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By ALICE PARMINTER

The Thames War Memorial Civic Centre was abuzz with celebration on October 15, as local businesses gathered to celebrate their successes. The biennial Claymark Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards, run by the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel district councils, saw 26 finalists recognised across eight categories.

Coromandel Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park took out the overall Supreme Winner category, also winning the Customer Experience award.

Judges said the holiday park stood out for its outstanding understanding of customers and commitment to continuously improving the customer experience.

“A very well-rounded business with strong financial performance, smart use of technology, good systems and continual reinvestment,” judge Sue Loder said.

Owner Aaron McFarlane said he was “humbled and honoured” by the accolades.

“It’s 24-7, 365 days of the year we’re looking after people, so we try and do our best,” he said.

“We’ve got a special little spot here by the beach... That Kiwi holiday kind of tradition is what we try to make it all about.”

Marica Slavich, whose business Onform PM Limited took out the New and Emerging award, said she felt validated by the recognition. “A lot of my work happens behind the scenes - with project management it’s just the nature of the job, so it was really nice to have the judges recognise the hard work that’s gone into building my business,” she said.

Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki chief executive Denise Messiter also said she appreciated the recognition of her charitable organisation’s hard work,



Coromandel Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park was the Supreme Winner on the night.

with the Refuge winning the Māori Business Excellence award.

“It’s about being proud as well, particularly of our kaimahi [staff] and the work that they do on a day-to-day basis,” she said.

The People’s Choice awards went to two food outlets - Luke’s Kitchen in Thames-Coromandel and Turua Bakery in Hauraki - with the judges calling them

standout businesses and community favourites.

Peter Richardson, Ricky Bowen, Rino Wilkinson, and Colin and Gloria James were recognised at the event for their outstanding contributions to the business community, each receiving a Service to Business award.

Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Peter Revell said the

awards highlighted the strength, innovation and dedication of the region’s business community.

“It was inspiring to see the passion, resilience and commitment shown by this year’s finalists and winners... These businesses and organisations are making a real difference in our communities.”

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams also acknowledged the

Photo: FELICITY JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY calibre of this year’s entrants, and the contribution local businesses made to their communities.

“Our local businesses are a big part of what makes our communities such great places to live, work and visit, and we’re incredibly proud of the people who choose to do business here and contribute to our communities.”

MORE PHOTOS: P5

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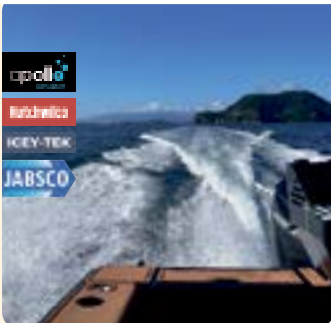
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Business sentenced after 7-metre fall

Hauraki roofing and maintenance business Professional Trade Services NZ Ltd (PTSNZ) has been ordered to pay more than \$16,000 after an untrained worker suffered serious spinal injuries from an on-site fall.

The worker fell approximately 7.1 metres through a clear roofing panel while on-site at the Hauraki District Council office in Paeroa on January 15, 2025, WorkSafe confirmed.

The worker sustained fractures to multiple vertebrae in his spine.

PTSNZ pleaded guilty to a resulting charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act, and was convicted in the Waihi District Court.

The business has been ordered to pay \$15,000 in emotional harm reparation, and legal costs of \$1505.87 plus court costs to WorkSafe.

Due to the company's current liquidation status, it has not been ordered to pay a fine.

WorkSafe said its investigation found PTSNZ failed to adequately assess the risks associated with roof work, failed to ensure workers were suitably trained and competent to perform the work safely, and did not adequately identify or control the risk posed by the fragile roofing before work began.

"This incident demonstrates how quickly work at height can become extremely dangerous when critical safety controls are missing," WorkSafe regional manager Nigel

Formosa said.

"Businesses must ensure hazards are properly identified before workers access roofs, particularly where fragile roofing materials, skylights, or clear light panels are present.

"Clear roofing is not designed to support a person's weight and should always be treated as a fall hazard."

WorkSafe said a central concern was that PTSNZ admitted the worker's training had been deferred until after he completed his 90-day trial period, despite him carrying out work at height during that time.

The worker was employed as a labourer and was still within his trial period when the incident occurred. His training had also been delayed because no courses were available until after the Christmas and New Year shutdown period.

"Good health and safety starts before anyone sets foot on a roof. Effective risk assessment, worker training, site-specific planning, and robust fall protection measures are all essential.

"When those controls are absent, the consequences can be devastating."

WorkSafe said its health and safety inspectors will be proactively visiting residential construction sites across the country over the next three months to see how the risk of falling from working at height is being managed.

Last chance to enrol this week

There's only a few days left to enrol or update contact details in order to be eligible to vote in this year's general election.

"If you're not enrolled yet, or you've moved and need to update your address on the electoral roll, do it now. The deadline is midnight, Sunday, 25 October," Chief Electoral Officer Karl Le Quesne said.

"By enrolling, you can vote and have your say on who represents you and your community in Parliament."

More than nine out of 10 people are enrolled for this year's election, or 91.5 per cent of the estimated eligible population. This includes 66.7 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled, up from 53.9 per cent on July 31.

The first votes will be cast this week when overseas and telephone dictation voting start on October 21, and advance voting starts on October 26. Election day is November 7, when voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm.

DETAILS: Enrol online or at enrolment hubs in shopping malls in the main centres. Enrolment hub times and locations are available on vote.nz or Ph 0800 36 76 56.

ADVERTISING: Advertising Manager Nikki Sanders, Ph 022 130 3885, nikki@valleyprofile.co.nz; Feature Writer Davidda Hikatangata, Ph 022 174 3988, davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz.

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THE VALLEY PROFILE is independently owned and operated. We publish 16,000 copies every Tuesday, with an estimated reach of 35,000 readers, delivered to every letterbox in the Hauraki Plains, Waihi, Ngatea, Thames and Thames Coast, with bulk drops throughout the Coromandel Peninsula, including Whangamata, Whitianga, Pauanui, Tairua and Coromandel. **ISSN: 2703-5700**

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Thames Tides

Wed Oct 21	Thu Oct 22	Fri Oct 23	Sat Oct 24	Sun Oct 25	Mon Oct 26	Tue Oct 27
Morning 3:14am 2.8 9:31am 1.1 11:11pm 1.1	Morning 4:14am 2.8 10:35am 1.1 11:04pm 1.0	Morning 5:13am 2.9 11:31am 1.0 11:54pm 0.8	Morning 6:09am 3.0 12:20pm 0.8 6:30pm 3.2	Morning 12:42am 0.7 6:59am 3.2 7:15pm 3.4	Morning 1:29am 0.5 7:46am 3.4 8:01pm 3.5	Morning 2:15am 0.3 8:32am 3.5 8:49pm 3.5
Afternoon 4:03pm 2.9 10:11pm 1.1	Afternoon 4:56pm 3.0 11:04pm 1.0	Afternoon 5:44pm 3.1 11:54pm 0.8	Afternoon 12:20pm 0.8 6:30pm 3.2	Afternoon 1:05pm 0.7 7:15pm 3.4	Afternoon 1:50pm 0.6 8:01pm 3.5	Afternoon 2:35pm 0.5 8:49pm 3.5
6:26am 7:40pm	6:25am 7:41pm	6:24am 7:42pm	6:22am 7:43pm	6:21am 7:44pm	6:20am 7:45pm	6:19am 7:46pm
Best At 8:56am 9:18pm	Best At 9:40am 10:02pm	Best At 10:24am 10:46pm	Best At 11:08am 11:31pm	Best At 11:55am	Best At 12:20am 12:45pm	Best At 1:12am 1:40pm
Set 3:37am Rise 2:24pm	Set 4:03am Rise 3:27pm	Set 4:28am Rise 4:30pm	Set 4:52am Rise 5:36pm	Set 5:18am Rise 6:44pm	Set 5:47am Rise 7:57pm	Set 6:21am Rise 9:12pm

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	Hr	Mn
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

Brazen thefts brass off maritime park

By ALICE PARMINTER

The Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum has started a Givealittle online fundraising page after thieves targeted two historical vessels and made off with several irreplaceable brass and copper fixtures.

The thefts occurred overnight on October 11. Portholes, steering wheels, railings, controls, dials, and other fittings were stripped from the boats *Ariana* and *Norita*, leaving the vessels severely damaged and possibly undrivable.

Funds raised from the park's Givealittle page will go towards repairs, and also fund an upgrade to the park's security system. As of Monday morning, the page had raised \$2875.

Park manager Fleur McDermott said she and the park's staff were devastated by the theft.

"When you're caretakers of stuff, which is what we feel we are [because] we're looking after the history... this hurts," she said.

Security cameras did not catch the incident, but Fleur said it was likely the thieves had parked on the road and jumped the fence.

"We did find a couple of things in this bush that they've left behind," she said. "But they would have had to be here for several hours to do what they've done."

Fleur said many of the stolen items were irreplaceable and unique to the restored boats - one of which was over 100 years old.

"One piece was off Winston Churchill's boat. It cost [boat restorer Peter Vandersloot] over



Chair Colin James says the boats are severely damaged following the brazen thefts.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

\$1000 to actually restore it back in the day."

Park chair Colin James said the vessels have been left in a bad way.

"[The *Ariana*] will probably have to come out of the water. They took the steering wheel. We can't move it because I don't know if it's in gear or out of gear," he said. "They didn't leave much behind."

Fleur said the cost of the thefts was likely to be extensive, and in-

surance would not be able to cover the specialist restoration or the loss of the irreplaceable parts.

"It's not just the brass. They've used crowbars to just pry it off, [so] there is actually significant damage to the boats."

Fleur asked anyone with information about the crime to get in touch with either the park or the Police.

She had also been in touch with several scrap and antique dealers

in the Waikato and Auckland in the hopes of recovering some of the items.

"We will continue to remain hopeful that somehow these items will be returned. We are willing to ask no questions and will just be grateful to have them back."

The community has rallied around the park, with many people sharing the story widely on social media and some local businesses even offering rewards for



Some of the stolen items. SUPPLIED

the safe return of the stolen items.

The story was also featured on TVNZ's *Seven Sharp* on October 14. "The more we get the word out - I just hope that this stuff is hot enough that it'll just show up somewhere," she said.

"We're just not going to be able to replace it, it's never going to be the same."

DETAILS: See givealittle.co.nz/cause/historical-maritime-park-stripped-of-brass-to-donate.

THAMES
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2pm, Saturday
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Ulysses members ride for blood

By ALICE PARMINTER

A medical emergency close to home was the catalyst for a group of community-minded motorcycle enthusiasts to donate blood.

Five members of the Waihi-Thames Valley Ulysses Motorcycle Club were lined up at the Thames Civic Centre on October 13, where a mobile NZ Blood Service team had set up their station.

Club member Chris Good said he first ran the idea past his club mates several months ago.

“My wife had just had open-heart surgery in Hamilton and I was in my car to go and see her,” he said.

“The advert on the radio [was] saying, ‘Are you part of a group? Have a think about turning up and giving blood.’ And I thought, well, I’m in a group and most of us look pretty healthy.”

He said the club also supports other charitable organisations such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

“Obviously we’re motorcyclists and it’s a dangerous sort of thing and you never know when [help] might be needed. So it’s just paying it forward, really.”

Club president Chris Brown said the idea was a great cause, and giving back to the community fitted right in with Ulysses MC’s ethos.

“Unfortunately, there’s a lot of motorcycle accidents, and if we can do something to give back, then this is well worth doing.”

It was the first time several of the members, including Chris Good, have given blood, and while they were a little nervous, they were all in good spirits, even posing for a group photo with their bikes before they left.

“I’ve not been allowed to give blood up until very recently,” club member Peter Woodford, originally from the UK, said.

“And being a motorcyclist I’ve been want-

ing to give blood for years, so I’m finally in the position that I can.”

Chris Good’s wife, who is recovering well from her surgery, was also there to offer support.

NZ Blood Service donor relations co-ordinator Scott Pearce said the service encouraged groups to donate together.

“[We’re] reaching out to workplaces to become what we call ‘Team Reds’... It’s always a lot more fun, especially if it’s your first time, to come with people you know,” he said.

“The need for blood and plasma isn’t diminishing - we’ve still got less than four per cent of the eligible population donating.

“It’s a good way [for organisations] to show that they give back to the community. And every time that we come to Thames we get so well-supported from the community. It’s a place that our team loves coming to.”



Members ride into Thames to donate blood.



Chris Good was inspired to give blood for the first time after his wife’s open-heart surgery.



Waihi-Thames Valley Ulysses MC president Chris Brown makes his donation.



Sparky and Terry. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Passenger princess

Sparky is a classy lady and no stranger to a cruise on the open road. For around nine years, since she was a pup, the Paeroa k9 cutie has accompanied owner Terry Walsh on many rides on the back of his motorcycle. October 11 was no exception, when the pup and her owner went for a cruise to downtown Paeroa to get some food. Sparky sits in a buddy rider seat on a cushion, harnessed in and sporting a pair of pink rider goggles because, after all, she is a classy k9 who rides in style. Terry takes Sparky’s eyewear off, gives her a few reassuring pats and says he’ll be back out of the store in a minute. He’s taken Sparky on plenty of roadies through the Karangahake Gorge, around Paeroa and a few times to the big city. Passersby ask to stop and take photos of Sparky before heading off on their errands. She was used to all the attention, Terry said, and quite happy with people fussing over her. One thing is for sure, it’s not everyday people get to spot a pooch passenger princess out and about on a motorcycle, but it is in Paeroa.



We’re bringing the kōrero to you

Upcoming ward meetings

What’s happening in your part of Hauraki? Come along to your local ward meeting to hear the latest updates, meet MayorToby, your councillors and Council staff, and ask questions about the things that matter to you.

Paeroa Ward
Thursday 22 October | 5:30–7 pm
Paeroa War Memorial Hall

Plains Ward
Wednesday 28 October | 5:30–7 pm
Kaiaua Community Hall

Waihi Ward
Thursday 12 November | 5:30–7 pm
Waihi Memorial Hall

You don’t need a big issue to raise or questions prepared. It’s a chance to connect, find out what’s happening locally and have a kōrero with the people working for our district.

Everyone is welcome. If you’d like us to prepare something specific, email info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz ahead of the meeting.

We’d love to see you there.



Image: Joanne Yeoman

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Businesses celebrated

The Thames War Memorial Civic Centre was abuzz with celebration las week, as local businesses gathered to celebrate their successes at the biennial Claymark Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards.

RESULTS: Supreme Winner: Coromandel Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park. Community Impact: Whitianga Community Services Trust. Business Impact: My Thai. Customer Experience: Coromandel Shelly Beach Top 10 Holiday Park. Employer Excellence: New World Whangamatā. Marketing and Digital Edge: Taylor Projects and Solutions Ltd. New and Emerging: Onform PM Limited. Sustainability: Glass Bottom Boat Whitianga. Māori Business Excellence: Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki. People's Choice - Thames-Coromandel: Luke's Kitchen. People's Choice - Hauraki: Turua Bakery. Service to Business award recipients: Peter Richardson; Ricky Bowen; Rino Wilkinson; Colin and Gloria James.



Shelley Beach TOP 10 - Supreme Winner and Customer Experience Award.



Taylor Projects and Solutions Ltd.



Service to business award recipients.



People's Choice: Luke's Kitchen.



Business Impact: My Thai.



New World Whangamata.



New and emerging: Onform PM Ltd.



The Whitianga Community Services Trust. Photos: FELICITY JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Māori Business Excellence: Te Whariki Manawahine o Hauraki.



The Glass bottom boat team receive the Sustainability Award.



People's Choice: Turua Bakery.

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Notice



Community opinions about mining

From now through until the end of the year, if you live in the Waihi area you are invited to share your opinion on a few topics relating to mining. Look out for the survey link in the next 'Update' and have your say.



Independence

Each year we get an independent survey company to ask people how they think we are doing, what we can improve on, and how things are in Waihi in general. This year the survey is open to anyone in the wider Waihi area who wishes to take part.

Results and Anonimity

Results from the survey form part of the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP), which is required as part of our consent conditions.

The survey is anonymous. OceanaGold gets a table of the results, but any identifying details are first removed, meaning we don't know who said what.

Have your say

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to participate. A survey like this is an important chance for you to "have your say".

Questions and Queries
Ph: 0800 924 444

or get in touch via our website
waihigold.co.nz



Man found lifeless with head in fireplace



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

Mowbray Meggett was reminded of his daughter in England when he heard a neighbour's daughter playing the pianoforte in Thames' Sandes Street in July 1878.

The former sea captain who had fallen on hard times told his neighbour he had a wife and daughters in England who forwarded him remittances by every mail.

The 66-year-old had also until recently hawked small goods in a basket traversing the hills of Thames in search of customers.

But he was often in a state of stupefaction from drink, his remittances banked and drawn upon until exhausted.

Margaret Henderson had lived near Mowbray in Block 27 for nearly six years.

He was much addicted to liquor and very eccentric, never accepting help and barely speaking to anyone.

She'd noticed he'd not had a fire lit since Christmas.

The windows of his two room house were boarded up but she



The view from Irishtown overlooking Block 27 to the right.

Photo: SUPPLIED

kept an ear out for him. She heard a noise in his house one night, as if he was cutting firewood, which continued for about half an hour.

But over the next few days there was silence. Margaret sent her two sons over to Mowbray's house.

George Henderson found him lying lifeless on the floor, his head in the fireplace. His clothes were much worn, his coat under his head.

There were bread crusts lying about the room and suspended from the rafters on nails were three nearly putrid mutton chops.

Mowbray Meggett had been born in England and became a mariner. In 1840 he married Eiza Ann Case and by 1841 they were in Sydney, Australia, where three daughters were born and Mowbray commanded trad-

ing barques. After returning to England Mowbray later came to New Zealand alone, disappearing and unexpectedly returning again. Around 1867 he surfaced at Thames.

As part of the inquest the jury examined Mowbray's house. It was very leaky, with broken windows. The floor was covered with filth and the furniture was wretched. There was no sign of a bed, just the remains of a blanket spread on the floor.

Constable Day said he had known Mowbray for some time. He had recently been in gaol.

The last time he was discharged he was in a shockingly ragged state and the constable gave him some old clothes.

There was nothing in his pockets, but he found money in the

Chris' Quiz

- Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Par-minter
- Which of these is both a US state and an independent country? a) Carolina, b) Georgia, or c) Virginia?
 - HYROX is a competitive event in which field: a) Fitness, b) horse racing, or c) swimming?
 - Beau Vipond featured on the front page of the October 13 edition of the *Valley Profile* after competing in which sport: a) Hybrid fitness, b) basketball, or c) netball?
 - On August 31, Miley Cyrus announced that she now goes by which stage name: a) Cyrus, b) Miley, or c) Wrecking Ball?
 - The Brooklyn Bridge traverses which New York River? a) Delaware River, b) Hudson River, or c) Mohawk River?
 - Pemmican is a type of what: a) Bird, b) plant, or c) preserved food?
 - True or False: In 1927, Texas introduced a \$5000 reward for shooting dead any bank robbers, only ending this scheme in 1964?
 - A Zebroid is a cross between a Zebra and: a) a giraffe, b) a gnu, or c) any member of the equine (horse) family?
 - What was the name of the driver who overtook race leader Anton De Pasquale when he ran out of fuel on the final lap, to win the 2026 Repco Bathurst 1000: a) Brodie Kosteci, b) Will Brown, or c) Zach Bates?
 - What was the name of the ship that sank off New Zealand's Auckland Islands in 1866, reportedly carrying more than 2500 ounces of gold that has never been recovered: a) *Elingamite*, b) *General Grant*, or c) *Rainbow Warrior*?

ANSWERS: 1. b) Georgia; 2. a) Fitness; 3. a) remains a mystery; 4. b) Hudson River; 5. c) Any member of the equine (horse) family; 6. c) Preserved food; 7. True; 8. c) Any member of the equine (horse) family; 9. a) Brodie Kosteci; 10. b) General Grant. At least 18 people have died trying to find the treasure, but its location remains a mystery.

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Waihi Tennis serves up a milestone

By KELLEY TANTAU

Waihi Tennis Club has served up more than a century of community spirit, marking the milestone with a grand slam celebration.

The club's history dates back to the late 19th or early 20th century, although its exact founding year remains unclear. Its oldest surviving minutes book dates to around 1923, but the club's history was previously traced to 1898, with its first courts located behind the Commercial Hotel.

New courts were established on council land at the end of Baker Street in 1920, where they remained for almost a century.

In 2014, plans emerged to bring several sports together at Morgan Park under the Sport'n'Action trust. Following extensive discussions, the Waihi Sports Centre handed over its grounds and building through Hauraki District Council, paving the way for the tennis club to move to its current home where it now has Rebound Ace courts - a cushioned acrylic surface used for tennis and other sports.

Coordinator Sue O'Brien, who joined the club in 1977 and has held a number of roles over the years, said the milestone reflected the club's ability to maintain its welcoming atmosphere while continuing to attract new members.

"I like the camaraderie of all the members, and of course our



Event organisers Sue O'Brien and Catherine-ann Sanderson.



A cake marks the milestone.

lovely Rebound Ace courts," she told *The Profile*.

"The encouragement of new players, and offering different sessions and coaching for seniors and juniors is keeping the club on its future course and there is an ambition to see it reach the 150 [year] mark."

In September, the club hosted a tournament for junior and senior players, followed by a celebratory dinner attended by 59 people.

Sue said the event attracted a great turnout, with members enjoying the chance to try activities beyond tennis, including pickleball, netball shooting, cornhole and tennis-themed games.



A dapper bunch of locals step back in time for the screening.

Photo: SUPPLIED

East of Eden in Thames

Thames locals stepped back in time on October 7 as the community gathered at the Left Bank Theatre for a special screening of the Netflix series, *East of Eden*.

Hosted by Waikato Screen, the event encouraged guests to dress in period-inspired

outfits to celebrate the production.

Filming for *East of Eden* included locations at Thames' historic A&G Price building and School of Mines, bringing a piece of the town's heritage to a production made for an international audience.



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Are we learning more but doing less?

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Can I be honest with you? Sometimes I get tired. But often, the tiredness doesn't come from the things I'm doing. It comes from seeing all the things we know we should be doing, but aren't. And before you think I'm pointing the finger, I'm just as guilty.

When I wrote my book, I knew that writing it was only half the challenge. I also needed to figure out how to market the thing. So I did what any sensible person would do. I started learning.

I signed up for free online courses, listened to experts, re-

searched strategies, took notes, and explored idea after idea.

And you know what happened? Not a lot.

For a while, I found myself stuck in a loop of consuming solutions rather than actually stepping into them. I was learning heaps, but implementing very little.

Now, don't get me wrong. Learning matters. Research matters. Good advice can save us an enormous amount of wasted effort. But I wonder whether our unlimited access to information has created a rather interesting problem.

We've become incredibly good at consuming knowledge, but perhaps not so practised at putting it into action.

Think about it. How many books have we read, podcasts have we listened to, sermons have we heard, or videos have we watched that genuinely inspired us? Yet a few weeks later, what actually changed?

I remember learning about the benefits of doing hard things, including research into how challenging activities may strengthen parts of the brain involved in persistence and effort. I committed to cold showers for six months and really noticed the difference.

But am I still doing it? Nope.

Turns out knowing something is good for us doesn't automatically mean we'll keep doing it.

And perhaps that's the challenge. Rather than continually searching for the next great idea,

maybe we need to slow down, choose something worthwhile, and stay with it long enough to see what happens.

Because there's a difference between being informed and being transformed.

And I wonder if the greatest growth in our lives might not come from the next thing we learn, but from finally putting into practice something we already know.

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.

In Brief

HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE
An alternative celebration to Halloween will be held at the Paeroa Baptist Church at 2 Wood St on October 31 from 5-8pm. The theme for the family-friendly event is funny hats, and participants are encouraged to dress up. It will be a carnival atmosphere, organisers say, with games, food, prizes for best costume, and plenty of fun. Entry is \$2 per person.

POOL REPAINTING
Maintenance work costing \$35,000 will take place over the summer school holidays to repaint the surface of Thames Centennial Pool. The painting is needed to meet NZ water quality standards and avoid the build-up of black mould, which closed the pool over Christmas last year. Council said work had to take place in summer so the pool could be emptied and completely dried before the repainting takes place. "The school summer holidays are the least disruptive time this work can take place due to a full programme of learn-to-swim classes and school use during term time. We apologise in advance for the disruption in pool provision and look forward to reopening the pool so everyone can swim safely without risks."

FOOD TRUCK PILOT
Hauraki District Council is inviting mobile food and beverage operators to take part in an economic development pilot programme. Designated mobile trading areas will be established in two locations: the Karangahake Recreation Reserve, and the Ohinemuri Reserve in Paeroa alongside the L&P bottle. The pilot will run between December 1 and June 30, 2027. Council said the pilot was intended to support local businesses, and enhance visitor experience at two of the district's key attractions. Expressions of interest close November 5.

Pet Profile

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Beautiful Octavia is a sleek, glossy black girl with a heart full of affection.

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She would be happy in a family with children of any age and can also live

with other cats. With her sweet personality and love of human company, Octavia has so much love to give and is ready to find a family of her own.

Octavia is desexed, microchipped, vaccinated, and up to date with flea and worm treatments. Her adoption fee is \$149.

Could Octavia be the missing piece in your home? Contact Thames SPCA to arrange a meet-and-greet and see if this gorgeous girl is your perfect match!

DETAILS: Visit www.sPCA.nz/centre/thames-centre to find out more.

Octavia is a friendly feline who loves a good smooch. Photo: SUPPLIED



Scott Simpson

National Party Candidate for Coromandel





Authorised by S. Simpson, scott.simpson@national.org.nz



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Learning in the making

By ALICE PARMINTER

Ngatea Primary School was transformed into a two-day, hands-on experience last month, as the school held its annual Learning in the Making Conference.

The event was structured in the style of a real conference, with all 300 students attending eight breakout sessions during the two days.

Each child built their own schedule from a choice of more than 230 workshops. They included a vast array of topics such as arts-and-crafts sessions, baking, drone piloting, bicycle main-

tenance, mini-golf, touch, science experiments, board games and escape rooms, stop-motion filming, story-writing, and more.

To complete the full conference experience, students received a conference t-shirt and personalised lanyard.

The sessions were led by senior students, staff, whānau, and members of the community, and sponsorship from local businesses meant that every workshop was able to be offered free of charge.

Principal Neil Fraser said the annual conference, the largest of its kind in New Zealand, was always a highlight in the school's calendar.



The beaded keychain workshop.



Building bird houses.



Students celebrate the opportunity to direct their own learning at the school's Learning in the Making Conference.



Students show off their Forever Flowers.



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Klara and the Sun (116 mins) M. A Taika Waititi film. Klara, an Artificial Friend, wants to find the perfect home. Her innocent wonder and unwavering loyalty heal her new family and bring light to their world.

500 Days in the Wild (125 mins) 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 24,000km Trans Canada Trail.

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.

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.

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: Liberté (157 mins) R13. Pt 2 to Tilting Iron **FINAL!** 1940. France collapses and signs the Armistice. Despite chaos, Charles de Gaulle refuses to give up. (Mostly in French with English subtitles).

Next week: Pressure In the 72 hours before D-Day, and the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, follows General Eisenhower and Captain Stagg as they face an impossible choice - launch the largest and most dangerous invasion in history or risk losing the war altogether. **The Wizard of the Kremlin** Russia, in the early 1990's and the aftermath of the USSR's collapse. In a new world that promises freedom and flirts with chaos, a young artist-turned-TV producer unexpectedly becomes Vladimir Putin's spin doctor.

1978 A coming-of-age, family comedy-drama following the footsteps of the Ropata family in rural NZ. .

Authorised by Miriam Ross, greens.org.nz

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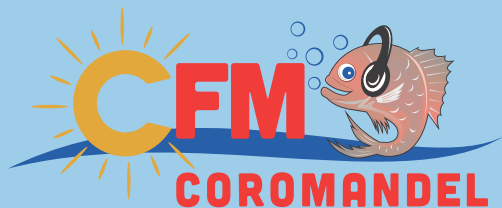
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Foodies to unite for Waihi Veg Fest

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

What started as a few people with a desire to share vegetarian food and a vegetarian lifestyle has grown into a full-blown festival.

People from across the Hauraki district and beyond are invited to mark their calendars on November 8, when the Waihi Veg Fest will hold its 9th annual festival at the Waihi Academy grounds at 132 Landlyst Rd.

The Waihi Veg Fest event committee told *The Profile* the goal was to show how plant-based food could be delicious, benefit people's general health and be kinder to the environment and all living beings.

When the festival first started in 2015, very few people knew what it was about.

"Slowly, it has grown bigger and gained popularity over the years. During the Covid pandemic, we had to cancel the event in 2020 and 2021."

The Waihi Veg Fest not only survived the setback, but they said it expanded from a food-only event to a popular food/exhibition/workshop festival.

It was thanks to the support of the community and all the visitors and volunteers who traveled from near and far to participate, they said.

"More volunteers who shared similar values joined in, and gradually the Waihi

Veg Fest became one of the most popular annual events in the region. We're excited and extremely grateful."

People who attend the festival in November can expect to find "an incredible mix" of more than 35 vegetarian and vegan cuisines from different cultures, plus live performances, DIY workshops, exhibitions and health and wellness stations.

It was important to note that Waihi Veg Fest was also fully allium-free, the committee said, with no onions, garlic, leeks or shallots in the festival food.

"It means even more people can enjoy the food together, including those who avoid onion and garlic or follow a low-Fodmap diet."

The committee looked forward to people being able to experience a lifestyle of vegetarianism, "living in harmony" with nature and each other and a fun day out with friends and family.

"It's free entry and free parking, family friendly, and dogs on leashes are welcome," they said.

"It's a great fun day out that brings people from different backgrounds and districts together."

DETAILS: Waihi Veg Fest on November 8 from 10am to 3pm at Waihi Academy, 132 Landlyst Road, Waihi. Free festival entry and parking.



The Waihi Veg Fest will hold its 9th annual festival at the Waihi Academy. Photo: SUPPLIED

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Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

Wearable whimsy

It was a display of vibrancy, resourcefulness and ingenuity at the Hikutaia School hall last month. Students were decked out in handmade outfits and strutted their stuff for the Wearable Art Show dress rehearsal, and once again later that evening for the real deal showcase for friends and family. The school hall was set up with a runway, lighting and a big screen to show the audience some of the finer details and stories behind each work of art. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** snapped the fashionistas showing off their clever designs.



Kiara Winiata, year 6, shares her kākāpō design.



Heidi Van Hellemond, year 6, hopes for a clean ocean.



Nature warrior Valerie Sampson wants to keep nature pollution-free.



Students in Ruma Miro (5-year-olds) share their Future Sports designs.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Students of Ruma Titoki (years 4-5) explore culture and identity.



Jessie Wilton, year 7, shows off her elaborate design.



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Around 70 people walked the historic Kōpū Bridge to mark 100 years. Photo: SUPPLIED

100 years for Kōpū Bridge

The Friends of the Historic Kōpū Bridge held a celebration on October 11, to mark 100 years since the bridge was constructed.

The first pile of the one-lane bridge was driven on October 6, 1926, forming a crucial road link over the Waihou river between Kōpū and the Hauraki Plains.

Although it had since been replaced by the adjacent two-lane traffic bridge, the historic bridge remained an icon in the district and was currently undergoing restoration in the aim of soon being permanently open to foot traffic, organisers said.

The bridge was open to visitors on foot from 10am for the event, and visitors walked, reminisced, and enjoyed a sausage sizzle.

Local historian Russell Skeet gave a talk on the bridge's construction from the swing-span section in the centre of the bridge.

A plaque was also unveiled in remembrance of Ian Thomas, Gary Blake, and Frances Burton, who were part of the movement to save the bridge from demolition in 2011 and worked to ensure its restoration.

Friends committee member Carolyn McKenzie said the day was very enjoyable, with around 70 people participating in the event.

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Love YOUR HOME

A place where ‘every time of year is beautiful’

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Everything in John and Linley’s garden is where it should be. Plants sit with purpose, art pieces hold their posture and articles of furniture take up space with intent.

I stand between two garden areas in front of the historic Ohinemuri Lodge in Paeroa, John Eaglen and Linley Rose’s abode, and cannot take my eyes off the red maple trees.

The building was transformed into their place of living, and the gardens, a place to find peace.

As I face the building, I look to my left and there’s the Garden of Reason, and to my right I see a mirror image in the Garden of Wisdom.

It’s hard to tell when I look at the lush layers before me, but it wasn’t anything like it at all before the owners took possession in June, 2021. “There was nothing when we came, it was just a cocoon,” they told *The Profile*.

Trees with leaves dipped in deep red, some heavy-laden, stand with elegance and grace.

A red bench invites a peruser to rest at both ends of the gardens.

Rows of greenery stand along the front fence line followed by a looped path area for people to meander, a centre strip of green with red maples in bloom and another row of greenery along the back. “[We’ve] got whitish roses



John Eaglen and Linley Rose in the alfresco dining area, with wisteria in full bloom.

Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

at the front and in the middle, and then red roses against the [back].”

Everything tells a story and has a purpose. The tall green trees known as Thuja Occidentalis Pyramidalis were placed to add formality and “echo” the columns of the building.

“These two sides, [the] front garden, [are] very much responding to the building itself and its history as the Masonic Lodge, you

know, something with solidity and rationality,” John said.

“We did employ another designer as well to work with us on this because we felt it was high profile and important to get it right,” Linley said.

The visionary pair, who come from art and design backgrounds, make visions come to life.

John built sets for operas and plays, including Mozart’s opera

Magic Flute a couple of times.

He tells me Mozart was a mason. “In the *Magic Flute*, there are three temples - Wisdom, Reason and Nature. So these [are the] three gardens around here, the Garden of Reason, the Garden of Wisdom and the Garden of Nature around the corner.”

“We will at some stage put down some suitable art pieces in Wisdom and Reason. And we

have determined that because the masons wouldn’t allow women, at the time this was built, into their lodge, our Wisdom figure will be a female figure. Possibly both, but at least one.”

The curators lead me around the corner to the Garden of Nature. A path weaves through a sea of greenery.

“The rest of the gardens we’ve pretty much got organised, [but this is] one of the last ones for this spring clean-up after winter. Gardens take quite a lot of work after winter to get them looking good for the spring.”

A moa made of corten steel stands in the sea of green, an art piece made by John. Cheerful yellow buds greet me as they hang down from branches.

“This was quite a brave thing to plant about 10 kowhai. We lost a big one there last year. They’re just about finished flowering, but they’ve been lovely,” Linley said.

“And we’ve had our first tūi this year.”

A sea of ringa ringa plants surround us.

“I potted up 400 of them during Covid so that’s where they came from,” Linley said.

The frost did quite a lot of damage to some plants so John and Linley had to cut away a lot of it.

I wander through to the back of the property, where there is an edible garden, though the duo

CONTINUED ON P14



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

CONTINUED FROM P13

tell me it's mostly operational in summer. "We're not great vegetable gardeners, so we only have a summer garden. We fail in the vegetable garden department."

I mosey past the vegetable patch and step into another world.

My eyes don't know where to lay, they scan in awe because there's something pleasant to admire in all directions of the duo's outdoor living area which is inspired by Japanese-based style.

There's an avenue of trees to my right, an area for alfresco dining and relaxation underneath the pergola in the middle, and a bridge that leads over a fish pond.

Tucked away in the far corner is the Japanese Garden of Contemplation.

But my attention is held by the wisteria that rests over the pergola.

"All the flowers dripping on the table is quite gorgeous," Linley said.

Polite petals cascade on to the table below as if mother nature herself sets the table.

The chairs and ground are also recipients of the pastel purple pretty.

John and Linley said they had a Japanese garden specialist share advice with them about Japanese style pruning.

"But mostly we get that from books and from being in Japan because we visited Japan a couple of times. That's how they would have the wisteria looking in Japan and we're pretty chuffed with how that looks. This is our first Japanese garden, but we've done lots of gardens and worked with lots of designers."

The creative pair said they liked to collaborate with people and other professionals.

"We don't know everything and bouncing off ideas and things from other people is always useful and then you come up with a fabulous solution instead of just a good solution."

Irises and camellias layer the space be-



There's something interesting to look at in every direction. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

tween the avenue and alfresco dining areas. "Layering in the garden is quite important for what we're trying to achieve."

It is a "high-intensity garden".

"I mean, it's small [but] there's a lot of plants, and they need to be quite carefully managed otherwise, it would just go wild and it would lose its structure very easily."

I watch the goldfish swim as I saunter past to the garden of contemplation.

"You're able to come down here and just be peaceful," Linley said.

The colour red is an important one, it marks out some of the spots to rest such as the dining table and chairs in the avenue and also three log seats in the contemplation space.

My feet follow the rock path back to the living area and my eyes rest on the corten steel art pieces that line the top of the fence.

"Rather than make the wooden fence higher, we've used it as a way of using John's art."

CONTINUED ON P15



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CONTINUED FROM P14

As I walk beneath the pergola, it looks like the sky hands me grapes through the gaps in the top.

“With this being a historic home, we’re limited to what we can put on the outside, so we couldn’t attach a veranda to the outside. We had limitations to work within that,” Linley said.

“But as usual with limitations, they just help shape the design solution. To design without any limitations is a very difficult thing to do,” John added.

Their passion and gratitude for the garden is unmistakable.

“Just in the last month with the blossoms and the wisteria and seeing everything come alive is just fabulous. But then in November, when the roses are in full bloom, that’s glorious.”

It was also a highlight when the rain lilies would flower through the summer with the slightest little rain shower, they said, and then also the being able to eat from their vegetable garden in January, February and March.

For the innovative duo, “every time of year is beautiful” in their garden, they said.

“We knew what we wanted, and that’s what we did.”



Japanese Garden of Contemplation.



The colour red is an important one.



Beautiful gardens transform the historic Ohinemuri Lodge.



The Garden of Wisdom leads to the Garden of Reason.



Linley and John in the Garden of Reason.
Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

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For as long as I can remember, I've been told that the safe option is usually the best option. Get a good job, keep your head down and play it safe.

But I've always believed life is about taking risks - backing yourself, having a go and seeing where the road takes you.

So, in February, 2022, I took the biggest professional risk of my life and started HMS Plumbing in Thames.

HMS stands for Hayden Michael Stuart, but for me it has come to represent something much bigger: the opportunity to build something of my own and create a business where people come first.

The beginning certainly tested that decision.

I caught Covid-19 during my first week in business and had to isolate.

Then my first van spent four weeks off the road, leaving me navigating plumbing

jobs from my car. It wasn't quite the start I'd pictured, but we kept moving forward.

Today, HMS Plumbing is a small team of four - two tradesmen in vans, an office administrator and me - serving Thames and communities across the Coromandel Peninsula.

We're proud of how far we've come, but we're even more excited about where we're going.

People are at the heart of HMS.

Our customers aren't numbers or job sheets; they're people, and we genuinely care about looking after them.

Our goal is to keep growing our team and serving more of our community, without losing that personal touch.

Four years ago, I took a risk.

Today, I'm grateful to everyone who took a chance on HMS.

- Supplied by HMS Plumbing

Thinking pink this October

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Smith & Sons offices across New Zealand have swapped their usual colours for a splash of pink.

Here in Hauraki, our renovation and extension team is proudly joining in, with pink shirts on and pink gear on site.

Breast cancer touches almost every family in New Zealand, and men can be affected too.

Wearing pink is a small gesture, but it's a visible reminder to check in, know the signs, and book that mammogram or check-up you've been putting off.

Early detection saves lives.

At Smith & Sons Hauraki, we specialise in renovations and extensions, from kitchens and bathrooms to extra living space for growing families.

Every project means working inside someone's home, so we pride ourselves

on delivering exceptional customer service. That starts with genuinely caring about our clients and our community.

Our business is built on trust, on turning up when we say we will, and on treating every home like our own.

Our franchise vision is to create a positive, lasting impact on everyone who comes into contact with Smith & Sons.

This month, that means using our vans, sites and team to help spread an important message.

So if you spot a Smithies crew in pink renovating around Ngatea, Thames, Paeroa, Waihi or the Coromandel, give us a wave.

And please take a moment to look after yourself and the people you love.

Life is better with Smithies, and better still when we look out for each other.

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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



20 October 2026

Help protect our parks and reserves

Tree and shrub thefts from parks, reserves and cemeteries across the district are costing ratepayers money and damaging public spaces.

Recent incidents include stolen kōwhai trees in Ōpito Bay and plants dug up from Ōmahu Cemetery.

Council is urging residents to report suspicious activity to police.



What’s happening over Labour Weekend?

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS AND TRANSFER STATIONS



Rubbish and food waste collections are a day later following Labour Day, Monday 26 October. Check your local kerbside schedule at www.tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

Our seven refuse and recycling transfer stations are open daily, including Labour Day Monday. For more info, visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts

OFFICES | DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Our offices (and AA services) and district libraries are closed on Monday 26 October. You can still contact us 24/7 at 07 868 0200, customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

THAMES POOL

Thames Centennial Pool is closed on Monday 26 October, resuming normal hours on Tuesday. www.tcdc.govt.nz/pools

DOG RESTRICTIONS



Over Labour Weekend, many of our beaches have restrictions on dogs. Look out for Council’s traffic light signage and check the rules in your area at www.tcdc.govt.nz/dogownerguide

ALCOHOL BANS



Alcohol bans are in place over Labour Weekend on some reserves, beaches and town centres from 4pm Friday to 4pm Monday. www.tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

PREPARE NOW FOR AN EL NIÑO SUMMER

A reminder that due to a strong El Niño, a hot, dry and windy summer is likely on the way for the Coromandel. This means greater risk of drought, vegetation fires and water restrictions. While we can’t do much about weather, we can take steps now to protect our families, properties and communities. Looking after the Coromandel is a team effort. We all have a part to play. Stay in the know and find out more El Niño tips at www.tcdc.govt.nz/elnino

Take steps now to help protect your families, properties and communities.



On tank water? Check it now.



Clear long grass, tidy up around buildings and reduce fire risk.

Check in on neighbours.

Stay in the know. Keep an eye on weather, fire and Council updates.



www.tcdc.govt.nz/elnino

Know a local hero?

Nominate them for a Community Service Award

Every community has people who quietly go above and beyond to make a difference. From dedicated volunteers and community champions to those who step up when help is needed most, now is your chance to recognise their incredible contribution.

Find out more www.tcdc.govt.nz/csa



2026 Community Service Awards

Recognising outstanding service to our communities.

Nominations open until 8 November

TRIAL NEW ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING

An exciting new initiative to revolutionise organic waste processing is taking place at Thames’ Seagull Centre.

The Natural Organic Waste Solutions (NOW) project is processing food waste locally with a small carbon footprint (instead of travelling longer distances) using the larvae of black soldier flies to break down food waste to produce valuable end products such as fertiliser and animal feed.

The process is backed by science and operates at large scale commercially in countries such as China, but is very new commercially in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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Open Home



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1

1

1

1

A Reason to Buy is the View

A cosy and inviting two-bedroom home with open plan living kept cosy with a heat pump. The main bedroom features a double wardrobe, and the lounge enjoys a rural outlook over the A&P Showgrounds. Internal access garage, and front and rear courtyards.

[eves.co.nz/ewa21706](#)

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New Price



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There is Room for the Big Shed

This four-bedroom family home is located just on the outskirts of town, offering a lifestyle conveniently close to all essential amenities. Upstairs, spacious open-plan living with fireplace and renovated kitchen. A covered entertaining area extends the living to sunny decks.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20868](#)

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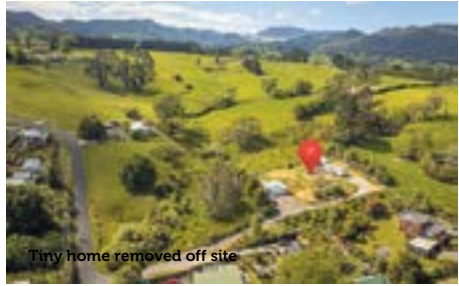
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Waihi

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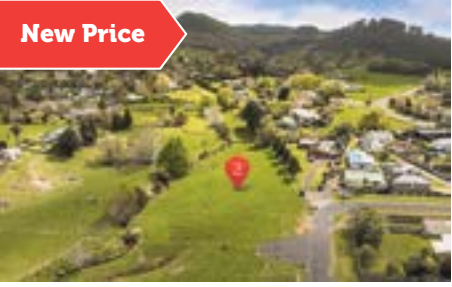
Sizzling Section Ready for Summer

In an elevated position and saturated in sun, find 2,023 sqm (approx.) section. This hidden gem offers panoramic views, privacy. If you are dreaming of a weekend escape, a place to call home, or perhaps a future project. Call Dynasty to view.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20871](#)

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New Price



Waihi

2 Buller Street

Set the Scene on this Sunny Section

Vendors are motivated, make an offer. This generous 3,435sqm (approx.) lifestyle section is positioned on the edge of Waihi town. Great rural outlook, with services to site. Flexible options, bring your plan big or small this is one you must see.

[eves.co.nz/ewa20741](#)

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New Listing



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Modern Living, Tucked Away in Privacy

This beautifully presented home offers modern family living in a peaceful setting. Featuring four bedrooms, two bathrooms, two living areas and an open-plan kitchen, dining and living space, there's room for everyone. Set on a 677sqm (approx.) landscaped section, enjoy established gardens, privacy, a double garage with internal access and low-maintenance living.

[eves.co.nz/ewa22179](#)

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Waihi

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Lifestyle to Love with Options

Escape to peaceful rural living on the outskirts of Waihi, open farmland views set the scene for your dream lifestyle. This desirable 2.3 ha (approx.) bare land offers endless potential with no covenants, bring your vision. An easy drive to town, shops and Waihi Beach.

[eves.co.nz/ewa15064](#)

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Watchdog launches ‘2 Precious 2 Mine’ walk

Catherine Delahunty is walking the Hills of her home area during October and November on a mission to highlight her view that Hauraki is too precious to mine.

“After 45 years of too many meetings, I want to walk the tracks from Te Aroha to Te Moehau and down the eastern side of the Peninsula to re-connect with the land we are protecting, and I am inviting people to join me along the way,” she said.

“We want people to know where all the exploration and mining permits are and show on social media the beautiful places at risk.”

The Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki chair began her walk at the Wai-rongomai Loop Track just south of Te Aroha, where she said a 4000 hectare exploration permit had been granted to Minerals Exploration.

During the project, she plans to also share stories of the area’s mining history, and talk about the issues affecting both conservation forest and private land.

“These areas are very important for biodiversity, water, and future generations,” she said.

The project also holds a personal connection for Catherine.

“My great-grandfather was an Irish gold miner in Thames and died of quartz dust lung disease. I want better for my descendants.”

By mid-November, Catherine said she planned to have also walked other relevant bush tracks across the Coromandel Peninsula.

These include the Wentworth Valley, the Wires track to the Rua Gold sites, Monowai Mine and the Kauri walk in Waioimu, and the Port Jackson road beside Te Moehau mountain.

“I am really excited about walking up the beautiful Port Jackson Rd beside Te Moehau mountain which, led by tangata whenua, we defended from copper and gold mining in the 1980s.

“There are so many stories I can share about the action to protect the area in the past and so much to defend right now.”

Catherine said the gold mining pressure on the southeastern Peninsula and beyond of Hauraki was huge right now.

“The price of gold is high and the government is determined to help foreign miners access it.”



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Catherine Delahunty is walking the hills of the Coromandel Peninsula during October and November to raise awareness about mining in the area.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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On the Land

Farmers pay the price for mobile blackspots

Mobile phone coverage and reliability is going backwards fast in rural areas - and farming families are paying the price, a Federated Farmers survey shows.

Since the 3G network was switched off in March this year, farmers have been even more frustrated with black spots and poor reception.

"Our Rural Connectivity Survey a year ago found service levels were already hit and miss," Federated Farmers telecommunications spokesperson Mark Hooper said.

"This year's survey of nearly 650 farmers paints an even bleaker picture.

"Half of farms now have mobile coverage on less than half of the property. A third of farmers told us they have a place on their farm that previously worked on 3G but no longer does.

"For most, these holes in service aren't just on one part of the farm."

Patchy or non-existent coverage created obvious risks when there was an accident or emergency, especially when people were working alone, Mr Hooper said.

"Nearly two in three farmers told us they can't rely on reaching 111 from most of their farm, and 8 per cent said connecting to emergency services wasn't possible anywhere on the property."

There was a very real finan-



Feds' Hauraki-Coromandel president Rob Craw says he has less connectivity now.

File Photo: THE VALLEY PROFILE

cial cost as well, survey responses showed.

With 3G coverage gone, one in seven farms had to replace equipment that relied on that network - irrigation and pivot controls, cow collars and other farm systems rather than phones.

Some had to spend many thousands of dollars, and the vast majority were replacing gear that was still working.

Two in three farmers paid for workarounds such as satellite broadband. However, only 15 per cent regarded satellite-to-mobile as an adequate substitute for a cell tower.

Federated Farmers Hauraki-Coromandel president Rob Craw, who farms just down the road from Coromandel township, also has trouble with connectivity.

"From up on our airstrip I

can see Auckland's Sky Tower, and I'm looking at a cellphone tower down at Manaia Harbour, but our reception is still woeful," he said.

"Since they cut the 3G network, I've got a lot more reception dead-spots through the farm.

"I pretty much have to go to the top of the hills to make calls and I didn't have to do that before."

Mr Craw said that, on a Federated Farmers leadership team Zoom call recently, he had to re-start the meeting on his phone five times.

"That's become par for the course. I'll be having a conversation with someone and it'll just drop out.

"We try to get phone work done out on the farm so we've got more time to spend with the family when we get in each evening, but now I often have to go back to the house to join Zoom meetings.

"Service reliability was never 100 per cent but it's worse now," he said.

Mr Hooper said Federated Farmers was holding urgent meetings with telcos to get a better understanding of what scope they have within existing infrastructure, or planned investment, to improve the situation.

"We have some sympathy for the argument that further extensive investment in 'old technology', such as new towers, when satellite calling/call support and the like is on the way, may not be the best use of resources.

"But we're also interested in the here and now, and what fine-tuning of existing infrastructure might be possible," he said.

"At the very least, surely we can get more farmers hooked back up to the service standards they had with 3G."

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Purple party

The field at Goldfields School hosted a purple posse, a pocket of polite pets and an assortment of activities recently for its Purple Kotahitanga Day. Students, teachers and whānau gathered to highlight a significant school uara (value) called Kotahitanga or collaboration. Matua Caleb told *The Profile* the day celebrated weaving whānau, community and “our tamariki and kaiako” together. An interactive farmyard was set up for people to pet and spend time with various animals and there was also a disco, treasure hunt and shared kai. An Information Expo for whānau was also held to share information about the future of their tamariki from presenters and groups from across Waikato. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** popped down to the purple party.



Matthew greets a sheep, left, Abel is a guide.



Sabia cradles the guinea pig pal.



Waihania and Ailis spend time with the pony.



Matua Cam and Phenix pet the rabbit.



Moses makes a new pal.

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The Valley Profile

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline Friday 5pm

Death Notices

BANE, Margaret Jeanette:
Peacefully at Tararu Care Home, Thames on Monday 12th October 2026; Aged 72 years. Much loved wife of Gordon. Loved Mum of Nicola and Glen. Cherished grandmother of all her grandchildren. Treasured sister and sister-in-law of; Gordon and Suzanne, Peter and Dianne (deceased), Ross and Karen, Heather, Eion and Christine (deceased), Don and Faye (deceased), Carolyn and Grant, Lesley and Peter, and families. A celebration of Margaret's life will be held at The Thames on Kirkwood, 100 Kirkwood St, Thames on Saturday 24th October at 11am. A private cremation has been held. Communications to gmbane@hotmail.com

TWENTYMANS

Situation Vacant

Contract Boat Ramp Wardens Wanted Waikawau (Thames Coast)

Waikawau Boat Ramp Society (WBRS) is looking for reliable, switched-on individuals to take on contract roles of **Boat Ramp Warden** at our busy facility on the **Thames Coast Road**.

If you love the coastal environment, enjoy working with the public, physically fit and can keep a cool head, we want to hear from you.

Core Focus & Responsibilities

- **Keep the Highway Safe (Highest Priority):** Monitor the facility entrance closely to stop queuing vehicles from spilling back onto the main Thames Coast Road.
- **Manage Traffic Flow:** Direct vehicles efficiently into designated waiting zones, ramp lanes, and trailer parking spaces to maximize site capacity.
- **Digital Support:** Help boaties navigate our mobile phone software to successfully pay daily launching fees or yearly passes (this is a strictly cashless site).
- **Ramp Safety:** Remind users of ramp etiquette and ensure pedestrian walkways are kept clear.
- **Schedule:** Weekends and Public Holidays (with potential for weekdays during peak summer demand).
- **Status:** Independent Contractor.
- **Requirements:** Excellent communication skills, a polite but assertive demeanour under pressure, and patience when helping less tech-savvy users with smartphones.

How to Apply
Please apply in the first instance to wbrs2000@gmail.com with the subject line Contract and we will send you an application form.

MADDUX, Patsy Jane (nee Wilton):
Peacefully, at Waihi Lifecare (with family at her side) on 18th October, 2026; aged 93 years.
Loved wife of the late Jack. Much loved Mum of Steve and Isobel, Colin and Marie, Wayne, Evelyn and Fred, Jan, and the late Gary; and dearly loved by all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
Honouring Patsy's wishes, a private cremation has been held.

TWENTYMANS

SLY, Jeweline:
Peacefully, at Thames Hospital on 19th October, 2026; aged 76 years.
Beloved wife of the late Warren. Much loved mother of Mercedes, Richard, and Phillip, mother-in-law of Isaac, and Pamela, and loved Nanna of Sadé, AJ, Kody; Camden, Coen and Leon. A proud midwife, Rotarian, and Community Volunteer who will be very dearly missed.
A celebration of Jeweline's life will be held in The Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames on Wednesday 28th October at 11am

TWENTYMANS

Land Wanted

Land wanted to lease, up to 40 hectares, Hauraki Plains or surrounds, long term. Ph 027 278 5384

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Public Notices

Council Land Drain Maintenance Programme

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Hauraki District Council Drainage Bylaw Clause 10.1, that Council's annual drain maintenance programme will operate from November 2026 to June 2027.

During this time council staff and contractors will be entering onto private property to spray aquatic weeds by vehicle or helicopter using an approved weed control chemical or to clear drains using an excavator. Work will take place in these areas:

Drainage District
Western Plains, Eastern Plains, Kōmata North, Opukeko, Tirohia, Rotokohu and Taramaire.

Town
Ngātea, Kerepēhi, Tūrua, Paeroa, Waihi, Whiritoa and Kaiaua.

Individual property owners will be advised only when the excavator is in their area, before work starts.

D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga Thames High School

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Any past student who is about to commence a course of tertiary education including students who are within 6 months of leaving the school for that purpose.

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An application form is available from the Principal's PA
email: tracevreed@thameshigh.school.nz

- The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 3 November 2026** (12.00 pm)
- Written applications only are acceptable.
- All information is confidential to the selection committee.

Gareth Wright
Acting Principal

Ph: 07 862 3847
Fax: 07 862 3914
www.netherton.school.nz

7 School Road Netherton RD1, Paeroa 3671

Enrolment at Netherton School is governed by an enrolment scheme. Information and forms are available on the school website www.netherton.school.nz

Limited places for out of zone children are available for the 2027 school year.

Applications close midday Friday 30th October 2026 and are to be emailed to office@netherton.school.nz

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MANGATARATA COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL RESERVE INC

16th NOVEMBER 2026

MANGATARATA COMMUNITY HALL (Hauraki Bowling Club)

7.30PM

ALL WELCOME

PAPER DELIVERIES

Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:

NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy

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

WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Info Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Fresh Choice Waihi, Kenny St Dairy

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

TURUA: Turua Dairy

KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy

CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that, the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the **Thames Santa Parade 2026**, will close the following streets to ordinary vehicular traffic for the periods indicated hereunder.

Thames

Saturday 5th December 2026
from 9:30am to 2:30pm

- **Pollen Street** from State Highway 25 to Albert St
- **Pahau Street** from Kirkwood St to Martha St
- **Cochrane Street** from Kirkwood St to Campbell St

An approved copy of the Traffic Management Plan including road closure maps may be requested from Thames-Coromandel District Council.

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council

www.tcdc.govt.nz

SUDOKU

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

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

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MEDIUM

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HARD

273

273

HARD	1	6	3	4	9	5	8	2	7
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HARD

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

EASY

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JUMBO CROSSWORD

293

ACROSS

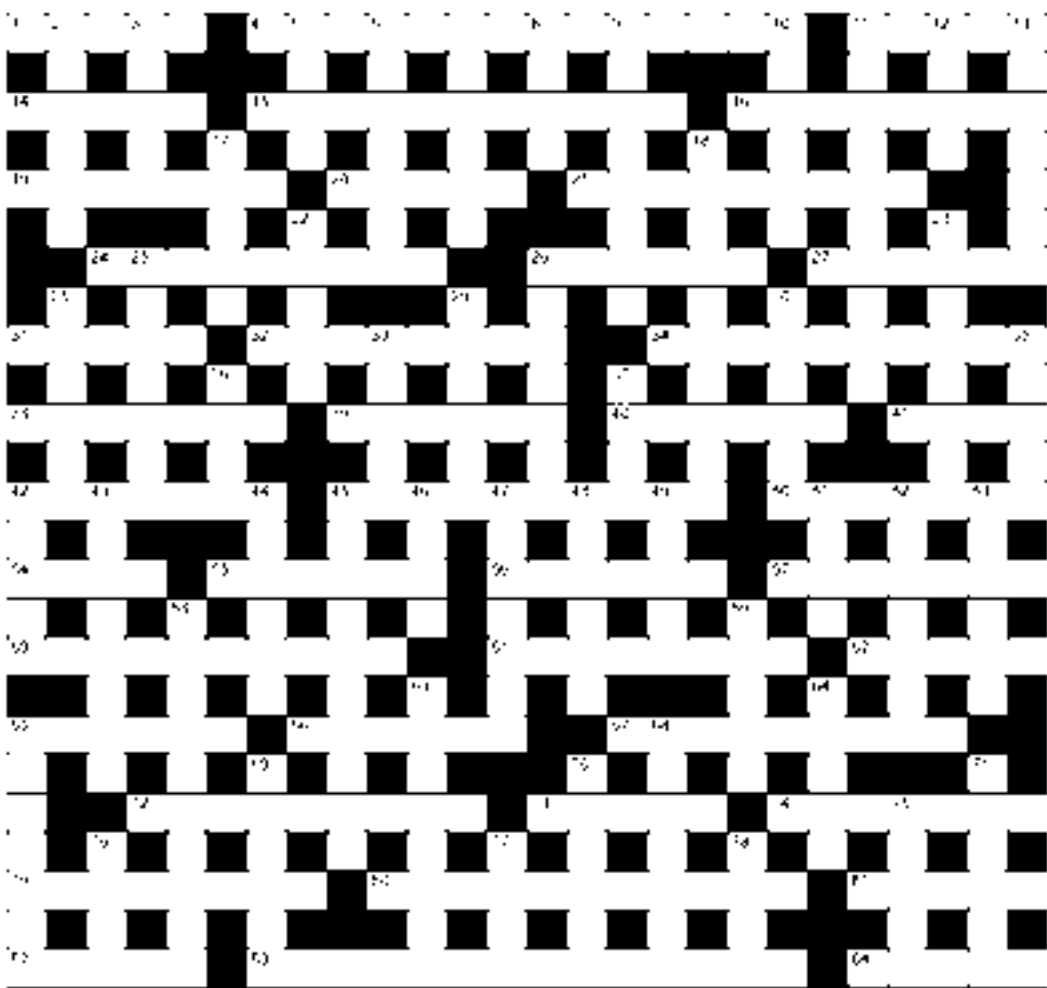
- 1** Yellow fossil gum (5)
4 Favourite person (5,2,4,3)
11 Happening (5)
14 Stage accessories (5)
15 Radio, TV presenter (11)
16 Dairy cattle breed (8)
19 Security device (7)
20 Form (5)
21 Practised (9)
24 Unwavering in purpose, loyalty (9)
26 Ban (6)
27 Small river (6)
31 Pulsate (5)
32 Woman's garment (8)
34 Triumphant (10)
38 Colitis (anag)(7)
39 Synopsis (6)
40 Respect and admiration (6)
41 Disconcert (4)
42 Diver's garment (7)
45 Squeezed (10)
50 Meal course (7)
54 Speed (4)
55 Acid-alkali indicator (6)
56 Skin (6)
57 Fault-find (3-4)
60 Played the market (10)
61 Facing (8)
62 Less dangerous (5)
65 Carnival (6)

- 66** Overseas (6)
67 Long-established custom (9)
72 Gut feelings (9)
73 Rural holdings (5)
74 Big cat (7)
79 Stopped glass wine bottle (8)
80 Not recommended (11)
81 Craze (5)
82 Ravine (5)
83 Unlucky for some? (6,8)
84 High temperature (5)

DOWN

- 2** Bricklayer's mixture (6)
3 Oust (5)
5 Unadulterated (4)
6 Despises (7)
7 Dwell in (6)
8 Kiln for drying hops (4)
9 Last batsman (8)
10 Mistakes (6)
11 Basic (10)
12 Heinous (4)
13 Temper fit (7)
17 Water body (5)
18 Struck back (10)
22 Bid (5)
23 Cause to explode (8)
25 Hot region (7)
26 Supervise (7)
28 Pick (6)
29 Breakfast holder

- (3,3)
30 Be at (6)
33 Slowly and broadly (mus)(5)
35 Sugary (5)
36 Flightless bird (4)
37 Untidy shambles (4)
42 Straw (anag)(5)
43 In shreds (8)
44 Island country off China (6)
45 Waist sash (10)
46 Maximum (4)
47 Giant coniferous tree (7)
48 Undresses (6)
49 Leaves (5)
51 Discharge (4)
52 Highest female voice (7)
53 Soaring firework (6)
58 Nourishment (10)
59 Examine (5)
63 Keep on (8)
64 Shoplift (5)
65 Fireplace log holder (7)
68 Scrap (7)
69 Scattered (6)
70 French Pacific island (6)
71 Attractively small, dainty (6)
75 Provoke (5)
76 Skin mark (4)
77 Check and correct (4)
78 Hint (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Instant, 4 One and only, 9 Staunch, 13 Coat, 14 Beggar, 15 Dating, 16 Ostrich, 19 Recovering, 20 Señorita, 21 Agree, 24 Return, 25 Medals, 27 Obstinate, 32 Bullseye, 33 Cliffs, 34 Flannel, 38 Equipped, 39 Rabble, 40 Alps, 41 Pills, 42 Slyly, 45 Trifling amount, 52 Penny, 55 Spasm, 56 Ewer, 57 Pliers, 58 Uncouple, 61 Tersely, 62 Imbibe, 63 Intended, 66 Immigrant, 68 Flashy, 69 Attend, 73 Kitty, 74 Consider, 76 Antisocial, 81 Brother, 82 Famine, 83 Rumour, 84 Stay, 85 Trudged, 86 Understand, 87 Ecuador.

DOWN: 1 Incur, 2 Scarcity, 3 Theory, 4 Organ, 5 Ears, 6 Nudists, 7 Outing, 8 Lunar, 10 Test, 11 Upright, 12 Cycled, 17 Oversupply, 18 State, 22 Baseball, 23 Angle, 24 Rafters, 26 Even, 28 Buffalo, 29 Client, 30 Cinema, 31 Berlin, 33 Cabin, 35 Noise, 36 Jury, 37 Spin, 43 Lapsed, 44 Lasts, 46 Rows, 47 Foreman, 48 Impair, 49 Guide, 50 Marginal, 51 Tenant, 52 Protection, 53 Nape, 54 Yielded, 59 Claim, 60 Etch, 64 Crook, 65 Depicted, 67 Mutated, 68 Farmers, 70 Mirror, 71 Admire, 72 Figure, 75 Slain, 77 Named, 78 Layer, 79 Fete, 80 Aria.



Boundary lines are indicative only



Kaiaua 1433 East Coast Road

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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 21 Oct & Wed 28 Oct
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410

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Boundary lines are indicative only



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)
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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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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
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View 11am-12pm Tue 27 Oct & Tue 3 Nov
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karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
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Mangatarata 334d Mahuta Road

Space to build your future, a location to enjoy

Enjoy elevated lifestyle living on 1.03 hectares (more or less), with sweeping views across the Coromandel Ranges and surrounding countryside. Just eight minutes from Ngatea, this gently contoured section enjoys a sunny north-easterly aspect and offers space to build a substantial family home, with room for sheds, pets and outdoor living. Waitakaruru Primary School is nearby, with zoning for the Hauraki Plains College adding further appeal for families. Pukekohe is approximately 53 kilometres away, Bombay 46 kilometres and Thames 34 kilometres, providing convenient access to nearby towns, local services and everyday essentials.

bayleys.co.nz/2630280

1.0379_{ha}

Asking Price \$389,000
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz
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Waitak ‘WaWahs’ finish first season in style

RUGBY LEAGUE

By KELLEY TANTAU

From having no senior rugby league team in the district, to reaching a grand final in their first season, the Waitak Warriors have made an impressive impact in their debut year.

The idea for the squad began more than a year ago, when Andrew Connaughton saw an opportunity to give local rugby league players a team of their own, without having to travel out of the Hauraki.

“We had so many local lads playing rugby union who were keen to play league, but they were having to travel all the way to places like Tairua just to get a game. I thought, ‘why not build something right here in Waitakaruru?’” Andrew told *The Profile*.

“Second, through my involvement with Ngatea Youth Rugby League, where we have over 150 kids playing each week, I saw a clear gap. Once our kids age out of the youth division, if there isn’t a senior pathway, they tend to drop out of sport altogether. Establishing the Waitak Warriors gives our young people a clear progression pathway so they can stay active, competitive, and connected to their community.”

To make it happen, Andrew approached Hauraki North Rugby Club - well-known in the rohe for backing women’s rugby by creating the Hauraki North Diamonds in 2023.

“They were the obvious choice, and thankfully, they jumped straight on board. The Hauraki North committee has been incredibly supportive, giving us a home by letting us use their pitches and top-tier facilities.”

The team has adopted the nickname the WaWahs, a play on Waitak Warriors and the popular “Up the Wahs” catchphrase



The Waitak Warriors, aka the WaWahs, made an impressive debut season.
Photo: SUPPLIED

associated with the national rugby league team, the New Zealand Warriors.

“It caught on instantly with the boys and our supporters, and it’s stuck ever since,” Andrew said.

The WaWahs grew from an initial muster of about 10 players to a squad of 32 men, ranging from 18-year-olds to experienced players in their 40s.

They had a strong start on the field, opening their season with a 22-8 away win against the Te Aroha Cobras before a hard-fought 32-21 loss to the Whangamatā Whai.

They then made history with the first senior rugby league match at Hauraki North’s grounds, beating the Manaia Makos 64-8 in front of their home crowd.

From there, the team continued to build momentum, eventually securing a 36-20 semi-final win against the Tairua Taniwhas to secure a place in the grand final in their inaugural season.

The final was held in Thames on October 10, with the WaWahs up against the Mercury Bay Boars.

“Our boys started exceptionally well, heading into halftime with a 12-10 lead,” Andrew said.

“While we weren’t quite able to hold off a classy, experienced Boars side - who have been running for 17 years - we fought right to the final whistle in a thrilling, tightly contested match that ended 38-26.”

Despite coming up just short of the silverware, Andrew said it had been a “truly remarkable” inaugural season.

“To put it into perspective, out of our starting 13 for the final, 10 players had never played rugby league before this year.

“The character, determination, and heart these players have shown to go from scratch to grand finalists is a massive testament to this group of lads. We set out to bring the senior league to our district, create a pathway for our local young blokes, and build a brotherhood, and we have done just that. I couldn’t be prouder.”

The Waitak Warriors are already looking ahead to next season, with plans to return even stronger after setting such a high benchmark in their first year.

Andrew thanked the club’s sponsors, coaches, management team and supporters for helping establish the team and backing it during the season, saying their contribution had been instrumental in bringing senior rugby league to the district.



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