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Strangers one day, world champs the next

When two strangers met the day before the World Championships for a hybrid fitness racing competition, they didn't expect to land the top spot.

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Waihi Beach's Beau Vipond and Alice McGreal of Ireland teamed up in the nick of time to compete as a pair for the Deadly Dozen World Championship held in London last month.

The athletic duo focussed hard on "giving it our absolute all" and took out the first place win for the 16- to 29-year-old Female Pairs and a fifth place spot overall, Beau said.

In another "last minute call-up", 26-year-old Beau said she also joined the women's relay and snuck in another fifth place overall and second place in the age group for 30-34 year olds.

"It was pretty surreal."

The race consisted of participants running 12 400-metre laps, and in-between each lap, participants completed a set of exercises at either a cardio or weight station. "It could be lunges or bear crawls or a goblet squat with a weight or an overhead weight plank carry," Beau said.

"I think we did pretty well considering the circumstances."

Up until August, Beau was set to head to the World Champs with training partner Cassie McArthur - but due to an injury, Cassie had to forfeit her spot. "I had to make a call on whether I was going to compete or not," Beau said.

It just so happened that in the 11th hour, another competitor Alice McGreal, who was based in London, reached out to Beau and said she was set to compete in a relay at the World Championships.

"And she [Alice] kind of put up her hand, being like, 'I kind of think I can do the times that you're hoping to run if you need a partner'. So I just jumped on the plane and met her 24 hours before the race," Beau said.

The athletes had to put on their game faces during the competition. "Our strategy was [to] go hard and hold on as long as we could. So we went into it just like hitting it from the start line and just giving it our absolute all. You know, we couldn't do a strategy of who's stronger or what because we genuinely just didn't know."

"So I think the main thing was just communication, like right throughout the race, we just had to keep comms up the whole time in terms of if one of us was feeling a little bit flat, the other one jumping in and kind of trying to pick up the pieces and just get through to the end."

Beau, who is a project manager, pilates instructor and studio manager, said support from friends and family helped champion her along. "I think knowing that

CONTINUED ON P2



Waihi Beach's Beau Vipond, left, and Alice McGreal, of Ireland.
Photo: SUPPLIED

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In Brief

FATAL HOUSE FIRE

One person has died after a house fire in Wharekaho last week. Emergency services were called to the Wharekaho Road address about 2.25am on October 8. The body of a person was later discovered inside the address. Police said a second occupant, who raised the alarm, escaped without injury and is being provided with support. Senior Sergeant Chris Painter said a scene guard remained in place overnight and Police carried out a scene examination at the house the following day, including working with fire investigators. "Information will be released proactively when we are in a position to do so."

JET SKI RESCUE

Coastguard Thames volunteers and the Police Maritime Unit rescued two people on the morning of October 11 after their jet ski began taking on water in the Firth of Thames, about 2km from Te Puru. Coastguard said its National Operations Centre was alerted shortly before 10am and put out a call to nearby vessels to assist. Police's *Deodar III* and Coastguard Thames' *Richardsons Rescue* both headed to the jet ski. Both vessels arrived just before 11am. One rider was unhurt and was taken aboard the Coastguard Thames rescue vessel. The other was treated for mild hypothermia aboard the Police vessel and taken to Te Puru, where an ambulance took them to Thames Hospital. Coastguard towed the jet ski back to shore. A spokesperson said it was unclear why the jet ski took on water. "Conditions were calm, which shows that trou-

ble can happen on even the best of days. Both riders were wearing lifejackets, which meant they were prepared when it did. "It's a timely example on the first weekend of the new national rule requiring everyone on craft six metres and under to wear one."

TREE THEFT 'DISRESPECTFUL'

Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell is asking residents to keep a watchful eye on local parks and reserves after numerous thefts of trees and shrubs. "Our green spaces are for everyone to enjoy, so when people steal from them, they're stealing from the whole community". Council said budgets were tight, and there was no guarantee stolen trees could be replaced. "In Opito Bay, we had two Kowhai trees stolen," Mayor Revell said. "Some kind person donated replacement trees, then thieves came and took those as well. It leaves a really sour taste in the mouth." Council said more than one person or group is probably behind the thefts because plants have been taken from locations more than a hundred kilometres apart. Most recently, Omaha Cemetery was targeted, and it's not the first time. Titoki, ornamental pears and native grasses were dug up, leaving Council parks staff with a mess to clean up along with the replacement bill. Council said Police would be notified any time this happens. Council staff and contractors will have identification and be in marked vehicles. Mayor Revell said if people see anything suspicious, they should notify the Police. "This is not a victimless crime - it costs the community, it costs ratepayers, and it's just disrespectful: I think most people would agree that stealing from a cemetery is a particularly low thing to do".

CONTINUED FROM P1

everyone from home was backing me was literally my key focus through the race," she said. There was also in-person support from the sidelines from her aunt and uncle, who are based in Amsterdam, and also her coach, Chas Clark, of The Lab in Tauranga, who also competed at the World Champs. Beau said fitness spaces Beach Pilates and LitorFit were "instrumental to my success" through their guidance, knowledge and support. Any time there was a point where she felt like it was too hard or that she might not be able to keep up with the tempo, Beau leaned into her thoughts: "I don't actually have time for the self-doubt", she said. "I need to push for the people who are backing me. That was a pretty huge focus when I was actually competing, [I] was just doing it for everyone at home." But it was evident Beau didn't take anything for granted. "I think it's just really cool to see New Zealand on a global stage. We're pretty fierce competitors at that level. I've still got to give it up to Cassie because she trained so hard with me and I wouldn't have got to the training level that I was at without her." At the centre of everything, Beau was very clear about what inspired her to train. "I think deep at the crux of why I train is when I get to the age of 70 I still want to be an able bodied, well rounded person. At the crux of it I'm training for longevity. "I think when you're surrounded by like minded people, these opportunities arise where you are suddenly able to do a dream that you never even thought could be a possibility."

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Thames Tides

Wed Oct 14	Thu Oct 15	Fri Oct 16	Sat Oct 17	Sun Oct 18	Mon Oct 19	Tue Oct 20
 Morning: 4:04am 0.5, 10:25am 3.4 Afternoon: 4:20pm 0.6, 10:37pm 3.3 Sunrise: 6:36am, Sunset: 7:33pm Best At: 3:12am, 3:37pm Moon: Rise 8:02am, Set 11:19pm	 Morning: 4:42am 0.6, 11:04am 3.4 Afternoon: 5:02pm 0.8, 11:18pm 3.2 Sunrise: 6:34am, Sunset: 7:34pm Best At: 4:02am, 4:28pm Moon: Rise 8:43am	 Morning: 5:21am 0.7, 11:45am 3.3 Afternoon: 5:46pm 0.9 Sunrise: 6:33am, Sunset: 7:35pm Best At: 4:54am, 5:19pm Moon: Set 12:17am, Rise 9:30am	 Morning: 12:00am 3.1, 6:01am 0.8 Afternoon: 12:28pm 3.1, 6:32pm 1.0 Sunrise: 6:31am, Sunset: 7:36pm Best At: 5:45am, 6:10pm Moon: Set 1:09am, Rise 10:23am	 Morning: 12:44am 3.0, 6:44am 0.9 Afternoon: 1:16pm 3.0, 7:23pm 1.1 Sunrise: 6:30am, Sunset: 7:37pm Best At: 6:35am, 7:00pm Moon: Set 1:55am, Rise 11:20am	 Morning: 1:30am 2.9, 7:32am 1.0 Afternoon: 2:09pm 2.9, 8:17pm 1.1 Sunrise: 6:29am, Sunset: 7:38pm Best At: 7:24am, 7:48pm Moon: First Quarter, Set 2:34am, Rise 12:20pm	 Morning: 2:20am 2.8, 8:28am 1.1 Afternoon: 3:06pm 2.9, 9:14pm 1.1 Sunrise: 6:27am, Sunset: 7:39pm Best At: 8:11am, 8:34pm Moon: Set 3:08am, Rise 1:22pm

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

MOON AND FISH KEYS

New Moon First Quarter Full Moon Last Quarter

Good Fishing 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	Hr	MIN
Coromandel	-0	05	-0	03
Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05
Tairua	+0	10	+0	20
Whangamata	+0	03	-0	06
Waihi Beach	-0	21	-0	16

Swimmer credits Thames pool for career start

As a teenager, Jack Hendy travelled from Waikino to train at Thames Centennial Pool, setting records and discovering his potential. Now an international swimmer, he says a replacement facility is vital to give the next generation the same opportunity. Reporter KELLEY TANTAU talks with Jack as part of *The Profile's* deep dive into the Thames Pool replacement.

For Jack Hendy, some of the most important moments of his swimming career happened at the Thames Centennial Pool.

At 14, the Waikino teenager was making the trip from his home in the Karangahake Gorge to train, often working through sessions largely on his own.

He had no coach guiding every stroke, but he had somewhere to swim, he says, and the motivation to keep turning up and working hard. "Back then, I was largely training myself, so I was pretty shocked when I went on to win at Division 2 Nationals and then make a final at National Age Groups. That was probably the first time my family and I realised there could actually be something more in swimming for me."

Jack tells *The Profile* that as his swimming progressed, his family decided to move to Australia, because the Thames Valley region not having access to a year-round pool made it "increasingly difficult to pursue the sport at a higher level".

Since then, he has gone on to represent New Zealand internationally, including at the World Short Course Championships and World Cup level. He won two gold medals at the 2024 Oceania Championships and became the New Zealand national champion in the 50m butterfly in 2025.

Jack still holds Thames Valley swimming records that were set at Thames Centennial, and now, with the district council committed to closing the pool in Taipari Park and returning the land to Ngāti Maru by June, 2027, he hopes a replacement will give the next generation the same chance to discover what they can achieve.

"A local pool can be the difference between a young person discovering their potential and never getting the chance to find out. I'm probably a good example of that," he says.



Swimmer Jack Hendy has his sights set on Los Angeles 2028, but credits Thames Centennial Pool with helping him take his first steps towards the international stage.
Photo: SUPPLIED

"I came from a very small place and didn't have everything around me that a swimmer in a major city might have had. But because there was a pool I could get to and train in, I was able to qualify for nationals and start proving to myself that I belonged at that level. Not every swimmer is going to become an international athlete, but that's not really the point," he says.

"A local pool gives young people access to swimming skills, fitness, friendships, competition, confidence, and a place to belong.

"For some of them, it can also open a pathway they never knew existed."

Council has confirmed that funding to construct a new pool in Thames will be included in the draft 2027-2037 Long Term Plan, which will go out for public consultation early in 2027.

It has committed to closing the pool in mid-2027 in order for it to be removed by the end of 2027. However, council said conversations with iwi have indicated that, in good faith, delays to the deadline for moving

the existing pool off the urupā are acceptable if it enables a smooth transition to a new pool for the community.

At a September meeting, Thames Needs a Pool campaign member Anne Barker urged Thames-Coromandel councillors to follow through on commitments made during the election. She said the council should aim to have a new pool built within the first three years of the LTP. "At the moment, the situation is that the council is removing a community built facility in June with no definitive plans for its replacement. So I ask you... please think creatively about how you can contribute constructively, positively, altruistically, to not only the Thames community, but the entire region. We need this pool for so many reasons and for so many people."

For Jack - who is now based in Newcastle, Australia, where he continues to train and race as a sprint swimmer while also running his own coaching business, AquaJack Fitness - the future of the Thames pool is personal. If there were no pool in Thames when he was growing up, he admits he doesn't think his swimming career would have followed the same path.

"I was already travelling from Waikino to Thames just to get access to a pool. If Thames hadn't been there either, I don't know where I would have trained consistently enough to qualify for Nationals or achieve those early results. Ironically, the lack of a year-round facility in the Thames Valley region eventually contributed to us moving to Australia so I could properly pursue swimming.

"So I've experienced both sides of it: how valuable having a local pool can be, and how limiting it becomes when the facilities aren't there," he says.

"That's why I feel so strongly that the next generation deserves access to one."

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Indefinite ban on taking sea life

By JESSICA HOPKINS of RNZ

The government has indefinitely banned taking some sea life from large parts of the Coromandel and Auckland coastlines.

The ban followed a review of intertidal species in the two regions, prompted by community tensions over harvesting from rockpools.

Fisheries Minister Shane Jones earlier placed a two-year ban on harvesting from intertidal areas in the northern Hauraki Gulf.

On October 8, he said harvesting for a large range of marine invertebrates would be banned on Auckland's east and west coasts, Waiheke Island, and Coromandel.

Cockles, crabs, kina, octopus, oysters, pāua, pipi, rock lobsters, scallops, sea cucumbers, prawns and shrimp, squid, and tuatua can all continue to be gathered.

A new daily limit of ten shellfish has also been set for any species without its own limit.

Fisheries officers will be given discretion to respond to those in breach of the rules as they see fit, including with education, warnings, infringements, and prosecution.

Mr Jones said while he was reluctant to close coastlines, it was necessary to protect a broad range of species that were vulnerable to overharvesting. "Fossicking in a rockpool is a Kiwi tradition. It's a pastime that's been enjoyed by generations of New Zealanders,"

he said. "However, it's being exploited by a selfish few who are taking far too much kaimoana.

"This behaviour is endangering these fragile ecosystems and putting at risk our beloved coastal areas."

Harvesting in the intertidal zone on beaches, rocky shores and rockpools, the area in and around where the tide comes in and goes out, would be heavily limited with exceptions in place for only certain species that could be taken sustainably, he said.

A 2m depth limit would be used to define the area, meaning areas that were accessible at low tide would be covered by the ban. New daily limits will also apply outside of intertidal zones.

The changes will be in place until revoked by the Oceans and Fisheries Minister, with continual monitoring and review to determine their impact and whether further measures were needed.

Mr Jones said people needed to accept that the Auckland-Coromandel area was facing a steep decline in sea life.

Hauraki Gulf Forum co-chair and Ngāti Manuhiri chief executive Nicola MacDonald described the harvesting ban as a generational decision.

"We've never seen anything of this size or scale before in the history of New Zealand ocean conservation. It's a fantastic step forward."

- First published on rnz.co.nz

'Half surprised, half pissed-off'

David Tamihere still processing freedom news after High Court decision

By FINN BLACKWELL of RNZ

For nearly 36 years, David Tamihere was at the centre of one of the country's most infamous murder cases.

He was the man convicted of murdering Swedish backpackers Heidi Paakkonen and Urban Höglin, before his convictions were quashed by the Supreme Court in early 2026.

After all that time, Justice Simon Mount KC took less than nine minutes on October 7 to tell Tamihere he was free. "You are discharged on the two charges of murder in the indictment before the court which was filed in 1990," he said. "You may stand down and you are free to go."

It had been up to the Crown to decide whether to hold another trial, however, the court heard they did not have sufficient evidence to go forward.

Over the decades the case has been fraught by controversy.

Jailhouse snitch Roberto Conchie Harris was convicted of perjury having made up evidence that Tamihere had killed the Swedes; Höglin's body was found after the trial, some 70 kilometres from where police claimed the murders occurred; while a watch police claimed Tamihere had stolen from him was found with his remains.

Speaking to media outside court, David Tamihere said he was still processing the news.

"[I'm] kind of half surprised half pissed-off about it," he said.

"I was quite happy to go to a



David Tamihere outside the high Court at Auckland. Photo: FINN BLACKWELL/RNZ

re-trial, and I thought that's what they were gearing up for too."

It was Crown Prosecutor Claire Paterson who said there wasn't sufficient evidence to go proceed with a prosecution.

"As a result of the passage of time, some 36 years, significant pieces of evidence that the Crown adduced in the 1990 trial are no longer available, or if available will likely be subject to reliability challenge," She said.

"The evidential test for prosecution is no longer met."

That was despite pointing to uncontested but circumstantial evidence against Tamihere.

But for David Tamihere, there was still the question of compensation, something he said hadn't been decided. "I'd like to do it at the level that was around when I first got convicted," Tamihere said. "It's quite huge."

A range of factors are considered in compensation for wrongful conviction or detention. The Ministry of Justice website stated an annual amount of \$150,000 for each year in custody could be included. An additional amount of \$75,000 a year for time spent on restrictive bail or parole may also be considered.

David Tamihere told reporters his sympathy was with Paakkonen and Höglin's family.

"You've got to admit you've got a hole in the family, there's a huge hole, and it's always going to be there until you die," he said.

"There's some things you will carry for the rest of your life."

Police said they will retain the investigation file into the deaths of the couple and acknowledged the impact of the decision would have on their families.

- First published on rnz.co.nz

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Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

Style Your Space

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Freshen up your home for spring

Spring has well and truly sprung in the heart of the Hauraki-Coromandel.

It's a wonderful time for people, businesses and families to think about refreshing their spaces.

In this edition of Style your Space in *The Valley Profile*, we want to highlight just how simple it can be to revamp your home into an area that is inviting, fresh and calm with spring styling.

The first simple step to making a comfortable and light environment for spring is by putting away all the winter layers around the home such as heavy duvets in bedrooms,

wool blankets and heavy cushions in the living room, and other bits and pieces that found their way to the entryways and surface areas.

Think about colours that step away from winter such as warm neutrals, soft pastels and natural or earthy tones.

Something as simple as reorganising and styling your coffee table with a few of your favourite books, a glass vase with fresh flowers and a few natural candles can really help to freshen up any space.

One way to help shape the space into a spring setting is to think about switching to light-

weight linen or cotton blend curtains.

Natural sunlight streaming into the living spaces can lift people's moods and also allow the pieces and spaces in your home to really stand out.

These simple steps can help people across Hauraki-Coromandel to make their homes not only airy and fresh for spring, but also stylish and welcoming whenever they arrive home.

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



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Lack of dentist key concern for Paeroa

The absence of a dentist in Paeroa and the challenge of meeting the needs of both older and younger generations in Thames are among the distinct health issues identified in two new Hauora Reports released by the Te Tiratū Iwi Māori Partnership Board.

The reports highlight how health needs vary between communities across the Hauraki district, which was home to 5,340 Māori in 2025.

In Paeroa, access to dental care emerged as a key concern, with the town having been without a dentist for some time, creating an additional barrier for whānau who may already face financial and transport pressures when seeking healthcare.

Chief executive of Hauraki PHO Taima Campbell said the issue stood out because it was immediately understood by whānau, with many able to relate it to their own experiences.

She also said the lack of affordable dental care highlighted a clear equity issue, saying that whānau could not afford to go to the dentist.

The report identifies dental access as an issue requiring a locally relevant response, rather than assuming services available elsewhere will meet Paeroa's needs.

Meanwhile, in Thames, the demographic picture presented a different challenge with competing priorities for future health investment.

"We have an ageing population, and on the other side of it, pockets of very young people which creates a fundamental planning question for Thames," Campbell said.

"Are we investing in our tamariki and rangatahi or do we need to take care of our ageing population?"

For Campbell, the issue was not simply whether a community was getting older or younger. It was about understanding its particular mix of generations and making investment decisions that responded to those needs.

"One size does not fit all," she said. "What is the problem we're trying to address, and what is the opportunity for us to create a solution that's tailored and designed with the community? Because you're more likely to get a better outcome."

The Paeroa and Thames reports are the latest editions in the Hauora Report Series by Te Tiratū Iwi Māori Partnership Board covering Taurarunui, Putāruru, Tokoroa, Te Kūiti, Ōtorohanga, Te Awamutu, Kirikiriroa [Hamilton], Raahui Pookeka [Huntly] and Ngāruawahia.

They've been designed and researched by Māori technical experts to bring local health evidence and whānau experience into conversations about future health planning, investment and service delivery across the Tainui waka rohe.



The Tumbleweed Harp Circle. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Honing their tones: harpists prepare for Christmas

By ALICE PARMINTER

Once a month on a Monday morning, Anna Dunwoodie's Thames home is filled with the dulcet tones of several harps in harmony.

The long-time harp player teaches and hosts a group called the Tumbleweed Harp Circle. The group is made up of women from around Thames Valley and as far afield as Tauranga, Ōtorohanga and Morrinsville, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s.

The players all picked up the instrument as adults, for varying reasons.

"I heard the harp playing at my

son's wedding and thought, that's a beautiful instrument," one said; "I thought I'd love to play the harp and I became aware that other people my age were beginning to play," said another.

One woman, Christine, said she had named her harp Joy because of the way the instrument made people feel.

"The utter delight, the utter joy on their faces when they just pluck the strings and make a beautiful sound is the best part... their faces light up."

Anna said there were pros and cons to learning an instrument at a later stage in life - with hand

positions harder to maintain and full-sized harps often difficult to lug around.

"But it has something that grabs people and drags them in," she said.

"You can't make a yucky sound [on a harp]."

The group was joined by a harp student from Hauraki Plains College over the school holidays to prepare for their upcoming Christmas concerts.

They will perform at Hetherington House in Waihi and The Booms rest home in Thames, where they will play a variety of pieces including carols, solos, and group items.

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Movies from Thursday 15 October to Wednesday 21 October

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

Sense and Sensibility (132 mins) G. An irresistible new take on Jane Austen's iconic Sense and Sensibility: a charming, witty, and deeply relatable story of love and sisterhood.

NAZA (80 mins) E. Filmed at night from Tel Aviv rooftops, this investigative documentary examines the civilian casualties of Israel's military operations in Gaza and the systems behind targeted killings of Palestinians. Received a record-breaking 25-minute standing ovation at the 83rd Venice Film Festival.

Show Me Shorts Film Festival (84-94 mins) M. Three different mixes: *Heartstrings*; *The Sampler* and *Award Winners*. Pick up a booklet at the cinema or check them out on the cinema website.

The Social Reckoning (112 mins) M. Inspired by the true story of how a young Facebook engineer enlists the help of a Wall Street Journal reporter to go on a dangerous journey that ends up blowing the whistle on Facebook's most guarded secrets. A companion piece to the hit film *The Social Network*.

Big Girls Don't Cry (99 mins) R16. Over one transformative summer in rural NZ in 2006, 14-year-old Sid discovers desire, identity, and the internet as she imitates the people she longs to be loved by.

Heart of the Beast (100 mins) M. Starring Brad Pitt. An intense adventure thriller that explores the unbreakable bond between a man and his best friend Alsatian dog. Filmed in the South Island as Alaska.

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).

New next week: Klara and the Sun A Taika Waititi film about an AI robot friend who wants nothing more than to find the perfect home. **500 Days in the Wild** Follows the epic 6-year journey of filmmaker Dianne Whelan as she sets out to reconnect with nature and become the first person to travel the world's longest trail.

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Our Plains, Our Future

Hauraki Plains Adaptation Planning

Since our last project update, we've been looking at adaptation options over the short, medium and long term, alongside which parts of the Hauraki Plains they might work in to reduce risk from natural hazards.

We're asking you what you think about what we are proposing, alongside where and when we might implement different options, so that we can make sure we're heading in the right direction to support our communities.

Tūrua Market

Sunday 18 October, 9am - 12:30pm

Tūrua Hall

Hauraki Plains Library and Community Centre drop in session

Monday 19 October, 12-2pm (food provided!)

Can't make it on the day?

Share your thoughts on our Kōrero Mai page

<https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/hauraki-plains-adaptation-plan>, or find out more at Storymap.

This project is partially funded by central government's Better Off Funding package to invest in the wellbeing of our communities.

Come see us at our open days!

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Waikato REGIONAL COUNCIL

QR CODE 1

KŌRERO MAI

QR CODE 2

KŌRERO MAI

Background image of a coastal town and water.



Monumental milestone for family business

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When Miles and Diane Shelley talk about their journeys at Hauraki Plains Motors, there's a sentiment that echoes through their adventure so far - "we've grown with the company".

It's a reflection from the owners as they celebrate a monumental milestone this month, the mark of 100 years in business.

"It's a great achievement to have reached 100 years, so we're very proud of it," Miles and Diane told *The Profile*.

They bring out some photographs from the early days when Hauraki Plains Motors was started by Mr Croxford in 1926.



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"He may have actually started it in 1924. And then it became a company of Hauraki Plains Motors in 1926," Miles said.

"Some of the documents that we've got are dated 1924, but they've been crossed out to 1926."

Mr Croxford was the first sole owner, later joined by a new partner, Ngatea-local Phil Benner.

Miles and Diane can trace the history of the business via documentation and information kept in journals, notebooks and documents that have stayed with the business over the decades.

And with a huge amount of reading of handwritten minutes of meetings in very old style handwriting, dates may not be totally accurate for when the business has changed hands across the earlier years.

The next owners of HPM were Miles' parents Bruce and Doreen, along with two other partners who bought shares in the business. "And then they've all just slowly gone," Miles said.

Bruce started as an apprentice in about 1953. Miles' brother, Warrick started work there in 1973, followed by Miles in 1976 and Diane in 1977.

Eventually, all three had shares in the business, alongside former partner Frank Fullerton, but each time someone left, "we would buy more shares", Miles said.

Now, and for the past 10 years, Miles and Diane are the sole owners of Hauraki Plains Motors and were the only other sole owners apart from Mr Croxford.

It's not possible for the Shelleys to sum up or recall everything that has happened across their own five decades of working at the Ngatea business, let alone the 100-year history the business holds.

"It's such a long story to tell, we've been



Hauraki Plains Motors staff today, and in 1997, below.

Photos: SUPPLIED

here for so long, we have forgotten about things because we've just moulded and adjusted with the times," they said.

"Systems have changed dramatically, you forget about how we used to do it because we do it like this now. We have just moved on with the times and it is a team effort."

Diane reveals boxes and boxes of photograph books, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, documents and even wage files from across the decades.

"This is when I was doing the wages back in the day," Diane says as she flips open a wage book from the 1980s.

"And I had to get everybody to sign them,



and then I had to sign it to say that they had received their pay," she said.

"We had a bank in Ngatea at that time. Everyone got paid in cash, so then you had

CONTINUED ON P9





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HAURAKI PLAINS MOTORS - 100 YEARS



CONTINUED FROM P8

to break down into all denominations, so many \$10 notes and so many twos and threes and ones. We were down to cents back in those days, even down to one cent.

"It had to be all ordered from the bank the day before, then you'd have to go and pick it all up and put it into little envelopes for everybody and then take it out to everyone, and get them to sign the book," she said.

"There is so much more we could talk about, but we started off as manual as manual could be, changing to the new age technology of computers and online social media, it really has been quite the journey when we have the time to sit and reflect."

"I remember they brought in direct banking and all that was such a big deal. And having to collect everybody's bank account numbers for a start. Some still wanted some in cash and they'd want some put in their bank. Learning to pay creditors online instead of typing up cheques, but it was just what you did back then, you just didn't think about it."

Something that hasn't changed though is Diane and Miles' care for their team.

"We appreciate our staff. We wouldn't have been here if it wasn't [for them]," they said.

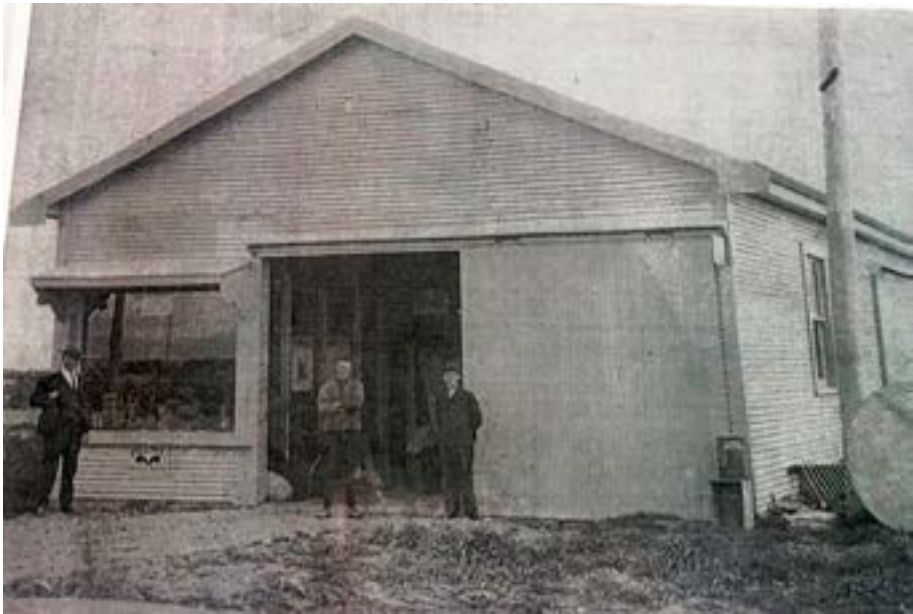
"We've got a lot of longstanding employees and some have been with us as long as we've been here."

One thing they valued was the fact their staff knew their community.

"Because we have been here for so long and the staff have been there for so long, we always try to prioritise - like maybe a farmer needs something fixed because they've got cows to milk that afternoon.

"That's how we've worked for the last 50 years."

One of the reasons they believed HPM was "still working well" came down to the "support of our customers and community".



The Hauraki Plains Motors building in 1926. BELOW: the business in the 1940s, left, and 1980s.



"We care about our customers and our staff and it's not always about the dollar."

Diane pulls out another book with photos of the A&P Show that used to be held across the road at the Hugh Hayward Domain,



work parties, staff photos and even a speeding ticket.

"It's not until you start looking at photos, it prompts you to remember a bit of it all," Miles said.

100 Year Celebration Sale

Hauraki Plains Motors will hold a one-day 100 Year Celebration Sale on October 23 to celebrate its special milestone.

At the sale, people will experience extra special bonus items at a "real steal of a price", co-owner Diane Shelley said. The sale will include everything in store except there will be terms and conditions for new motorcycles.

There will also be a barbecue fired up, coffee for those who need the pick-me-up and spot prizes. A colouring picture will be shared on Facebook for kids to colour in and they will be at the ready with prizes for the kids who hand in their coloured pictures on the day.

People can fill out entry forms for the competition to win a Honda Lawn Mower, which will be drawn on the day.

There will also be "a bit of history floating around" for people to see and go through in the form of photos and documents, Diane said.

"We've still got the old vehicle books and all that for people to have a little bit of a look through from back in the day, when a vehicle was worth very little - a couple of hundred pounds for a vehicle."

People were elated when they spotted familiar faces in the photos, she said.

"They all get a bit excited when they see a family member, 'Oh, that was their first car they ever bought.' We've heard that a number of times, and 'oh, I bought my first car from Hauraki Plains Motors'."

"Not that we do a lot of cars these days, but still, there has been over the years a lot of first cars bought for teenagers, their kids' first cars and things like that." The community is invited to head along and celebrate alongside the team at Hauraki Plains Motors. It'll be a good day."

DETAILS: Head along to the 100 Year Celebration Sale at Hauraki Plains Motors, 1 Pipiroa Rd, Ngatea on October 23.

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OceanaGold Update

13th October 2026



Barry Road subdivision approved

We’ve received approval from Hauraki District Council to proceed with our Barry Road subdivision and housing development. The development will help provide additional housing to support anticipated workforce growth associated with the Waihi North Project.

At this stage, we expect site works to get underway in late October or early November, with completion expected around April 2027, weather and other factors permitting.

About the subdivision

The subdivision will feature 12 new homes (and one existing house) with two, three, and four-bedroom designs that complement Waihi’s existing character. Eleven new titles will be created, including two with self-contained studio units. (i.e., granny flats).

Access will be from Barry Road via a new road named Mascotte Street (pronounced Mascot), named after the historic Mascotte shaft on nearby Motumanawa (Union Hill).

The homes will be built off-site and transported to Barry Road for installation, reducing construction time and disruption. Nine small trees and saplings along Barry Road will need to be removed to allow for construction

activities, with replacement planting to occur after construction.

Looking to the future

Close to town and within walking distance of local shops, services, and schools, the subdivision offers well-connected housing within easy walking distance of Waihi’s shops, services and schools.

The approved design and permanent nature of the housing demonstrates OceanaGold’s long-term commitment to Waihi. These homes are not temporary or cabin-style accommodation.

Beyond meeting anticipated housing needs for our workforce, the subdivision will contribute to Waihi’s long-term housing stock, supporting wider community needs as the town continues to grow.

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our community engagement team on 0800 934 444, visit our project information office at 86 Seddon Street, or email waihi.info@oceanagold.com

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we carry out this work.





Looking beneath the surface: Acoustic Imaging Survey coming to Waihi

OceanaGold Waihi has engaged Fleet Space Technologies to undertake an acoustic imaging survey across the Waihi area, including areas associated with the Waihi North Project. This first-of-its-kind survey for Waihi will help us better understand local geology and support future planning, without the need for digging or drilling.

What is Acoustic Imaging?

A useful way to think about acoustic imaging is as an ultrasound scan for the earth. Instead of using sound waves to look inside the human body, this survey uses controlled vibrations to help us understand what lies beneath the surface.

Controlled vibrations are sent into the ground using a portable electronic vibrator (eVibe). As the vibrations travel through rock layers, small wireless sensors called geophones record the returning signals. This information is then processed to build a detailed picture of the geology beneath the surface.

What can residents expect and when?

Work is scheduled to start in late October. The first thing you may notice is survey crews working around local streets and road reserves. They'll be marking locations along the survey route using spray paint or biodegradable flagging tape before equipment is installed.



An installed geophone.

From mid-November, small sensors called geophones will be placed at regular intervals along the survey path. Once these are in place, the eVibe unit will be used along sections of road reserve to create controlled vibrations that help build a picture of the geology beneath the area.

The survey will move progressively through the area and take about a week to complete, with the overall programme expected to finish by late November, weather dependent.

On company-owned land, such as inside the Martha Pit, a different method will be used, with a weight dropped onto a metal plate to generate the required vibrations.

Traffic management will be in place whenever crews are working in the road reserve to help keep everyone safe.



The eVibe unit in operation.

You may notice surveyors, vehicles, sensors and other equipment around local streets during this time. However, it's unlikely you'll hear or feel the survey activity. While we anticipate minimal noise or vibration effects from these works, monitoring will still take place throughout the programme to ensure compliance with all relevant limits.

After the survey

Once the survey is complete, all sensors and equipment will be removed. The information collected will be combined with existing geophysical and drilling data to improve our understanding of local geological, hydrogeological, and geotechnical conditions.

At this stage, the survey is intended solely to improve our understanding of the area beneath Waihi and support future planning and decision-making. The results will not necessarily lead to additional drilling or mine development.

Want to know more?

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us:

Community Engagement Line:
0800 924 444



Project Information Office:
86 Seddon St., Waihi

To find out more about Acoustic Imaging, scan the QR code:

Investing in our host community

Sponsorships and donations approved in September

Paeroa College	Life jackets for water activities	\$1,145
Clear as Mud	New plinths for displays at shows	\$2,500
Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust	Contribution towards an adaptive cycle for wheelchair users	\$8,000
Whangamata Youth Trust	Purchase of a shared community transport van	\$8,000
Royal NZ Plunket Society	Heat pump for Paeroa venue	\$2,102
Katikati Concert Band	Support of concert band event	\$450
TOTAL		\$22,197

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION FORM www.waihigold.co.nz/sponsorship-donations

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.

‘Camera fiend’ from *The Weekly* tours region



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

1901

A ‘camera fiend’ from the *Auckland Weekly News* was touring the Thames Valley and the Paeroa Choral Society was to have their faces immortalised.

The Weekly was very popular, containing pictures of a wide variety of interesting subjects, a large amount of high class literary and journalistic matter and prize competition photographs.

Over the years local views had featured, giving some idea of the rapid progress and splendid possibilities of this great quartz region. Overseas news also featured - one issue containing high-class illustrations of the late Queen Victoria, His Majesty King Edward the seventh, and Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and other members of the Royal Family.

An excellent picture was also given of the gallant charge of the New Zealanders at Rhenosterkop, South Africa during the Second Boer war. Paeroa Choral members were requested to meet at the hall at 3 o’clock sharp for their immortalisation.

Also at Paeroa, the state of the



A typical scene after the arrival of the *Auckland Weekly News* at Waihi.
Photo: SUPPLIED

railway yard was attracting attention. It was a disgrace to those responsible and a wonder that the Minister for Railways had not been notified.

The unused portion of the yard was covered in briar and undergrowth, and the fence along the main street side, instead of the usual neat picket fence seen at other stations, consisted of a very rough post and rail arrangement, hardly fit for the smallest wayside station, and certainly very much out of place at a station of the importance of Paeroa.

The platform was not nearly long enough; the previous winter, when the Auckland and Thames trains met in the evening passengers had to jump down in the dark

into pools of water. Everything in connection with the station was on too small a scale. The platform, stationhouse and yard required considerable enlargement.

It was a regular occurrence for 10 or 15 loaded railway trucks to come through at once and with the wretched yard arrangements the unloading of these was a work of great difficulty.

Meanwhile, at Thames, Detective Miller and Constables Butler, Hodgson, and Lipscombe were detailed for special duty at Auckland in connection with the Duke and Duchess of York’s visit.

An exodus had already set in, two hundred people having departed in one morning for Auckland leaving Thames with quite a deserted

appearance. During the royal reception, flags in the Thames Valley were hoisted mast high and government offices and several businesses were illuminated at night. When residents returned from the festivities in the city they said it was a great success. The only thing that marred the pleasure of the holidays was the unfavourable weather and the consequent dirty condition of Auckland streets.

Over at Tararu, while en route from Tapu to Thames, the Naval Band pulled up at the Old Men’s Home and played a few selections, which were greatly appreciated by the inmates. As the company and band left the old men gave three cheers, which were lustily returned by the Naval Band.

Chris’ Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Which TV game quiz show has been hosted by Jeremy Clarkson (UK), Eddie McGuire (Aus) and Mike Hosking (NZ)? a) *The Chase*, b) *Tipping Point*, or c) *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*?
2. The NZ and Australian party food ‘fairy bread’ features white bread, spread with butter or margarine, and covered with what topping?
3. Claude, Gemini and GPT are examples of what? a) Artificial Intelligence models, b) social media platforms, or c) 2026 car models?
4. True or false: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale are all the same plant species, *Brassica oleracea*?
5. The word “companion” has its roots in French, and ultimately comes from a term meaning one who shares what? a) A home, b) a secret, or c) bread?
6. When mapmakers recently switched from the Mercator projection to more accurate equal-area world maps, which landmass was revealed to be the most exaggerated in size by the Mercator projection? a) Greenland, b) Japan, or c) New Zealand?
7. Which footballer was awarded an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997? a) Cristiano Ronaldo, b) David Beckham, or c) Pele?
8. Which European country has sovereign territory on the African mainland? a) France, b) Spain, or c) United Kingdom?
9. In 101 Dalmatians, what is the first name of the villain, ___ de Vil?
10. Which English singer released their debut album in 2000, titled *Born to Do It*? a) Amy Winehouse, b) Brian McFadden, or c) Craig David?

ANSWERS: 1. c) Who Wants to be a Millionaire; 2. Hundreds and Thousands (or sprinkles); 3. The variation arose due to selecting plants based on specific attributes; 4. True; 5. c) *Brassica oleracea*; 6. a) Greenland; 7. c) Pele; 8. b) Spain (the small territories of Ceuta and Melilla (and others) in North Africa); 9. Cruella; 10. c) Craig David.

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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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On the Land

Victor’s vet visit success



By Neil Murray,
Veterinarian, Paeroa

While performing X-rays on patients is routine for us, it’s not every day that we perform X-rays on an adult goat in clinic!

Victor, an 8-year-old companion goat, presented with sudden-onset, non-weightbearing lameness in his front right leg. After initial examination at home, there were concerns about crepitus (crunching/grinding) around his carpus (wrist).

We initially placed a splint to support the limb and administered pain relief.

As there were concerns about the possibility of broken bones in his leg, we agreed with Victor’s owners that performing X-rays to assess would be the best option. The logistics, however, were easier said than done! Time to call out the favours!

Kelby Stewart Landscape and Build happened to be working on the owner’s property. They kindly came to the party and provided luxury transport for Victor from his paddock to the clinic in their company van.

They even built a makeshift ramp from scaffold planks.

When he arrived at the clinic, we then sedated Victor to allow us to perform the X-rays safely.

Our building hadn’t been designed with large goats in mind, so we had to navigate some tight spaces. But with everyone involved, we got Victor on the X-ray table and successfully took the X-rays.

Great news! The X-rays showed that Victor didn’t have any broken bones. He had his sedation reversed, and once he was awake and stable enough to stand, it was



Victor awaits his X-ray. Photos: SUPPLIED



Victor back home on The Ranch.

back to his private transportation to be taken back home. After an extended course of pain relief, Victor has recovered well and is back to his normal self, living his best life out on The Ranch.

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Is it worth it? What purpose does to your mind

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES

Do you ever catch yourself asking the question... "Is it even worth it?"

Yeah, me too.

This morning I dragged myself out of bed before the sun even showed up.

It had rained all night, the river was colder than usual, and I was seriously questioning my life choices as I stood there shivering in my wetsuit.

I don't love swimming.

In fact, I used to panic at anything more than 50 metres.

But I signed up for a triathlon — and that means I have to learn how. So, I swim.

Even when I don't feel like it.

Even when my body's asking, "Why are we doing this again?"

And that's where this lesson has started to hit home: Your mind isn't just shaped by your thoughts, habits, or environment.

It's shaped by purpose.

Science is catching up to what wisdom has always known: having a clear sense of purpose

acts like a protective shield for your mental health.

People with purpose handle stress better.

They sleep better. They feel more emotionally grounded — and they bounce back quicker when life slaps them in the face.

Why? Because purpose gives your brain something to aim at.

It shifts you from spiralling thoughts to focused direction.

Instead of sitting in fear or doubt, your mind gets busy.

It gets to work.

Purpose stops you from overthinking and starts you moving.

People with purpose see chal-

lenges as temporary.

They see setbacks as lessons.

And when life gets rough, they don't ask, "Do I have enough motivation?"

They ask, "What am I moving toward?"

And here's the best part — purpose doesn't mean having life figured out.

It might look like:

- showing up for your kids;
- building your faith;
- restoring your health;
- creating something that matters;
- serving others;
- learning something new.

It's not about perfection.

It's about direction.

So if you're in a season that feels heavy — where effort feels exhausting and results feel far away — pause and ask yourself: What am I moving toward?

Because purpose isn't just motivation.

It's mental armour.

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.

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Authorised by Vincent Andersen, vincent.andersen@nzfirst.nz

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

	8		3				9	5
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EASY

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HARD

272

HARD

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5	8	7	1	4	9	6	3	2
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EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

292

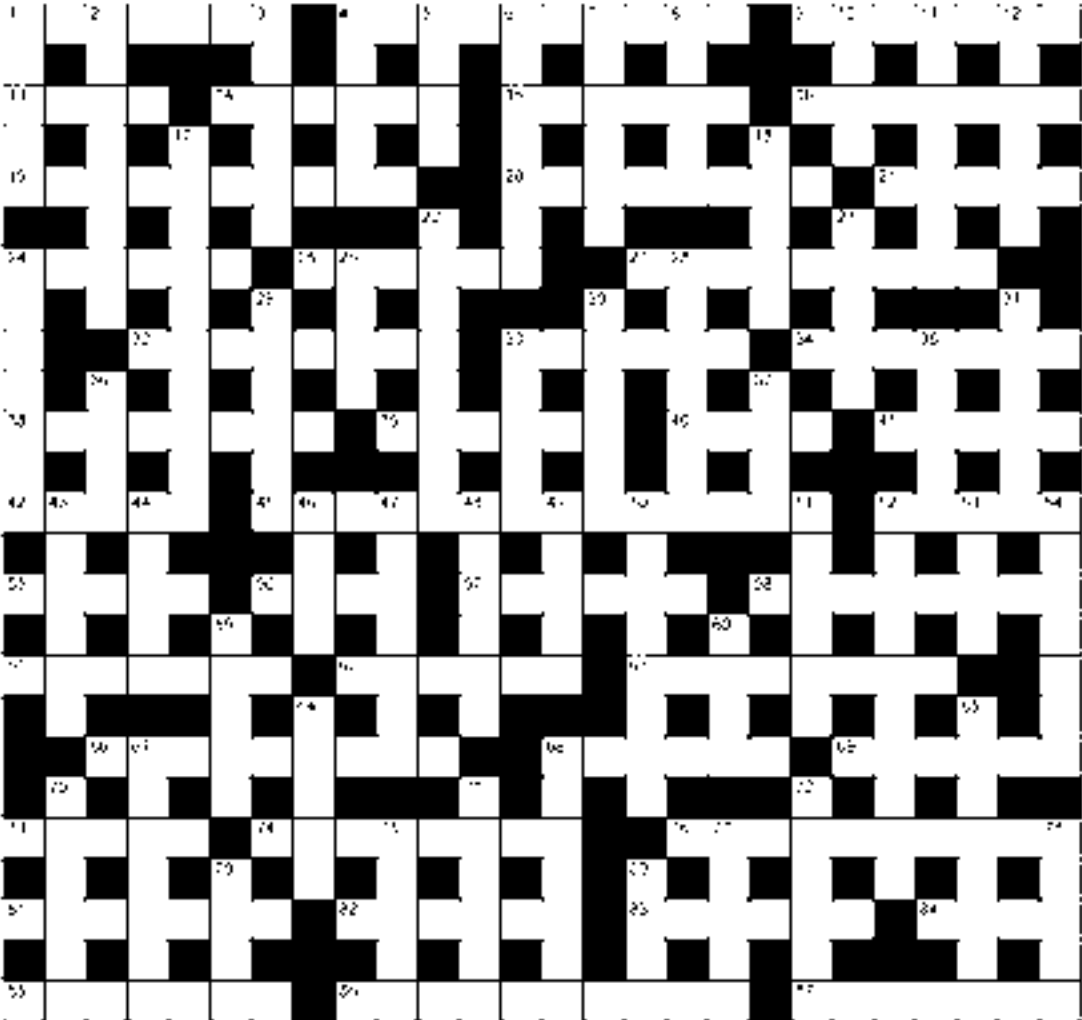
1 Immediate (7)
4 Unique (3,3,4)
9 Loyal and committed (7)
13 Layer of paint (4)
14 Alms-seeker (6)
15 Going steady (6)
16 Big bird (7)
19 Getting better (10)
20 Miss in Spain (8)
21 Concur (5)
24 Homecoming (6)
25 Damsel (anag)(6)
27 Stubborn (9)
32 Target spot (8)
33 High rock faces (6)
34 Woollen fabric (7)
38 Kitted out (8)
39 Disorderly mob (6)
40 Mountains (4)
41 Tablets (5)
42 With cunning (5)
45 Pittance (8,6)
52 Old coin (5)
55 Convulsion (5)
56 Large jug (4)
57 Gripping tool (6)
58 Disconnect (8)
61 Restyle (anag)(7)
62 Take a drink (6)
63 Meant (8)
66 New settler (9)
68 Ostentatious (6)
69 Be at (6)
73 Communal money pool (5)
74 Take into account (8)
76 Avoiding company (10)

81 Sibling (7)
82 Widespread hunger (6)
83 Hearsay (6)
84 Sojourn (4)
85 Plodded wearily (7)
86 Grasp (10)
87 South American country (7)

DOWN

1 Bring upon oneself (5)
2 Dearth (8)
3 Hypothesis (6)
4 Keyboard instrument (5)
5 Cereal heads (4)
6 Suds tin (anag)(7)
7 Excursion (6)
8 Of the moon (5)
10 Try out (4)
11 Vertical (7)
12 Went by bike (6)
17 Glut (10)
18 Announce (5)
22 Team game (8)
23 Viewpoint (5)
24 Roof beams (7)
26 Balanced (4)
28 Large horned animal (7)
29 Customer (6)
30 Entertainment hall (6)
31 German city (6)
33 Simple dwelling (5)
35 Racket (5)
36 Courtroom group (4)

37 Twirl (4)
43 Became invalid (6)
44 Endures (5)
46 Lines (4)
47 Supervising male (7)
48 Make less effective (6)
49 Steer (5)
50 Borderline (8)
51 Occupier (6)
52 Shelter (10)
53 Back of the neck (4)
54 Delivered up (7)
59 Allege (5)
60 Engrave with acid (4)
64 Shepherd's staff (5)
65 Portrayed (8)
67 Changed genetically (7)
68 Rural workers (7)
70 Cheval glass (6)
71 Look up to (6)
72 Body shape (6)
75 Killed (5)
77 Identified (5)
78 Tier (5)
79 Gala (4)
80 Opera solo (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Pilot, 4 Frowning, 9 Raffle, 14 Gripe, 15 As thick as thieves, 17 Otter, 18 Nun, 19 Merrily, 20 Possessed, 21 Penned, 24 Manhattan, 25 Bottom, 26 Detour, 29 Frustrated, 31 Rye, 32 Rotary, 33 Feta, 35 Era, 37 Saga, 39 Condensed, 40 Itinerary, 41 Stern, 42 Smuggled, 47 Westerns, 51 Ducks, 55 Videotape, 56 Cafeteria, 58 Town, 59 Tar, 60 Raid, 61 Ushers, 62 Ego, 63 Pipe dreams, 66 Cognac, 67 Acumen, 69 Tolerance, 72 Doctor, 73 Influence, 75 Evading, 77 Ape, 80 Koala, 81 Comes to a dead stop, 82 Alike, 83 Satire, 84 Hay fever, 85 Roost.

DOWN: 2 Inspector, 3 Other, 5 Real, 6 Without, 7 Idiosyncrasy, 8 Gives, 9 Respect, 10 Flop, 11 Lather, 12 Fiend, 13 Meander, 14 Granted, 16 Cylindrical, 22 Fasten, 23 Contain, 24 Mustang, 25 Breeds, 27 Open air, 28 Praise, 30 Duel, 32 Razed, 34 Abyss, 36 Best, 38 Arm, 42 Sever, 43 Undoing, 44 Grow, 45 Elapse, 46 Scots, 48 Scandinavia, 49 Extreme, 50 New, 51 Defence, 52 Screen, 53 Effortlessly, 54 Stop, 57 Report, 64 Momentous, 65 Pancake, 66 Caravan, 68 Manacle, 70 Lactose, 71 Sonata, 72 Denim, 74 Lymph, 76 Disco, 78 Sari, 79 Idle.

Paeroa fireworks spectacular

Paeroa Lions is gearing up for its highly anticipated annual fireworks display on October 24, promising a night of spectacular entertainment while continuing their 67-year tradition of backing the local community.

“Families can look forward to an action-packed evening featuring free games, amusement rides and a thrilling Halloween costume competition, as well as a wide array of delicious options from local food vendors,” the charity organisation said.

This year, Lions said they would also be deploying Agriculture Drone Services to capture high-definition video and photographs of the fireworks display, offering a brand-new perspective of the dazzling show.

Beyond the bright lights, the event serves as a major fundraiser for the club’s extensive community work.

“Paeroa Lions have a proud history of giving back, notably helping to sponsor

the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton. “Closer to home, the club’s annual initiatives touch almost every corner of local life.”

Projects include providing essential school start-up packs for first-year students entering school; hosting the highly popular annual book fair; organising the festive Christmas seniors’ afternoon tea; enhancing local infrastructure, such as building the footpath up to Primrose Hill; and dedicating time this year to install identifying name plaques on trees in Paeroa Domain.

The fireworks event has been priced to ensure it remains a budget-friendly night out for everyone, the club said, and it will be a fantastic night of entertainment supporting a club that continuously invests in the heart of the community.

DETAILS: Paeroa Lions Fireworks Display, October 24 from 5pm, Paeroa Domain. Rain date: October 25. \$25 for a family (2 adults, 2 children), \$10 adult, \$5 children.

Pet Profile

Russell: A big goofball with a big heart

If you’re looking for a dog with plenty of personality, Russell is sure to make you smile.

This handsome adult boy has a wonderfully distinctive look, with a white coat beautifully dappled with spots and a black patch covering one eye and ear.

Russell is a fun-loving, playful boy who enjoys being part of the action.

He particularly loves spending time with other dogs and is always keen for a game, whether that means chasing a favourite toy or enjoying some playful interaction with his canine friends.



And then there’s Russell’s famous grin! He loves to sit, cock his head to one side and show off his happy face, making it very hard not to fall for his goofy charm.

Russell would love a home where he can be involved in everyday family life, enjoy plenty of interaction and have lots of opportunities for play and fun.

If you’re looking for a larger adult dog with a playful spirit, a big personality and an unforgettable face, Russell could be the companion for you. Contact Thames SPCA for more information.



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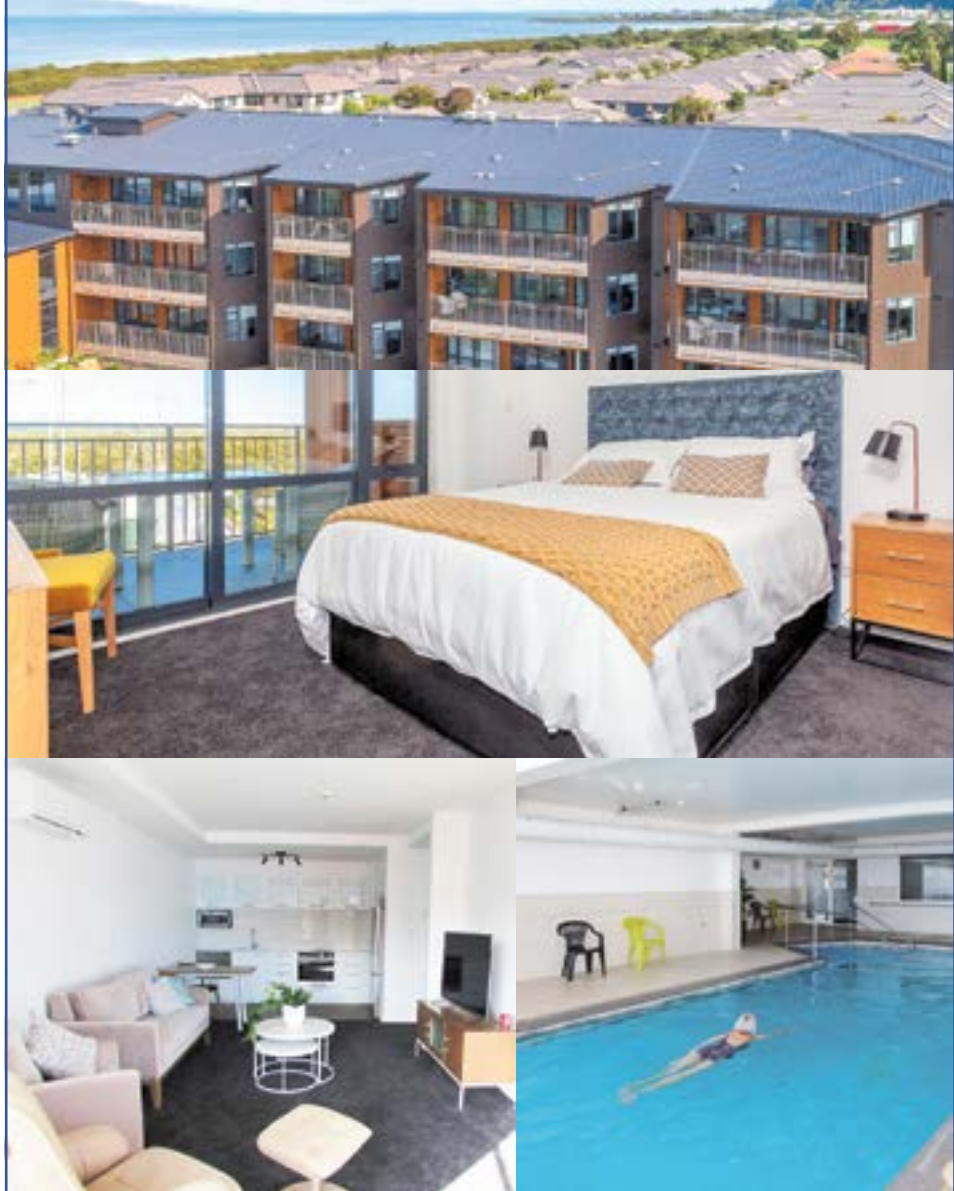
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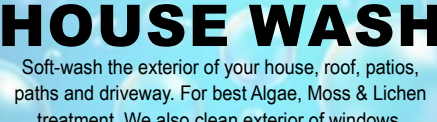
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Andrew London Duo will perform at the Kauaeranga Hall.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Jazz, blues, satire at hall

Kiwi musical satirist Andrew London and partner Kirsten will deliver original songs about life's obsessions, absurdities and taboos at the Kauaeranga Hall on October 17 at 7:30pm.

Their style is a hybrid of jazz, blues and folk - Andrew describes it as a cross between Willie Nelson and Gilbert and Sullivan. Targets include pretentious socialites, televangelists, technology, youth culture, neighbours, and the joys of trying to earn a living in what we laughingly refer to as "The Music Business".

Songs about Kiwi life in particular pepper the repertoire, with lines you don't expect to hear in songs like: *I Mowed My Neighbour's Berm Today, Please Don't Make Me Play Down By The Toilets, I Hugged My Mate and Coun-*

try's *Bugged*.

After half a lifetime playing covers in sweaty pubs in the 1970s, recording jazz standards in the 80s, and running his own instrument retail business in the 90s, Andrew began writing, performing and recording his unique and quirky songs about 25 years and 25 albums ago. He first played with Wellington swing trio Hot Club Sandwich and Kapiti country-rock band The Cattlestops, then, from 2012, with his own Andrew London Trio. This lineup introduced bass guitar-playing partner Kirsten to the stage who, in no time at all, demanded a microphone and now contributes vocal harmonies and an occasional Julie London, Blossom Dearie or Peggy Lee standard.

Citizens' Band to perform free concert

Thames Music Group's monthly Free Friday Lunchtime Concert will feature Thames Citizens' Band (TCB) on October 16 at 12.15pm at St George's Church in Thames.

Organisers said TCB was not a traditional brass band, as it was in its roots, or even a concert wind band, as it later became. The current band does have brass and other wind instruments, but it also includes string instruments: at least one, slightly amplified, violin, a bass guitar, and, possibly, a double bass.

"With members playing so many different instruments, often not their primary ones, the ensemble offers a constantly changing musical feast. This feast is not just well played notes, joyous rhythm, humour, and urge to move. It's conveying ideas, thoughts, and inspirations that are so hard to express with words.

"This concert's feast has a very large dose of courage worthy of your being present to acknowledge it."

TCB members' ages are as varied as their impressive variety of instruments, and TCB's repertoire is equally broad and eclectic. All band members are invited to suggest music for the band to play, and the band choose their rep-



Thames Citizens' Band.

Photo: SUPPLIED

ertoire from that pool of options. This concert may include *The Pink Panther* theme and a piece by Debussy that has been arranged for the whole band.

"Have you ever heard *Moon River* on the Tuba? There may be a couple big band standards, and a surprise."

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**The Valley Profile**

Farmers Market returns for summer

The Waihi Beach Farmers Market returned on September 26, kicking off another summer season with a great line-up of fresh food, local producers and familiar faces.

Organisers said over the years, the Waihi Beach Farmers Market had grown into a real destination market, with locals and visitors making it part of their Saturday - grabbing breakfast or lunch, stocking up for the week and enjoying everything else Waihi Beach has to offer.

“Many of your favourite vendors will be returning this season, alongside some new faces, with plenty of fresh produce, artisan food and locally made products.

“Come down, support local and make a day of it.”

The Katikati Sunday Farmers Market has now closed for the summer season, with many of its regular vendors joining the Waihi Beach line-up.

The market will be held on Saturdays from 8:30am until 12:30pm, at Waihi Beach School, 100 Beach Rd, Waihi Beach.



SPORTS

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



Winners Kerepehi. Below left: Waihi Beach/Kerepehi second; Kerepehi/Waihi, third.



BOWLS

Dodgy weather saw the last minute pull out of two visiting teams, but remaining 14 teams survived the odd wetting during September 27 competition at Kerepehi Bowling Club. Prize winners for Kopu Engineering sponsored optional fours were: 1st 4 wins 26 points 22 ends (Kerepehi) Shaun Harrison, Daniel Harrison, Phillippa

Garrett, Massie; 2nd 3 wins 27 points 20 ends (Waihi Beach/Kerepehi) D Brewer team; 3rd 3 wins 0 points 15 ends (Kerepehi/Waihi) Pat Ridings team. Well done all players. Coming up on Sunday October 18 is the Hudson Family optional fours; Sunday November 15, Murray Fisher Memorial (Invitational - one non bowler). November also sees start of Kerepehi Club championships. - Terry King

LETTERS

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

Dear Alice Parminter, thank you so much for your reporting of the story of my work displayed here in the gallery, 'Friends of Aotearoa', 64a Belmont Rd Paeroa, (Valley Profile Singing Through Clay, P1, August 25), an artist's perspective.

Interviews and reporting can be quite scary in not knowing how or if you are truly being listened to and seen.

But, truly Alice you not only listened and captured the essence of the story, but brought to the reader's attention an insightful enquiry, from not only a younger generation but also from one gifted in her craft and ability to communicate that to the general public when we are going through so much change, and our honouring of diversity. So many people have made contact as a result, interested, intrigued, in the creative voice and the interconnections of environment, spiritual and cultural appreciation, and our sense of belonging in these challenging times. Thank you to the Valley Profile for carrying our stories out there and the richness it brings to us as a community.

- Mike O'Donnell, featured artist

CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Monday Noon

Death Notice		Personal		Tuition		Public Notice	
HOWARD, Sybil: 7/2/1938 – 30/9/2026. In Loving Memory. With great sadness, we announce the passing of Sybil Howard, a much-loved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and dear friend. Daughter of William and Lillie Townsend, Sybil was the beloved wife of Alan and devoted mother to Simon and Sarah (UK), and Sarah and Ciaran (NZ). She was a proud and loving grandmother to Declan and Natasha, Liam and Chynna, Aidan and Rose, and a cherished great-gran to Layla. Sybil warmly welcomed spouses and partners, embracing them as part of the family she held so dear. A strong-willed woman with a loving heart, Sybil was fiercely loyal to those she cared about. Family and friends were at the centre of her world, and she found great happiness in spending time with the people she loved. Her strength, warmth, humour, and unwavering loyalty made her a special part of so many lives. Sybil will be remembered with deep affection by all who knew her. She leaves behind a family who loved her dearly, and friends who will treasure the memories they shared with her. Forever loved, forever missed, and always in our hearts. As per Sybil's wishes, a private cremation has taken place. Correspondence to ellenbrook@xtra.co.nz		MENZIE, Gaye: Passed away at Waihi Life Care on Saturday 10th October 2026 aged 82 years. Thank you to all who cared for Gaye at Waihi Life Care. She was a loved wife of John, Mother of Neil and Maureen Mensie, and Maureen's partner Ken Inger, Nana of Jessica Menzie, sister-in-law of Mavis Jorgensen and mother-in-law of Nirmala Menzie. A service of Gaye's life will be held at Waihi Beach RSA on Monday the 19th of October 11am 99 Beach Road Waihi All communication to go through Waihi Funeral Services		GUITAR AND BASS LESSONS. Thames/Hauraki based. Beginner to Intermediate. Ages 8 to 80. saltwoodmusic@gmail.com www.saltwoodmusic.weebly.com Len Salt 021-61-9952.		Haurakian Charitable Trust Inc - AGM Wednesday 21st October 2026 @ 5.30pm At HPC Centennial Centre, Ngatea	
For Lease Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101		Painters HAURAKI REGIONAL PAINTERS Over 12 years experience, interior/exterior. Refs available. Free quotes. Phone Graeme for all your painting needs. 020 485 1312		Handyman Services THAMES HANDYMAN & BUILDING SERVICES Building, home maintenance & general gardening services Phone: Fleur or Crighton • 0273 913 283		Storage STORAGE KOPU, PAEROA "New Units" Ph 027 440 7101 07 868 3033 Safe n Sound Storage www.safestorage.co.nz	
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Trades FENCING CONTRACTOR Residential & Rural Retaining walls & more High quality workmanship Competitive prices Call Matt 021 1727 148		Land Wanted Land wanted to lease, up to 40 hectares, Hauraki Plains or surrounds, long term. Ph 027 278 5384		Gardening SS Lawn Mowing & Gardening~ Our Services Mowing Mulching Lawn care landscaping Spraying Yard cleanup Leaf removal Seasonal maintenance Contact Us~ 020 4103 1867 Residence & Commercial Sukhokatiya@gmail.com		TOTAL STORAGE LTD KEREPEHI / PAEROA 10FT CON. \$125 per mnth 20FT CON. \$240 per mnth T&C's apply 021 67 67 99 info@totalstorage.co.nz	
Farming Experienced independent AB Technician available for your herd. Call/text Richard 027 933 2015		PHOTO SALES Photographs taken by the Valley Profile are available for purchase, contact us today! editor@valleyprofile.co.nz 0204 0944 853		Gardening SS Lawn Mowing & Gardening~ Our Services Mowing Mulching Lawn care landscaping Spraying Yard cleanup Leaf removal Seasonal maintenance Contact Us~ 020 4103 1867 Residence & Commercial Sukhokatiya@gmail.com		Public Notice TE PAI O HAURAKI MARAE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM) Te Pai o Hauraki Marae gives notice to all beneficiaries that an SGM will be held: Saturday 31 October 2026 at 10am at Te Pai o Hauraki Marae 1 Papatūroa Avenue, Paeroa, 3600 Purpose: To elect five new trustees to fill the current vacancies, hear from nominees about their aspirations, skills and contribution to the marae, and share the Trust's priorities for the next 12 months. Nominations: Nominations must be emailed to tepaiohaurakimarae@gmail.com by 30 October 2026. Nominees must provide their full name, contact details, confirmation they wish to stand, and a current CV outlining relevant skills and experience. Nominees must also attend the SGM and speak about their aspirations, skills and contribution to the Marae. Voting: Beneficiaries 18 years and over are entitled to vote. Voting will be by show of hands, or by secret ballot if nominations exceed vacancies. No proxy voting. We warmly invite all whānau to come along, have your say and be part of shaping the future of our marae. We encourage whānau to send through any pātai before the hui to: tepaiohaurakimarae@gmail.com Nau mai, hoki mai, e te whānau. Nā Ngā Tarahitō o Te Pai o Hauraki Marae	



Boundary lines are indicative only



Kaiaua 1433 East Coast Road

Coastal dairy/ grazing farm – minutes to boat ramp

Secure a 94-hectare (more or less) dairy and grazing property in a tightly held coastal farming district near Kaiaua. Currently supplying Open Country, the dairy operation has averaged 56,174kgMS over the past three seasons. Infrastructure includes a 20-side herringbone dairy shed, 200-cow yard, disused dairy shed and implement sheds, with some forestry adding further potential. The existing home offers scope for transformation into a substantial family residence. Enjoy easy access to Kaiaua’s fishing, boating and birdlife, with Ngatea, Thames and Pukekohe all within reach.

bayleys.co.nz/2630246

94.53_{ha}

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 2pm, Wed 4 Nov 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11am-12pm Wed 14 Oct,
Wed 21 Oct & Wed 28 Oct
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



Miranda 880 Findlay Road

Gateway to the Coromandel coastline

Offering 12.07 hectares (more or less) of vacant land, this property combines open space with rural outlooks and views across the Coromandel ranges and Firth of Thames. Currently leased and grazed for dairying, it provides a practical rural setting with flexibility for the future. Pūkoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, the Hauraki Rail Trail and coastal Kaiaua are all within easy reach, offering cycling, walking and waterfront attractions. Ngatea is approximately 24 kilometres (more or less) away for shops, schooling and local services, while Thames and Pokeno are approximately 36 and 32 kilometres away respectively for supermarkets, retail and additional services.

bayleys.co.nz/2630251

12.0785_{ha}

Asking Price \$749,000 + GST (if any)
View 1.15-1.45pm Sun 18 Oct
& 1.45-2.15pm Wed 21 Oct
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz
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Boundary lines are indicative only

Mangatawhiri 435 Mangatawhiri Road

Your own rural playground, shedding & duck pond

Set across 20.54ha (more or less), this exceptional lifestyle property combines a spacious 297sqm brick home with productive land and outstanding infrastructure. Built in approximately 2010, the home features expansive open-plan living, a designer kitchen with dual island benches and walk-in pantry, three bedrooms, an office and an attached self-contained granny flat. Outside, well-fenced grazing paddocks with quality pasture are complemented by extensive shedding, cattle yards, a loading race and a substantial duck pond with established mai mais. Conveniently located within easy reach of Pukekohe, Auckland Airport and Hamilton, this is a premium lifestyle opportunity.

bayleys.co.nz/2630305

4 3 1 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 5 Nov 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 4-4.30pm Sun 18 Oct
& 9.30-10am Mon 26 Oct or by appointment
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Ian Buchanan 021 647 192
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BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, PUKEKOHE, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



Turua 55 Opuia Road

Prime Hauraki Plains position

Looking for a prime opportunity? First time on the market in 100 years, this 90ha (more or less) Hauraki Plains property offers consistent performance. Flat, rectangular and well-fenced, it features good drainage, a centrally located 22-bale rotary and reliable metered council water. Milking 220-250 cows for Fonterra, production has averaged 78,300kgMS over the past two seasons. Accommodation includes a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home with two lounges, garage and carport, plus a three-bedroom worker's home. Close to Ngatea, Thames and Paeroa, with schools and Farmsource stores nearby. A viable business and lifestyle opportunity.

bayleys.co.nz/2630300

90.92

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96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 1-2pm Wed 14 Oct & Wed 21 Oct
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karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
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Ngatea 136 Pipiroa Road

80ha + lease = 122,000kgMS

Established dairy unit of 80.54ha (more or less) in the heart of the Hauraki Plains, offering flat contour, reliable council water and a well-organised farm layout. Three titles support 45 paddocks plus 35 leased paddocks, with 300 MA cows supplying Fonterra an average of 122,000kgMS over the past two seasons. Infrastructure includes a 22 ASHB dairy shed with in-shed feeding, 250-cow yard, haybarns, calf shed, implement sheds and established effluent management. The 1957 brick home provides three bedrooms, practical living and a fully fenced section. Located just 1.2km from Ngatea township, with convenient access to schools, services and major centres.

bayleys.co.nz/2630291

80.54 ha

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 12 Nov 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11am-12pm Tue 20 Oct & Tue 27 Oct
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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Te Kauwhata 32 Main Road

Timeless elegance in the heart of Te Kauwhata

Character-filled and beautifully maintained, this villa-style residence combines timeless charm with modern comfort, within walking distance of Te Kauwhata township. Established gardens, mature trees and a wraparound verandah frame the home, while timber ceilings, polished floors and decorative detailing highlight its heritage appeal. Light-filled living, a master suite, two further bedrooms and family bathroom provide comfortable living, complemented by sweeping lawns and sheltered outdoor entertaining. Easy access to local amenities, including walking distance to schooling and the golf course (within 700m) and commutable distance to Auckland and Hamilton.

bayleys.co.nz/2630252

1,847 sqm 3 2 2

Asking Price \$1,150,000
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Brendon Pulman 022 530 0902
brendon.pulman@bayleys.co.nz

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Gymnast Lily takes giant leap to top

GYMNASTICS

By KELLEY TANTAU

Twelve-year-old gymnast Lily Roath is enjoying her best season yet, leaping from 18th to first in just one year and taking out two top spots at the AIMS Games.

The Year 8 Moanataiari School student won the Level 4 Open, as well as placed first in the vault competition. She also competed in tumbling, finishing fourth.

The results came as a surprise to Lily, who competed in the same open category at last year's AIMS Games and finished 18th.

She told *The Profile* she was in disbelief with how well she'd done.

"Last year I came 18th, so I was expecting to not place past fifth - but then when they called my name, I was absolutely thrilled and shocked," she said.

Lily has been doing gymnastics since she was four, after her parents signed her up to see if she would enjoy it.

She started at Thames Gym-sports and, eight years later, she is still training there for three-and-a-half hours twice a week, with extra weekend sessions when she feels up to it.

She said she could see a big difference in her gymnastics compared with last year.

"I think the amount I've improved since last year is insane, so hopefully I can continue that streak and keep improving."



Gymnast Lily Roath took out two top spots at this year's AIMS Games.

Photos: SUPPLIED

The Zespri AIMS Games is Australasia's largest junior sporting event, held annually in Tauranga.

This year, it welcomed a record-breaking 14,506 athletes from 467 schools, competing across 27 codes.

Lily said her AIMS results were part of her strongest season yet, with a top-five finish at every com-

petition she has entered this year.

But for Lily, gymnastics is about more than the results.

"I love how it's not only an individual sport, it's a team sport," she said.

"Yes, you're competing against your teammates, but it's a fun environment.

"We're all supporting each other."

She now has her sights set on reaching New Zealand Nationals while also working towards her coaching qualification, hoping to one day help "a whole bunch of kids reach their dreams".

Her own coach, Natasha Noble, has been alongside her throughout that journey, while Lily also

thanked her family for supporting her along the way.

She also had some simple advice for anyone thinking about giving gymnastics a go.

"Use the nerves," she said. "There's so many amazing opportunities for gymnastics, there's so much cool stuff you can do with it. I would just recommend to do it."

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