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A group of Thames residents and business owners would like to see this pedestrian crossing painted rainbow colours.
Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

A rainbow pedestrian crossing is one step closer to reality in Thames after a petition received more than 1000 signatures in less than three months.

The petition, titled *Let's give Grahamstown A Rainbow Crossing*, was presented to the Thames Community Board at its November 27 meeting.

It asked the council to paint a rainbow on the existing crossing near the

Salvation Army store at the northern end of Pollen St.

Petition organiser Linda Davidson said a rainbow crossing would promote inclusion, equity, diversity, belonging and progression in the town. It would also have a significant benefit for local businesses, she said.

Twenty eight Grahamstown businesses surveyed had offered their support to the petition, with one business objecting to the idea.

"I'm passionate about Thames, and

I want to see particularly Grahams-town really thrive," Linda said.

"This would be a very cost effective way of driving visitor numbers up and promoting Thames, and a way to [make] it even more unique."

Linda said the crossing could also attract the "pink dollar", people in the gay community who often had dual incomes and no dependents.

She said Grahamstown was the obvious choice for a rainbow crossing, as the area was already tourist-oriented

and "quirky". "People like to come to an area where they're safe and they feel welcome," she said.

"Grahamstown has its own diversity and is a real draw card for the queer visitor."

Sharon Sole from the Hauraki Supported Lifestyle Trust told *The Profile* there were a significant number of diverse people in Thames and within the trust.

"Thames is a vibrant town, [and]

CONTINUED ON P2

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Colourful crossing proposed for Grahamstown

CONTINUED FROM P1

the acceptance of diversity is really good," Sharon said.

"It's not just about queer people. It's for everyone - feeling pride for Thames."

Linda and Sharon said the proposed crossing would have a similar design to existing crossings in Queenstown, Auckland, Wellington, Gisborne, Taupo, New Plymouth and now Tauranga.

The design would also tie in nicely with the many rainbow-themed artworks around Thames.

However, not everyone was happy about the proposal. At the community board meeting, Thames resident Ruth Efford told community board members she opposed a rainbow on the pedestrian crossing, questioning the legality and safety of the design and saying it could be confusing for road users to remove the existing white reflective lines.

"They are not respecting the other people in our community," she told the council. "I have no problems with people dressing or having a symbol that they like to have but when it comes to having it in the face of all and sundry, we can't just go around and put paintings where we like."

"Look at what's happened with the red lines at Mary St and Pollen St."

Board member Holly McKenzie also raised concerns over the crossing poten-



The petition was accompanied by an artist's impression of what the rainbow crossing in Grahamstown could look like. Image: SUPPLIED

tially attracting graffiti from those who disagreed with the ideals it represented, while district councillor Robyn Sinclair noted the signatures and support appeared to come from a "very broad range of people across the whole community".

The community board voted to receive the petition, which will now be passed to the roading manager at Thames Coromandel District Council for consideration.



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Thames Tides

Wed Dec 11	Thu Dec 12	Fri Dec 13	Sat Dec 14	Sun Dec 15	Mon Dec 16	Tue Dec 17
 Morning: 3:26am 3.1 4:00pm 3.3 Afternoon: 9:42am 0.8 10:15pm 0.6 Sunrise: 5:51am 8:31pm Best At: 9:02am 9:27pm Set: 2:29am Rise: 3:48pm	 Morning: 4:31am 3.2 4:59pm 3.4 Afternoon: 10:47am 0.8 11:16pm 0.5 Sunrise: 5:52am 8:32pm Best At: 9:53am 10:20pm Set: 2:58am Rise: 5:02pm	 Morning: 5:38am 3.3 5:58pm 3.4 Afternoon: 11:49am 0.7 Sunrise: 5:52am 8:32pm Best At: 10:47am 11:16pm Set: 3:30am Rise: 6:18pm	 Morning: 12:16am 0.4 12:46pm 0.6 Afternoon: 6:40am 3.4 6:57pm 3.4 Sunrise: 5:52am 8:33pm Best At: 11:46am Set: 4:09am Rise: 7:34pm	 Morning: 1:13am 0.4 1:41pm 0.6 Afternoon: 7:37am 3.5 7:55pm 3.4 Sunrise: 5:52am 8:34pm Best At: 12:17am 12:48pm Full Moon Set: 4:57am Rise: 8:46pm	 Morning: 2:06am 0.3 2:33pm 0.5 Afternoon: 8:29am 3.6 8:50pm 3.4 Sunrise: 5:53am 8:35pm Best At: 1:51pm Set: 5:54am Rise: 9:48pm	 Morning: 2:56am 0.3 3:24pm 0.5 Afternoon: 9:19am 3.6 9:43pm 3.4 Sunrise: 5:53am 8:35pm Best At: 2:52pm Set: 6:59am Rise: 10:40pm

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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	HIGH Mn	LOW Mn
Coromandel	-0	05	-0 04
Whitianga	-0	01	-0 05
Tairua	+0	10	+0 21
Whangamata	-0	03	-0 05
Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0 12

Thames Valley nurses join nationwide strike

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Thames Hospital nurses walked off the job for the second time in four months, during a nation-wide eight-hour strike last week.

With the exception of life-preserving services, every public hospital and Te Whatu Ora facility in New Zealand found itself without nursing staff from 11am to 7pm on December 3.

The strike action, which involved an estimated 36,000 nurses, midwives and health care assistants nationwide, was taken in response to Te Whatu Ora's recent offer of the equivalent of a half-a-per cent pay rise in 2025 and up to one per cent in 2026.

"This is well below the rate of inflation and amounts to a pay cut for nurses and health workers," a statement from the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) read.

Strikers were also protesting Te Whatu Ora's intent to pause the use of its care capacity demand management system, or CCDM.

The software calculates the number of staff needed on any given shift to ensure safe staffing. The NZNO said without it, there would be fewer health-care professionals on duty, which would put patient and whānau safety and wellbeing at risk.

The last strike at Thames Hospital took place on July 30.



Nurses, midwives and health care assistants walked off the job in Thames on December 3.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Then, nurses were protesting the working conditions in the emergency department, where they had only 21.51 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurses covering a roster that required 43.8 FTE nurses to operate safely.

Following that strike action, the department was granted another 10 nurses.

Nurse and NZNO delegate Anooa Antony said she and her colleagues were unhappy

about walking off the job, but they felt they had little choice.

"We have to leave the patients in the ward, and we have to come for this, to stand together," she said.

"[Nurses have] been doing incredible jobs, they're lifesaving every day and we want everyone, the public, to stand together with us for fair pay and safe staffing. I think this is for everyone."

Nurse delegate Elizabeth Brundrit said the pay offer was "horrendous", but she was mostly concerned about losing the CCDM system.

"[Te Whatu Ora] has been playing this programme, they've realised how understaffed everyone is, so now they're not wanting to action it," she said.

"They're wanting to use a different tool, which is based on

pool nurses, which we don't have. So it doesn't work."

The NZNO will now be enacting rolling strikes throughout the country from December 10-19, one district at a time. Nurses at Thames Hospital and other Te Whatu Ora facilities in the Waikato will be striking on December 17 from 1-5pm.



Hauraki Plains Adaptation Planning update

Project partially funded by central government's Better Off Package funding to invest in the wellbeing of our communities.



Message from the HPAP Joint Working Party Chair

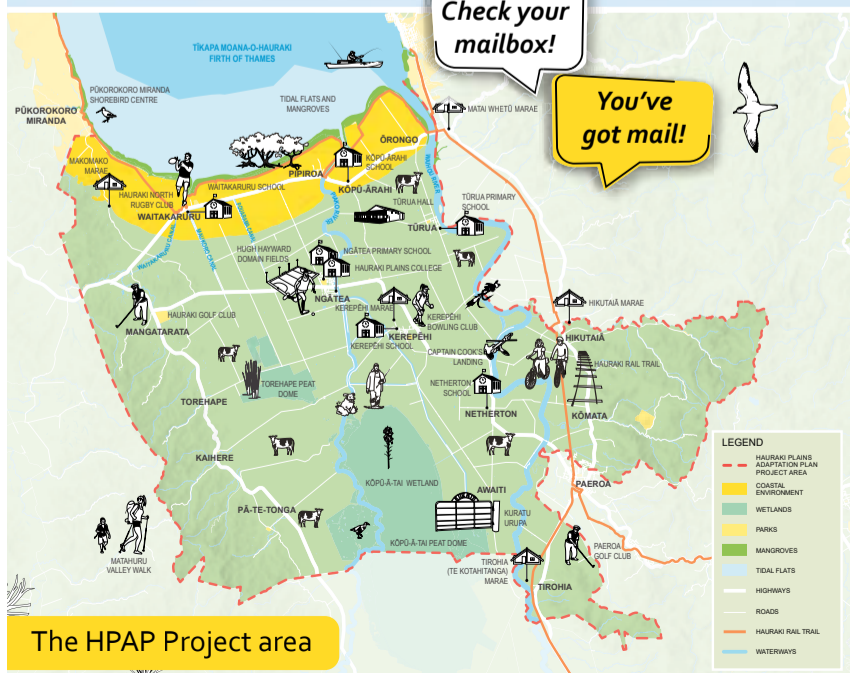
"If you're in the project area for the Hauraki Plains Adaptation Plan (HPAP), check your mail box for a project update. An exciting development is the new online interactive HPAP StoryMap. Check it out. Also keep a look out for opportunities next year to get involved in our flood mapping kōrero – it'll need your input."



Neil Gray
Plains Ward Councillor

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The HPAP Project area

Explore the interactive HPAP StoryMap

The community told us there's lots to love about living on the Plains with its people; historic connections to places; purpose for being here and the great outdoors. With an extensive history of both Māori and Pākehā settlement, there's a lot to protect and nurture. Explore how the past, present and future are coming together in the HPAP StoryMap to do just that! It's your way of joining the discussion too. Scan the QR Code and create an account to get started.



Save the StoryMap link to your favourites - it'll be the best way to stay up to date on the project.

Hey kids

Be part of the interactive world of the Plains StoryMap.

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You've probably gone eeling in some of them, but did you ever wonder why they were there?

Let's find out...



Ways to stay connected to the project

HPAP StoryMap

It'll be our one-stop shop for information about the project. We'll be updating information as it becomes available, and let you know the next steps of the project.

E-newsletter and Antenna

Sign up at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/newsletter-signup to get project updates and hear first-hand about upcoming engagement events.



Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

‘Everyone gets their say’: THS head girl

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Seeing from other people’s perspectives is one of the most important qualities in a leader, according to Thames High School head girl for 2025 Izzy Fitzsimons.

The 16-year-old was set on hearing everyone’s ideas before making decisions and making sure “everyone gets their say”, she told *The Profile*.

But Izzy is no stranger to being a leader as she was Thames High head of arts and culture for 2024.

Izzy, who is now part of a group of 24 student leaders for next year, met with the group a few weeks ago for a planning session around the upcoming year, she said.

One of the topics discussed was the school ball, which Izzy said was one of the biggest events of the year.

“A lot of work goes into it, but I’m happy to be able to make some more of those decisions.”

She was still in the process of figuring things out.

“I think I’m still sort of feeling out how it all kind of works,” she said, and was focussed on supporting the other leaders.

Izzy, who is also a dancer, dance teacher and singer in Hazy & the Jays band, said one challenge would be “keeping up with my academics”.

The head student said she



achieved the year 12 dux this year and with the extra workload: “I don’t know if I can keep that up, but I will try”, she said.

Izzy planned to maintain her motivation and enthusiasm throughout the year by “just making time for myself to rest”, she said.

She also wanted to take a step back and look at things from further away rather than getting overwhelmed, “which I sometimes tend to do”, she said.

Izzy’s advice for people who would like to run for head student in the future was to get involved in as many things as

possible, she said.

“Well, [things] that you enjoy, of course, but don’t shy away from any opportunities because they really up your experience and help you with applying for things.”

Meanwhile, Harris Elliot-Hogg is head boy for 2025.

Izzy and Harris, who plays guitar in Hazy & the Jays, were preparing for their upcoming gig at Twilight in Grahamstown on December 14 from 5pm.

ABOVE: THS student leaders of 2025, and RIGHT: 2025 Head student leaders.

Photos: SUPPLIED



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'The sky is the limit' for Waihi College dux

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Everything Hayaat Dass worked toward "finally paid off" when she received the highest academic achievement at her school prizegiving last month.

The Waihi College year-13 student received the 2024 Waihi College dux award for her dedication and outstanding academic performance.

When Hayaat's name was called out, she said it was like exhaling after "holding my breath for three very long years".

The dux winner told *The Profile* her goal for achieving dux kicked off when she first started college. Whenever she was sidetracked or "felt like giving up", she said her parents did a "magnificent job" of reminding her of the goal.

She also had a digital sticky-note on her desktop, she said, which named every internal assessment she'd done and the grade she received.

Hayaat called it her "subtle daily reminder".

"Dux is a reminder that no matter how large a goal may seem to you or even the next person, it does not mean it is not achievable."

Hayaat said with determination and perseverance, "you can reach it".

"The sky is the limit," she said.

Her NCEA level three classes consisted of chemistry, health, physics, history, HUB finance,



Waihi College dux for 2024 Hayaat Dass and principal Briar Carden-Scott.

Photo: SUPPLIED

religious studies and her favourite: calculus, because she's "a math girl".

It's no surprise the top achiever had so far snapped up 134 NCEA level 3 credits, 70 of which were excellence. But across her NCEA journey over the past three years, Hayaat said she gained 380 credits, 163

of which were excellence.

As part of her dux award, she also received a \$1200 Waihi Lions Scholarship.

In addition to this, Hayaat received the University of Waikato's Te Paewai O Te Rangi Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement, which is valued at \$30,000.

degree, she said.

The top student was also Waihi College's leader of learning for 2024.

"Holding this position in the school throughout the year acted as another subtle reminder of my goal of achieving the highest academic accolade," she said.

It also led her to great opportunities such as attending the speech competitions for one of the local primary schools, she said, and organising a spelling bee for Waihi College year seven and eights.

But Hayaat said she wore her school blazer with the leader of learning badge visible, which "gave me the push" she needed to begin work on her internal assessments the day she received them, she said.

In her free time, Hayaat said she loved watching TV shows.

"I think at this point I've seen most of the shows that are at least somewhat good - always looking for recommendations though."

Hayaat said she also liked to colour in while she listened to music - "it makes me feel like a kid again".

Her advice for next year's year-13 students was to go to every school event and "bring your friends with you - they will be part of your last-ever high school memories", she said.

"Also, always remember to be yourself."

Meanwhile, Hamish McKinnon received the Proxime accessit to dux award.

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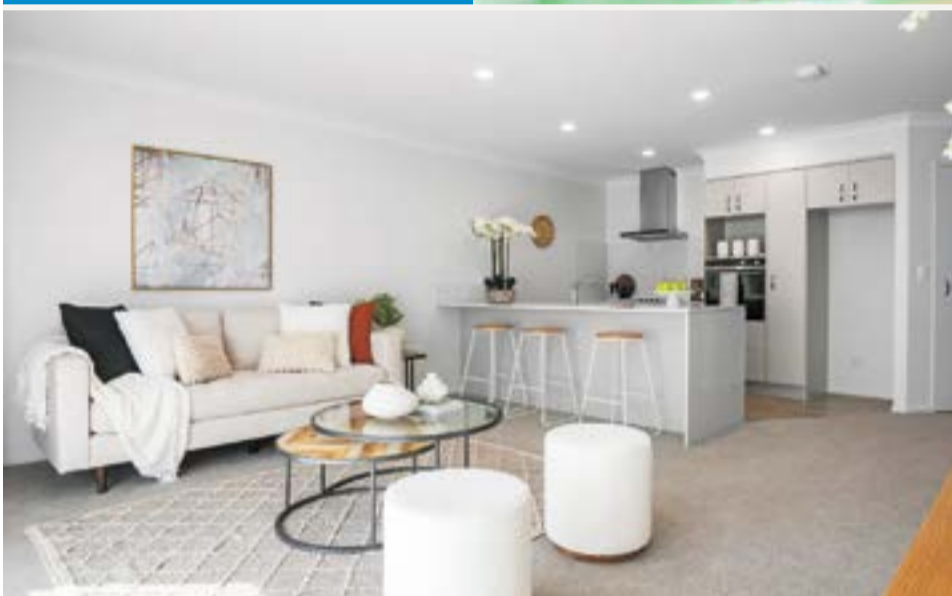
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New citizens embrace te reo Māori

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was important to Chantel and Sean Koller that people felt encouraged to speak te reo Māori without the fear of making mistakes.

It's exactly why the husband and wife, who moved from South Africa in 2018, chose to share their oath of allegiance to New Zealand in te reo Māori.

"We believe te reo Māori is a treasure that should be celebrated," they said.

The couple were part of a group of 17 people who were welcomed by Hauraki District Council at its citizenship ceremony on November 27, and left the gathering as official Kiwis.

The Kollers told *The Profile* they felt nervous about saying their oath in te reo Māori because they wanted to do it justice, but it also added to the significance of the moment. After the ceremony, Chantel said it felt absolutely amazing and she couldn't have been more proud of her and Sean.

Their motivation to give the oath of allegiance in te reo Māori came from their deep respect for the culture of Aotearoa, they said.

The Koller's, who said they had been growing their kete (basket) of knowledge, said to deliver the oath in te reo Māori felt like the "natural and the



LEFT: New Kiwi citizens Chantel and Sean Koller with Mayor Toby Adams. ABOVE: A group of 17 people at Hauraki District Council's citizenship ceremony left the gathering as official Kiwis.

Photos: SUPPLIED

right choice".

"It was our way of embracing all of Aotearoa and honouring the unique heritage that makes this country so special."

Te reo Māori was something not only Chantel and Sean embraced, but also their two children, four-year-old Luke and two-year-old Dylan.

"We've been incorporating te

reo Māori into our daily lives, and some words have become a natural part of how we speak.

"It's something we use at home with our tamariki and in our daily lives, so it felt familiar even as we prepared for the ceremony," she said, and added that they did put in some extra effort to ensure they got the pronunciation right and re-

membered the words.

They said their Afrikaans background helped with rolling the r's and understanding similar vowel sounds.

"A memorable moment was when our son kept saying 'puku' to our family back in South Africa - we had to explain it to them. It was even more special when his cousin started using 'puku' too after we returned from our holiday," they said.

But learning the language wasn't a journey they travelled alone.

"We have had some amazing people helping and supporting us in our te reo journey."

One milestone for the Kollers was being able to now hold

Kiwi passports, they said, especially because it meant they would have the same passport as their kids.

"We're excited to continue our journey as Kiwis, exploring this beautiful country and all it has to offer while creating even more memories as a family."

At the end of the citizenship ceremony, each new citizen was given a tree to take home. The Koller's received a kowhai tree and five finger plant, which they planned to put in larger pots to allow them to grow bigger, they said.

"We're excited to watch them grow and know that they'll be a lasting reminder of this special milestone in our lives."

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Christmas sorted at McKay's new Ngatea store



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.

1924 - 1933

Christmas on the Hauraki Plains in 1924 saw the opening of a commodious new shop at Ngatea.

Messrs McKay and McKay had great faith in the future of the district and their shop in the central part of the township was one of the largest and best appointed on the Plains.

It carried full stocks of groceries, hardware, drapery, footwear, crockery, glassware, confectionery, cakes, and toys. The hardware department had a wide range of ironmongery, implements, tools, sporting goods, benzine and oils, gramophones and records, and bicycles.

In a separate shop was a confectionery department. Tea-rooms supplied morning and afternoon tea, as well as such delicacies as fruit sundaes, ice-cream and cool soda fountain drinks. McKay and McKay were appointed agents for Stormont's and Adam Bell's famous block cake, of which they sold big quantities.

Housewives need not worry



Christmas greetings, 1935.

Image: SUPPLIED

about making a Christmas cake - McKay's had them to suit all tastes and purses. On Christmas Eve the store displayed a Christmas tree and had an appearance by Santa Claus. Their advertising announced 'Bomb Explosion in Ngatea, prices all fall.'

Waihi children were treated to a spectacular Christmas ceremony in 1928 hosted by the Mayor, Mrs Wallnut. A big Christmas tree dominated a large marquee at the rear of King's Hall, and there was a smaller one on the stage in the hall.

Coloured electric lights were strong across the street and

the Christmas trees were similarly illuminated. Santa Claus, escorted by a retinue of over a dozen fairies and Eskimo boys, arrived in a decorated sleigh.

More than one thousand children of ten years of age and under received gifts, after which there was a programme of music, dancing and comic turns. Prior to his arrival, Santa Claus paid a visit to the hospital, where he presented gifts to ailing children, and the fairies gave an exhibition of dancing.

At Thames in 1933 instead of the annual Christmas tree usually organised by the Thames Dis-

truss Relief Committee, the local Sunday Schools undertook to entertain about 50 children of the unemployed. Gifts and foodstuffs were generously provided by the public so that no needy children would be without some Christmas cheer.

In 1937 the Thames Mayor asked for the names of old-age and invalid pensioners to be sent to him by those who knew of deserving cases, so that something in the way of festive joy could be provided for them from a sum which was available for that purpose.

Paeroa streets were thronged with happy crowds in 1930 with people from all parts of the Hauraki Plains visiting the town to spend Christmas Eve and do their Christmas shopping.

A slight fall of rain early in the evening did not deter anyone; it merely cooled the air and dampened dust on the country roads.

Verandah posts were decorated with nikau and punga ferns and festoons of coloured lights were hung across the main thoroughfares, while shop windows were alluring with bright lights.

"If we haven't got much money we have a lot of fun," was the motto of the crowd and it was a joyous group that paraded the streets from dusk till a late hour, exchanging Christmas greetings with friends and acquaintances, renewing old friendships, making purchases for loved ones far and near, contributing their quota to the general noise with bagpipes, squeakers and trumpets, and generally enjoying themselves with happy abandon.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. An Internet meme involving the unexpected appearance of the music video to the 1987 hit song *Never Gonna Give You Up* by Rick Astley is known as what?
2. There are three one-syllable country names in Europe: Spain, France and what is the third?
3. Which well known actor was banned from playing BlackJack in a Las Vegas Casino in 2014? a) Ben Affleck, b) Ben Stiller or c) Ben Platt?
4. Ambient, House, Jungle and Trance are all examples of what genre of music?
5. Which armoured vehicle got its common name from a secretive cover-name likening its structure to a reservoir?
6. Which aviator disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the world?
7. True or False: a team headquartered in Switzerland won the America's Cup in 2003 and 2007?
8. First Class Honours is the highest grade in which country's university system? a) Australia, b) UK or c) USA?
9. Although Pohutukawa are best known for having red flowers, cultivars also exist with flowers of which other primary colour?
10. Which New Zealand town had the highest number of sunshine hours in 2023? a) Blenheim, b) Lake Tekapo, or c) Nelson?



ANSWERS: 1. Rickrolling; 2. Greece; 3. True - Allright is the team name; 8. b) UK; 9. Yellow; 10. b) Lake Tekapo.

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A group of musicians from the Kerepēhi Brass Band perform on a roundabout in a Paeroa suburb on December 4. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

Kerepēhi Brass Band members spread Christmas cheer

The Kerepēhi Brass Band is in the swing of their annual Christmas fundraiser, carolling in the streets of Thames Valley towns to spread Christmas cheer and collect funds for the next year's operations.

On November 27, the band canvassed Ngatea, where it raised just over \$1500.

December 4 was Paeroa's turn, and the band broke into smaller groups of musicians, walking around the suburbs and playing Christmas favourites for the residents, who were drawn to the end of their driveways by the festive music.

The band will be carolling in Thames on December 11.



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Hato Hone St John Health Shuttle bookings across the country will close for the Christmas holiday period from 18th December 2024 to 8th January 2025.

Our Thames based shuttles covering the Thames, Paeroa, Ngatea, and Kaiua area may be able to provide a limited service during this period, but it is essential that the bookings are confirmed before December 18th. There will be no provision for bookings to be made during the closure period and patients who do not have a confirmed booking will need to make other arrangements.

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Hato Hone St John has taken this step to provide for annual holidays of our admin staff and to give our valuable volunteer drivers a break at this time when most of the hospital clinics are also closed.

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Rural Life

Rural community represented in new mural

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

If there was one thing three senior Hauraki students wanted to do for future students it was to “leave a legacy”.

As many students before them had done, year-13 Hauraki Plains College students Tiana Tanner, Erin Aralar and Emily Logan wanted to follow the school’s motto of leaving a legacy.

The students created a mural in Ngatea that included themes that were “quite significant” to the Hauraki community.

The artistic trio were first prompted by the “loose idea” of competing in a Resene Mural competition. This followed an initiative to create more awareness of the arts at school, which the students thought would be fun to do, they said.

The young creatives told *The Profile* it was almost perfectly timed when their art teacher, Mr Hamzen, let them know businesses had been looking for aspiring artists to create art over graffiti on a car park fence over the road from the school. “We were quite interested to take it on, it being our first ever mural.”

The mural is located at the Public Office car park in Orchard West Rd in Ngatea.

The students said they totalled around 72 hours of work, and painted most Saturdays for roughly 12 weeks. They wanted the design to be “bright and colourful” and fit within the Ngatea/Hauraki



HPC year-13 students and mural artists Erin Aralar, left, Emily Logan and Tiana Tanner. Photo: SUPPLIED

community themes, they said.

“The sun in the background represents the beautiful sunrise from the plains, the cow representing the farming culture, the eel with the Māori design representing the Māori culture and history in the Plains, and the rowers on the river (Piako) representing the significance of rowing at Hauraki Plains College.”

When asked what inspired them

to create, Emily said it was definitely the beauty of the scenery around her, which always gave her a reason to paint.

Erin said something that always felt great was “that last look” at a painting once it was finished. “So I keep painting to chase that feeling,” she said.

Meanwhile Tiana said the process of art - brush strokes, colours, patterns and “every small detail”

was like putting a puzzle piece together to fill the white space of a canvas or “creating a new reality”.

“I enjoy the small moments of painting and after, it turns into a big moment on the final result,” she said.

The trio’s advice for students who were getting near the end of their college journey was to take every opportunity offered to them.

“It is great for experience, great

for learning, leadership, great for character building and so much more.”

But the mural creators hoped to leave a lasting impression on other students at Hauraki Plains College. They hoped to leave behind a legacy that “inspires other creative students to be ambitious,” they said.

“And to expose their passion for art as more than just a hobby”.

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Rural Life

Santa returns to Ngatea

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

The Ngatea and rural Plains community is all set to celebrate the festive season with its first Christmas Parade since 2019.

The parade is being organised by Ngatea's newly-formed business association, Connecting the Plains. The committee, which formed earlier this year after previous association Positively Promoting the Hauraki Plains wound down, includes local business owners Yvette Saunders, Shelley and Chris Spilsbury, Ann Clark, Luke Mitchell, Wayne Barker, Malcolm Payton and Letia Boe along with Hauraki District Council Plains Ward councillor Ray Broad.

"The whole community wants a parade," Chris said. "So it just needed new organisers and that's where we are."

The parade kicks off at 5.45pm on December 12. It will head down Ngatea's main street before arriving at Hugh Hayward Domain where the association and the Ngatea Lions have organised entertainment, food trucks, spot prizes and more.

Community groups, schools and businesses are encouraged to register a float for the event, which the association hopes will be the "biggest and brightest yet".

As well as the parade, the association is also looking ahead to next year and what it can do to promote the Plains.

"We're there for business, we're there to promote the town and the communities in the ward, but also we're that channel back through the council," Chris said.

"We'd encourage people to get in contact with us if they've got things they want us to know about. We're obviously business people ourselves and we're busy, and our ideas aren't all the ideas that are out there. So if people have got things that they want to see happening, we want to be approachable in that way as well."



Some of Connecting the Plains committee: Cr Ray Broad, left, Yvette Saunders, Shelley Spilsbury, Chris Spilsbury and Ann Clark.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

In fact, the association has already put some community ideas into action.

"One project that has happened under Connecting the Plains so far is the tidying up of the town of graffiti. We had a local group of guys that formed together to say that they'd give up their time if we provided all the materials and everything, and they painted all the graffiti, talked to the businesses and got agreements and painted the brick wall down by the Lotto shop, painted behind the chemist - they literally just watch out for graffiti and then approach the businesses and paint on over it," Shelley Spilsbury said.

"They're just self-motivated to improving the community. The less graffiti that's out there, obviously the less encouragement for other graffiti artists."

Ray Broad said the council was pleased to have an enthusiastic group helping the new association.

"It's well-supported from the ward councillors here because they cover not just Ngatea but the whole Hauraki Plains," he said. The traffic management and road closure fees for the parade will be funded by the council.



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Christmas gifts and good eats

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Santa on parade

The Christmas spirit was strong in Paeroa and Thames last weekend during their annual Santa parades. Valley Profile reporters captured some of the colour. **CONTINUED ON P13**



Paeroa's Santa and his helper round off the parade.



Richmond Villas residents get into the spirit in Thames.



Dancers lead the Hare Krishna float in the Thames parade.



Thames St Francis School angels.



Student volunteers collect donations.



The Tongan group adds energy and colour to the Paeroa parade.



Netherton School wins Best School Float.



Ten-year milestone for Thai Classic Massage

ADVERTORIAL

A feeling of pride and deep gratitude is what Saifon Dansalad holds toward her community of Thames, especially now as this time of year marks a special milestone.

The Thai Classic Massage owner and operator celebrates the 10-year anniversary of her business.

Saifon, who shifted from Te Aroha to Thames for new opportunities and a change in her life, started up Thai Classic Massage at the Rose Cottage in Gramstown in November, 2014.

Following the Covid-19 lockdown in 2022, Saifon shifted her business to the new and current location at 134 Queen St.

Saifon said she wanted to express her heartfelt gratitude to the Thames Community for their warm support and assistance over the past 10 years.

"Your kindness and collaboration has been invaluable in helping us move forward with confidence. Thank you for your continued generosity and support," she said.

"I feel incredibly proud and deeply grateful to have served our community for the past 10 years."

Helping individuals alleviate pain, fatigue, and stress through her massage services had been an immensely fulfilling journey, she said.

"There is no greater reward than seeing our clients leave feeling relaxed, rejuvenated, and truly cared for.

"I am especially proud of my team of highly skilled and experienced massage therapists, who have been the heart of our success.

"Their unwavering dedication and passion for delivering exceptional care has



Classic Thai Massage owner Saifon Dansalad celebrates a 10-year anniversary for her business. Photo: NIKKI SANDERS

touched countless lives and made a lasting impact on our community."

But for Saifon, the past 10 years was about more than just running a business. "It's been about building meaningful connections, promoting well-being, and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Saifon said as they move forward, they're committed to continuing the mission of bringing the highest quality care to the community.

"I look forward to serving you for many more years to come and am deeply honored to be part of this journey with you."

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Christmas gifts and good eats

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Santa waves to the crown from the Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga Thames South School float.



Getting into the Christmas spirit in Paeroa.



Bubbles add to the fun in the Paeroa parade.



A Christmas fairy is part of the Thames Malayali Association float in Thames.



Waving the flag in the Paeroa parade.



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HARD

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2	8	3	6	5	1	4	9	7
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EASY

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

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200

ACROSS

- 1 Take place (5)
- 4 Matching siblings (9,5)
- 11 Game fish (5)
- 14 Body organ (5)
- 15 Factual TV programme (11)
- 16 Fort troops (8)
- 19 Comfort someone in disappointment, loss (7)
- 20 Upper leg (5)
- 21 Impudent, brazen (9)
- 24 Fictitious name (9)
- 26 Rugged (6)
- 27 High-pitched and piercing (6)
- 31 Characteristic (5)
- 32 Royal daughter (8)
- 34 In an exhaustive manner (10)
- 38 Firmly loyal (7)
- 39 Horse barn (6)
- 40 Restless (6)
- 41 Cipher (4)
- 42 Takes receipt of (7)
- 45 Philanthropic (10)
- 50 Came to rest (7)
- 54 Walking track (4)
- 55 Change genetically (6)
- 56 Ban (6)
- 57 Firm determination (7)
- 60 Without caution or prudence (10)
- 61 Direct carefully and safely (8)

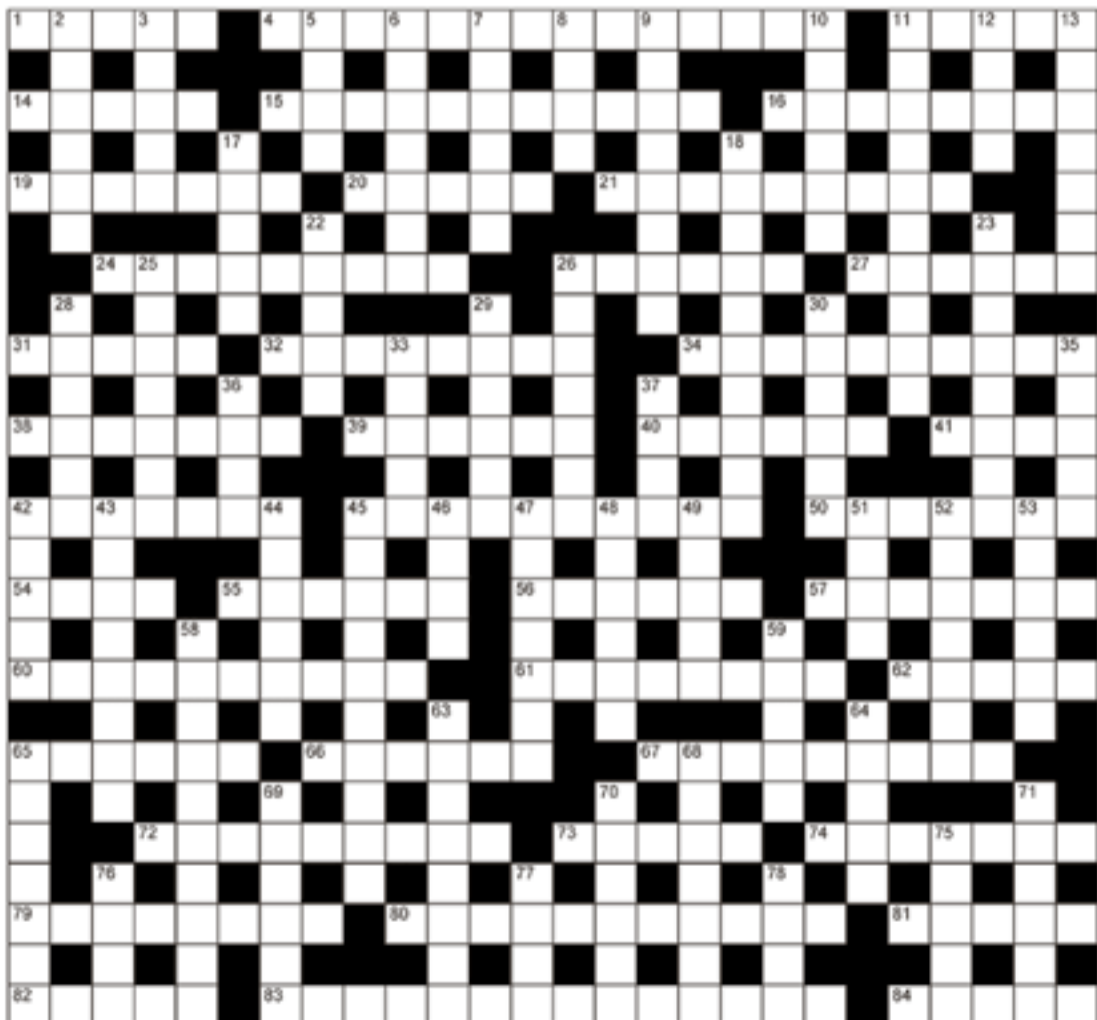
- 62 Receded (5)
- 65 Technical talk (6)
- 66 Off course (6)
- 67 Downtrodden, subjugated (9)
- 72 Filtering (9)
- 73 Evil spirit (5)
- 74 Gain ground (7)
- 79 See you later (2,6)
- 80 Keyboard instrument (11)
- 81 Sailing vessel (5)
- 82 Not intoxicated (5)
- 83 Quite crazy (2,3,2,1,6)
- 84 Revolution (5)

DOWN

- 2 Police line (6)
- 3 Component parts (5)
- 5 Let fall (4)
- 6 Badly behaved (7)
- 7 Cold era (3,3)
- 8 Pretends (4)
- 9 Full of twists and turns (8)
- 10 Radio crackle (6)
- 11 During (10)
- 12 Hops kiln (4)
- 13 Melodic (7)
- 17 Sky fluff (5)
- 18 Bad luck! (4,6)
- 22 Grieve for (5)
- 23 One habitually active during late hours (5,3)
- 25 Confiscation (7)
- 26 Believe to be guilty (7)
- 28 Reviewer (6)

ACROSS

- 29 One belonging to a club or society (6)
- 30 Emergency (6)
- 33 V-shaped cut (5)
- 35 Give in (5)
- 36 North Briton (4)
- 37 Lacking sensation (4)
- 42 Meat jelly (5)
- 43 Food providers at social event (8)
- 44 Crush flat (6)
- 45 Lullaby (10)
- 46 Highest point (4)
- 47 Early childhood (7)
- 48 Get here (6)
- 49 Telling fibs (5)
- 51 Looked at (4)
- 52 Bother (7)
- 53 Begrudged (6)
- 58 Nearly finished (6,4)
- 59 Rear part of boat (5)
- 63 Sot (8)
- 64 Stage whisper (5)
- 65 Fragmented puzzles (7)
- 68 Seer (7)
- 69 Yacht harbour (6)
- 70 Die (6)
- 71 Rolled document (6)
- 75 Narrow passageway (5)
- 76 Larva (4)
- 77 Musical work (4)
- 78 Accurate (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Unity, 4 By hook or by crook, 14 Check, 15 Jumpy, 16 Proprietor, 17 Fatal, 19 Gel, 20 Farrier, 21 Cathedral, 22 Dampen, 25 Make a fuss, 27 Tumult, 28 Debate, 33 Compliment, 35 Arc, 36 Leeway, 37 Edam, 39 Key, 41 Bedouin, 42 Cuckoo, 43 Untutored, 44 Frill, 45 Attained, 50 If, 51 Criminal, 55 Apron, 58 Prolonged, 59 Influx, 60 Obscure, 61 Apt, 63 Line, 64 Infirm, 65 Ice, 66 Accidental, 68 Viewer, 69 Cancel, 71 Overtaken, 76 Meekly, 77 Mercenary, 79 Stratum, 81 Era, 84 Vital, 85 Prohibited, 86 Funds, 87 Alike, 88 Thin on the ground, 89 Fever.

DOWN: 2 Nougat, 3 Taper, 5 Yarn, 6 Orphans, 7 Knight, 8 Rated, 9 Yardarm, 10 Raft, 11 Outlaw, 12 Feign, 13 Skyline, 14 Clipper, 18 Repetition, 23 Offer, 24 Gleeful, 26 Amphora, 27 Tick off, 29 Andiron, 30 Covert, 31 Lanky, 32 Barter, 34 Tour, 36 Lydia, 38 Medal, 40 Atom, 45 Appal, 46 Trounce, 47 Idol, 48 Edging, 49 Cream, 50 Initial, 52 In bad taste, 53 Incense, 54 Abroad, 55 Admiral, 56 Often, 57 Tuba, 62 Score, 67 Deceive, 68 Vinegar, 70 Cheapen, 72 Vertigo, 73 Clutch, 74 Ending, 75 Muddle, 76 Maxim, 78 Cloth, 80 Azure, 82 Clan, 83 Keen.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Artists to fundraise for building repairs

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

A group of artists in the Hauraki were preparing to raise funds for repair and replacement work needed on their premises.

The Paeroa Society of Arts is set to host its first ever Christmas Extravaganza and Fundraiser event on December 14 to raise money for a roof replacement and earthquake strengthening at its premises.

Society president Jan Clark told *The Profile* it was an old building approaching its 100 year milestone in 2025.

The society needed to replace the roof, which was going to cost around \$18,000 according to a quote from 18 months ago, she said.

“So that’s a big expense.”

They also had the earthquake strengthening to take care of, for which Jan said they had applied for funding and also fundraised for the retrofit plans, which would cost around \$18,000 to \$20,000.

It was a former council building, but as it is owned by the society, “it’s totally on us... We have to look after it”, she said.

“But I think for us to be able to get some money over the next few months to get our roof done, it would be amazing if we could get it done before winter.”

The Christmas Extravaganza is one way the society and its members hope to raise money.

People could expect to find stalls outside the building with goods for sale, such as plants,



Paeroa Society of Arts will host its Christmas Extravaganza fundraiser on December 14. Photo: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

baking, and jams - and the chance to enter some Christmas raffles.

Jan said they would be offering gift wrapping for items purchased too.

“We’re going to have all our sale items from our artists as well,” she said, which will be on display in the art room at the back of the building at reduced prices for Christmas.

“[People will] be able to have a look at the behind the scenes,” she said, and would also have the opportunity to meet some of the

artists. “We’re having quite a few people come in. We’re all volunteers, and we’re all the members of our society and the ones that do the work here,” she said.

“So we’re hoping for a lovely, big, fine, wonderful day,” she said.

Gallery committee member Jessica Lines said it was the first time they’d ever tried anything like it. It will also be an opportunity to raise awareness about the society within the community.

“We’re just trying something

new because I think sometimes people don’t realise that we’re here,” she said.

The society, which has around 60 members, was quite blessed to have its own gallery, Jessica said.

Some places didn’t have their own space to display their work, she said.

“So, it’s a good asset to the community.”

DETAILS: The Christmas Extravaganza and Fundraiser, 9.30am to 2pm, December 14 at The Paeroa Society of Arts, 109 Normanby Rd, Paeroa.

Surprise album is full of bops

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

American rapper Kendrick Lamar has had one of the best years of his career, mainly thanks to the headline grabbing beef between him and Canadian rapper and singer Drake.

Lamar kicked off the year, featuring on Future and Metro Boomin’s song *Like That*, before he released four diss songs towards Drake in one week, including the hit smash song *Not Like Us*, which has been nominated for several grammys next year.

Lamar is also set to headline the prestigious super-bowl halftime show next year. With a great year already going for him, many people were not at all expecting a new album from Kendrick.

However the Compton rapper surprised the world on November 23 (New Zealand time) when he released his sixth studio album *GNX*, named after the car shown on the cover of his album. A *GNX* is an old car, with the car symbolising that the album is an old fashioned rap sound.

Kendrick Lamar’s *GNX* is a genuine masterpiece. Filled with hits, it shows Kendrick is coming for blood. It takes what made *Not Like Us* so popular - its catchy lyrics and incredible beats, and expands on it.

Songs like *TV Off* and *Squabble Up* follow a familiar layout of *Not Like Us*, with great beats and an addictive chorus. The album also shows off some great samples.

Mustard, who worked on *Not Like Us* with Lamar, returns to help produce many songs on this album. Also Grammy winning producer Jack Antanoff is credited on this album.

My favourite song on the album is his collaboration with SZA, *Luther*, a great song which shows off Kendrick’s vocal abilities.

The song has a similar sound and feel to SZA’s *Saturn*. Overall, this album really is a work of art and is a great way to cap off an excellent year for Kendrick Lamar.

GNX is available to stream now on Spotify and Apple Music.

‘Good turnout’ for book launch

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Around 35 people turned out for the launch of Dave Wilton’s new book *Archaeology of ‘The Thames’ Goldfield - Volume 1* at Carson’s Bookshop on November 24.

The Thames historian released his new 210-page book based on the Thames Goldfield, which was published by Te Whare Pātaka The Treasury.

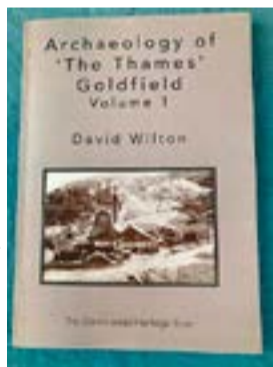
The 72-year-old historian and author told *The Profile* he enjoyed the book launch.

“[It] gave me a chance to tell some of the people-stories that don’t come through too well in text,” he said.

The Treasury Publications team member Beth McKay said Dave, in his usual inclusive speaking manner, entranced the audience with the history and archaeology of the sites covered in the book.

Beth said it was a “good turnout”, where the audience had lots of questions after the author’s presentation.

Meanwhile, a total of 28 books were sold. According to the author, that was “close to a 100 percent success rate”.



Dave Wilton speaks to the group at the launch of his new book, left. SUPPLIED

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Death Notice

CUNNINGHAM, Mervyn Cecil:
 Passed peacefully at home on 4th December, 2024; aged 88 years. Much loved husband and mate of Eileen for 64 years. Loved father and father-in-law of Joanne and Jason, Stephen and Deborah. Poppa Merv to 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandies. A service for Merv was held on Monday 9th December.
 Messages to: mervc@infogen.net.nz or 27/82 Richmond Street, Thames 3500

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Volunteers crack open history books once more

By ALICE PARMINTER, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

Thames researchers have been given an early Christmas present, as Te Whare Pātaka The Treasury Heritage Research Centre and Archive reopens its reading room to the public after a year-long hiatus.

The reading room, which has been closed since the end of 2023 due to a lack of funding for paid staff, reopened on November 27.

Around 21 research volunteers are currently on the reading room roster, and two new supervisors, Anna Dunwoodie and Tracey Hinton, have taken on the task of managing them.

The reading room crew is one of three volunteer groups who work from the Treasury's Carnegie Library building, alongside a publications team and the Treasury's board.

"The [reading room] volunteers are the caretakers of the collection," Anna said.

"We want to highlight how important [they] are, and have always been as the front-facing members of the Treasury, and we would like to see if we can encourage more volunteers to come on board."

Tracey agreed, saying their help meant the people of the district could now access valuable information again.

"What's the point of having all this if we're not sharing it? Our role is to make accessible the information about the history of Thames, the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki, and our fami-



The volunteers are back and ready to welcome researchers to The Treasury.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

lies and businesses," Tracey said. "We do encourage that people come in and plan to undertake most of the research themselves, [but] it has some guidance from us, because for somebody coming in, it's quite overwhelming."

Geraldine Dunwoodie, a founding member of the Coromandel Heritage Trust which began the Treasury project, said she was thrilled to see the volunteers return.

"Over the last few years volunteer numbers have dwindled, and

the unwelcome 12-month hibernation has added to it, with some volunteers resigning because they have found other interests to support," she said.

"It was heartwarming to see such an enthusiastic group again - many of them from the original volunteers at the Treasury and all very keen to get started in this new phase."

Geraldine said the aim now was to set the volunteers up so they could function regardless of whether the Treasury had paid

staff or not.

She said the volunteers would be kept busy with tasks such as looking after incoming records, cataloguing, sleeving, filing, shelving, collecting *True Tales* stories, and being on duty in the reading room and reception.

The Treasury board chair Anne-Louise Robertson said the reopening was the culmination of a long and challenging journey.

"It's a pleasure to welcome back our invaluable volunteers," she said.

"However, while we celebrate this milestone, there is still much to be done. Financial sustainability remains a significant challenge, and we are not out of the woods yet. We are committed to seeking additional funding to keep our doors open and to continue developing the services we provide."

Anna, a trained music teacher and specialist, and Tracey, a former librarian and Past Perfect cataloguer at the Treasury, said they were now retraining the volunteers as they got back up to speed.

They also needed to get used to working in a very different environment than usual, they said, as they were sharing the Carnegie Library building with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Thames School of Mines staff for a few years until restoration work is completed at their site around the corner.

"It worked out really well, because we're short on money, they're short on space... So to merge forces for a short time, it's quite mutually beneficial," Tracey said.

"But we're used to having this building and the archive to ourselves. So that's what we're trying to get our heads around. It's gonna be an interesting few weeks before Christmas. And hopefully, we'll get things flowing pretty quick."

DETAILS: The Treasury's reading room is open to the public Wed-Sat, 11am-3pm. Fees apply. For more information, email ttvstracey@gmail.com or ttvsannad@gmail.com.



Paeroa Lions and volunteer firefighters at the unveiling of the new hi-vis jackets funded by Paeroa Lions. Photo: SUPPLIED

Quiz evening raises funds for new hi-vis jackets

Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade members recently shouted Paeroa Lions a barbecue meal at the fire station to thank Lions members for donating essential high visibility wildfire jackets.

Paeroa Lions raised funds from a quiz evening for the new jackets for the brigade, a spokesperson said.

"These wildfire jackets are essential to the volunteers when they are called out to motor vehicle accidents and medical callouts, complimenting the structural gear used in firefighting.

"Wildfire jackets are the only article gear not allocated by Fire and Emergency NZ."

Paeroa Fire Chief Paul Jack-

son thanked the Paeroa Lions Club for their generosity and support.

"In gratitude... the brigade hosted a barbecue and station tour to acknowledge the Lions club's generosity and support," a Paeroa Volunteer Fire Brigade Facebook post said.

"Their contribution directly enhances the brigade's ability to serve the local community."

Paeroa Lions president Kim Reid thanked the volunteer brigade members for their community service, barbecue meal and showing the Paeroa Lions the fire station the equipment.

The successful Paeroa Lions quiz night fundraiser was held in July.

SPORTS REPORTS

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

BOWLS

Kerepehi Bowling Club's Thursday night Business House bowls is going well, with plenty of friendly playing.

Great turnout for the Murray Fisher Memorial Optional fours, with a minimum of one non-bowler per team.

The competition was played in two divisions with the winners of both sections having a play off to gain the Murray Fisher Memorial Trophy. This was won by the Hikuaia team, skipped by Daniel.

RESULTS: Carpet Green 1st 4 wins 34 points 24 ends Daniel, Adrian, Jono, N Bax; (Winner of Trophy also) 2nd 4 wins 15 points 23 ends Matty Fisher, Craig Magon, John Collins, Paddy Spence; 3rd 3 wins 36 points 21 ends Fish, Fatu, Sharon, John. Grass Green 1st 3 wins 25 points 21 ends Sian, Puna, Loz, Leanne; 2nd 3 wins 21 points 18 ends Richard, Lorraine, Robin, Denis, 3rd 3 wins 14 points, 19 ends Brownie, Horrie, Woods, Puggy.

Coming up on Sunday, December 15, is our Christmas Ham Tournament sponsored by Pak n Save and Linn Motors.

On Sunday, January 12, Opt 4s (Norm Allen/Twentyman's Funeral Services) and Thursday, January 23, Local Bodies Inviation (Mufti) (Kerepehi Transport/Laser Electical Ngatea).

Business House Bowls continues at Kerepehi Bowling Club, with the final being held on Thursday, December 12. Good bowling to all. - Terry King



Murray Fisher Memorial Optional fours winners

Photos: SUPPLIED

Finding purpose in the fight: be the best you can be

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



Recently, there was plenty of hype leading up to the Mike Tyson and Jake Paul fight. Many of us tuned in, waiting with bated breath for the Tyson of old - the quick pivot, the twist, the knockout hay-maker. But it didn't come. Instead, it was mostly jab after jab from Paul, keeping

Tyson at a distance, with the occasional solid hit. At the end of the fight, Tyson was asked if he had proven his critics wrong. His response was striking: it wasn't about them - it was about challenging himself and doing his best. When asked if this was the end, he said no. He would fight again. Some might argue it's all about the money - and sure, that's likely part of it. But looking at Tyson's life, here's a man who's been to prison for seri-

ous crimes, accused of many others, and battled addiction. He doesn't need boxing to make money - his boxing history and pop-culture following could easily fill that gap. So, why step into the ring again? I wonder if it's about more than the pay check. In the months leading up to the fight, Tyson was fitter, cleaner, and more focused than he'd been in decades. Perhaps boxing gave him purpose, a reason to strive toward being the best version of

himself. As I watched the post-fight interview, I couldn't help but reflect: where do we find our purpose? What gives us the drive to be our best? Maybe it's raising kids, providing for family, helping others, or pursuing big dreams. Whatever it is, a purpose that drives us is a purpose that refines us. Even if we don't achieve all we set out to, the pursuit itself makes us better. So, what's your fight? What's the purpose driving you to be the best you can be?



Michael Wilkes is a Living Well Trust Youth Worker. He and his team provide mentoring and resilience programmes across Thames and Paeroa to more than 300 students a year. They are passionate about supporting our young people to thrive. Much of this work is funded outside of schools and it becoming increasingly challenging in the current climate. Email michael@livingwell.org.nz to sign up to their quarterly newsletter or to become a supporter.

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Netherton 6520 Wilson Road (SH2)

Classic charm in the countryside

Set on 9.4 hectares (more or less) in the heart of Hauraki Plains, this property is more than a home— it's a lifestyle statement. Generous living spaces + rumpus room are complemented by large windows that capture natural light and rural views. The home features spacious bedrooms, well-appointed bathrooms, and an expansive kitchen. Enjoy the luxury of a private pool, alongside a tennis court and summer house ideal for summer time with friends and family. Complementing this is 9ha (more or less) of grazing land, currently leased for for \$1,000 + GST per ha per annum and ample farm buildings. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/2316278

9.4_{ha} 3 2 9

Tender (unless sold prior)
 Closing 3pm, Thu 12 Dec 2024
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
 connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Puriri 107 Neavesville Road

Serene rural haven: family home with panoramic views

Escape to rural tranquility with this three-bedroom lifestyle property on 3.2 hectares (more or less) of rolling hills and lush greenery. The home features a master bedroom with ensuite, two additional bedrooms, and an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area with modern appliances and an island bench. Large sliding doors lead to a spacious deck with stunning rural views. With 6.8kW solar panels, a double garage, fully fenced paddocks, extra shedding, and a private river beach, it's perfect for hobby farming or equestrian pursuits. Just a short drive to Thames, this property blends serenity and convenience. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/2316097

3.2_{ha} 3 2 2

Asking Price \$1,099,000
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Glenn Tanner 027 486 2399
 glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008
 MH REALTY LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Boundary lines are indicative only



Puriri 150 Puriri Valley Road

Rural land with stream and bush outlook

Nestled in the heart of Puriri, this 12.29-hectare (more or less) property offers a peaceful rural haven framed by the Coromandel foothills. Backing onto native bush and divided into nine paddocks, it provides privacy, practicality, and charm. A stream enhances its character and serves as a valuable resource. With power and council water at the boundary, the property is ready for your vision. Conveniently located near Puriri village and within easy reach of Thames and Hauraki, it combines rural living with access to schools, shops, and recreation, making it an appealing choice for those seeking balance.

bayleys.co.nz/26300004

12.29_{ha}

Asking Price \$1,095,000
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 0508 83 83 83
 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Robyn Cruickshank 027 308 7110
 robyn.cruickshank@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008
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Kaiaua 6 Rua One Place

Exclusive waterfront living

Offering an ideal blend of lifestyle and convenience, this property covers 1645sqm (more or less) of flat land. The main dwelling, built in 2008, this home is above 1.5m mean high water, and is designed with comfort and entertaining in mind. The open-plan kitchen, lounge, and dining area flow seamlessly into the outdoor patio, creating panoramic views and a welcoming space for gatherings. The residence features a spacious layout with four bedrooms, a dedicated office, and modern conveniences. The master suite includes a walk-through wardrobe and a luxurious ensuite, while the other living spaces are designed for relaxation. Call today!

bayleys.co.nz/2316216

1,645_{sqm} 4 2

Asking Price \$1,395,000
Phone for viewing times
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Seth Roe 027 320 6937 seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz
SUCCESS REALTY LIMITED, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



Ngatea 386 Reservoir Canal Road

Refined rural retreat with orchard charm

Introducing a rare gem—a property where stately elegance meets rural tranquillity. This impressive home offers the perfect blend of classic charm and contemporary comfort. With its striking presence and beautifully appointed design, this residence is more than just a house; it's a statement. Step inside to discover a thoughtfully designed layout that caters to both relaxation and entertaining. The home features spacious open-plan living areas that flow seamlessly from the modern kitchen into family and dining spaces, making it ideal for gatherings both large and small. Each room is bathed in natural light, with generous windows that frame the stunning rural vistas beyond. Get in touch today!

bayleys.co.nz/2316256

5,000_{sqm} 3 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 19 Dec 2024
 96 Ulster Street, Hamilton
View 4-4.45pm Sun 15 Dec
Karl Davis 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz
Connor Davis 027 496 4622
connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz
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Paeroa 20 Ryall Road

Rural living with town convenience, no covenants!

Are you wanting the privacy of the country with the convenience of town just minutes down the road? This block could be the one you have been waiting for! Attractive and versatile in nature this property offers 29.0 hectares (more or less) of flat, north facing land with no covenants - set your entire property to capture all day sun and the expansive views of the Kaimai ranges on offer. Whether you are wanting to shift on a tiny home and enjoy or build your dream home there is enough space to transform all of your ideas to life. The flat contour, with its fertile soils and well established pastures, provides an ideal setting for stock rearing. Call today.

bayleys.co.nz/2316295

29_{ha} 3

Asking Price \$1,200,000 + GST (if any)
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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Hauraki Māori Touch wins big at nationals

TOUCH RUGBY

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

It was “pure joy and excitement” at the Māori Touch Nationals on December 1 in Rotorua when a Hauraki team won the open mixed final.

The Hauraki Māori Open Mixed Touch Team took out the open mixed grade in the final match with a score of 6 - 5 against Weraroa.

Team captain Keanu May Matafeo told *The Profile* it was a suspenseful win in an overtime drop off scenario.

But the team’s success was clearly built on strong relationships. “I think the biggest factor to our success is the chemistry that we have as a team on and off the field.

“We’re all local players that grew up playing together through secondary school and with the Thames Valley.”

Keanu said with that came a core crew with countless trainings and many tournaments “under the teams belt”.

The next goal for the team was to “support local” by attending the Boyds Memorial Touch Tournament in Coromandel, he said.

“Hopefully we can get amongst the younger Thames Valley teams that will be competing and give them support



Hauraki Māori Open Mixed Touch Team, the Champions of the Open Mixed final at the Māori Touch Nationals 2024.

Photo: SIOBHAN NURI

and advice where we can to help with their development.”

Team mate Deija Gray said it was awesome to have a team

from Pare Hauraki at the tournament.

“It’s been several years since our iwi last attended so to take

home the gold is an even better feeling.”

Deija said she wanted to thank team managers Shaun

McRae and Troy Hirawani, and the team’s sponsors, Manava-tion and Te Kōpū Limited, for their tautoko (support).



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