ISSUE 296 November 10, 2026

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Coro backs Simpson

Incumbent Coromandel MP Scott Simpson has secured a commanding election victory as Labour edges National in party vote. **KELLEY TANTAU** reports.

After a "hard-fought" campaign, Scott Simpson has secured a mammoth majority of almost 15,000 votes in the Coromandel, marking another milestone in his parliamentary career.

But despite the scale of his victory, the National MP said the result was not something he assumed was guaranteed.

"It was a hard-fought campaign," he told *The Profile*, "and I'm incredibly grateful and humbled by the size of the majority that I received on election night from people around the Coromandel electorate. But I think that nothing can be taken for granted."

Preliminary results show Simpson received 22,004 candidate votes of 40,355 votes cast, ahead of Labour's Glen Bennett with 7072 votes. The remaining votes were Green candidate Pamela Greatley (4302), NZ First's Vincent Andersen (3979), ACT's Mike McCormick (2221), NZ Outdoors & Freedom party candidate Ray Cobb (318), and independent candidate Steven Hart (161).

National also led the party vote in the Coromandel electorate, receiving 34.44 per cent, compared with Labour's 19.36 per cent.

Simpson was first elected as an MP back in 2011, but said election night jitters hadn't diminished after 15 years in the job.

"I've been very nervous for the last six weeks or so," he said with a laugh. He spent election night in Thames with local volunteers,

CONTINUED ON P2



Coromandel MP Scott Simpson thanks voters in 2026 using the same thank-you sign from his first election campaign in 2011.
Photo: SUPPLIED

'Tick two red' message under investigation

By KELLEY TANTAU

A message allegedly encouraging voters to tick "two red boxes" for Labour was displayed inside Kerepēhi School's polling station on election day, prompting a complaint to the Electoral Commission, a voter says.

The voter, who wishes to remain anonymous, told *The Profile* they attended the school at about 11am on Saturday, November 7, to cast their vote in the 2026 General Election.

While waiting inside the classroom-turned-polling station, they noticed a message written in red marker on the whiteboard reading, "Tick Two Red Boxes, Whānau," alongside two ticked boxes.

The voter said the message was clearly visible to those in the room, including two electoral officers, and the polling place convenor, and was directly in their line of sight when completing their voting papers.

The voter said they approached the convenor and asked him if it was appropriate for the message to be on the whiteboard.

The convenor said, 'no, it wasn't' and promptly erased it, they said.

The voter subsequently lodged a complaint with the Electoral Commission.

Section 197 of the Electoral Act 1993 makes it an offence to exhibit or leave in a polling place any card or paper containing a direction or indication as to how a person should vote.

It also prohibits displaying, on polling day, statements in or in view of a public place, that advise or are intended or likely to influence voters about which candidate or party to support. A person convicted of an

CONTINUED ON P2

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Coro backs Simpson for another term

CONTINUED FROM P1

family, and friends, but made time earlier in the day to clear his head with a walk along the Hauraki Rail Trail, from Thames to the Kōpū Bridge and back.

"It gave me an opportunity to do some thinking, clear my head, and just take an hour or so out of the hurly burly of politics," he said.

Looking ahead, his focus remained on representing the Coromandel's interests in Parliament.

"It's a job I take very seriously," he said. "It's a role that is important, and it's one that I am very passionate about."

However, with the final shape of the next government still uncertain following election night, Simpson said he was waiting alongside the rest of the country to see what unfolds.

Because while Simpson's result was a commanding victory, the nationwide election outcome delivered a different set of results.

Nationally, the preliminary party vote was extremely close, with Labour emerging as the largest party by party votes, securing 710,330 votes (29.36 per cent), narrowly ahead of National on 706,680 (29.21 per cent). However, the preliminary seat allocation puts National ahead in Parliament with 42 seats, compared with Labour's 36.

The Greens received 321,902 party votes (13.30 per cent), giving them 16 seats, while ACT secured 13 seats with 10.92 per cent of the party vote. New Zealand First won 12 seats with 9.78 per cent, the Opportunity Party secured seven seats with 5.96 per cent, and Te Pāti Māori received five seats with 0.57 per cent of the party vote.

'Tick two red' message under investigation

CONTINUED FROM P1

offence under section 197 can face a fine of up to $20,000.

Ministry of Education guidelines state schools and their boards must remain politically impartial and cannot encourage people to vote for parties or candidates or share political advertising material.

Kerepēhi School principal Moana Te Moananui told *The Profile* she was unaware of any complaint and that the Electoral Commission had not yet contacted the school but she would follow up on the matter.

Moana said the voting process had appeared to run smoothly when she visited the school on Saturday morning, and she hadn't noticed any signage or written political messages at the time.

She could not comment further without authorisation from the presiding member of the school's Board of Trustees.

When told about the allegation, re-elected Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said there were clear rules governing what could and could not take place on election day and he was confident leaving the matter with the relevant officials.

"If this issue was escalated to the Electoral Commission, then I'm happy for the officials to make a decision and pass comment on what may or may not have happened at Kerepēhi."

When questioned, the Electoral Commission said: "We can confirm the Electoral Commission received a complaint about this matter on Saturday. We are currently looking into it".

Bail-breaching burglar busted

A 44-year-old man is before the courts following several recent burglaries in the Whiritoa area.

Sergeant Cameron Young said in the past week, Police were made aware of around nine burglaries in the area north of Waihī.

"Whiritoa is a small community, and they understandably became increasingly frustrated with these incidents.

Police conducted a search warrant at a Whitiroa address on November 7.

A significant amount of alleged stolen property was located and recovered, and the man was taken into custody at the scene.

"We acknowledge these recent incidents would have been incredibly unsettling for the Whitiroa community, and we hope this arrest brings reassurance that we work hard to hold offenders to account," Sergeant Young said.

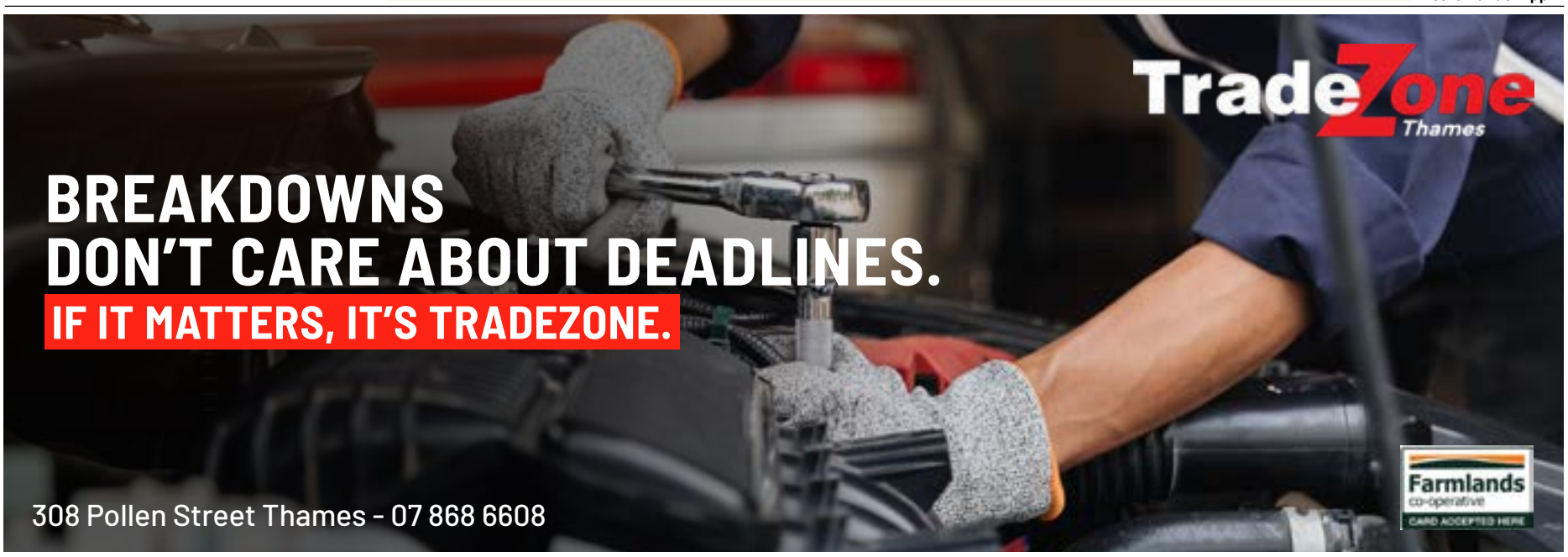
The man was due to appear in Hamilton District Court on November 9, charged with burglary and breach of bail.

Police said enquiries were continuing, and further charges couldn't be ruled out.

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Thames Tides

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17
Morning	2:59am 0.8 9:22am 3.7	3:38am 0.8 10:01am 3.6	4:16am 0.9 10:40am 3.6	4:54am 0.9 11:19am 3.5	5:33am 1.0	12:15am 3.3 6:14am 1.1	12:58am 3.2 6:58am 1.2
Afternoon	3:16pm 1.0 9:31pm 3.5	3:57pm 1.0 10:12pm 3.4	4:38pm 1.1 10:53pm 3.4	5:21pm 1.1 11:34pm 3.3	12:01pm 3.4 6:05pm 1.2	12:45pm 3.4 6:52pm 1.2	1:33pm 3.3 7:40pm 1.3
	6:03am 8:01pm	6:02am 8:02pm	6:01am 8:03pm	6:01am 8:05pm	6:00am 8:06pm	5:59am 8:07pm	5:58am 8:08pm
Best At	G 1:55am 2:20pm	G 2:46am 3:12pm	G 3:37am 4:03pm	G 4:28am 4:53pm	G 5:18am 5:41pm	F 6:04am 6:27pm	B 6:49am 7:11pm
	Rise 6:39am Set 10:07pm	Rise 7:24am Set 11:01pm	Rise 8:15am Set 11:50pm	Rise 9:11am	Set 12:31am Rise 10:10am	Set 1:07am Rise 11:10am	Set 1:37am Rise 12:11pm

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New Moon · First Quarter · Full Moon · Last Quarter
G Good Fishing · F Fair Fishing · B Not So Good

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

PLACE	HIGH Hr	HIGH Mn	LOW Hr	LOW Mn
Coromandel	- 0	05	-0	04
Whitianga	- 0	10	-0	14
Tairua	+ 0	09	+0	20
Whangamata	- 0	04	-0	06
Waihi Beach	- 0	22	-0	16

501 years and counting at care home

By ALICE PARMINTER

There must be something in the water at The Booms Care Home in Thames.

Resident Shirley Mudgeway celebrated her 100th birthday on October 22, making her the youngest of five centenarians currently residing at the home.

Also in the 100s-club are Ailsa Smith Betty, George Uffindel, Maurice Osborn, and 101-year-old Malcolm Johnston.

"You don't even think about it much when you're getting so old," Shirley said.

"It's just another birthday. I mean, I've had a hundred of them."

Shirley credits her longevity to a positive outlook, loving family, and an excellent start to life.

"I was a Plunket baby... and all my kids were Plunket babies," she said. "It was a good start."



Four of The Booms Care Home's centenarians: Shirley Mudgeway, left, Malcolm Johnston, George Uffindel, and Maurice Osborn. Not pictured: Ailsa Smith Betty. Photos : SUPPLIED



Shirley Mudgeway, centre, celebrates her 100th birthday with her family.

Shirley grew up in Turua, the eldest child in a home with an open fireplace and no modern appliances.

"Mother did have help in the house every now and again, which one did in those days," she said.

"I can remember being big-hearted one day and helping Mum... I lit the copper and put the washing oil in."

Later on, the family moved to Whangārei, where Shirley attended high school until she was 15.

"But the war was on then, and the whole world went upside down," she said.

"That was the death of my uncle - he was killed in Egypt. I'll never forget that. But other than that, you don't think widely when you're 15.

"You're thinking about what you're going to wear or the shoes you're going to put on.

"And I had to go out to work... which was a shame because I loved schooling and I loved learning."

Life did go on after the war, and Shirley eventually found herself a husband in Ross, living in several places including Te Aroha and Maramarua. Family life, with five children, suited Shirley.

"I married a farmer, which was the last thing in the world I'd ever thought of... but you can't deny it when you meet somebody that you're so madly in love with that you'd go through hell for it," she said.

"I've had a good marriage, and a wonderful family, and still have. I mean, I've seen sadness. But you've got to have a little sorrow to give you perspective."

> **"It's just another birthday. I mean, I've had a hundred of them.**
> *- Shirley Mudgeway*

Another Booms resident with a positive outlook on life, Maurice Osborn, celebrated his centenary in August. Born in Stratford, he found himself working and living in a hotel in New Plymouth as a young man.

One of Maurice's enduring memories is the Queen Mother's visit in the 50s.

"She stayed at our hotel in New Plymouth... [the boss] said, 'can you make a room nice?' I put new carpet in for her," he said.

"She talked to me for a long time.

"She wanted to know all about my father, she wanted to know what he did and what sort of cows he had."

Maurice said experiencing new things was what had kept his life interesting.

He's had many different jobs over the years - after he left his hotel work he made pies, then bought and drove school buses.

Later in retirement he spent time caravanning around Australia and New Zealand.

"Earlier days I helped Dad on the farm. I used to go and drive a horse on the sleds, and when it was calving time I'd go round the paddocks and pick up the calves," he said.

"You can't go without doing something new."



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Some* of the movies this week - Thurs 12 November to Wed 18 November (*see our website for all)

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

Ebenezer: A Christmas Carol (130 mins) Starring Johnny Depp. A thrilling ghost story set in Dickens' London, following one man's supernatural journey as he fights for a second chance at redemption.

Black Sheeps (97 mins) R16. Comedy. Sequel to the NZ cult horror classic Black Sheep. Follows a young scientist tracking a dangerous new pathogen back to the shadow of the remote sheep station.

Wicker (110 mins) R16. Starring Olivia Colman, Alexander Skarsgård…. In a village lives a fisherwoman; smelly, single and perpetually ridiculed. Fed up with her small-minded neighbours, she commissions a husband to be made from wicker. This unconventional romance sparks outrage, jealousy and chaos.

Wild Horse Nine (118 mins) R13. Starring John Malkovich, Sam Rockwell…. Just before the 1973 Chilean coup, CIA agents Chris (Malkovich) and Lee (Rockwell) are dispatched from Santiago to Easter Island. Chris's newfound bond with a pair of rebellious students sends everyone's trip to this paradise sideways.

Pressure (100 mins) M. In the tense 72 hours before D-Day, the film follows General Dwight Eisenhower and Captain James Stagg as they face an impossible choice—launch an invasion or risk losing the war.

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.

Coming: The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping Brand new film revisiting the world of Panem.

The Incomer On an Orkney isle, siblings Isla and Sandy hunt birds and talk to mythical beings while fighting off outsiders. Their lives change when Daniel, an awkward official, arrives to relocate them.

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Embarrassing incident at Criterion Hotel



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.*

1881

At Paeroa two lady visitors, accompanied by a gentleman of military renown, stayed at the superb Criterion Hotel owned by Cassrels and Bennett.

The blinds of the bedroom windows were of the 'spring' type and when the two ladies entered they were not aware of the fact.

They commenced to undress, when it occurred to one of them that the blind was not low enough, and she accordingly pulled it farther down when suddenly, horror of horrors, it sped upwards with lightning speed. A number of idlers, hearing the rattle, peered in the window, to the shrieks of the two young ladies who took refuge in corners.

Over at Waihī, there was much optimism over a new goldfield. New claims were being pegged out daily, and from the appearance of the country, most, if not all of them would see success.



The Criterion Hotel, Paeroa. Photo: SUPPLIED

A large number of batteries needed to be built, and during the course of the coming summer many men would need to be employed. Several Auckland gentlemen visited the township and were hopeful of great success. One of the visitors said that although the roads were bad and the weather very wet, he enjoyed his trip, returning with a light heart and full confidence that all those interested in Waihī were in for a good thing.

Meanwhile at Shortland, insufficient gaol accommodation was causing problems.

The government in their economical mania, had closed the Shortland lock-up to save a few paltry pounds.

The only place available for prisoners, from murderers to drunkards, was a small, insecure, two-roomed shed, dignified by the name of the Grahamstown lock-up where prisoners were kept cooped up like chickens.

ln a case in which prisoners were remanded for eight days, had the Magistrate complied strictly with cast iron rule, the unfortunate devils would have been locked up without exercise for eight long days in a badly lighted room, perhaps 12 feet square.

The magistrate's humanity, however, rose above 'red tapeism', and he remanded the men to Shortland gaol. The need for a proper place for incarceration would intensify as time went on with the opening of the upper country for mining and the increase of settlement undoubtedly causing an increase of crime.

The matter needed to be brought to the notice of the Minister of Justice, pointing out that the short sightedness of closing the Shortland gaol.

A Thames Valley couple planned to get married, the wedding day was fixed and the happy bride sent to Thames for her dress and other finery. On the goods arriving at one of the river stations a boy was despatched to collect the precious parcel, with numerous instructions to be awfully careful with it.

The lad got the consignment but then went on the beer, the consequence being that he arrived at the bride-to-be's house late at night attired in the tattered remnants of a bridal dress and fine linens.

The young lady soon purchased another dress, in which she was as successfully and happily 'hitched' as though it had been the one of satin and fine lace.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. Actress Dawn French played the vicar Geraldine Granger in which fictional English village? a) Abbey, b) Bibley, or c) Dibley?
2. Which movie features the famous quote: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it"? a) *Back to the Future*, b) *Ferris Bueller's Day Off,* or c) *Risky Business?*
3. As last reported in 2022, how many roundabouts are within Hamilton city limits? a) 50, b) 90, or c) 130?
4. While NZ women won the right to vote in 1893, when could they first stand for election for a seat in Parliament? a) 1890, b) 1919, or c) 1949?
5. Which of these Australian cities has so far NEVER hosted an Olympic Games? a) Brisbane, b) Melbourne, or c) Sydney?
6. True or false: New Zealand has never imposed a nationwide prohibition of alcohol?
7. Which musician, when asked at the 1985 Live Aid music event about raising money for Ethiopia, stated "What's that [Ethiopia]? A restaurant?" a) David Bowie, b) Madonna, or c) Ozzy Osbourne?
8. Graphite (under standard conditions) is the most stable form of which chemical element? a) Aluminium, b) boron, or c) carbon?
9. All living bird species are considered the surviving descendants of which group of animals? a) Dinosaurs, b) insects, or c) myxozoa?
10. Cocoa, used in the production of chocolate, is made from the seeds of a tree native to which continent? a) Africa, b) Asia, or c) South America?

ANSWERS: 1. c) Dibley; 2. b) Ferris Bueller's Day Off; 3. c) 130; 4. b) 1919; 5. a) Brisbane (scheduled to hold the 2032 Olympics); 6. True, though it came very close in 1919; 7. c) Ozzy Osbourne; 8. c) Carbon; 9. a) Dinosaurs; 10. c) South America.



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PATERSON + BURN

Finding funky ways to help others in Paeroa

By ALICE PARMINTER



Funky Finds' Lisa Wellington is celebrating the op shop's first birthday with a donation of toiletries to the Women's Refuge.
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

It's been a year since Lisa Wellington struck out on her own after the closure of Paeroa's SPCA op shop, and she's celebrating by doing what she does best - helping the community.

Her new Paeroa-based op shop, Funky Finds, turns one this month.

To celebrate, Lisa is holding a 50 per cent-off sale between November 15-21. But she's also asking something in return.

"We accept donations any time... We never say no to anybody. If they want to donate something, we will find a home for it. [But] that particular week, we're asking for toiletries."

The toiletries will be going to Thames-based Te Whāriki Manawāhine o Hauraki Women's Refuge to support their community work.

It's just business as usual for the Funky Finds team, who are always looking for ways to help. Over the past year, they have donated goods to all sorts of local organisations.

"In wintertime we make sure [the preschools] have winter woolies for the kids who haven't got them... We gave the Waihī Surf Club small surfboards, wetsuits, goggles... We gave the Thames Golf Club little bits and pieces of golf equipment for the juniors," volunteer Paddy Corneby said. "If there's a need in the community we're quite happy to help."

"It's not always been money, because we do struggle through the winter like everybody else does," Lisa said.

"But we give them goods... We're always happy to help where we can and as much as we can - to me, that's what we're here for."

Lisa said she does everything she can to make things easy for people to support the shop as well, including opening seven days a week, keeping prices low, and providing EFTPOS and Paywave.

It's not just her love for her community, but the support of her team of volunteers which has kept Lisa going since the SPCA op shop closed its doors.

"I loved my job, absolutely loved it. So I thought, well, there is a need for another op shop. And I had some savings, so I was able to set [Funky Finds] up," Lisa said.

"I wouldn't have been able to do it without having such great volunteers. We all worked together in the SPCA so they've just moved from helping me there to helping me here. It's a little family, we work well together.

"And we've got a lot of regular customers and regular donations from the same people... there's people in the community who step in and say, 'look, we'll give you a hand'."

DETAILS: Funky Finds Op Shop's first birthday, November 15-21 on Belmont Rd, Paeroa.



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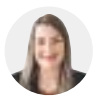
Positioned in a sought-after Waihi street, just a short stroll from the town centre, this inviting home offers generous living spaces, modern comforts and an easy-care 476sqm (approx.) section. The home has benefited from updates over the years, including a modern kitchen, carpet and drapes, creating a fresh and welcoming feel throughout. The spacious lounge and dining area provides plenty of room to relax or entertain. Call Brooke to view.

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New Listing







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An Estate Beyond Compare

Dating back to the late 1800s, this extraordinary residence was originally built for the Manager of the historic Victoria Battery. Rich in history and character, the home has undergone an extensive remodel, blending timeless heritage with modern-day living. Offering six bedrooms, three bathrooms and formal living, the residence sits on just over one hectare across multiple titles. Completing this property is a double garage, workshop with loft space and an additional double carport.

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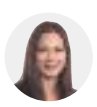
A cosy and inviting two-bedroom home designed for easy everyday living. The spacious main bedroom features a double wardrobe, and the lounge enjoys a peaceful rural outlook over the A&P Showgrounds, creating a relaxing retreat. The heart of the home is the open-plan lounge and dining area, filled with natural light and sun throughout the day and complemented by a heat pump for year-round comfort.

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New Listing







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A Classic Calling for a Makeover

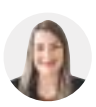
Full of charm and character, 15 Evans Street is a three-bedroom cottage showcasing beautiful native timber throughout, all set on a generous 809sqm (approx.) section. The open-plan kitchen, dining and living area provides a comfortable space for everyday living, while the sizeable section offers plenty of room for children, pets or keen gardeners. A detached split-level garage with additional storage adds further practicality.

eves.co.nz/ewa22415

Asking Price $490,000

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kathryn Engebretsen: 'I've always been creative'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

For a long time, Kathryn Engebretsen didn't think she was an artist.

"I don't know what I thought an artist was, but I didn't think that was me," she said.

One thing she knew though was that "I've always been creative".

The Thames-based maker, who loved to paint, photograph and write, had an epiphany.

"I realised it really is about just doing it [making art].

"If you've got the urge to be creative, then that's it, you're being creative."

It was around 20 years ago when Kathryn said she started taking part in art shows with her partner, Marti Wong, a fulltime artist of more than 20 years.

"But he didn't like doing shows. He doesn't like doing that kind of thing, he'd just rather be in the shed [making art]," she said.

Marti agreed to do some shows with Kathryn to exhibit their pieces and so for eight weeks the pair made a body of work, she said.

"For me, it was just being creative. So in doing that, I sort of started developing a little style."

I sit at a small table in Kathryn's art studio and look around.

Jars of buttons on the top shelf, paint containers on another, a pinboard of mementos.

Directly in front of me hangs one of Kathryn's paintings that spans across four pieces of wood.

It contains a girl swinging across a set of monkey bars wearing red gumboots.



Thames artist Kathryn Engebretsen in her art studio. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

I can't help but notice a recent series of paintings on enamel plates.

"I've developed this weird style because I've got a real thing about recycling stuff. I just do. And I really like old stuff.

"Everything I make art from is something I've seen or something close to me. Putting them on these things gives them a background that's totally random in lots of ways but kind of really interesting," she said.

"I've actually been finding vintage baking slice trays. I've just sold the last two I've made of those."

Some of them had scratches on them from probably 30 years worth of slices being cut on them, Kathryn said.

"And I'm like, 'yeah, you're an old tray that's been in someone's kitchen and someone's eaten from you."

Kathryn and Marti, who were also the founders who "dreamt up" The Vessel Art Co-Op in Thames, set it up with a motive to "just focus on art".

Now in its fifth year, The Vessel currently hosts the work of 11 artists.

One of the challenges for Kathryn was learning how to let her art go.

"That's been a problem for me. I think because when I create, I tend to create a little story or scenario around my work. So it's a personal little something," she said.

"So when you're letting go of the art, you're also letting go of that little story. But I have had to learn to be joyous around that."

She attended an art therapy course around 2007 which was when she realised her art was like therapy for herself.

"Years after that, I was like, 'oh, that's why I'm so sensitive about the art.' I'm like, 'okay then, the art has done its job for me', So, I can let it go, then it does a job for someone else."

Kathryn's connection to story and words will also reveal itself in another project she is working on - a book.

"My book is about discovering my inferior ego and how it was limiting me. [It's] my journey of understanding my fears and moving into a space of authenticity. This has really helped me with my art," she said.

She wanted to be more confident.

"I've got a book I need to get published and I've got to get way more confidence for that."

The multi-disciplinary said even though she hadn't written a book before, "I'm passionate about my book so I'm going to get there, I know I will".

Part of the exercise in confidence was because "you have to share", she said.

"That's I think the purpose, that's driving me."

DETAILS: Follow Kathryn Engebretsen Artist on Facebook.

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SPORTS

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Western Up event honours special legacy

EQUESTRIAN

The Hauraki Western Riding Club celebrated horsemanship and community spirit at its annual Maxine Roberts Memorial Western Up - Triple Challenge show on October 31 and November 1.

Since its introduction in 2024, the Triple Challenge has become a valued event on the Hauraki Western Riding Club (HWRC) calendar.

Created to encourage participation, showcase the versatility of Western horses, and bring riders together across different disciplines, organisers say the event reflects the club's commitment to growing and supporting the Western riding community.

The idea for the Triple Challenge was sparked during a trip to Tatura, Victoria, where three friends and club members attended Australia's Greatest Horsewomen competition. Inspired by the five-day event and its showcase of Western riding skills, versatility and horsemanship, they saw an opportunity to bring a similar concept home to New Zealand.

The vision was to create a competition that challenged horse and rider combinations across multiple disciplines while bringing the Western riding community together and so the Western Up Triple Challenge was born.

The event continues to embrace its original motto, 'Three Friends, Three Disciplines', with competitors taking on three different tests of horsemanship all under the Western umbrella: Obstacle Challenge, Ranch Riding Pattern, and Cattle Boxing.

This year's competition carried an especially heartfelt significance following the passing of founding member Maxine Roberts in July, 2025, after her battle with cancer.

Maxine played an important role in bringing the original concept to life and was able to attend the inaugural prize giving in 2024, seeing the event she helped create become a reality. "Her enthusiasm for Western riding, commitment to HWRC and friendships within the equestrian community remain an important part of the competition's story."

In a fitting tribute, Maxine's horse, Stryker, teamed up with his new rider, Kayla Ramsey, to take out the Rookie competition and claim the Maxine Roberts Memorial Trophy.





Stryker with his new rider, Kayla Ramsey, left, receiving the Maxine Roberts memorial trophy for Champion Rookie at the HWRC Triple Challenge, and with Maxine Roberts, above.
BELOW: Erin Phillips Stylishly Dunn compete in Cattle Boxing, left, and riders line up for ribbons.
Photos: SUPPLIED







Overall Open Adult Champion Campbell Phillips and Shining N Stylish.



Open Youth Champion Lola Nicholson and her pony Cinnamon.

RESULTS: Open Adult Champion - Campbell Phillips on Shining N Stylish; Reserve Champion - Laurie-Anne Webb on Smoky Haze; Rookie Champion - Kayla Ramsey on Stryker; Reserve Champion - Jo Alder on Red N Stylish; Beginner Adult Champion - Sharyn Wright on DB; Reserve Champion - Kayla Ramsey on Luna; Open Youth Champion - Lola Nicholson on Cinnamon; Reserve Champion - Braytin Smith on Chester; Beginner Youth - 1st Sophia Child on Blitzen; 2nd - Irie Nicholson on Twiggy. Leadrein: 1st - Bryleigh Rendell; 2nd - Carys Jordan; 3rd - Awa Keleher; 4th - Te Ariki Rendell; 5th - Te Raiona Keleher; 6th - Aurorah Ikinofo-Rendell.





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RURAL AND LIFESTYLE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Steampunk set to march into Thames

By ALICE PARMINTER

Gears are turning as the clock counts down to to the eleventh hour for this year's Steampunk The Thames four-day festival on November 12-15.

The theme, Time Marches On, will see a focus on clockwork and gadgetry.

"Expect lots of clocks, hourglasses, general time-related stuff," steampunk chair Richard Hornell said.

"We thought it was appropriate since it's our 11th event."

There are some new events to enjoy at this year's festival, including the Great Exhibition, a collection of personalised flat-pack trinket boxes designed and filled by festival-goers.

The boxes will be on display during the festival, with winners decided by popular vote.

The Steampunk Mascots also make their debut this year, with participants able to design and showcase a steampunk-themed stuffed animal to display alongside the live animals featured in the Punk My Pet competition.

Of course, there will also be plenty of familiar favourites to entertain over the weekend, including socials, quizzes, markets and photo booths, a fashion show, and the iconic Saturday morning parade.

Special guests Toe Jam The Band will take the stage at the Bella Street Pumphouse, and families will be able to participate in the teapot racing, hobby-horse courses, and Give-it-a-Go Circus at the Sunday morning Unwound and Unplugged market.



Time Marches On is the theme of this year's Steampunk the Thames Festival. FILE PHOTO

"We've got a lot of new people on our committee, so there's a lot of fresh ideas coming in," Richard said.

"We've got pretty packed lineups every day [and] we're getting really good support from the community and from businesses and the Thames Community Board."

DETAILS: Time Marches On, Steampunk The Thames, November 12-15. See www.steampunkthethames.co.nz for more information.

Paws off, Ozzy! Paeroa pooch choc full of trouble



By Dr Neka Kater, Veterinarian, Franklin Vets, Paeroa

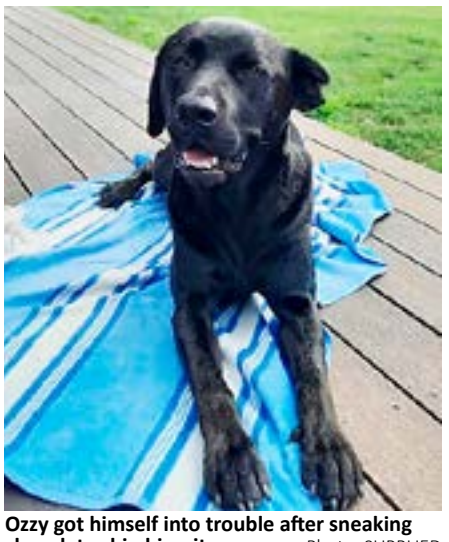
Ozzy, a six-year-old Labrador Retriever, got himself into trouble when his owner came home to discover a tin of chocolate chip biscuits had disappeared from the kitchen bench.

Although Ozzy appeared normal, his owner was concerned about the chocolate and promptly called the veterinary clinic. He was brought in for assessment.

Under veterinary supervision, Ozzy was given medication to induce vomiting, followed by anti-nausea medication and close monitoring. The veterinary team sent him home with activated charcoal to mix with his food to help bind any remaining toxin. Thankfully, Ozzy fully recovered.

Ozzy's story highlights why it is important to act quickly. Signs of poisoning can be delayed, and early veterinary assessment and appropriate decontamination can make a significant difference.

Common toxic foods to keep out of reach include: Chocolate and cocoa: which contain theobromine and caffeine, that can cause vomiting, abnormal heart rhythms, tremors and seizures. Xylitol: Found in some sugar-free gum, lollies and baked goods. In dogs, it can cause dangerously low blood sugar and liver damage. Grapes, raisins and sultanas: Can cause acute kidney injury in dogs. Onions, garlic and chives: Can damage red blood cells in dogs and cats, potentially causing anaemia. Caffeine: Found in coffee, tea, energy drinks and coffee grounds; it can affect the heart and nervous system. Alcohol and raw bread dough: Can cause serious poisoning; dough can also expand in the stomach. Macadamia nuts: Can cause weakness, vomiting, tremors and difficulty walking in dogs.



Ozzy got himself into trouble after sneaking chocolate chip biscuits. Photo: SUPPLIED

What should you do if your pet eats something toxic?

1. Call your vet immediately. Don't wait for symptoms.

2. Bring the packaging. Note how much was eaten and when.

3. Remove access. Keep other pets away from any remaining food.

4. Bring your pet to the clinic. Your vet can assess them and decide whether decontamination is needed.

Never induce vomiting or give home remedies unless instructed by your vet. Early treatment gives your pet the best chance of recovery. Keep tempting treats safely stored — and if in doubt, call your vet straight away.

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On the Land

Hauraki innovators sweep up awards

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When it comes to innovative ideas, there are two groups of award-winning Hauraki Plains College students who have it down to a fine art.

BioPot and SolAware are two products created by year-13 Business Studies student extraordinaires as part of the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme (YES).

YES is an experiential programme that involves students setting up and developing the knowledge to run a real business.

On October 22, the two groups of business gurus stole the show at the YES Waikato Regional Finals by snapping up several accolades, including the top honour - Wintec's Waikato Business of the Year Award for BioPot, and also the Best in Agricultural Sustainability Award.

SolAware also clinched the win for the Excellence in Financial Management Award.

For the creators of BioPot, Omar Arsilan, Diezel Sefton, Max Goodhand and Rehan Gampala knew "we were on to something".

The win "means a lot" to the team, which reassured Omar that the hard work and dedication paid off, he said.

BioPot is a biodegradable planting pot made from 100 per cent recycled wool, group chief executive Omar told *The Profile*.

"We make them into propagation kits which include seeds, lanolin [and] sheep pellet fertilizer packed into a biodegradable cardboard box."

People plant the seeds, and as the seeds grow, they put the pot straight into the garden and it breaks down, he said.

"We were absolutely stoked as a lot of hard work and hours had gone into the business.

"We had a vision and as the CEO I was going to make sure that we reached our full potential. At times it was hard to get everyone on the same page but in the end we succeeded."

It was clear BioPot was a "superior innovation" which has earned them a spot to represent Waikato at the National YES Finals in Wellington in December.

Business Studies teacher John Tate said he was very happy and proud of the students, but "not surprised" because he knew that BioPot had "a great story to tell".

Meanwhile, SolAware creators Stevie Selby, Jenna Temple, Lily Maisey, Zara Culley, Zoe Morgan and Skylah Whitmore were all very proud to receive the Excellence in Financial Management Award, and "especially" proud of financial manager Lily, who kept the finances "under control".

SolAware is a bracelet that can detect ultraviolet (UV) rays and change colour based on the intensity.

If there are really high UV rays, the bracelet is dark purple, and if low intensity then it's light pink.

"We were selected because we displayed responsible budgeting based on our profits."

The inspiration to create SolAware came from an experience some of the group members had. "Jenna and I were at swimming sports and Jenna got very sunburnt despite it being a cloudy day, so we thought we needed more reminders to use sun protection even on cloudy days," Stevie said.

SolAware was "aimed towards everyone", especially younger children and people who enjoyed the outdoors, Stevie said.

She encouraged other students to follow their business ideas.

"Taking Business [Studies] is a great opportunity to learn different pathways," she said.

"If you have an idea, believe in it and make it work."

Mr Tate said all the team members did their best and they displayed great team work throughout the year.

"The Young Enterprise programme has increased their self confidence enormously," he said.

DETAILS: For more information on BioPot or SolAware, follow them on Instagram: @biopotnz and @solaware.nz.



Waikato Business of the Year Award winners for BioPot. BELOW: The SolAware team. Photos: SUPPLIED





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On the Land

Strawberry business ripens in Ngatea

By ALICE PARMINTER

A hobby-turned-business is bearing fruit for a Ngatea couple.

Lisa and Bert Gruythuysen are the owners of the Ngatea Strawberry Patch, a boutique berry farm which has steadily expanded since its humble beginnings in 2024.

Faced with the question of how to utilise their nearly-6000 square metre paddock on River Rd, they began experimenting with different strawberry varieties.

"We started with one row, 60 metres, and then next year we had three rows. And the year after, six," Bert said.

"The second year, we'd just sell from a table."

The small paddock currently boasts 780 metres of strawberry plants across 12 rows, housed in an innovative growing system imported from the Netherlands.

The plants are suspended above the ground in rows of channels, with the grass providing a cooling effect from below and coverings above to protect from frost.

"The system is really designed to create a healthy plant environment, and it creates a bit of a microclimate with the airflow coming through," Lisa said.

"And it's off the ground, so you don't have to bend over to pick them."



Lisa and Bert Gruythuysen are berry pleased with their boutique berry business. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

There is very little waste in the operation.

"[It has] a dripline that gets in the water, and then we catch the water again and it all gets recycled again. So, we don't waste fertiliser and water," Bert said.

"We're not getting plastic waste... it's a more modern way of growing."

And they've even found a use for blemished strawberries, making their own strawberry jam and balsamic vinegar.

As well as selling punnets from their home, the couple now has a small food truck which they use at local sport events and markets to sell fresh berry punnets and chocolate-covered strawberries. And for the first time this year, they will also be offering real fruit strawberry ice-creams.

The couple said they are focused on taste over quantity.

"We've got a variety that's just a sweet, tasty strawberry," Bert said.

"The quality and the flavour, that's what we both want," Lisa added.

The Ngatea Strawberry Patch is open right across summer, although its hours will vary depending on the weather.

"You need a few days with good sun to get a good run of strawberries so you've got enough to be open... We put our opening hours on Facebook."

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On the Land

Native NZ coffee alternative makes debut

An award-winning professor at a United States university has paid $5000 at an online auction for the first taste of Zoffee, a new coffee alternative made from native New Zealand plants.

The winning bid secured University of California Davis' Dr Luis Peña-Lévano one full serving of the brew, but he was buying more than a beverage: he believed it could be a piece of history in a future New Zealand agribusiness success story.

Led by Paeroa founder Jack Keeys, Zoffee is made from native plants belonging to the same botanical family as coffee. Its development focuses on delivering a rich flavour and a satisfying alternative to the familiar brew, while exploring the potential of the plants' naturally occurring bioactive compounds.

Jack, who currently lives in France, first met Dr Peña-Lévano at the IFAMA World Conference in Costa Rica in 2022, where Jack raised attention captaining the New Zealand team that won the Young Professionals category of the global agribusiness case study competition.

The pair discussed Zoffee while the business was still in its early stages and Dr Peña-Lévano stayed in touch and followed its development over the next four years. When the opportunity arose to bid in Zoffee's "first cup" auction, he couldn't pass up the chance to become part of the story.

"Successful entrepreneurship needs two key things - a fantastic idea and an extraordinary person to deliver it. Zoffee has both, and I'm looking forward to watching its growth," Dr Peña-Lévano said.

He also welcomed Zoffee's focus on positive social and environmental impact, including its commitment to dedicating at least 10 per cent of planting at each growing site to additional biodiverse species, helping support native ecosystems.

Asked whether he would drink his prized purchase or keep it, Dr Peña-Lévano said: "Well, I was tempted to save it as a future investment, but I can't resist trying it out! So I'll enjoy the brew and save the packaging as memorabilia."

Zoffee's initial pre-sale has now sold out, with products due to be delivered across New Zealand in early November. Orders are open for the first commercial production run in 2027.

The business has received funding and support from Callaghan Innovation, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and a range of research and project partners.

Central to its development is its partnership with local iwi Ngāti Tamaterā, which became a minority shareholder in the business this year.

When asked for his reaction to the auction results and sold-out pre-sale, Jack said it was exciting to see the idea evolve into reality.

"And while this is just the beginning of our journey, it's great to celebrate the successes along the way."

Zoffee's next steps, lead by Jack and his co-founder Reuben Dods, include extending research trials, refining the product, expanding its growing programme, and raising investment to support its development. Grower and investor opportunities are now open.

DETAILS: To learn more or order from the next production run, visit zoffee.co.nz.





Jack Keeys with winner Dr Luis Peña-Lévano, left, and Jack with the new Zoffee drink. Photos: SUPPLIED

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Grass carp released into lakes

Grass carp fish have been released into lakes at Cooks Beach, marking a long-awaited milestone for the local community and council.

Thames-Coromandel District Council and the Department of Conservation released the fish, also known as white amur (Ctenopharyngodon idella), at the stormwater lake last week.

The grass carp will be used to keep the aquatic plant growth in the lakes under control.

The Cooks Beach lakes are man-made and form part of the council's stormwater network. Council said in recent years, increased aquatic plant growth caused ongoing deterioration, affecting the network and leaving the lakes unsightly with an unpleasant smell.

Cooks Beach residents and ratepayers have long lobbied for the grass carp to help clear the plant growth.

Previously, attempts at managing the plant growth with weed harvesters and herbicides were unsuccessful.

Because the grass carp are a restricted fish under the Conservation Act, they can only be used as a weed control agent with a Department of Conservation (DOC) consent. In August, 2025, council applied to DOC for consent and received approval in August, 2026, for a period of three years.

Council water services manager Brett Houston said it had been a long process to get to this point, but it was good news the grass carp have now arrived.

"It has taken a lot of time, care and patience from the community for us to finally reach the point of releasing the grass carp, which we hope will provide a sustainable and safe way to help manage the lakes."

Mr Houston said it was important to note that grass carp are not koi carp.

They are a carefully managed, herbivorous fish that cannot survive in saline environments. Grass carp are already used successfully at other New Zealand lakes, including Lake Kereta, Lake Tutirua and Lake Wainamu, and are endorsed by the Ministry of Fisheries as an alternative to mechanical draglines or herbicides. They offer a cost-effective, environmentally focused option for long-term aquatic plant growth management.



Grass carp is released into a Cooks Beach lake. Photo: SUPPLIED

Council said residents shouldn't expect the plant growth to disappear overnight.

The fish feed more actively as the water warms, so the difference should become more noticeable over the coming months.

If we hear it enough, does that make it true?

OPINION



By MICHAEL WILKES

Have you ever stopped to question some of the things you've been told your whole life?

My mum used to say, "Put a jersey on, you're going to catch a cold".

But here's the thing. A cold is caused by a virus. I could stand in a freezer soaking wet, and if there's no virus around, I'm not catching a cold. I might be freezing, but that's another problem.

Or how about the classic, "Don't swallow your chewing gum, it'll stay in your stomach for seven years".

Really? Our dog once swallowed a key and managed to pass it out the other end 12 hours later. Surely a bit of chewing gum isn't going to outsmart our digestive system!

It's funny how we can grow up believing things simply because we've heard them enough times.

But it got me thinking.

What about the things we believe about ourselves?

In my work with young people, I regularly encounter students carrying some pretty heavy beliefs.

"No one loves me."

"I'm not as good as everyone else."

"I can't do it."

And often, these aren't thoughts that appeared overnight. They're beliefs that have been reinforced through experiences, things people have said, or the way they've interpreted the world around them.

Perhaps someone told them they weren't good enough. Perhaps they've experienced rejection or failure enough times that they've started believing it's simply who they are.

And the danger is that these beliefs begin shaping the way we live. We stop trying because we believe we'll fail. We avoid relationships because we expect rejection. We limit ourselves because we've already decided what we're capable of.

But here's the question. Just because something feels true, does that actually make it true?

I'm not suggesting we simply ignore our experiences or pretend everything is wonderful. Sometimes there's genuine hurt behind the stories we carry.

But perhaps we need to get better at catching our thoughts and questioning them.

Where did that belief come from? Is it actually true? Or have I taken a difficult experience and turned it into a permanent statement about who I am?

Because sometimes the biggest thing holding us back isn't our ability or our circumstances.

It's a story we've been telling ourselves for so long that we've forgotten to question whether it's true.

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 michaelwilkes.kiwi.

In Brief

COPPER STOLEN

100 metres of copper has been stolen from the lighting system in the one-kilometre-long rail tunnel in Karangahake Gorge, leaving the tunnel dark for the foreseeable future. The Hauraki Rail Trail Trust warned of the theft on its Facebook page on November 4, and said the vandals would likely return to remove more. Therefore, trail users are advised to bring a headlamp or torch and take extra care while using the tunnel, and be mindful of other users.

The Trust said it was working on a solution to the lighting issue.

COMEDY OPENS

Thames Music and Drama opens its comedy play, *Lord of the Dings,* for a limited run on November 13-21 at Tararu Hall.

Written by Peter Marshall, the story is set at the imaginary Hawking Music and Drama Theatre where an inept group of amateur actors are preparing their annual production.

The play is their version of a famous movie trilogy *Lord of the Rings* - where the only similarity is that 'Dings" rhymes with "Rings"; and as the show goes on there are mishaps, misfortunes, and mistakes aplenty.

"We have had so much fun, lots of laughs and have really enjoyed working with a great bunch of actors," Peter said.

The show promises a funny script, crazy costumes, a volcano, a flying spider and more.

Tickets available from www.thamesmad.co

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Carter has been enjoying life in a foster home with cats and an older dog, so he's had some lovely experience sharing his space with other animals. He particularly enjoys canine company, and having another friendly dog around to play with and keep him company would be a big plus.

As a puppy, Carter is still learning and discovering the world, so he'll need a family ready to guide him as he grows. In return, you'll have a loyal, loving companion who will be happiest right by your side.

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SUDOKU

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

		7	5				9	
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HARD

276

HARD

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EASY

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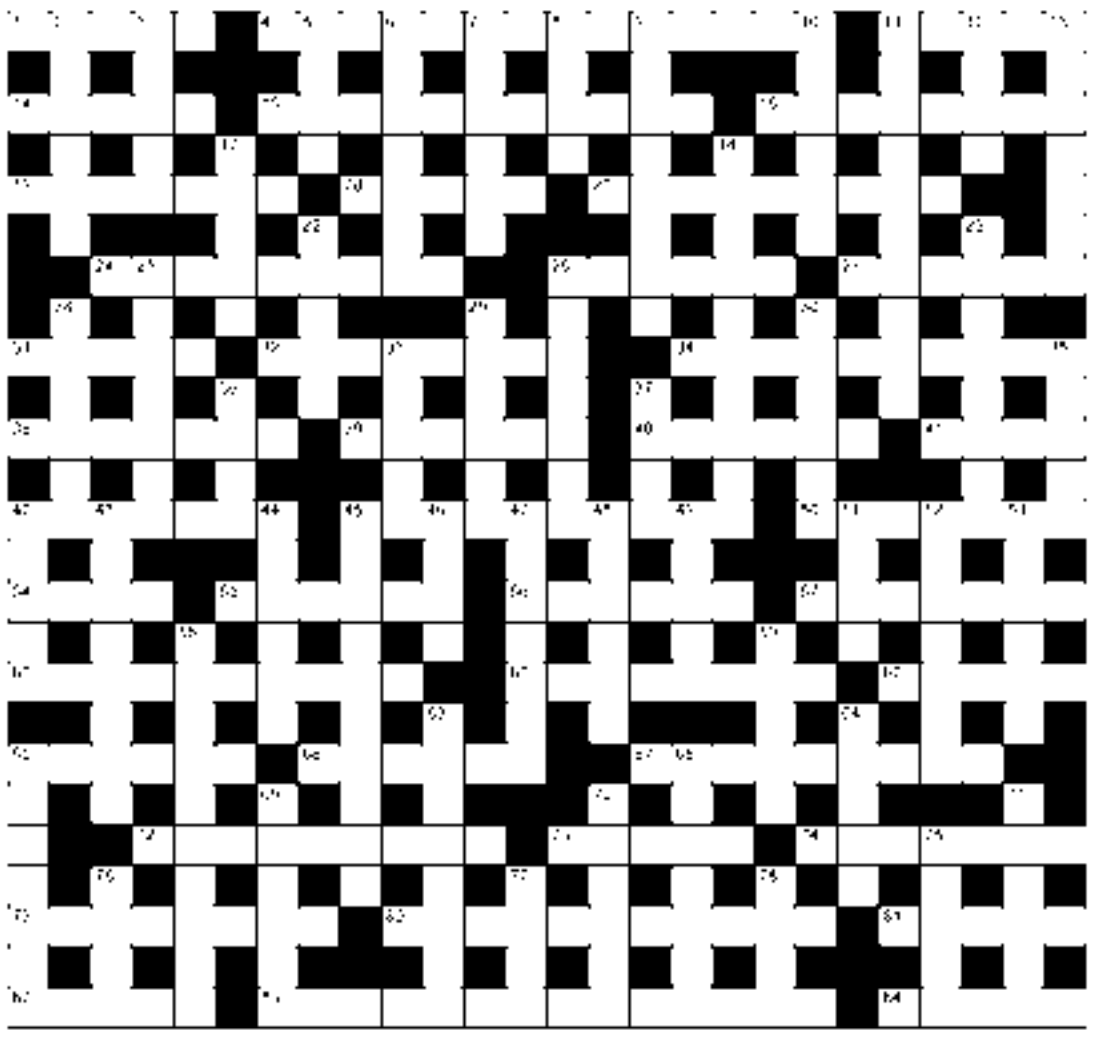
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JUMBO CROSSWORD

296

ACROSS
1 In reserve (5)
4 Amusement arcade attraction (7,7)
11 Managed (5)
14 Stage whisper (5)
15 Lakes poured (anag) (11)
16 Toupee manufacturer (8)
19 Tribunal sitting (7)
20 Assembly of witches (5)
21 Self-control (9)
24 Paris cathedral (5,4)
26 Make happy (6)
27 Get away (6)
31 Waterway (5)
32 Going red from shame, embarrassment (8)
34 Laid in ruins (10)
38 Vertical (7)
39 Strain injury (6)
40 Tart (6)
41 Washing aid (4)
42 Leftover (7)
45 Fixing into position ready for use (10)
50 Anti (7)
54 Naked (4)
55 Royal son (6)
56 Goes in (6)
57 Commanded (7)
60 Very sacred (10)
61 Aesthetically pleasing (8)
62 Path (5)
65 Packed in tins (6)
66 Anxious (6)
67 Endangers (9)
72 Sand-filled timer (9)
73 Extra dividend (5)
74 Tanned hide (7)
79 Bragging (8)
80 Shaped for minimum wind resistance (11)
81 Respiratory organs (5)
82 Spacious (5)
83 Estimates (14)
84 Robber (5)

DOWN
2 Overtook (6)
3 Navigation aid (5)
5 Ferrous metal (4)
6 Boudoir (7)
7 Severed (6)
8 Defensive ditch (4)
9 Directed (anag) (8)
10 Magazine boss (6)
11 Make up for (10)
12 Prod (4)
13 Hard-wearing (7)
17 Growl (5)
18 Shining wetly (10)
22 Fully grown (5)
23 Wary (8)
25 Round of applause (7)
26 Plait of hair (7)
28 Taste (6)
29 Ingest (anag)(6)
30 Cotton cloth (6)
33 Earthenware beer mug (5)
35 Fooled (5)
36 Dilute (4)
37 Indian garment (4)
42 Reverberates (5)
43 Drug (8)
44 Man's headdress (6)
45 Guilelessly (10)
46 Ooze (4)
47 With proficiency (7)
48 Most modern (6)
49 Tend to (5)
51 Go separate ways (4)
52 Invade and defeat conclusively (7)
53 Eye cover (6)
58 Remarkable (10)
59 Silence (5)
63 Artificially high voice (8)
64 Guide (5)
65 Jemmy (7)
68 Famous escapologist (7)
69 Emotional shock (6)
70 Capital of New Caledonia (6)
71 Music from Jamaica (6)
75 Validity (5)
76 Mexican snack (4)
77 Abominable snowman (4)
78 Stitched (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Alarmed, 4 Disdainful, 9 Deposit, 13 Iris, 14 Infant, 15 Antics, 16 Who's Who, 19 Unreliable, 20 Deferred, 21 Guilt, 24 Assist, 25 Regain, 27 Laundered, 32 Cleansed, 33 Dearth, 34 Adoring, 38 Shanghai, 39 Insist, 40 Airy, 41 Idiot, 42 Roast, 45 Indoctrination, 52 Ponds, 55 Delay, 56 Clot, 57 Prepay, 58 Superior, 61 Leopard, 62 Direct, 63 Stowaway, 66 Distended, 68 Minuet, 69 Dismay, 73 Weepy, 74 Rampaged, 76 Tambourine, 81 Portray, 82 Glenda, 83 Spleen, 84 Wild, 85 Odyssey, 86 Parameters, 87 Trigger.

DOWN: 1 Adieu, 2 Apiarist, 3 Denial, 4 Drawl, 5 Sate, 6 Abandon, 7 Notify, 8 Ulcer, 10 Echo, 11 Obscure, 12 Inhale, 17 Flashlight, 18 Meant, 22 Sardonic, 23 Needy, 24 Adviser, 26 East, 28 Attract, 29 Tatami, 30 Tartan, 31 Unload, 33 Drier, 35 Radio, 36 Ta-ta, 37 Ergo, 43 Obeyed, 44 Sharp, 46 Nile, 47 Outline, 48 Topped, 49 Inept, 50 Amassing, 51 Nougat, 52 Precarious, 53 Nail, 54 Surgery, 59 Troth, 60 Gone, 64 Knead, 65 Imbibing, 67 Impetus, 68 Mediate, 70 Second, 71 Agenda, 72 Absent, 75 Polka, 77 Atlas, 78 Elder, 79 Take, 80 Isle.

People peruse

People were peppered across the streets of the Hauraki Plains on October 17 for the Ngatea Garage Sale. Vendors lined the main street, business car parks, nooks and crannies, and even included residential home garage sales for the big day.

There was something for everyone, from tools, home decor, vintage and retro gear to clothing, toys, books, food, vinyl and CDs to paintings, plants, trinkets and more. Reporter **DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA** tinkered through the town for the big event.



Josh Williams, Erika Chamberlain and Wynn Williams from Te Aroha. Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA



Tables of tools and hardware bits and pieces.



People peruse the stalls for a bargain.



Brooklyn Koia-Hamling, left, Kiwi Gurnick, Kaea Koia-Hamling and Trey Koia-Hamling.



There's a bit of everything at the Ngatea Garage Sale.

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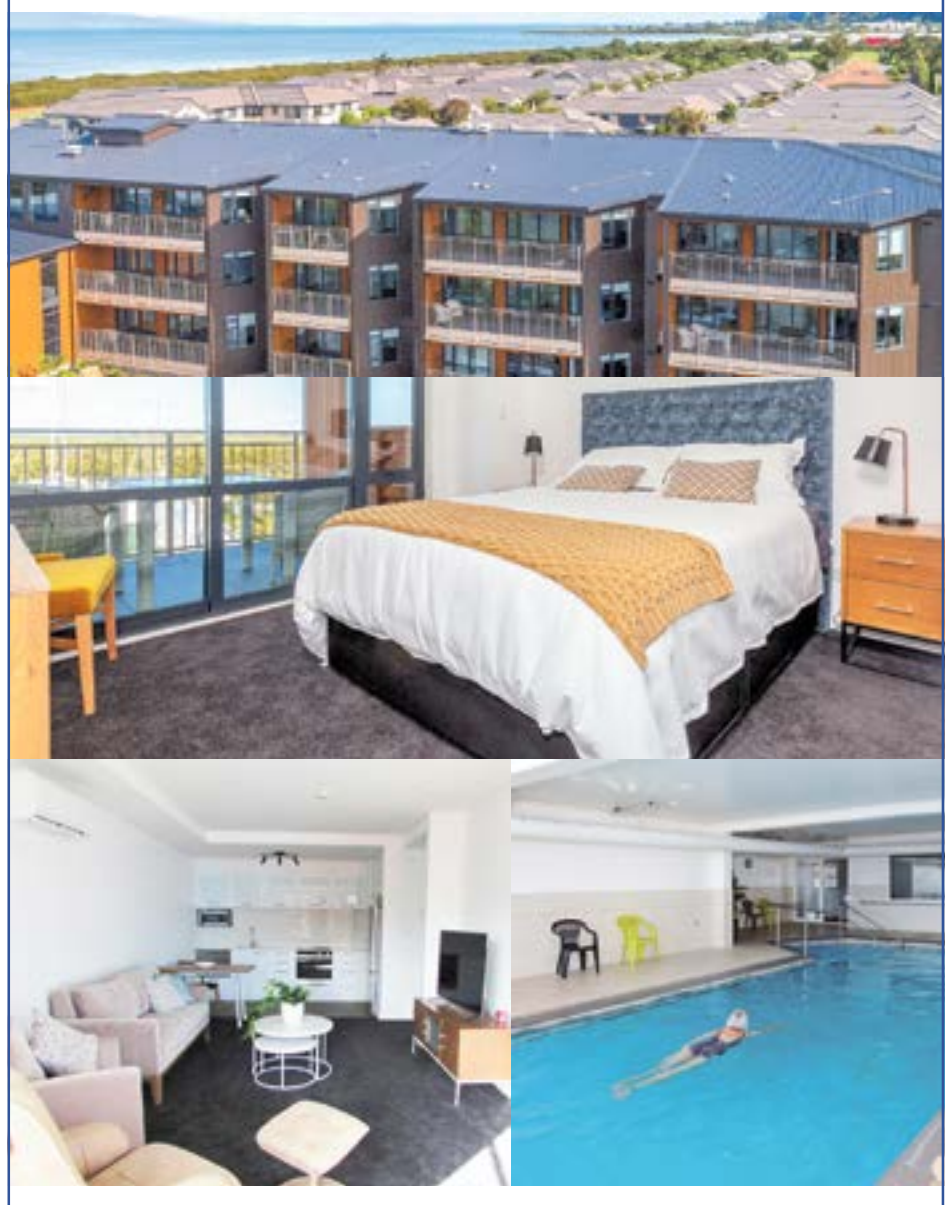
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fundraiser to 'share the love'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

When Angela Thompson heard about the recent thefts at the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum on October 11, it gave her an idea to host a fundraiser event.

"We saw it in the newspaper, and my husband and myself only have to see something of that nature to realise that we're lucky that we are where we are and we do a lot of things on the spur of the moment when help is needed," she told *The Profile*.

Thieves broke into the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum overnight on October 11 and stripped irreplaceable pieces from two boats *Ariana* and *Norita*. The vessels were seriously damaged after portholes, steering wheels, railings, controls, dials and other fittings were taken.

It led Angela, who is also a musician, to organise the Save the Historical Boats Fundraiser - a day of music and songs, that will kick off outside the Paeroa Museum on November 18. Angela, who lives in a villa in Te Aroha known as The Living Museum, said the idea was to team up with the Paeroa Museum and show support for the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum.

"I want to represent Te Aroha, the mountain of love, and share the love that we have to help another town close to us."


Concert Fundraiser organiser Angela Thompson, left, and Paeroa Museum volunteer Glenice Williams. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The fundraiser will kick off in the forecourt outside the Paeroa Museum from 10am, where Angela will be joined by musicians from Paeroa Country Music Club, Hauraki Country Music Club, Matamata opera singer Jazz Videmo and a Morrinsville ukulele group.

DETAILS: Concert Fundraiser for the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park and Museum on November 18 from 10am, held at the Paeroa Museum, 37 Belmont Rd, Paeroa.

SPORTS

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

Waihī Beach Junior Surf returns

Summer adventures are calling for children wanting to join Waihī Beach Junior Surf, which kicks off on Sunday 15 November.

The group welcomes children aged 5 to 13 years and their whānau for a season of beach fun, friendship and new skills.

Starting at 10am at Waihī Beach Surf Lifeguard Services, the programme helps youngsters build confidence and learn practical surf and water-safety skills through games, teamwork and age-appropriate activities.

Organisers said new faces and returning families were welcome, whether children are finding their feet in the surf or keen to take on their next challenge.

For Ivy, those Sunday mornings were just the beginning: "Junior Surf started as something I did on Sundays, but it quickly became a huge part of my life.

"Before long I was spending most of summer at the beach with my friends, training and hanging out. Now I am a lifeguard and Junior Surf coach."

And you don't have to start young to discover where it can lead. Blake joined at 10 and has since explored everything from competing and coaching to lifeguarding, mentoring, and first aid.

New members aged 10 and over can join the Development Squad, with extra support to build core surf skills. Pathways include surf sport, rookie lifeguarding and then lifeguard training from age 14.

Parents and caregivers are part of the fun, too, with plenty of ways to help. Please note a parent or guardian must remain at the beach during sessions.

DETAILS: Sunday sessions: 10am to midday, waihibeachlifeguards.co.nz/junior-surf.



Rescue team excels in Australian comp

OceanaGold's Waihī operation mines rescue team has come away with a second-place finish at this year's South Australian Mines Emergency Response Competition.

The competition is an annual mine rescue and emergency response event. This year 12 mine rescue teams from across Australia and New Zealand were tested on their skills, capability, and readiness for mining emergencies.

The teams operated under high pressure to solve multi-discipline, life-like simulated challenges, covering a wide range of emergency skills.

They included high-pressure emergency scenarios covering surface rescue, road crash rescue, industrial rescue, vertical rescue, confined space rescue, mass casualty response, firefighting, breathing apparatus search and rescue, and a team skills challenge.

In previous years, Waihī had competed alongside OceanaGold's Macraes operation as a combined team. However, due to preparation requirements for the upcoming New Zealand Mines Rescue Competition to be held at the Macraes site in late November, this year Waihī entered as a standalone team.



The OceanaGold Waihī operation mines rescue team finished second overall at this year's South Australian Mines Emergency Response Competition. SUPPLIED

The Waihī team travelled without its own gear and equipment due to international travel restrictions. Through teamwork and support from fellow competitors, the team successfully borrowed gear and equipment, often improvising in scenarios where necessary.

Across nine events, the team achieved: first place in Road Crash Rescue, Team Skills, Surface Rescue, and Team Safety; and second place in Confined Space Rescue and Industrial Rescue. Team member Jesse Laughton was also awarded Best Captain.

Health, safety, and training manager Dave Oliver said the event was not just about winning awards. "We participate to learn, to share, to develop, not just our emergency response abilities, but also our leadership skills, our people skills, our personal development," he said. "These are the real rewards of participating in competitions like this.

"While the competition results were impressive, the leadership and character displayed by the team were equally significant."

The New Zealand Mines Rescue Competition will be held at OceanaGold Macraes operation in late November.

Teams from Waihī and Macraes will compete with teams from the coal industry and the New Zealand Mines Rescue Service. Waihī will field a fresh team at this event.

CLASSIFIEDS Deadline Monday Noon

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Yards for lease, Thames and Kopu. Suitable for trucks, vehicles or trade business base. Ph 027 440 7101

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Household items. Sat Nov 14 8am-12pm. 7a Cullen St

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Public Notice

CAPS HAURAKI

Annual General Meeting
CAPS Hauraki Inc.

Celebrating 40 years of community service and support

We invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting as we reflect on our achievements and look ahead to the future.

Tuesday 17th November 2026
7.00 pm

CAPS Hauraki office
301 Pollen Street, Thames

Please RSVP by Tuesday 10th November 2026
07 868 8644 | reception@capshauraki.co.nz

Public Notices

Thames & Districts RSA Inc
AGM
November 15, 1pm
Thames Bowling Club
Mackay St
All members support is needed

THAMES & DISTRICTS RSA ARMISTICE DAY
10:30 - Shuttle from Thames Bowling Club to the cenotaph
11:00 - Service
11:50 - Shuttle back to Thames Bowling Club
All welcome

WHAREKAWA 5B NORTH 5B1 BLOCK AHUWHENUA TRUST
PANUI FOR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Kaupapa: To re-establish a working trust to manage the block
Discuss use of whenua for Papa Kainga
Tangata All shareholders, beneficiaries and descendants should attend
Āhea: Saturday 5 December 2026, 1pm to 3pm
Wāhi: Wharekawa Marae, 1237 East Coast Road, Whakatiwai
Kaiwhakarite: George Francis 0272925210 to join WhatsApp Chat Group

TE KOROWAI HAUORA O HAURAKI

Hui ā-Tau
Annual General Meeting
10:00am Friday 11th December 2026
Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki
Richmond Street, Thames

Agenda

- Whakatau | Welcome
- Ngā Whakapāha | Apologies
- Ngā Meneti o te Hui Kua Hipa | Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Ngā Rīmiti | Items
  - Te Rīpoata nā te Tiamana | Chairperson's Report
  - Te Rīpoata nā te Manukura Hauora | CEO Report
  - Ngā Rīpoata Pūtea | Financial Report
  - Te Pōtitanga o Ngā Kaitiaki | Appointment of Executive Committee Members (elected roles)
- Ko Ngā Kaupapa Tūmatawhānui | General Business
- Ka Hīkina te Hui | Close of AGM

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

For rules of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki Incorporated, please go to our website www.korowai.co.nz or contact Fiona Wasiolek 0508 835 676 or 021 902 461.

Nō reira koutou mā, nau mai haere mai.
Riana Manuel, Chairperson.

BAYLEYS







Hikuai 46 Hikuai School Road

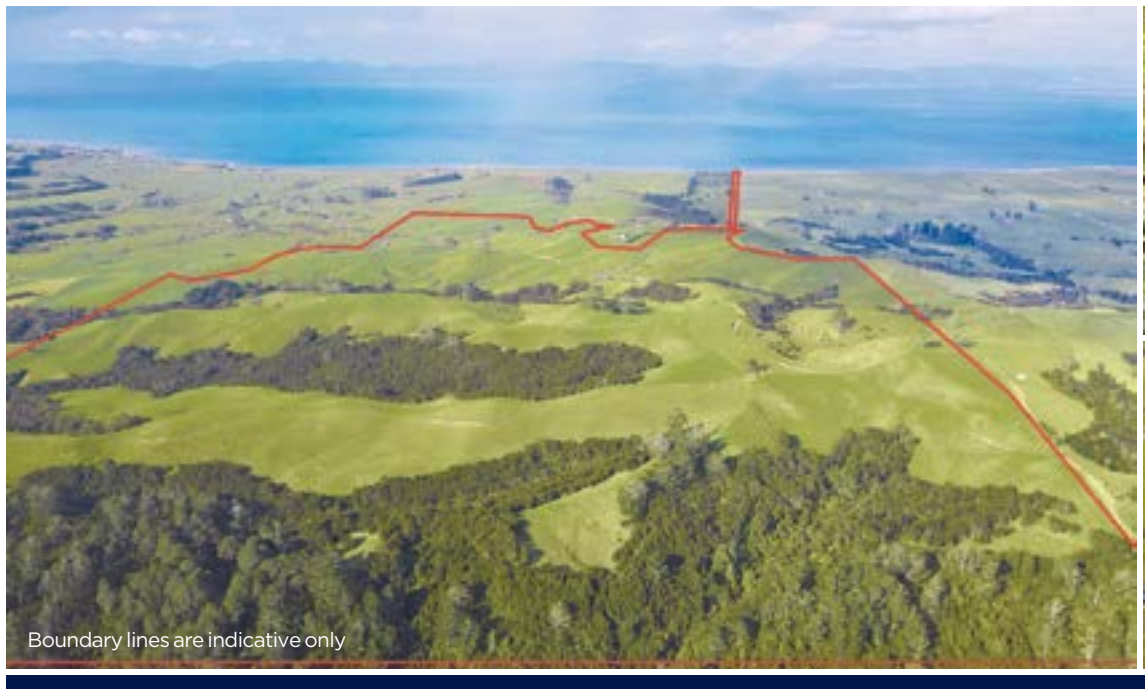
140 years of history - 210ha of Hikuai country

Offered to the market for the first time in 140 years, this farm brings generations of history together in an impressive Coromandel location. Comprising rolling to steep contour, the property is well suited to sheep, beef and dairy support grazing. Improvements include a tidy three-bedroom Lockwood home, large implement shed, three-stand woolshed with covered yards, cattle yards and two hay barns. Good farm tracks provide practical access throughout, while stock water is supplied from a reliable pond to two main holding tanks and gravity fed across the farm. Areas of 15-year-old well tended pines create potential future income streams.

bayleys.co.nz/**2181056**

210.541 ha

Tender **(unless sold prior)**
Closing 4pm, Thu 10 Dec 2026
459 Pollen Street, Thames
Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399
glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz
Maddy Aislabie 027 780 4389
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Kaiaua 591D East Coast Road

Grazing, fishing, or investment with sea views

If farming, fishing and sea views are on your bucket list, this 232-hectare grazing property delivers an outstanding mix of productivity and lifestyle. North-east facing, it captures panoramic views across the Hunua Ranges, Hauraki Plains, Coromandel Ranges and Firth of Thames. Easy to rolling grazing land, steeper sidlings and 40 hectares of covenanted native bush are complemented by a large woolshed, yards, auxiliary sheds and a solid three-bedroom Lockwood home. The Hauraki Rail Trail is at the front gate, with fishing nearby and Kaiaua township just 4km away. Currently leased, it offers flexibility to continue the arrangement or farm it yourself.

bayleys.co.nz/**2630306**

232.86 ha

Auction **(unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 26 Nov 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11am-12pm Wed 11 Nov & Wed 18 Nov
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Sam Aislabie 027 429 5410
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Hikutaia **Lot 1 213 Old Maratoto Road**

Bring your builder - Title due for issue

With title due for issue, this 1.05 hectare (subject to survey) section in Hikutaia offers scope to design and build a home of your own. Elevated and north-facing, the gently contoured land captures all-day sunshine and expansive rural views, with the surrounding mountain ranges providing a striking backdrop. Set along a quiet country road, the property offers room to spread out and enjoy the outdoors. Paeroa is approximately 12 kilometres away, with Thames, Hamilton, Tauranga and Auckland also within reach. Whether planning your first build or seeking more space, this site provides an appealing starting point to create a home that suits your lifestyle.

bayleys.co.nz/**2630317**

1.0557 ha

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 3 Dec 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View by appointment
Karl Davis 027 496 4633
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
connor.davis@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008







Karangahake **7638 State Highway 2**

Rural living framed by the gorge

Set within the distinctive landscape of the Karangahake Gorge, this substantial holding combines productive grazing land, a generous family home and direct river access. Across three titles totalling 17.3ha (more or less), the predominantly flat to gently rolling land is well fenced and has been used for grazing dairy heifers. The 312sqm (more or less) home offers five bedrooms, an office, spacious open-plan living, ensuite master and excellent heating. Outside, a full-sized lit tennis court, covered entertaining and established grounds add to the appeal, while river access provides fishing, jet boating and whitebaiting. Walks, recreation and Waihi Beach are all within easy reach.

bayleys.co.nz/**2630316**

5 2 2 1

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 26 Nov 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Phone for viewing times
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 8 Josephine Place

Elevated lifestyle, effortless connection

Set on 7,757sqm (more or less) at the edge of Te Kauwhata, this substantial 196sqm (more or less) brick home combines family comfort with space and rural outlooks. Built in 2000, it offers three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a master suite with walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, plus open-plan living, a separate lounge and a well-appointed kitchen with stone benchtops. Outdoor entertaining areas, established gardens, two heat pumps, HRV, double internal-access garaging and an approximately 80sqm garden shed add everyday practicality. Enjoy morning sun and elevated views across the village, with Te Kauwhata township just five minutes away and convenient access to the Waikato Expressway.

bayleys.co.nz/**2630288**

3 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 3 Dec 2026
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 11.30am-12pm Sun 15 Nov
& 11.45am-12.15pm Sun 22 Nov
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937
seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
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bayleys.co.nz/**2202455**

6.8689 ha

Tender (unless sold prior)
Closing 4pm, Wed 9 Dec 2026
7 The Esplanade,
Whitianga
View by appointment
Josh Smith 027 229 8865
josh.smith@bayleys.co.nz
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SPORTS

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

Waihī golfer Daniel tees up masterstroke

GOLF

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Daniel Carson lives and breathes golf.

The 14-year-old golf enthusiast from Waihī College took his first swing at the sport in April last year, and hasn't looked back.

It was clear the young golfer was not only passionate but also skilled when he made "the best shot of my life" at a recent golf tournament.

Daniel not only competed in the Division Two Tournament of the Omokoroa Junior Open Golf competition on October 18, he also walked away a champion as he snapped up the Stableford and Net Trophies, scoring 83 over 18 holes.

The young golfer, who learnt how to swing a club from golf coach Stevie Heyes, said "it was pretty nice" to win the awards and that he felt "a little bit better at golf" than he was before the tournament.

He acknowledged that while his swing was still the same, he was "slowly getting better".

It was when he got to the last hole that he could see the possibility of a good score.

Daniel hit the ball with his 7-iron golf club, the ball bounced on to the green and rolled a few centimetres past the hole.



Daniel Carson sweeps up the Stableford and Net Trophies at a Junior Open Golf competition. Photo: SUPPLIED

"I was like, 'okay, that that's probably the best shot of my life. And I'm probably going pretty good in the tournament'," he said.

Daniel's golf accolades don't stop there.

The young athlete went on to receive the Golfer of the Year Award at the Waihī College Sports Prizegiving on October 29, and also competed at the Omanu Futures Junior Open on November 1, where he placed second with his Stableford score and ninth overall in Division Two.

Daniel said he achieved what he set out to do at the Omanu Futures competition as he wanted to land a top 10 spot.

The hardest part about playing golf was "just coming back the next day or after having a bad round and not just giving up", he told *The Profile*.

It was important to go back and focus on "trying to fix what you did wrong", he said.

While he hadn't yet decided if he would pursue the sport of golf professionally, the young golfer said he would like to stay connected to the sport.

"If it doesn't work out, I would actually like to do something related to golf, like design courses or build courses or greenkeeping and stuff like that. I could be a caddy or something."

Daniel's mum, Jo Carson, said she wanted to acknowledge that the Waihī Golf Club was "amazing" at recruiting young members, and they were "super supportive and encouraging" for Daniel and his brother, Thomas.

Daniel's advice for others who wanted to pursue golf was to the point - playing once a week was not enough.

"You've got to keep at it to actually play good - you need to [play] at least two times a week to actually keep at it.

"And if you want to get good, you've got to play a lot," he said.

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