Pyometra in dogs: what every owner should know

By Dr Leah Wakeford

Pyometra is a serious, potentially life-threatening infection of the uterus that affects entire (undesexed) female dogs.

It's one of the most common emergencies we see in New Zealand veterinary practices and understanding it could help you protect your dog's health.

After a season (heat), hormonal changes cause the lining of the uterus to thicken in preparation for a possible pregnancy.

Over repeated cycles, this lining can become abnormally thickened, creating an ideal environment for bacteria to take hold.

The uterus fills with pus, and the infection can quickly become severe.

Toxins enter the bloodstream which causes the dog to feel very unwell with the potential to lead to kidney damage and even rupture of the uterus if untreated.

Every season a female dog goes through increases her risk, with pyometra most commonly seen in older, entire dogs, typically from around six to eight years onward.

Some dogs develop it after their very first season, but risk rises with age and number of cycles.

Symptoms often appear four to eight weeks after a season and can include lethargy, increased thirst, reduced appetite, and vaginal discharge, though this



Dr Leah Wakeford examines a pup. SUPPLIED

may not always be visible.

The most effective prevention is desexing (speying), which eliminates the risk.

This is one of the reasons we recommend discussing desexing timing with your vet as there are many risks and benefits depending on your dog's age and breed. If your dog is unwell and entire, please contact us promptly – early treatment saves lives.

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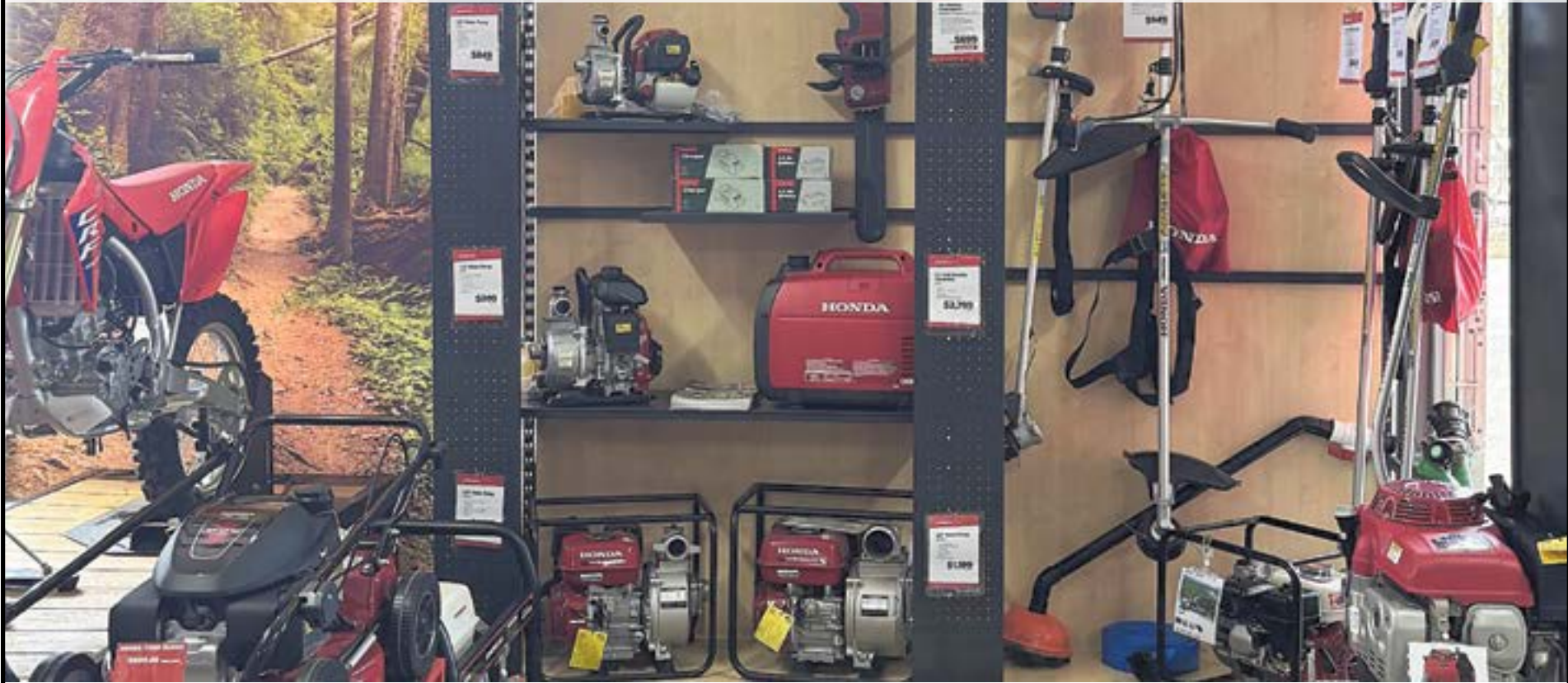
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Cause of drowning unkown



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

Detective Doolan was despatched from Thames in the direction of Puriri at an early hour on a November morning in 1885 to organise a search for a missing man.

Thirty-nine-year old Irishman James Cochrane had not been seen for a week. He had been employed around the farming settlements of Kirikiri and Warahoe for the past two or three years and had been lodging at the Hauraki Hotel, Warahoe for the past fortnight. Lately he had been working on the farm of Emily Richards, publican of Thames' Governor Bowen Hotel.

He was last seen by Joseph Leatham on the main road near Totara Point. After several minutes' friendly conversation James said he was going into Thames. James was a man of independent nature and no alarm was felt at his disappearance until a few days had passed. Several of his friends became anxious and contacted the police.

About noon on the day Detective Doolan began the search for James, Sergeant Murphy, officer in charge of the Thames Police Station, received a telephone message from Mr Bagnall, of Turua. The body of a man had been found in the river at Oparia, better known as Duck Creek, between the telegraph towers at the Waihou and Piako river mouths and Bagnall's mill. It had been discovered by a party of Māori whose beliefs prevented them from touching it.

Constable O'Brien started for Turua at seven o'clock that evening returning early the next morning with the body. William Southgate, waterman, identified it as James

Cochrane, who was well known at Thames, having been manager of Messers Hewin's grocery business in Brown St for a considerable time. James had also been a volunteer in the Thames Scottish Battalion and was remembered as taking part in the Parihaka expedition in 1881 which saw more than 1600 colonial troops and volunteers invade a peaceful Māori settlement in Taranaki.

James acted as a special correspondent to the *Thames Advertiser*, contributing a number of articles.

At the inquest, Robert Comer, licensee of the Hauraki Hotel, Warahoe said that during the time James lodged with him he did not drink more than was good for him.

On the Saturday before James disappeared Robert had taken a money order for £12 10s into Thames for James, to be cashed by Mrs Richards for work done on her farm. Mrs Richards queried the amount due, but promised to bring payment for James out the following day. Robert returned to his hotel and James inquired as to whether there was any likelihood of his returning to Mrs Richard's employment, but Robert informed him that nothing had been said on the subject. When Robert told him he had not received the money James' face fell, and he said he would have to summon Mrs Richards to court.

Robert tried to dissuade him, but James, in low spirits left the hotel shortly after tea time. He took his swag but left his favourite dog behind. The jury found that James drowned, but there was no evidence to show how he got into the water.

He appeared to have no relatives in the colony, but had many friends who paid his funeral expenses. James is buried at Shortland cemetery.



A Thames Valley farm. Photo: SUPPLIED

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminster

1. Which former New Zealand pizza chain used the freecall number 0800 101 101: a) Eagle Boys, b) Heaven Pizza, or c) Pizza Haven?

2. The 'Malice at the Palace' was an unsanctioned fight that broke out during a 2004 match of which sport: a) Basketball, b) boxing, or c) football?

3. The line 'Are you not entertained' was spoken by actor Russell Crowe in which movie: a) *Braveheart*, b) *Gladiator*, or c) *Troy*?

4. Hass, Fuerte and Reed are all varieties of which fruit: a) Avocado, b) banana, or c) cherry?

5. *Billie Jean*, released in 1983, was a hit song by which artist? a) George Michael, b) Michael

Jackson, or c) Prince?

6. Amphibious vehicles can travel on both land and a) ice, b) through the air, or c) water?

7. T.S Eliot is best known for his work in which field? a) Journalism, b) poetry, or c) politics?

8. Which Beatles band member narrated the *Thomas the Tank Engine* TV series from 1984 until 1986: a) George Harrison, b) Paul McCartney, or c) Ringo Starr?

9. True or false: New Zealand cicadas have a unique sound not found anywhere else in the world?

10. Which modern slang term beginning with D, describes an affordable product that mimics a high end, more expensive product? a) Dinket, b) dorp, or c) dupe?

ANSWERS: 1. a) Eagle Boys; 2. a) Basketball; 3. b) *Gladiator*; 4. a) Avocado; 5. b) Michael Jackson; 6. c) Water; 7. b) poetry; 8. c) Ringo Starr; 9. True; 10. All 42 species of cicada in NZ are native and make different sounds to cicada species found overseas; 10. c) Dupe.

Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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Practical Magic 2 (130 mins) M. Starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman, Practical Magic 2 returns to a world steeped in moonlit mischief and powerful ancestral magic, as the Owens sisters must confront the dark curse that threatens to unravel their family once and for all in a must-see event of fun, magic and mayhem.

Oasis: Don't Look Back in Anger (119 mins) M. Charts Liam and Noel Gallagher's triumphant reunion tour, Oasis Live '25, one of the most anticipated rock 'n' roll comebacks of our time. The film is an unapologetically uplifting account of the biggest musical event of 2025. Includes rehearsal, backstage, and onstage access.

Lomu (107 mins) E. A Tongan/Kiwi warrior who could run 100 metres in under 11 seconds. The youngest All Black to put on the jersey and who still holds the record for the most tries scored in World Cup history.

THE ODYSSEY (172 mins) M. Thought you'd missed it? 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. 94% on Rotten Tomatoes; 97% on the Popcornmeter!

& Sons ENCORE (120 mins) M. A writer (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.

Next week: De Gaulle: Liberté (157 mins) R13. Part II to De Gaulle: Tilting Iron. Resistance fighters, students and soldiers rise up in England, France and Africa to join the cause of evicting the Nazis from France. Their faith, audacity and thirst for freedom defy what history seemed to have written in advance.

School holidays: For the kids: **Forgotten Island: Shaun the sheep: The beast of Mossy Bottom**; For grown-ups: **Heart of the Beast** starring Brad Pitt. Filmed in the South Island, as a stand-in for Alaska.

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Brett Bell-Booth is visiting the Thames Valley weekly. Please contact Brett to make a complimentary appointment.

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Te Aroha - Silver Fern Farms Event Centre

September 11th
8:00am-12:30pm

Paeroa - Memorial Hall

September 17th
9:30am-1:00pm



OceanaGold Update

9th September 2026

Upcoming works at Tailings Storage Facility 1A



OVERVIEW

As we come into the summer construction season, we're kicking off work on the crest of Tailings Storage Facility 1A (TSF1A).

This work will involve placing and compacting material along the top edge of the embankment to complete a 'crest raise'; increasing the height of the facility by approximately 1.6 metres. This will provide additional tailings storage capacity to support ongoing mining operations.

As with previous stages, the work is weather dependent and is expected to continue through to about the end of May 2027.

WE'RE TAKING STEPS TO MINIMISE EFFECTS

You may notice earthmoving machinery on the facility during this time.

We are taking steps to minimise noise, dust, and other effects, in accordance with our consent conditions and relevant New Zealand standards.

Throughout the project, we'll carry out monitoring and collect representative samples to ensure we continue to meet the required standards and manage any potential effects.



Find out more about how we manage noise and air quality here:

www.waihigold.co.nz



HOURS OF OPERATION

Most construction activities will be undertaken between 6.00 am and 6.00 pm on weekdays, and between 6.00 am and midday on Saturdays.

Construction-related activities may also occur between midday and 6.00 pm on Saturdays, and between 6.00 am and 6.00 pm on Sundays, subject to compliance with the stricter noise limits that apply during those periods.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us

Community Engagement Line: 0800 924 444 | Project Information Office: 86 Seddon St., Waihi
Email us via our website: www.waihigold.co.nz

Please note: We are not currently blasting in the Martha Open Pit. Any changes to this will be notified.

Building better roads: change is possible

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES
A right... confession time. This might cost me credibility. You may unfollow. Cancel everything. Never read this column again. Ready? I have a terrible habit I've never quite shaken... I pick my nose. There. I said it. Not exactly headline news, I know — but stick with me, because it points to something fascinating about how habits work. Anything we repeat regularly

— scrolling our phones, stress-eating, biting nails, procrastinating — follows a similar pattern in the brain. Every time we repeat a behaviour, the brain strengthens a pathway for it. Repeat it often enough, and that pathway gets wrapped in a substance called myelin, which helps the signal travel faster and easier. In simple terms? What starts as a footpath becomes a highway. Which explains why some habits feel so stubborn. My nose-picking habit? That's probably a 35-year-old motorway. And here's the tricky bit — trying to fight a habit head-on often

backfires. Try this: don't think about a pink elephant. Too late. Or tell yourself, "Don't do that thing." Now it's all you can think about. Because most habits aren't broken by fighting them. They're replaced. You build a new road. Repeat it. Strengthen it. Drive it often enough, and eventually the brain starts choosing that road automatically. That's true whether you're trying to exercise more, scroll less, be kinder, drink less, pray more — whatever it is. Transformation is usually less dramatic than we think. It's often just repetition in a better direction. And here's something impor-

tant — the old road doesn't disappear. It's still there. Like an overgrown track through the bush. You may not use it anymore, but you could find it if you went looking. Which is why what we focus on matters so much. Because what fills your mind shapes the paths your brain keeps travelling. And those paths become who we are becoming. That's good news, by the way. Because it means change is possible. Not by force. Not by white-knuckling your way through. But by building better roads. One repeated choice at a time. So maybe the question isn't

"How do I stop this bad habit?" Maybe it's: What new road do I want to build? And what small choice can I repeat today that starts paving it? Because transformation rarely happens in one giant breakthrough. It happens by quietly building better highways. And maybe... staying out of your nose. Michael Wilkes is a youth worker with Thrive Trust, supporting mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa. To support his local youth work or follow stories and insights, find him on social media @michaelwilkes.kiwi. Enjoy these articles? Grab his book The Unschooled Life at michael-wilkes.kiwi.

Style Your Space

ADVERTISING FEATURE



We have your floors covered

There has never been a better time to buy your floorcoverings. These are the words from the sales team at Owens Flooring in Waihi Beach. Nearly every flooring brand has a special of some type going on right now. Be it in soft flooring carpets in wool and solution dyed nylon or hard flooring in sheet vinyls and planking, there are Winter/Spring Specials to be had. One promotion people can get excited about at Owens Flooring is the Godfrey Hirst and Feltex Nationwide Flooring Sale that ends on September 30. Just get in touch with our friendly team to help you find something that's just right for you. Owens Flooring has a spacious 240m2 showroom, one of the largest in the Western Bay of Plenty Area. With a wide display of the leading

brands of carpets, vinyls as well as engineered timber and laminate flooring, they also have in-store stock ranges of carpets and vinyls readily available at competitive prices suitable for all households. Owens Flooring is a very well respected and recognised business based in Waihi Beach specialising in both residential and commercial flooring sales and installation. Owner Bill Owens and his team members have more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of floor coverings. Call in and see their friendly sales team now and book a "free measure and quotation". DETAILS: Showroom at Unit 5/57 Wilson Rd, Waihi Beach. Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm and Saturdays by appointment. Ph: 027 233 7277, email:

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SUDOKU 267

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

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

EASY

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	5				4	7		2
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MEDIUM

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		8		9		1		
1	7				5			

HARD

267

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company
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9	2	7	4	5	8	3	1	6
8	6	3	7	2	1	9	5	4
4	1	5	9	6	3	2	8	7
7	9	1	5	3	4	6	2	8
5	8	2	6	7	9	4	3	1
6	3	4	1	8	2	5	7	9
3	5	9	8	1	6	7	4	2
2	4	8	3	9	7	1	6	5
1	7	6	2	4	5	8	9	3

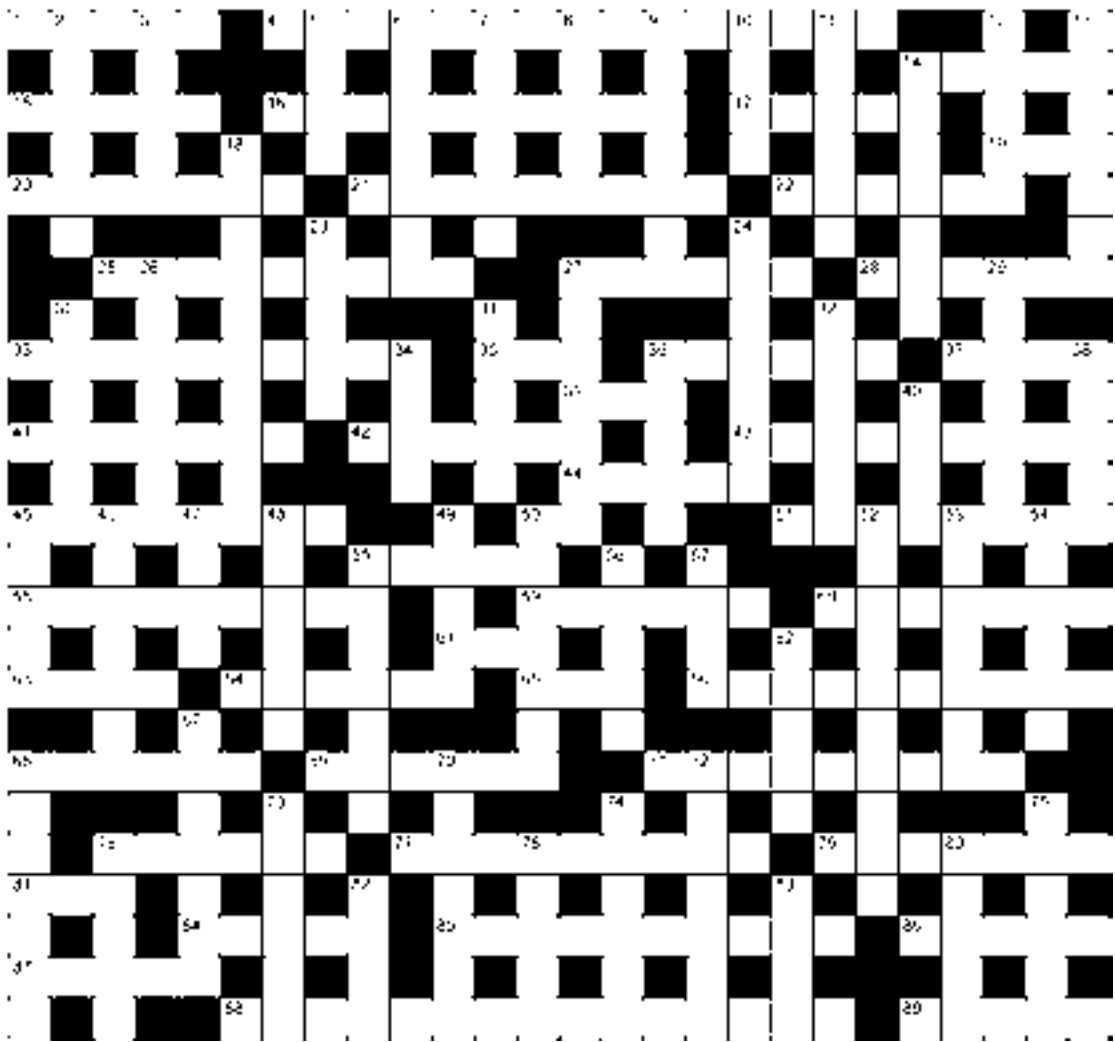
4	1	3	8	6	7	5	2	9
2	6	7	3	9	5	1	8	4
9	8	5	2	4	1	3	6	7
6	2	4	7	3	8	9	5	1
7	3	1	5	2	9	8	4	6
8	5	9	6	1	4	7	3	2
5	4	2	1	7	3	6	9	8
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9	1	2	3	4	6	5	7	8
4	8	6	7	2	5	9	3	1
5	7	3	9	8	1	6	4	2
6	3	5	8	9	4	1	2	7
7	9	1	2	5	3	4	8	6
8	2	4	6	1	7	3	9	5

JUMBO CROSSWORD

287

- ACROSS**
- 1 Strike with an open hand (5)
4 Selfishly further one's own interests (7,4,4)
14 Selected (5)
15 Figure out (5)
16 Panting (10)
17 Witty (5)
19 Mongrel (3)
20 Throw into disorder (7)
21 On the wane (9)
22 Grass-cutting implement (6)
25 Exclude from a society or group (9)
27 Beer maker (6)
28 Feel part of (6)
33 Given to sudden impulses (10)
35 Age (3)
36 Intimate friends (6)
37 Hobble (4)
39 Contend (3)
41 Time off (7)
42 Frozen Arctic plain (6)
43 Procession (9)
44 Male duck (5)
45 Obscene (8)
50 Winning punch (1,1)
51 Spotless (8)
55 Oak nut (5)
58 Checked over (9)
59 Equip (6)
60 Snubbed (7)
61 Acquired (3)
63 Large plant (4)
64 Die (6)
- 65 Light brown (3)
66 Impossible to believe (10)
68 Military display (6)
69 Dreaded (6)
71 Pretentiously stately (9)
76 Meat pin (6)
77 Food (9)
79 Early childhood (7)
81 Line (3)
84 Not straight or level (5)
85 Bullets, shells (10)
86 Fire-lighting strip (5)
87 Tossed (5)
88 By small sporadic amounts (2,5,3,5)
89 Ecstasy (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Short-sightedness (6)
3 Insure (5)
5 Cereal heads (4)
6 Takes a trip (7)
7 Breathe out (6)
8 Sea (5)
9 Crux (7)
10 Bare (4)
11 Char (6)
12 Compel (5)
13 Silvery fish (7)
14 Apparel (7)
18 Rise in value (10)
23 Newspaper exclusive (5)
24 Routine maintenance (7)
26 Live through (7)
27 Swagger (7)
- 29 Paper-folding art (7)
30 Atoll lake (6)
31 Impoverished (5)
32 Motorist (6)
34 Aspersion (4)
36 Permitted by law (5)
38 Bit (5)
40 Added advantage (4)
45 Fool (5)
46 Bloodline (7)
47 Cook (4)
48 Spice (6)
49 Resilient (5)
50 Tangled (7)
52 Component (10)
53 Hot region (7)
54 Provoke (6)
55 Counselling (7)
56 Wasp's weapon (5)
57 Short skirt (4)
62 Cake topping (5)
67 Predicted (7)
68 Dry (7)
70 Edible leafstalk (7)
72 So retro (anag)(7)
73 Calculate (6)
74 Threw rocks at (6)
75 Fish covering (6)
76 Cursed (5)
78 Cuban dance (5)
80 Horrify (5)
82 Large jug (4)
83 Crypt (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Actor, 4 Over my dead body, 11 Right, 14 Inlet, 15 Bronze medal, 16 Academia, 19 Altered, 20 Ready, 21 Phonetics, 24 Footloose, 26 Roamed, 27 Alpine, 31 Fades, 32 Numbered, 34 Lifeguards, 38 Various, 39 Marina, 40 Embark, 41 Fine, 42 Disgust, 45 Unbeatable, 50 Stagger, 54 Omit, 55 Rushes, 56 Twenty, 57 Bewitch, 60 Pigeonhole, 61 Moderate, 62 Storm, 65 Señora, 66 Street, 67 Corroding, 72 Frustrate, 73 Colon, 74 Sunbeam, 79 Prompted, 80 Solar system, 81 Lathe, 82 Debts, 83 Sticks out a mile, 84 Chide.

DOWN: 2 Candle, 3 Obese, 5 Vary, 6 Runners, 7 Yields, 8 Even, 9 Dead heat, 10 Yachts, 11 Ridiculous, 12 Game, 13 Trapeze, 17 Jetty, 18 Unreliable, 22 Vogue, 23 Piercing, 25 Opening, 26 Radiant, 28 Salami, 29 Ursine, 30 Debris, 33 Brain, 35 Sneer, 36 Suds, 37 Kerb, 42 Droop, 43 Swinging, 44 Touchy, 45 Upholstery, 46 Base, 47 Attempt, 48 Agenda, 49 Later, 51 Tier, 52 Glisten, 53 Escort, 58 Sour grapes, 59 Stirs, 63 Textbook, 64 Add up, 65 Swamped, 68 Opossum, 69 Assess, 70 Cosset, 71 Bathed, 75 Beach, 76 Bomb, 77 Taco, 78 Veil.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Calling all bibliophiles

By ALICE PARMINTER

Labour Weekend is fast approaching, and the Zonta Club of Thames is putting out their annual call for pre-loved books.

The Bookarama is a popular event on Thames' annual calendar and this year will take place on October 23 and 24 at the St James Church Hall, with all funds raised going to charitable causes benefiting and empowering women.

"We want people's clean, valued, loved books, and the sooner the better," organisers Sue Bowden and Sue Christie told *The Profile*.

"Last year we raised about \$6000, which is amazing considering that most of the books were \$2 each."

This year, some of the funds raised will go towards the Ovarian Cancer foundation of New Zealand for research, and some towards the organisation's international projects.

The book sale will also benefit local

women returning to education, with Zonta Thames awarding two scholarships this year - a \$3000 grant for a 35-year-old Paeroa woman in her last year of nursing, and \$1000 for a Coromandel woman in her mid-40s undertaking a social work degree.

"Zonta is about working together to build a better world for women and girls," the women said.

"We really value the community's support for this... We're a very small group of people, so we have so many people that come in and help."

"And also the Never Surrender Boxing Health and Fitness who come in every year and move all our books... It's quite a community-integrated process."

DETAILS: Zonta Bookarama, Time, October 23-24 at St James Church Hall, Thames. Book donations can be dropped off at ANZ bank Thames and Isite Paeroa, or call Althea on 027 217 9222 (Thames) or Murray on 027 273 7963 (Ngatea) to arrange pick-up.

Open Day for embroiderers

If there's one thing the Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild is certain of, it's that stitching is good for their wellbeing.

The joy it brings their 50-plus strong membership is something to be shared with the community, that's why they're hosting an Open Day in Waihi on September 19 for people to head along and join in the fun.

People can expect to find a group of people who gather to share in their passion for creating with needle and thread, who offer support and advice to one another while enjoying the camaraderie.

There are so many techniques from slow stitching and cross stitching, counted thread embroidery, Canvaswork and surface stitching - there truly is something for everyone.

The list goes on with traditional techniques such as drawn thread work, hardanger, whitework and many more.

The day includes a raffle, a beginner's stitching class, Stitchmakers pop-up shop

and general Guild activity, namely stitching.

Not only is embroidery good for hand eye co-ordination, and slowing the brain to help people focus on the rhythm motion of stitching, it also provides a screen-free alternative way to increase dopamine.

The repetitive actions of hand sewing have been found to lower stress hormones, calming and soothing the brain.

Embroidery keeps people focused on the present movement, whilst any finished projects generate feelings of accomplishment.

The Guild wants to invite people from the community who share this passion for stitching or would like to learn and find their "place of joy" among other creatives.

DETAILS: Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild Open Day on September 19 at the James Centre, Moresby Ave, Waihi from 10am. Free entry.

- Supplied by the Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild



Thames Valley Embroiderers' Guild is set to host its Open Day on September 19. SUPPLIED

Spring into action this September

By KELLEY TANTAU

Spring has sprung, and the Hauraki-Coromandel is coming alive with plenty of reasons to get out and about this month.

Tairua Library will celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori with a Māori Wearable Arts Fashion Show on Wednesday, September 16, from 5pm.

Open to all ages, the event invites budding designers to create wearable art inspired by one of six categories: connection, musical, cultural, recycled, environment, or gods/deities. Entries close on Thursday, September 10, and entrants will need to find a model to wear their creation on the runway. They can enter as a school, with friends, or alongside a partner. Prizes are up for grabs, with the fashion show taking place at Tairua Library as part of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, which runs from September 14-20.

One person's junk is another person's treasure at the Rotary Paeroa Swapmeet, happening at the Major Oaks Building, 1 Railway St, in Paeroa on Saturday, September 12. From 8am, treasure hunters can browse stalls packed with car parts, collectables, bric-a-brac, and

all sorts of unexpected finds, with public entry \$5. The Whitianga Oceans Festival - a standout event on the Coromandel calendar - will take place on Saturday, September 19, with the waterfront set to come alive with live music, food, and coastal vibes.

Headline act Brad Cox will be joined by The Western Guide, AutoMatic 80s, Vegas Brown, and more, while food stalls will dish up everything from local seafood to smoky barbecue favourites.

Nature lovers can get involved too, with Clean Up Week running from September 18-25. The Department of Conservation is encouraging people to grab a bag, rally some friends, and help clear rubbish before it reaches local wildlife and habitats.

Bird of the Year voting is also back from September 4-20, giving everyone a chance to throw their support behind their favourite manu. Then, it's time to lace up for the Whangamatā Half Marathon - 10km and 5km - on Saturday, September 26. Whether running or walking, the event is a chance to enjoy the town and coastline with family and friends, and it lands just in time for the first weekend of the spring school holidays.



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Waihi-based Short Back'n'Sides offers "anything to do with trees and wood" for Thames Valley and Coromandel clients up to Whangamata.

Brett Soutar, who directs the business with Carolyn Treblico, said the arboriculture contracting business had been offering experienced qualified solutions so clients could make informed decisions regarding their tree assets.

"Our team of skilled and qualified arborists can tackle the largest removals safely and efficiently, process all the debris left behind and can remove any logwood or ring it up for firewood if you prefer to keep the wood for your own use."

"Pruning is where art meets science... a badly pruned tree will always devalue your property whereas a very well pruned tree will increase your property's value."

"We're trying to be the crystal ball for the client as far as how the trees will grow in the future... and we must be doing something right after 25 years because we keep getting the call backs."

Brett said the business also offered milling and stump grinding services, log splitter and chipper hire, tree removals, and firewood, mulch, slab and smoking wood sales.

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FOOTBALL

Thames Women close in on the title following a 2-1 win against Melville United Epics. Weather and postponements have played havoc with the schedule, meaning Thames Women played their first game in over a month on Sunday, knowing a win would put them on the brink of back-to-back titles. The game was tight, with the two sides well matched. It took until the 68th minute for the deadlock to be broken as Melville made it 1-0.



Megan Jamieson, rear, defends well. MARK BROWN

Hayley Bennett stole possession on the edge of the box, turning into space and firing a looping shot into the far corner. Thames responded well, increasing the tempo and frequency of their attacks before turning the game on its head. Samantha Chamberlain sent a long pass over the Melville defence, with Ariel McNab quickest to react and fire a low, left-footed shot into the near corner to equalise. Barely had Melville regrouped before Thames struck again. Chamberlain picked up the ball in mid-field, brilliantly weaved down the right and into the box before finishing across goal into the far corner to put Thames 2-1 ahead.

The win puts Thames Women in control of the Waikato Division 1, with only a heavy defeat in their final league game able to prevent them lifting the trophy. Next week, attention turns to the cup, with Waikato Unicol awaiting in the semi-final.

Thames Men's Firsts also enjoyed a productive weekend, beating Waihi AFC 2-1 thanks to a late Xavier Brown goal. On a small, bobbly pitch, both sides struggled for passing rhythm. Jake Hudson put Thames ahead from the spot before Paul Sharland equalised with a run and left-footed finish. Matthew Burchell kept Thames in the game with a string of fine second-half saves, breaking his finger in the process. With time running out, Michael Kim won

the ball on the right and drilled a low cross into the box where Brown was on hand to flick the ball home moments before the final whistle.

Thames Reserves capped off their inaugural season with an entertaining 3-3 draw against West Hamilton Development.

After falling 3-1 behind, Thames fought back through goals from Raegen Winslow, Alex Langton and Luciano Gauna. Manager Jack Macdonald, who built the squad from scratch last summer, was proud of the team's season after they competed at the top end of the league, agonisingly missing the promotion playoffs by just one goal.

"It's been an absolute honour to build this team alongside such a great group of lads. We've had some unbelievable results, but I'm most proud of how competitive we became and the way everyone bought into what we were trying to achieve. Big thanks to the players, I appreciate every single one of you who has been part of the journey and helped make the season what it was," Macdonald said.

"I'd also like to thank Mark Brown, Thames FC president, for the opportunity to help grow this team, and Alex Langton for helping behind the scenes and with coaching. It was a real team effort."

- Jonathan Coles

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The Valley Profile

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Deadline Monday Noon

Death Notice

FOX, Annette Mary (nee Verran):
Passed away peacefully in Thames with family by her side, on Sunday 30th August, 2026; in her 91st year. Dearly loved wife of the late Noel. Loved mother and mother-in-law of Rosemary and Cliff Olsen, Lorene and Peter Rutherford, Angela Fox and Tony Jurlina. Loved Nana of Gemma, Courtney and Josh, James and Ana, Cameron and Brita, and Sophie. Adored Big Nana of Nova, Luca and Phoebe.
'No longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts forever. We will miss you and cherish the many happy memories'.
A Celebration of Annette's life will be held in The Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames on Saturday 19th September at 11am.
Communications to gorocco@xtra.co.nz or 0279299952.

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- Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub

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THAMES

- Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, 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

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SPORTS

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More than 70 people turned out to cross the historic Kōpū Bridge.

Photo: SEREENA BURTON

Pop-up parkrun a success

PARKRUN

By ALICE PARMINTER

The organisers of a pop-up parkrun event in Kōpū are thrilled with the turnout, and have high hopes for future runs.
More than 70 people turned out to run or walk the 5km track over the historic Kōpū Bridge on September 5.
Kendall Todd said she and partner Chris Kemp, who have been working to get the parkrun programme off the ground, were “buzzing” from how it went.
“Our team felt it was a real success... the weather gods were kind to us,” she said. “At least 30 people [signed] up as volunteers for future events - which bodes really well for getting it up and running as an official event, hopefully before the end of the year.”
Kendall said the feedback from participants, many of whom are already involved in local run groups, was really positive.
“Trying out the course also helped us identify small tweaks we can do to make the course even better before it officially starts,” she said.
“It was quite an emotional moment for Chris and I, to see so many smiling faces taking part in an event that we weren’t sure we could get off the ground, but now is closer than ever to becoming a reality.”

Public Notices



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Notice that Property will be Sold or Leased
To: Christian Dennis and Helen Eriksen
TAKE NOTICE that the property situated at 6 Johnston Street, Waihi, being Section 103B Town of Waihi with Certificate of Title identifier SA24B/930, is subject to a judgment for unpaid rates due by Christian Stephen Dennis and Helen Christine Eriksen, as given in the District Court of New Zealand at Waihi on 21 March 2025, for the sum of \$5,225.38 owed to the Hauraki District Council. As of 26 February 2026, the arrears were \$20,111.57 with a further \$2,189.75 owed to the Waikato Regional Council.
FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the said property will be sold or leased by public tender or auction, under the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, after 6 months from 29 May 2026, unless the outstanding amount of the judgment and costs, interest, all legal costs incurred by the Hauraki District Council, and all rates due on the property up to the date of payment and applicable charges are paid to the Council.
Contact the Hauraki District Council to remedy the rates arrears on the property identified in this notice by calling 0800 734834 or sending an email to: info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

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Setting the pace

The Thames Valley Cross Country event on September 1 saw primary school students from across the region competing at Mangatarata's South Farms. Students aged eight and up tackled the steep, muddy course across paddocks and down a gravel road, and the rainy weather mostly held off. Reporter **ALICE PARMINTER** jogged along to the finish line to catch the action.



Eli McMurtrie from Paeroa Christian School.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Pärāwai's Jalen Tui-Taylor, left, Whenuakite's Brock Norriss.



Arlen Reneti, of Turua School, speeds through the mud.



Olivia Wills, Coromandel Area School.



Eliza O'Neil from Ngatea School.



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