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## Paeroa 'pigeons' on the wing

Paeroa's messenger 'pigeons' are preparing to spread some local cheer this Christmas.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER



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

A group of "pigeons" is spreading messages of Christmas cheer in Paeroa with a Christmas card delivery service.

Until December 9, members of the public can head to Paeroa Pigeon Post on Belmont Rd with their Christmas cards, and post them in the mailbox for a gold coin donation. The cards will be marked with a special stamp and hand-delivered to addresses within Paeroa township.

People can bring their own cards, or purchase one at the Pigeon Post.

Volunteer Jenny Wilson came up with the idea just a few weeks ago as a way to bring the community together during the

festive season. She found a group of helpers, and they whipped up a Christmas display and some posters promoting the project. The community was quick to get behind the project too, with Richardsons Real Estate lending its shopfront on the main street, and Valley Signs making posters and a street sign. The mailbox was built by the Menz Shed, and painted by local artist Linda Bigge.

Jenny hoped people would use the initiative to extend their Christmas celebrations beyond just their immediate circle.

"We're encouraging people to send obviously to family and friends and neighbours, but also to the person that's given them a lovely coffee every week, [or] the

person that's got a lovely garden that you drive past every day," she said.

"We're hoping schools are going to come too. And if we've got an address, we don't need a name, we'll just deliver it to that person."

And for those who wanted to send a card but didn't know anyone locally, the Postmaster also had a list of names on hand, Jenny said, for residents at the nearby Ohinemuri Rest Home.

Jenny said people were welcome to post as many cards as they liked for their gold coin. She said they planned to offer any funds raised to a local community organisation.

"We want people to send heaps of cards -

I'm happy for a last-minute rush."

The Paeroa Pigeon Post is also acting as a drop-off site for the Baptist Church's Toy Appeal where unwrapped gifts, wrapping paper and tape can be handed in until December 9.

Once the Post closes, the mailbox will be handed over to a group of volunteers dubbed the "pigeons", who will be delivering the cards around Paeroa in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

"Basically it's connecting the community, making people feel good."

**DETAILS: Paeroa Pigeon Post, 52 Belmont Rd. Open Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm; and Sat 10am-12pm until December 9. Gold coin donation, addresses within Paeroa township only.**

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# Giving back at Christmas parade

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

This year the Thames Santa Parade has a 'Christmas on the Coromandel' theme, and organisers are hoping that as well as their jandals, sunnies and board shorts, the crowd will also bring along their generosity.

A food drive will be held during the parade, with all donations heading to the Thames Food Bank. Members of Thames High School's Student Volunteer Army (SVA) will be carrying baskets and collecting directly from the crowd as the floats progress down the main street.

Organiser Ari-Ella Reed, a member of the SVA, said the food drive was a fun way to help others, and give the parade a memorable twist following the cessation of the pre-parade Santa Run of previous years.

The Thames Business Association, which is also organising the event, said donations would ideally be things like non-perishable tinned and packaged goods, jams, honey, beverages in plastic bottles, and packaged lollies for family Christmas baskets.

The volunteers will also be able to accept gold coins.

The parade will still have its usual lineup of fun floats and community group participants, and Ari said spectators were sure to have a great time. "It's a lot of fun. There's heaps going on and the floats are really cool to watch, especially the Tongans, they're good every year," she said.

"And hopefully we'll have to wear sun-block because the weather will be good."



Ari-Ella Reed from the THS Student Volunteer Army, right, will help collect donations during this year's Christmas parade in Thames.

The parade will head south down Pollen St, starting at Cochrane St and finishing at Te Kura o te Kauaeranga Thames South School for the annual Whānau Day celebration, with food, entertainment and of course the parade float prizegiving.

**DETAILS: Thames Santa Parade, December 7, Pollen St, 11am, followed by Whānau Day at Te Kura o te Kauaeranga Thames South School from 12pm.**



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## Thames Tides

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10
<p>Morning: 3:49am 0.6, 4:12pm 0.8 10:12am 3.4, 10:24pm 3.2</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:25pm</p> <p>Best At: 3:07am 3:35pm</p> <p>Rise: 7:44am, Set: 11:21pm</p>	<p>Morning: 4:29am 0.5, 4:57pm 0.7 10:53am 3.4, 11:08pm 3.2</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:26pm</p> <p>Best At: 4:03am 4:31pm</p> <p>Rise: 8:50am</p>	<p>Morning: 5:10am 0.6, 5:44pm 0.7 11:37am 3.4, 11:53pm 3.2</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:27pm</p> <p>Best At: 4:57am 5:24pm</p> <p>Set: 12:03am, Rise: 9:58am</p>	<p>Morning: 5:54am 0.6, 12:24pm 3.4 6:33pm 0.7</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:28pm</p> <p>Best At: 5:49am 6:14pm</p> <p>Set: 12:39am, Rise: 11:08am</p>	<p>Morning: 12:40am 3.2, 1:14pm 3.3 6:43am 0.7, 7:25pm 0.7</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:29pm</p> <p>Best At: 6:38am 7:02pm</p> <p>Set: 1:09am, Rise: 12:18pm</p>	<p>Morning: 1:31am 3.2, 2:07pm 3.3 7:37am 0.7, 8:19pm 0.7</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:29pm</p> <p>Best At: 7:26am 7:50pm</p> <p>First Quarter: Rise 1:27am, Set 1:37am</p>	<p>Morning: 2:26am 3.1, 3:03pm 3.3 8:37am 0.8, 9:15pm 0.7</p> <p>Afternoon: 5:51am 8:30pm</p> <p>Best At: 8:13am 8:37pm</p> <p>Set: 2:03am, Rise 2:36pm</p>

\*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. [www.tideviz.com](http://www.tideviz.com) [www.tidespy.com](http://www.tidespy.com) [www.ofu.co.nz](http://www.ofu.co.nz)

### MOON AND FISH KEYS



### TIME DIFFERENCES FOR OTHER PLACES

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

PLACE	Hr	Mn	Hr	Mn
Coromandel	-	05	-	04
Whitianga	-	01	-	05
Tairua	+	10	+	21
Whangamata	-	03	-	05
Waihi Beach	-	12	-	12



# 'Unapproachable' WINZ office concerns

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

A Thames retiree is upset about the new location for the Ministry of Social Development's temporary Work and Income NZ (WINZ) office, saying it is inaccessible and lacking in privacy.

The former WINZ office in Pollen St was closed in November last year due to building damage and ongoing issues with remediation.

The office has since been in Queen St, which WINZ said was a temporary solution and it was working to find a permanent location.

Graeme Harvey, who uses a mobility scooter, had an appointment with Work and Income last month.

He said when he arrived at the office, currently located on the ground floor of the Wintec Building at 414 Queen St, he found the ramp was almost too steep for his scooter.

Additionally, there was no space at the top of the ramp to manoeuvre the scooter through the door, he said.

Unable to access the building, Graeme said the WINZ staff member decided to hold his meeting outside, at the top of the ramp.

"That's personal information, everyone can hear it," Graeme said.



Graeme Harvey says the temporary WINZ office has a lack of accessibility and privacy.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

"When I went to leave, there was a couple of women standing down [at the bottom of the ramp] and all they were doing was shaking their heads.

"They must have heard the conversation."

Graeme said he was unhappy with the situation, and wanted Work and Income to find a location that was more accessible for mobility device users and the elderly.

On social media, there have

been several similar complaints from people being made to wait outside "with no privacy or dignity", and wheelchair users being frustrated they had been unable to get up the ramp.

The location has been called "unapproachable" and "not welcoming".

WINZ Waikato regional commissioner Tracey Smith said Thames staff could not recall any instances where they met with clients outside.

"Our staff can recall one occasion where we met with a client using a wheelchair in a separate and private room inside the building, after they had some difficulty accessing our site," she said.

"We do understand the ramp used to access the building on the interim site can be difficult for people who require disabled access, however we have tried to make our service centres and their amenities as accessible as

*"That's personal information, everyone can hear it."*

- Graeme Harvey

possible.

"We have processes in place in our Thames office to make sure clients in wheelchairs or electric scooters are able to access our office as any other client would.

"This includes an alternative entrance that can be used if needed."

Tracey said there was also a security guard at the front door who could assist people into the building.

However, Graeme said he had seen people turned away at the door by the guards, saying they would not allow anyone in without an appointment.

"It is also extremely important that our clients feel able to openly discuss their details with us, and that this is being done with privacy and respect, and we do everything we can to make them feel reassured," Tracey said.

"If anyone is concerned about their privacy while in a Work and Income office, we would encourage them to let us know."







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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Hauraki dux: 'Take all the opportunities'

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Erin Aralar's goal was to "give my all" for her final year of high school.

The Hauraki Plains College student said she wanted to focus on each assessment and "do my best".

And it was clear the year 13 student was right on track as she snapped up the Leonard Cup for the Hauraki Plains College dux award for 2024 at the school's prizegiving recently.

The dux champion told *The Profile* it was her greatest achievement, but it took a few seconds to sink in.

"I was really shocked.

"Even when I was walking up to the stage, I was like, 'did I hear that right?'" she said.

But that's not all.

The top achiever also received scholarships valued at \$5000 from the University of Auckland, \$5000 from the University of Waikato, \$5000 from the Cariad Charitable Trust, \$1000 from the Haurakian Charitable Trust and a \$1000 cash grant from Guilain Barré Syndrome Support Group.

Erin, who is planning to study a bachelor of engineering with honours at the



Hauraki Plains College dux for 2024 Erin Aralar.

Photo: SUPPLIED

University of Auckland next year, said being dux meant her learning experiences mani-

fested into a great academic achievement.

"It makes me excited about

the new things I'll learn as I go into university."

So far the top student, who

took subjects such as art, calculus, photography, physics and digital technologies, received 37 credits and all of them were excellence, she said.

"I am on track to reach over 100 credits after externals."

In Erin's free time, she liked to crochet, read, paint, roller skate and play the saxophone.

"After school's over, I'm excited to have time for my hobbies again," she said.

Erin, who was also a member of the school's arts council, said she had a lot of fun setting up art exhibitions and performing at the school concerts this year.

Another highlight for Erin was when she painted a mural with fellow students Emily Logan and Tiana Tanner as their contribution to leaving behind a legacy.

But the dux winner's advice for next year's senior students was to "take all the opportunities you can - year 13 goes by way too quickly".

"It can be hard to juggle everything, so try to take care of yourself."

Meanwhile, Sophy Liang received the Hauraki Plains Jaycee Cup as proxime accessit to dux.

# ACADEMIC Prize Giving



**DUX: ERIN ARALAR**

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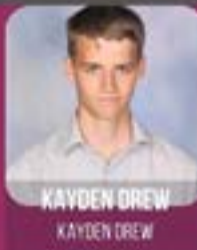
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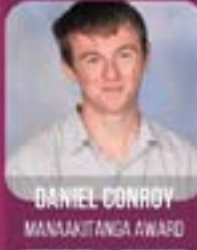
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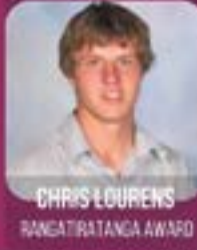
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MAKAYLA HOLTHAM - SERVICE BLUE

ABIGAIL CAMMELL - SERVICE BLUE

ASHLEE THOMPSON - SERVICE BLUE

*Congratulations!*



# Conference aims to improve student wellbeing

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

Tamariki across the Ohinemuri region had a bonus long weekend recently, as a teacher-only day saw schools closed for a personal development summit in Paeroa.

Nearly 250 teachers from the Ohinemuri kāhui ako, or community of learning, gathered at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall on November 11 to hear talks from educators Jase Williams, Sam Johnstone, Sala Tiatia, Richie Hardcore and Kathryn Berkett during the day-long Trauma-Informed Conference.

The aim of the “raw and challenging” conference was to deepen teachers’ understanding of how trauma impacts learning and development, kāhui ako lead principal Brook Hill said.

“We have to have the conditions right for our children to be able to flourish, to be able to learn. We can’t expect them to come in with their suitcases and say, keep that closed... We have to address what’s in that suitcase and put strategies in to support them,” she said.

“At the very start of the year when we put in some data around practices that individual schools are using, it was really confronting. It was really scary the number of stand-downs that we were having,



Ex-principal and educational speaker Jase Williams addresses the crowd at a teacher development conference in Paeroa.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

and behaviour is a form of communication.”

Brook said having all the educators in one place, hearing the same message, was essential in building school-wide strategies to improve children’s wellbeing.

“We can either punish the child or we can look at it through a different lens to un-

derstand what is actually causing that behaviour and what we need to do to address it,” she said.

“Sure, there needs to be consequences, but [the kids] need to be part of that process and the big word that came loud and clear through the conference was connection. When we feel safe and listened to and

valued, we’re more likely to open up and be vulnerable with our learning.”

The speakers’ areas of expertise ranged from neuroscience, to an ex-principal, to life experience with surviving and healing from trauma. At times, the conference was difficult to listen to, Brook said, with plenty of tears as attendees took the

lessons on board.

“It’s not rocket science, the stuff that they’re telling us, but you have to be ready to hear it. And so my key message at the start was that it’s overwhelming but it’s also very humbling to see the number of people that believe in this mahi that are sitting there ready to listen,” she said.

“I feel it’s our responsibility, not only as community members, as mums and dads, but as people who have chosen to work alongside children, to have an understanding of [trauma] because it does affect the way children learn and behave, and we need to have tools in our kete to be able to support the children through those stages.”

The conference was funded by the kāhui ako and a sponsor, the educational organisation Linewise. Attendance was free for staff from the cluster’s schools: Goldfields Special School, Hikutaia School, Karangahake School, Miller Avenue School, Netherton School, Paeroa Central School, Paeroa Christian School, Paeroa St Josephs School, Tirohia School and Paeroa College. Teachers from schools outside the kāhui ako were also invited to attend.



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# Education

ADVERTISING FEATURE



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We arranged an excursion to Aeroview Garden Centre, motivated by the children's enthusiasm to plant watermelon, strawberries, cucumber and flowers. This process has exemplified manaakitanga, (caring for others) as the children have developed a deep sense of responsibility for caring for our environment, preparing our gardens, and nurturing them with care. The children have assumed a sense of leadership and ownership for their learning journey.

We are thrilled to witness their every growing love of learning. They have also been captivated by vehicles and all things that move. We were very grateful to have two of our dads share their expertise and machines with us, including a logging truck and a digger. This was an engaging, hands on learning experience for the children.

As spring has settled in, we have seized the opportunity to re-connect with our beautiful outdoor environment, participating in river and waterplay, carpentry, building, family and social play and embracing our role as curious and adventurous explorers.



## Children at the heart of everything

At Thames Early Childhood Education Centre we put children at the heart of everything we stand for.

We view children as independents, decision makers, positive role models and initiators of their own learning. We value whanau contribution and strongly embrace whanaungatanga where all relationships are strengthened through meaningful experiences.

We aim to create a stimulating and vibrant environment that provokes our tamariki to be curious, discover, investigate and enhance their imagination but most of all have fun. We encourage children to take their time to participate in different experiences, each building on their knowledge.

Our children are always at the heart of our programme therefore benefiting each individuals learning and development which enhances and acknowledges the true sense of ako. This ensures each child is individually catered for at their own age and stage of development. We value our mixed age centre and welcome children from birth to school age.

We believe that they learn best from interacting with each other. Our babies have a sense of security

in their room but also have a place in the over twos area. We believe that this approach embraces and empowers the tuakana teina concept when the two age groups meet. We provide opportunities for children to make their own choices, use their imagination, work independently or in groups as this enables them to be the decision makers of their own learning. It also develops confidence, perseverance and social skills.

We appreciate, value and support our community and believe that people and places that surround us have just as much to offer our centre as we do them.

This gives our children an opportunity to extend their knowledge about what the community can offer us and also make the most of the environment. We celebrate and embrace all ethnic cultures giving children the opportunity to each learn about inclusion and diversity. Our current promotion is 30 free hours for all ages (conditions apply). We are open Monday to Friday 8am to 3pm. Please feel free to pop in and see us or give us a call.

**DETAILS: 100 Haven Street, Moanataiari (behind A&G Price) and reachable on 07 868 7028.**

## Nurturing young minds

At Central Kids Thames, tamariki are central to all we do. We provide a safe, inclusive, supportive, and stimulating environment where tamariki thrive. We allow tamariki to lead their own learning, working closely alongside them as we respond to their interests.

Whanaungatanga, in which we form familiar bonds with whānau, is an important value of ours. Our goal is to support the aspirations whānau have for their tamariki, and to work collaboratively with whānau to achieve their goals. Guided by New Zealand's early childhood curriculum Te Whāriki, we take a holistic approach to teaching. The curriculum weaves together five strands that are crucial for ensuring educational success.

These strands are Mana Atua/Wellbeing, Mana Whenua/Belonging, Mana Tangata/Contribution, Mana Reo/Language, and Mana Aoturoa/Exploration. By focusing on each of these, we support tamariki to develop positive relationships with learning, which leads to ongoing educational success.

Our environment is rich in open-ended resources and intentional provocations that inspire tamariki to freely explore their ideas and expand on what they are learning.

We encourage exploration and aspire for tamariki to develop curiosity about the world and the inclination to share their interests with others. Our team of fully qualified teachers are dedicated to fostering a love of learning. We include art, music and movement, literacy, numeracy, science, dramatic play, group games, nature-based learning and more within our setting, along with celebrating events meaningful to our

learning community such as Matariki and Diwali. Our assessment style is in the form of learning stories that draw from Te Whatu Pōkeka, in which cultural ways of knowing, doing, and being are integrated into assessment. This means that we continuously seek to expand our skills as we learn about and from the tamariki within our centre.

In this way, we can better identify and respond to their individual learning strengths.

Meaningful collaborative relationships with whānau are key to understanding the strengths tamariki bring. Relationships with whānau inform our practice and guide us in successfully responding to their child's learning needs. Input from whānau empowers the child's voice, and we love to hear what our tamariki have to say. Here we have captured some valuable feedback.

We asked our tamariki, 'What do you like about kindergarten?' and the response was insightfully wonderful.

Quinn - 'I like going on the monkey bars, rolling playdough, and making handprints, and high fives'.

Te Kahikatea - 'When we go to school visits and doing baking, eating weetbix'.

Caius - 'Making truck farms in the sandpit and gluing with the hot glue gun'.

Mia - 'I like swinging on the monkey bars and practising until I can do it by myself and swinging really high on the swings'.

We were delighted to hear this and will respond to their voices by ensuring there is plenty more of what they love within their learning space.

*'Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti arahia o tatou mahi - Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.'*



## Explore, learn, grow with us at Little Chiefs Educare

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# Tinned goods cause multiple poisonings



As part of a Valley Profile series, **MEGHAN HAWKES** explores our local history by seeking out stories of life and death in the Thames Valley

Household laziness – in the form of using tinned meat – showed the slovenly attitude of home cooks and a total disregard of the risks of ptomaine poisoning, fumed a newspaper in 1902.

Now known as food poisoning, ptomaine was then described as a 'mighty atom' which loved to lurk in various parts of the human diet. Housewives were warned to be on their guard, particularly in hot weather. Food stored in dark, damp, airless larders, and the keeping of milk, butter, meat, fish, and butcher's sausages close together meant each gave its own gases to the other, becoming centres for colonies of ptomaines.

Housewives were cautioned, before buying any canned food, to look carefully for the 'bulging tin' and reject it as there were 'death germs' inside at work.

This did not occur to Mr Burke of Paeroa in February, 1903, when his wife left for Thames to attend a special Salvation Army meeting. Mr Burke served their four children tinned mullet for tea, and all of them, including an infant,



Ptomaine poisoning, Auckland, 1894. Photo: SUPPLIED

ate some. Shortly afterwards the family were attacked with violent pains, and as the children were becoming very ill Mr Burke called for help from his neighbours, Mr Bush and Mr Quick. Mrs Smith and Mrs Beeche, hearing of the mishap, also rendered help. Seeing that all were in a critical condition, Mr Quick immediately called for Dr Buckby. A bright little fellow named Eric, aged about four, appeared to suffer most, and several times it was thought that he had breathed his last. Mr Burke was also very bad. Fortunately, however, medical skill and attention succeeded and the next morning Mr Burke and his children were declared out of danger.

Three years later, in 1906, there was a great sensation at Paeroa when around 50 people attending the Ohinemuri Jockey Club's races were all attacked with ptomaine poisoning. The scene on the course was described as remarkable with scores of people ill at the same time. Some were

stricken so seriously that they had to be carried into Paeroa on stretchers, and hotels were for a time full of sick people. The spectacle on the train at Karangahake, Waikino and Waihi was not likely to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

Some of the cases were most serious, and it was feared that there would be loss of life. If it had not been for the prompt remedial measures and liberal administration of emetics to induce vomiting more dire consequences would have occurred. The police took charge of the Jockey Club's refreshment booth and the Health Officer came to Paeroa to begin inquiries. Among the food supplied at the race course were potted ox tongues, and it was believed these were the culprit. They had been boiled in a copper and left in it overnight. The action of salt on the copper, it was said, contaminated the tongues, although strangely those who refrained from eating the tongues, and only drank tea,

were similarly attacked. Eventually all sufferers were out of danger.

But in 1909 Mrs Wilson, wife of the Paeroa dairy inspector, wasn't so lucky. She and her husband had had tinned salmon for dinner with no ill effects until later that evening when Mrs Wilson, after drinking a cup of cocoa, was suddenly taken very ill. Dr Smith was sent for and did all he could. About midnight Dr Cheesman of Karangahake was also sent for and although everything possible was done it was of no avail, and Mrs Wilson died about 3am. The Wilsons had only lived in Paeroa about 18 months, having come from Wellington and it was back to Wellington Mrs Wilson was taken by express train for her funeral.

A tinned fish lunch afflicted Mrs Medhurst of Paeroa in 1913. About two hours later she was seized with pains in the stomach. Thinking they would pass, she did not take very much notice, but they became worse instead. Mrs Medhurst was in the house alone and the pains became so violent that for some time she could not even reach the telephone. Finally she managed to ring for help, and Mr Medhurst at once procured the aid of a nurse and wired for Dr Craig. On arrival, the doctor applied the necessary remedies, and Mrs Medhurst recovered.

The run of Paeroa poisonings gradually subsided as medical knowledge improved but even years later the 'germ' was considered one of a rather mysterious group. How they contaminated tinned foods was something of a puzzle, the 'germ' generally believed to get in through holes in the tins.

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. Which high school did singer Courtney Love attend in New Zealand for one year in 1972 before being expelled in 1973? a) Burnside High School, b) Nelson College for Girls, or c) Rangitoto College?
2. The study of caving is known as what? a) cavology, b) speleology, or c) speluncology?
3. True or False: the countries of Slovakia and Slovenia share a border?
4. Glinda and Elphaba are both characters in which musical?
5. Yeoman Warders, the ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London, are often referred to by which name?
6. Would a helium balloon on the moon, made of strong enough material not to burst in a vacuum, a) fall to the ground, b) rise up or c) stay where it is?
7. Which tile game was originally known as Criss-Crosswords when patented in 1938? a) Bananagrams, b) Boggle or c) Scrabble?
8. The transport vehicle known in the UK as a pedalo, is often shaped like which animal?
9. How many times has Team New Zealand won the America's Cup? a) three times, b) five times, or c) eight times?
10. What is the only palm tree native to New Zealand, most commonly known by its Te Reo Māori name?



ANSWERS: 1. b) Nelson College for Girls; 2. b) speleology; 3. False; 4. Wicked; 5. Beebeaters; 6. a) Fall to the ground. There is no air on the moon to displace so it would fall as it would be influenced by gravity alone; 7. c) Scrabble; 8. A swan; 9. Five times - in 1995, 2000, 2017, 2021 and 2024; 10. Nikau.

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Mautohe Cathedral Cove reopens to walkers.

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Cathedral Cove track reopens

The official reopening of the walking track to Mautohe Cathedral Cove on Sunday comes just in time for summer, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson says.

The walking track to the Coromandel beach with its iconic arch was severely damaged by extreme weather events including Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in Summer 2022-2023.

“Reinstating walking access to Cathedral Cove has been a priority for our community,” Mr Simpson said.

“While myself and the community have been frustrated that it’s taken close to two years to get Cathedral Cove fully reopened, I want to thank DOC and their team for getting the track open in time for summer.”

He said local businesses would be relieved the track had reopened.

“Now they can get back to what they do best, welcoming visitors to our region and ensuring they have the best experience possible,” he said.

“Cathedral Cove is a significant drawcard for our region and I’m sure people will be flocking back to enjoy this natural wonder.”

“Being able to walk to Cathedral Cove is just another reason why the Coromandel is the place to be this summer. My message to everyone, far and wide, is that the Coromandel Peninsula is open and ready to explore.”

Speaking from Mautohe Cathedral Cove, Tama Potaka thanked staff from the Department of Conservation – Te Papa Atawhai, tangata whenua Ngāti Hei, the local community and civic leaders, contractors and all others who worked to get the track open for public enjoyment.

The area had previously drawn an estimated 250,000 walkers annually, he said.

“The work has been enabled through \$1.4 million funding from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy.

“Mautohe Cathedral Cove plays an important role in supporting the local economy and this reopening is an exciting step in the region’s tourism recovery following storms and Covid-19,” he said.

“Visitors to the area are predicted to bring an estimated \$12 million into the region annually.”

## Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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# SPORTS REPORTS

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

## 'Electric' atmosphere for Waitai win

### BOXING

A full house in Hamilton was treated to arguably the best fights to happen in NZ for 2024.

The atmosphere was electric in central Hamilton, the capacity crowd yet to realise what a treat they were in for. It has been just over a year since Paeroa's Francis 'The Punisher' Waitai last fought, and more than 18 months since he has fought on home soil, and what a fight this was.

His opponent was the highly rated Robert 'The Butcher' Berridge who has peaked at ninth on the WBO and 12th on the WBA World Rankings.

Round One started with Waitai looking very sharp, immediately catching Berridge with fast hands, superb combinations and a flurry of power punches.

As the round progressed, Waitai pressed forward and delivered a quality left hand, which stunned Berridge, seeing him stagger backwards. Only the bell stopped Berridge feeling more of Waitai's power.

Round Two saw Waitai taking the fight to Berridge again. As the round progressed Waitai illustrated his power, this time a body shot from Waitai dropping Berridge to the canvas. The bell saved Berridge from further pain, and the crowd was frothing with excitement.

Round three was even more frenetic. Waitai came out of his corner on fire and determined



Francis Waitai scored a unanimous win against Robert Berridge. SUPPLIED

to finish off the injured Berridge. But nothing is ever guaranteed in the fight game.

Waitai, getting a little greedy in handing out his punishment, was caught by a 'beauty' of a left overhand from Berridge. Suddenly and unexpectedly, it was Waitai who was shaken, but in true warrior style, Waitai stood his ground and traded punch

for punch with Berridge until the bell rang.

The fourth round saw Waitai stamp his authority on this bout. The wildness of the first three rounds gave way to a master class from Waitai in the 'art of boxing'. This was the theme for the remainder of the fight. Waitai calmly outboxed and outclassed Berridge.

The judges scored the fight a unanimous win for Waitai, and the crowd went wild. This was Waitai's first fight since the unexpected passing of his much-loved father, Jack Waitai. Obviously, many of Waitai's fans were aware of Jack's passing and the profound effect this had on Francis. As a true mark of respect, over half of the crowd joined together to perform one of the most passionate haka ever witnessed in a sporting venue.

Shaun George, Waitai's manager from Team George Promotions, was extremely pleased with Francis' performance after an absence of a year from the squared ring. Shaun acknowledged what an amazing fight they had witnessed and praised both pugilists for giving the crowd such a magnificent display of skills.

Team Waitai wanted to thank all their supporters for coming out, including Te Rapa Wholesale Cars. Waitai, also wanted to thank his whanau at the Never Surrender Boxing Club for all their support. Finally, a huge thank you to Shaun George for all the help and advice, especially over the past year.

Don't worry if you missed out this time - Francis 'The Punisher' Waitai will be returning to the ring early next year, at the Chaos in the Coromandel event in Thames. We look forward to seeing you there.

- By Andrew Connaughton



## 118th birthday celebration

The Thames Croquet Club celebrated its 118th birthday on November 16 at their lawns on Beach Rd. Teams from Morrinsville, Te Aroha, Waihi, Whangamata, Manurewa, Papakura, Lemington, Hamilton East and Paeroa joined the Thames club members for a day of competition, sponsored by Twentymans Funeral Directors of Thames. The full day of play was followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea and birthday cake with patron Claire Twentyman cutting the birthday cake and presenting prizes to the winning teams.

- Supplied by Thames Croquet



## A fresh start for CAPS as we continue to support the community

CAPS Hauraki have a new look and a new location at 301 Pollen Street Thames. We continue to support the community by providing our following core services here:

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- Youth Support

If you are in need of support, drop in between 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

We are still settling in and working on signage, but we are here to help. CAPS look forward to hosting community meetings and other services in our new space over time.

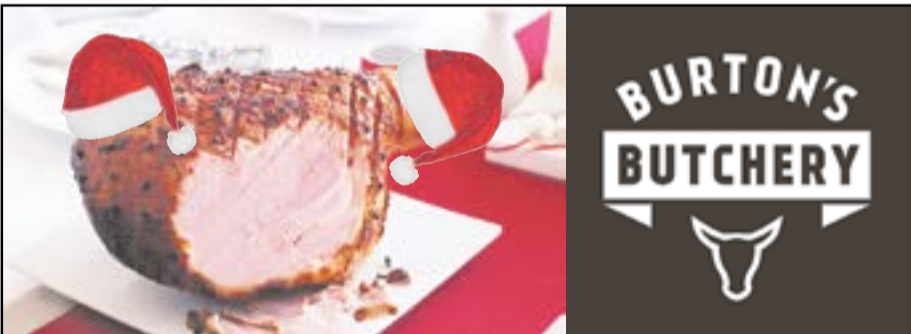
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Kids chill out with ice cream in the yellow machine. BELOW: Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club member Shaun Hurst, left, with club president Neil Fitzgerald. Photos: KARYN ADAMS

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**Cranking it up**

A day to celebrate vintage machinery in the Hauraki Plains kicked off on November 24. The Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club hosted people from all over for their annual Crank Up Day event at the Kaihere Domain. Club member Shaun Hurst told *The Profile* the day exceeded all expectations, with a huge turnout of people of all ages - "they just kept coming". Food and drink stalls were pushed all day, and there was also "great support" and participation from neighbouring clubs such as Franklin, Waikato, Otorohanga and Tauranga. "It was hectic, but so much fun," he said. KARYN ADAMS captured the vintage spectacles on show. MORE PHOTOS: P11

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# Rural Life



Neil Dalgety takes his blue tractor for a spin.



Scotty Bright tows happy punters around the domain. Photos: KARYN ADAMS

CONTINUED FROM P10  
Punters enjoy a day in the sun at the annual Hauraki Vintage Machinery Club Crank Up day at Kaihere Domain.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Hello Sailor sets sail for Waihi Beach

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Even though Paul Woolright says his bass guitar playing was “nothing too flash”, the muso is sure of one thing: “I know where the groove is”.

The musician, who made Paeroa his home with wife Frances in 2017, told *The Profile* he loved “creating the pulse and the feel” in his bass playing.

People might recognise the bass player from the iconic Kiwi band Hello Sailor, which has not only toured across the nation and shared the stage with many New Zealand acts, but have also made waves all around the world and shared platforms with international headliners.

But something a little closer to home was set to take place this weekend.

Hello Sailor fans and enthusiasts will get the chance to see the legendary band rock out at the Waihi Beach Hotel on December 7 from 8.30pm for the Hello Sailor ‘Whirled’ Tour.

Tickets were almost sold out, so for people who didn’t want to miss the opportunity to see the band - they would need to get in quick and book tickets on the Eventfinda website.

The band of “well honed” musicians consists of: Rick



Paul Woolright, right, on the bass with his band Hello Sailor.

Photo: LEONI MORELAND

Ball on the drums, Harry Lyon on guitar, mandolin and vocals, Jimmy Taylor on guitar and vocals, Stephen Small on the keys and of course, Paul on the bass and vocals.

Next year, Hello Sailor will mark a special milestone with its 50th anniversary.

“We’re a bunch of brothers

that have been together for a long time,” he said.

One thing Paul said “you still don’t get used to” was people talking to them between sets or after the show. “The compliments are just fantastic and it’s really nice - there’s no egos or anything like that.”

They just played and em-

braced playing the songs to people who loved them, he said.

“That’s just what we do.”

**DETAILS: Hello Sailor ‘Whirled’ Tour, December 7 from 8.30pm at Waihi Beach Hotel. Visit [www.Eventfinda.co.nz](http://www.Eventfinda.co.nz) and search for Hello Sailor Waihi Beach Hotel for more information.**

# YouTuber causes a stir

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

YouTuber star and streamer IShowSpeed visited New Zealand last week. Speed is a well known figure among teens and children, who has garnered a whopping 33 million subscribers on YouTube.

He announced earlier in the year that he would be visiting Aotearoa and Australia. He touched down in Australia on November 21, before arriving here in New Zealand a week later. He began his trip in Rotorua where he visited Skyline and crashed his kart on the luge. He also took on the skyswing, where he was joined by one lucky kiwi fan. Later that day, he led a haka at the Whakarewarewa Living Maori Village. Finally, he ended the day falling 43m on a free-fall ride in Rotorua.

The following day, Speed explored Auckland where he visited the Sky Tower, played basketball with the Breakers, practiced rugby league with the Warriors, and met two teenaged kids who were skipping their exams. He live streamed both days of the action online, which has been trending and collected millions of views within only a week. Kids and adults bombarded the huge star, chasing him down the street and following him place to place, shouting, screaming and begging for photos and autographs.



# Health & Wellbeing

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Health and wellness services to continue over festive break

With the holiday season quickly approaching, the Whānau Health Centre team at Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki is adjusting their schedules to allow for the Christmas and New Year public holidays.

"We would like to remind all whānau to check their supply of their regular medications to ensure that they have enough of what they need to get them through the holiday period, and if a repeat prescription is required, to allow plenty of time for this to be processed before we close for the Christmas break," Clinical Director Dr Martin Mikaere said.

All four Whānau Health Centres - located in Paeroa, Thames, Coromandel and Whitianga, will be closed from December 25 to 27, and from January 1 to 3.

"Although we will be closed for several days over the summer holiday period, whānau members who are enrolled patients with our Whānau Health Centres will still have access to 24-hour medical advice and treatment on these days through our rural telehealth partner, Ka Ora Telecare," Practice Manager Whānau Health Centres Mischell Willis said.

Ka Ora Telecare will support Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki enrolled patients to connect with healthcare professionals for medical advice and treatment and allow patients to have a same day phone or video consultation with a medical team member.

This can be accessed via our standard free-phone number, 0508 835 676, or booked online using the Ka Ora booking portal.

The Ka Ora Healthcare team will assess enrolled patients and provide them with advice, alongside any management that may be required including prescriptions, requesting of tests, and medical certificates.

Outside of the holiday season, Ka Ora Telecare



continues to support Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki enrolled patients with accessing after-hours medical advice and treatment from 5pm to 8.30am (evening and overnight) on weekdays, and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.

"We really want to spread the message to our whānau that even when our Whānau Health Centres aren't open, they can still access quality healthcare over the phone, or book in for a virtual consult, at the same low cost," Clinical Service Manager, Janine Thompson said.

**DETAILS: To get in touch with our Whānau Health Centres, call our FREEPHONE number 0508 835 676. Our phone lines will automatically connect you to Ka Ora Telecare outside of our opening hours, or you can book an online virtual appointment at kaora.co.nz**

## Challenge the tall tales we carry

### OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



In my weekly young adults group, we always kick things off by chilling and chatting. Recently, during one of those relaxed moments, height came up in conversation.

Most of the guys assumed I was still the tallest of the bunch. Back in the day, when I was their youth leader, I did tower over them. But now, I've stayed the same while they've all shot up and become proper men.

In their minds, though, I was still that tall guy from their teenage years. Isn't it interesting how our minds cling to past perceptions? These ideas get locked in place, untouched by the passing years, until something nudges us to reconsider. For the guys, that old image of me remained—just as tall as I'd been when they were younger. It was only when we measured ourselves in the present that the reality became clear. We all carry these kinds of stories—beliefs about ourselves or others, formed long ago and never reevaluated. These perceptions can relate to an-

anything: our intelligence, bravery, or capabilities. The real question is: are those beliefs still accurate, or are they just old narratives holding us back? This has been such an important reminder for me. Years ago, a leader I admired failed miserably in my eyes. Over a decade later, I still viewed him with that same sense of arrogance. Yet when I reconnected with him, I discovered he had continued to learn and grow, ultimately becoming a source of inspiration for me. If I had clung to my outdated perception of him, I would have missed out on some valuable insights.

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Everyone's risk is individual, depending on family history, exposure to the sun and your skin

type. This service will be accessible to all people, not just our enrolled patients.

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## Whānau Health Centre Holiday Hours



Our Whānau Health Centres located in PAEROA | THAMES | COROMANDEL | WHITIANGA

will be **closed** from

**Wed-Fri, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024\***

and from

**Wed-Fri, 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025\***

\*Our usual opening hours of **MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8.30AM-5.00PM** will apply outside these dates

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# Health & Wellbeing

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Health and wellness services to continue over festive break

With the holiday season quickly approaching, the Whānau Health Centre team at Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki is adjusting their schedules to allow for the Christmas and New Year public holidays.

"We would like to remind all whānau to check their supply of their regular medications to ensure that they have enough of what they need to get them through the holiday period, and if a repeat prescription is required, to allow plenty of time for this to be processed before we close for the Christmas break," Clinical Director Dr Martin Mikaere said.

All four Whānau Health Centres - located in Paeroa, Thames, Coromandel and Whitianga, will be closed from December 25 to 27, and from January 1 to 3.

"Although we will be closed for several days over the summer holiday period, whānau members who are enrolled patients with our Whānau Health Centres will still have access to 24-hour medical advice and treatment on these days through our rural telehealth partner, Ka Ora Telecare," Practice Manager Whānau Health Centres Mischell Willis said.

Ka Ora Telecare will support Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki enrolled patients to connect with healthcare professionals for medical advice and treatment and allow patients to have a same day phone or video consultation with a medical team member.

This can be accessed via our standard free-phone number, 0508 835 676, or booked online using the Ka Ora booking portal.

The Ka Ora Healthcare team will assess enrolled patients and provide them with advice, alongside any management that may be required including prescriptions, requesting of tests, and medical certificates.

Outside of the holiday season, Ka Ora Telecare



continues to support Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki enrolled patients with accessing after-hours medical advice and treatment from 5pm to 8.30am (evening and overnight) on weekdays, and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.

"We really want to spread the message to our whānau that even when our Whānau Health Centres aren't open, they can still access quality healthcare over the phone, or book in for a virtual consult, at the same low cost," Clinical Service Manager, Janine Thompson said.

**DETAILS: To get in touch with our Whānau Health Centres, call our FREEPHONE number 0508 835 676. Our phone lines will automatically connect you to Ka Ora Telecare outside of our opening hours, or you can book an online virtual appointment at kaora.co.nz**

## Challenge the tall tales we carry

### OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



In my weekly young adults group, we always kick things off by chilling and chatting. Recently, during one of those relaxed moments, height came up in conversation.

Most of the guys assumed I was still the tallest of the bunch. Back in the day, when I was their youth leader, I did tower over them. But now, I've stayed the same while they've all shot up and become proper men.

In their minds, though, I was still that tall guy from their teenage years. Isn't it interesting how our minds cling to past perceptions? These ideas get locked in place, untouched by the passing years, until something nudges us to reconsider. For the guys, that old image of me remained—just as tall as I'd been when they were younger. It was only when we measured ourselves in the present that the reality became clear. We all carry these kinds of stories—beliefs about ourselves or others, formed long ago and never reevaluated. These perceptions can relate to an-

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### CLOSURE OF STREETS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

Pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is hereby given that the Thames-Coromandel District Council, for the purpose of the Thames Santa Parade 2024 event, will close the following streets to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder.

**Saturday 7th December 2024 between 9am and 12:30pm**  
Road closures will be carried out on Pollen Street, from State Highway 25 Queen Street to the Campbell Street intersection, including the following side roads:

- Cochrane Street
- Martha Street
- Pahau Street
- Walter Street
- Mary Street
- Sealey Street
- Richmond Street
- Willoughby Street
- Grey Street

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

During the period of the road closure, use the alternative routes of Mackay Street, Campbell Street and SH25.

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Go to page 2 for details  
on how to enter.





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# Miners immortalised in sculpture

A piece of Waihi gold mining history was remembered in a sculpture work called *Waihi Miners 1912*, which was exhibited as part of the Bay of Plenty Garden and Art Festival last month.

The work, made from three jarrah sleepers that were recovered from the shafts of the old Martha Mine, commemorates the gold miners who went on strike in 1912 and the women who stood by their men.

The story of the sculptures started when sculptor Chris Pointon saw eight jarrah sleepers advertised for sale on Trade Me.

When he visited the vendors, Dennis and Adrienne Butler, he learned of their long association with the mine - over three generations of their families - and that the sleepers were treasured objects linked to the history of the Martha Mine and the people who worked it. "I was lucky enough to have studied the Waihi Miners' Strike of 1912 at university, and this important event in the history of New Zealand workers had left an impression on me," Chris said. "As I drove home with the sleepers, I realised I would need to do justice to both the history of the sleepers and the inherent beauty of the timber. When I got them home and stood them up against my work bench, they looked like the miners standing shoulder to shoulder, with the projecting tenons suggesting their heads. I took my inspiration from there."

Chris said he researched the fashions of the time, including cloth caps worn by miners, women's high-neck ruffles and men's facial hair styles.

"It was then a matter of trying to fashion three heads from the jarrah. But jarrah, an



Australian hardwood, is tough, durable, and highly weather resistant. It is hard to work with hand tools, and resisted the efforts of the sculptor to shape it, blunting my saws and chisels quickly. These sleepers would be over 100 years old, so they were extra hard. In the end a minimalist approach seemed to be sensible."

The resulting jarrah sleepers were an apt metaphor for the old gold miners who had to be strong and resilient as they experienced very tough working conditions, Chris said.



Sculptor Chris Pointon with his sculpture *Waihi Miners 1912*.



Photos: SUPPLIED

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**Public Notice**

**HETHERINGTON HOUSE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Would you like to Make a Difference in Our Community?

- Are you passionate about creating positive change?
- Do you have previous Governance experience?
- Do you have skills and experience in Health and Finance?

We are seeking dynamic, committed individuals to join our Governance Committee. As a volunteer Committee Member, you'll play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Hetherington House and making a lasting impact on the lives of residents.

**Who We Are:**

- Hetherington House was built by the Community of Waihi and is owned and run by a charitable Incorporated Society.
- Hetherington House is a 50-bed residential home with three levels of care, rest home, hospital level and a secure Dementia unit.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please email:  
chair.hetheringtonhouse@gmail.co.nz

**Public Notice**

**Proposed Temporary Road Closure**

Pursuant to the Section 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974, notice is hereby given that for the purpose of a Motorsport Rally Tarmac Sprint event organised by Thames Valley Car Club it is intended to close the following road to ordinary vehicular traffic for the period indicated hereunder. During the proposed period of closure provision will be made for ordinary vehicular traffic, which would otherwise use the road, to use alternative routes.

**Period of closure:** Sunday 19 January 2025, 8.00am to 5.00pm.

**Road to be closed:** Rotokohu Road, Paeroa (RP 6.270 – 7.720).

Alternative provision for ordinary vehicular traffic will be made with signs, cones and barriers to redirect traffic on detour.

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person otherwise than under authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicular traffic during the proposed period of closure.

Any objections should be directed to Transport Manager on 07 862 8609 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz by 18 December 2024.

D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

**Lions members at Lap The Map in Waihi.**

Photos: SUPPLIED

## Lions Lap The Map event a success

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

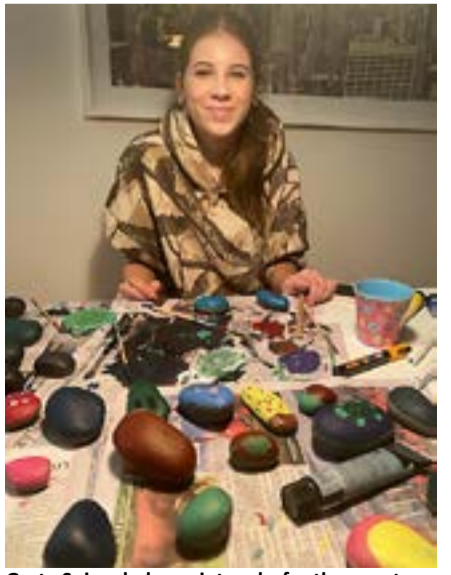
It was a successful morning at the Lap The Map for Diabetes Awareness event on November 17 in Waihi which raised \$435 in donations.

Lions clubs from Paeroa, Waihi, Katikati and Omokoroa worked together to put on the event for the community which saw around 120 folks of all ages take part in the day, including a number of family groups, Project leader David Parish told *The Profile*.

The weather conditions were perfect for people who showed up to walk the 3.8 kilometres of the Waihi goldmine pit rim in support of diabetes awareness, he said.

Greta Spicer from the Waihi Leos group helped to paint rocks that were then placed around the pit rim for children to keep an eye out for along the walk.

"The children loved finding them," David said. The generous donations raised on the day would go towards supporting the Diabetes Societies summer camp for families living with diabetes, he said.



Greta Spicer helps paint rocks for the event.

**PAPER DELIVERIES**

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

**NGATEA** - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy  
**PAEROA** - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub  
**WAIHI** - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, Information Centre, Daffodil Dairy, Waihi Supervalve  
**THAMES** - Totara Veggie Shop, Mobil Kopu, Gull Service Station, Martina 4 Square, Bin Inn, Tararu Dairy, Queen St Mobil, Goldfields Mall, Pak'N'Save, Paper Power, Thames 4 Square, Carson's Bookshop, Thames Council Offices, Kauaeranga Store  
**TURUA:** Turua Dairy  
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**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!

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**Asking Price** \$1,199,000

**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

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**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937

seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

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karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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bayleys.co.nz/2316256

5,000<sub>sqm</sub> 3 2

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