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ENABLING BETTER BUSINESS

Volunteers unite

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

A new volunteering platform is in the works for some of Thames' heritage organisations, and the groups involved say it will improve communication, collaboration and sharing of resources in the sector.

The project will allow volunteers to find roles of all kinds at one of the participating organisations, from public-facing roles like taking tickets and manning museum displays, to behind-the-scenes jobs like administration and marketing.

Organisations on board so far include Te Whare Pātaka | The Treasury Heritage Research Centre and Archive; Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Thames School of Mines; the Thames Information Centre; the Bella Street Pumphouse; the Hauraki Prospectors Association, also known as the Thames Goldmine Experience; the Historic Kōpū Bridge Society; the Thames Small Gauge Railway Society; and St George's Anglican Church.

The platform is still in the concept phase, but The Treasury trustee Jan Wright and School of Mines property manager Kay Kendall said they were aiming to be operational by the end of 2025. "Our goal is by next summer season, this is embedded, up and running, operational," Kay said. "Anybody who wants to volunteer for those organisations can do so right away, [but] the good

thing in the future is there'll be a new set of support tools available to these volunteers."

The pair said the platform would streamline volunteering in Thames, by allowing sharing of resources by organisations, as well as helping would-be volunteers to find opportunities they might not otherwise have discovered.

"[Volunteers] would obviously be trained in each of those facilities or any of those facilities that are of interest to them and the platform allows them to self-manage," Jan said.

"We're looking at growing that communication, growing the collaborations eventually between the sites and making it really easy for people to volunteer and be really stimulated by a variety of different opportunities in heritage."

Jan and Kay also hoped the platform would make it easier to retain vital information and develop better succession planning for the organisations.

"Thames has got a beautiful, not just heritage, but a beautiful bunch of volunteers that run most of the entities here. However, we've got very limited succession planning. And an 80-year-old being replaced by a 70-year-old isn't really particularly great succession," Jan said.

"So the opportunity from this partnership ... is for heritage and all heritage-related things to benefit from us working closely together."



Volunteers plan to band together for Thames' heritage organisations. Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

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In Brief

BLACKJACK FIRE

A vegetation fire that started at Blackjack Rd near Kūaotunu on January 11 is being monitored for hot spots after emergency services battled to contain it for several days. The blaze was reported to emergency services around 3.50pm, and the road closed shortly thereafter. Multiple crews and helicopters were deployed to extinguish the blaze.

Fire and Emergency Incident Controller Shane Bromley announced the fire was contained on the evening of January 12, and said crews would turn their attention to mopping up hotspots on the steep terrain. He warned higher temperatures and rising winds would make their work more challenging over the next few days, and there is still some risk to the public.

Fire and Emergency NZ said it would likely take several days to fully extinguish the fire. The organisation will be using drones overnight to identify further hotspots through thermal imaging. At the time of printing, Blackjack Rd was still closed except for residents and essential business. A nearby walking track will remain closed until the fire is completely extinguished.

CLIFF DEATH

A person has died following a rescue from a cliff at Hahei Beach on January 11. Emergency services were called to the scene around 8.15pm, where a person was located at the bottom of the cliff in a critical condition. They later died at the scene. A second uninjured person was rescued from the cliff face by a Fire and Emergency NZ lines rescue team.

NAMES RELEASED

Police have named the victims of two fatal



A fire broke out on the Blackjack Rd on January 11.

Photo: SUPPLIED/FENZ

crashes over the Christmas holiday period. A two-vehicle accident in Ōrongo on the corner of SH25 and Hauraki Rd claimed the life of 58-year-old United States tourist Marcia Diana Shattuck on December 19. The second crash, on SH25 in Te Puru on December 27, claimed the life of 33-year-old Jason David Taana of Waiomu. Police are still investigating the circumstances of the incidents.

CORRECTION

A story published on January 7 incorrectly named Keith Trembath as a recipient of the King's Service Medal in the 2025 New Year's Honours list, for his services to the community, agriculture and education. The correct accolade is a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. *The Valley Profile* apologises for the error.

Paeroa Lions' Book Fair 'bigger, better'

By KELLEY TANTAU, Public Interest Journalism funded by NZ On Air

After the success of its very first book fair in 2024, Paeroa Lions Club has lined up a "bigger and better" event for this Auckland Anniversary Weekend.

President Wei Zhang said last year's inaugural fair raised just shy of \$6000, but the Lions topped it up and donated the funds to the Lions Cancer Lodge in Hamilton.

This year, the club's board has decided to again support the lodge, and also donate proceeds to community projects.

Wei said she didn't anticipate the popularity of the fair last year, which saw "a long queue from the hall entrance to the main road" before the doors were set to open.

"This year we will have more books thanks to a significant donation from Tauranga Harbor City Lions Club. Both the main and small halls of the Paeroa War Memorial Hall will have books for sale, [whereas] last year, we only had the main hall for the books.

"By doing so, more books can be better displayed, making it easier for the public to browse. So, yes, I think this year's book fair is going to be 'bigger and better'."

DETAILS Drop off books for donation at Caltex Paeroa and the Paeroa Info Hub on Wharf St. Open January 25 from 9am-4pm and January 26 from 9am-3pm.

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Thames Tides																																										
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<p><small>*Not for navigational purposes. Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd. www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz</small></p> <p>MOON AND FISH KEYS 🌑 New Moon 🌒 First Quarter 🌓 Full Moon 🌔 Last Quarter 🐟 Good Fishing 🐟 Fair Fishing 🐟 Not So Good</p>												<p>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.</p>			<p>PLACE</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Coromandel</td> <td>-0</td> <td>04</td> <td>-0</td> <td>04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitianga</td> <td>-0</td> <td>01</td> <td>-0</td> <td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tairua</td> <td>+0</td> <td>10</td> <td>+0</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whangamata</td> <td>-0</td> <td>03</td> <td>-0</td> <td>05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waihi Beach</td> <td>-0</td> <td>12</td> <td>-0</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>			Coromandel	-0	04	-0	04	Whitianga	-0	01	-0	05	Tairua	+0	10	+0	21	Whangamata	-0	03	-0	05	Waihi Beach	-0	12	-0	12
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Abuse in care advocate breaks barriers

Thames-based Māori advocate and researcher Paora Moyle has been named a recipient of The King's Service Order on the New Year's Honours List for 2025.

Paora was nationally recognised for services to survivors of abuse in care. It has been 28 years in the making.

"It was 1997 when I first started to lobby the State to provide better care for tamariki, who are taken from their whānau and put with faith or State-based organisations," she said.

After being notified about the tohu for tireless advocacy for survivors of abuse in care, she paused to reflect on the long and often painful road that led to this moment.

Her journey began not with public recognition but with a deeply personal mission: researching and writing up a report that would forever change her life. "It was a whakapapa study to help locate my whānau and myself."

The task was as monumental as it was essential, Paora said.

She and her siblings had been separated when they were very young, taken into State care and cut off from their ancestral ties.

"Of course, we didn't know what whakapapa was or any-

thing," she recalled.

"But we told stories to one another, stories of the feeling of belonging to something greater."

Those stories sustained them, planting the seed for her later work. The whakapapa study wasn't just about tracing lineage; it was about reclaiming identity, restoring connections, and finding a place within the larger story of her people.

"Learning about my tipuna - who they were, where they came from, and how they lived - is a profoundly powerful experience. Understanding their stories, their love, and the care they showed for one another has given me a deeper sense of what whānau truly means."

Over the years, Paora's work has evolved. What started as a personal journey became a mission to support others who had suffered in care, helping them find their voices, their histories, and their strength.

"When I first started this work, I didn't fully know what I was doing - I was just young and driven by the passion of knowing that what happened to me and my younger siblings was wrong. With no parents to stand up for me, I decided to stand up for myself," she said.

"In our case, the State failed as a parent, yet unlike families who

"When I first started this work... I was just young and driven by the passion of knowing that what happened to me and my younger siblings was wrong."

- Paora Moyle



Paora Moyle has been recognised for services to survivors of abuse in care. Photo: SUPPLIED

are held accountable when they fail, the State excuses itself. The Royal Commission's final report has shown that thousands were harmed, not just by isolated mistakes but by systemic failures.

"Millions have been quietly paid out to silence victims, but

we refuse to let this be swept under the rug. Our fight continues to ensure this never happens again."

It was her life's work, Paora said.

"I've poured my heart into protecting tamariki from the harm caused by being uprooted from

everything they know and love. Removing a child from their whakapapa and whenua severs their wairua, their connection to the land and their spiritual guardianship. The harm isn't just mental; it's deeply intrinsic."

For her this is more than an achievement - it's a PhD in resilience and advocacy.

"I'm not a person that likes to be out front unless I've got something important to say on behalf of our whānau. Focusing on their well-being by elevating their voice in the community has always come first."

In addition to research, over the years Paora has lectured and designed social work programmes to educate social workers working with whānau.

Her son's pride reflects the profound impact of breaking barriers and being recognised for an extraordinary contribution in the lives of thousands impacted by abuse in State care.

"When I told my son about the award, he couldn't believe it," Paora said.

"He said, you're kidding me, Mum. Is this really real? As far as I know, no one in our whānau has ever received anything like this. We're common folk; we do common work. We're labour class. We just don't get recognised like that."

"He's absolutely thrilled - over the moon, really. He thinks his Mum's a queen and said he wants to walk me down the aisle when I receive it."

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Prize-winning rifleman found dead in bed



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

When John 'Jack' Thompson was found dead in bed in his whare at Pipiroa in October 1910 the matter seemed slightly sinister. The locality was isolated and other men were reported to have been with Jack the previous evening, details which prompted Constable Beddick of Waihi to proceed at once to Pipiroa accompanied by a doctor.

Jack was 65, part Māori, and related to the MacWilliams', an old family of the Piako, an area of swamp soon to be transformed into the Hauraki Plains. He had once been a member of the Thames Naval Brigade and a crack rifle shot. In the 1870s he won first prize at the Auckland Rifle Association's trials – his firing being described as intensely exciting and much above average.

At Nelson in 1873 Jack, along with two others, were large prize winners and their triumphant return home to Thames was made the occasion of a public holiday. The brass and fife and drum bands of the Naval Brigade had marched out to Taranui escorted by a mass



Peat strippers in the Piako swamp, 1910.

Photo: SUPPLIED

of people to await the arrival of the Golden Crown steamer where the champion shots were met by an immense crowd at the wharf. Captain Fraser, amid loud and prolonged cheering, welcomed them with praise for the honour they had conferred on the Province, and particularly Thames.

Jack made the news again in 1884 when his bride, Te Tuhi, a daughter of Parata Karena, was forcibly abducted. They had married according to Māori custom

but the paternal grandfather of the girl, Pene te Hikaite, who had since died, objected to the marriage. When Te Tuhi was at Homunga, near Waihi Beach, a taua (war party) seized the girl, tied her on a horse, and carried her off.

The taua got clear away and made it back to the Piako. The nearest guardian of the bride, Tupeka te Whakamau, went in pursuit with another party a few days later but the old man was thrown from his horse while crossing a

creek near Corbett's Hotel, Waihi, and was unable to proceed.

Decades later Jack's days of fame and infamy were behind him and he was employed as a ganger on the Piako drainage works, an undertaking which would eventually reclaim 90,000 acres.

To some this appeared a wicked waste of public money and another addition to public debt. To others it was a shadowy scheme, the outcome of which was doubtful. To many though this reclamation of waste land, the winning of fertile areas from the wilderness, was thought magnificent work. There was optimism that the land would produce enormous wealth, so long as it was farmed intelligently.

The work was difficult and sometimes dangerous as men toiled through summer heat and winter cold on raw, new swamp country. They opened the way by stripping off the full width and depth of peat, and Priestman dredges followed, scooping out the soil, while steel shoots conveyed the dredged material to each side of the canal, where it was shaped into flood banks. It was life sapping work for a man Jack's age and now Constable Beddick discovered further details surrounding his death. Jack and some other men had been drinking prior to his death, but there was no sign of disturbance and the men all agreed they were on the friendliest terms. The medical evidence then put a different complexion on the affair altogether. The condition of Jack's heart was so poor it would have caused death at any time.

Jack was most likely interred at a local urupa.

Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parminter

1. What was the title of J. K. Rowling's debut novel about a boy wizard?
2. How many times was Elizabeth Taylor married? a) once, b) seven times, or c) eight times?
3. Which South Island town beginning with A is well known for its French influence?
4. Which Auckland suburb is further north? Dairy Flat or Flat Bush?
5. Maramataka is the practice of planting, harvesting, fishing, and hunting, based mostly on the phases of which celestial body?
6. The New Zealand shilling, a coin issued between 1933 and 1965, was worth how many pence?
7. Which band released the single *God Save the Queen* in 1977?
8. Which South Korean TV series had a second season released on Netflix on December 26?
9. Does an elephant's heart beat faster or slower than an average human's?
10. What name is commonly given to the item pictured below?



ANSWERS: 1. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (in the USA it was published under the title *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*); 2. c) eight times, to seven different men; 3. Akaroa; 4. Dairy Flat; 5. the moon; 6. 12; 7. The Sex Pistols; 8. *Squid Game*; 9. slower - around 30 beats per minute; 10. cornucopia.

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 In the February 18th issue Valley Profile will be running a feature for clubs. Whether your club is a sports club, a social club or a service club you can use this opportunity to call for members and/or volunteers or to let our readers know more about what you are all about. If you would like more information on this please contact *Davidda* on either 022 174 3988 or *davidda@valleyprofile.co.nz* by February 7th.

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Swampies raise \$23k for Goldfields

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

Keeping a strong connection with Goldfields School is important for the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes, who donated \$23,000 to the school on December 13.

Swamp Fox Taine Wilson, who presented the cheque at the schools final assembly for 2024, said the Swamp Foxes and Thames Valley Rugby Union really appreciated the support from the school.

The Swamp Foxes raised the money by auctioning off jerseys from their game against Horowhenua Kapiti in Whitianga on October 5.

An additional two jerseys were signed by internet sensation Harper Sandford, who is also a Goldfields School student, and put up for auction following a viral video of him running the ball out to the Swamp Foxes during halftime at the game, and cartwheeling back to the sidelines.

Taine said it was awesome to have Harper at the game. “[He] loves doing some cartwheels.”

Goldfields principal Cam McKenzie said the money would go towards building a new playground at the school during the April holidays.

The school planned to put the Swamp Foxes logo on some of the playground equipment, like the logo on the school van,



Goldfields School receives a cheque from Swamp Fox Taine Wilson and the team.

Photos: DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

which was also sponsored by the rugby team.

Swamp Foxes head coach David ‘Harry’ Harrison said the team were “super proud” of the community and their help in supporting their partnership with Goldfields School every year.

Goldfields School students perform the haka during the special assembly.



Caution urged for surfers, swimmers

Waikato surfers have caught more than waves in the surf during 2024, recording the third highest number of surfing injuries in the country, ACC says.

Until November 1, ACC accepted 5035 surfing related injury claims, which cost \$12.7 million to help people recover. Auckland and Bay of Plenty had the highest number of claims, while Waikato surfers had 697 claims accepted, which ACC paid \$1.5 million towards.

ACC injury prevention leader James Whitaker said it paid to take a moment before getting stuck in.

“Monitor the conditions and the risks before you get out there, then take the safest options. If you’re in doubt, finding something else to do might be the best option,” he said.

Anyone who entered the surf needed to respect the ocean, he said. “The ocean is beautiful and provides a lot of joy - it’s also bigger and more powerful than any of us and needs to be respected.”

Meanwhile, Waikato had the second highest number of swimming-related injuries with 811, which ACC paid \$2.8 million towards.

Mr Whitaker urged swimmers to take a moment to consider the risks before diving in. “Summer is one of the best times of the year and I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy themselves,” he said.

“But, ‘have a hmmm’ before getting in the water. Most drownings and water-related injuries are preventable.”

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Rural Life

Clay shooters scoop secondary school medals

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

The way Calin Mischewski prepares for a clay shooting competition is to train regularly and “try not to miss on the day”.

It was clearly paying off for the Hauraki Plains College year 11 student, who competed at the New Zealand and South Island DTL Secondary Schools Championships in Christchurch from September 28 to September 30.

There he claimed three gold and two silver individual medals, as well as a silver medal with his Hauraki team.

Calin told *The Profile*, on day one, as part of the South Islands DTL Secondary Schools Championships, he snapped up a silver in the single rise competition, where he shot 25 targets and was allowed to use both shots in his gun.

He also clinched a gold in the point score competition, which was where he could use both shots but would get more points if he hit the clay with his first shot, he said.

On day two, as part of the New Zealand DTL Secondary Schools Championships, Calin won gold for the New Zealand Single Rise Championship, and silver for New Zealand Point Score Championship.



HPC Clay Shooting Team, left, Alex Carter, Fletcher Grant, Calin Mischewski, Jarred Strawbridge and Paul Porter. SUPPLIED

And on the final day, Calin secured gold in the Fish & Game Regional Event Individual Boys HOA across the single rise, point score and single barrel, he said.

“I was really happy with the highest overall [score] across

the three events on the third day,” he said.

“I didn’t miss a target all day.”

But it doesn’t end there.

The Hauraki clay shooter was part of a team of five who took out a silver medal in the South Island Points Score Teams

Open event.

The team worked hard all year and was really happy to get a team placing, Calin said.

“Getting a team medal at this level means all five shooters in our squad had a great shoot.”

But Calin also managed to

reach another significant milestone at the event.

“When you are a member of the New Zealand Clay Target Association (NZCTA), which is the governing body of Clay Target Shooting, you can achieve long run badges.”

Calin said it was when the shooter hits a certain number of targets without missing.

“It has to be at an official shoot,” he said. “You only apply for that badge once.”

While the young clay shooter already had his 25 and 50 long run badges, he managed to achieve his 75 and 100 long run badges at the event, he said.

But his inspiration came from previous team mates who had now left his school, such as Ashling Welch, he said, who shoots sporting clays, which was another discipline, at a national level.

“I also have an ongoing friendly rivalry with my Dad, Daniel Mischewski.”

Calin said his dad shot skeet, another discipline, for the New Zealand junior team “back in the day”.

For those wanting to get into clay shooting, Calin’s advice was to head along to the Thames Clay Target Club and “have a go”.

DETAILS: Search for Thames Clay Target Club on Facebook.

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Community voice ignites denture initiative

Hauraki's former Te Whatu Ora locality, Te Tara o Te Whai, has launched a free mobile denture initiative which aims to restore confidence in its residents.

Dubbed 'Niho Kēhua ki Hauraki', the initiative partners with Waikato Dental and aims to address the extensive need for funded oral health care.

"Born out of community voice, our denture initiative Niho Kēhua ki Hauraki provides a full-circle

pathway of treatment for whānau who are needing partial or full dentures," Te Tara o Te Whai programme manager Michelle Paekau-Neho said.

"From feedback received through our current oral health initiative, many whānau were without teeth and unable to entertain the idea of dentures due to cost being a confronting barrier for most. In creating a denture initiative, we have been able to provide a complete pathway of full oral health care to those otherwise unable to while simultaneously restoring the confidence of many."

There have been 66 expressions of interest received to date, she said.

The partnership with Waikato Dental includes director and dentist Dr Hyrum Martin who operates alongside Dr Terrence

Reid. Dr Hyrum said Waikato Dental spent a lot of time in small communities offering its mobile dental service to people who were previously unable to access dental care.

With a shared vision for improving health outcomes in small communities, collaboration between

Te Tara o Te Whai and Waikato Dental was a "no-brainer".

"If I could sum it up in one sentence or a phrase, what I think it's really about, it is the people," Dr Terrence Reid added. "Or if I ask myself why I do dentistry? It's for the people."

The entire process will take between three to four months for patients to receive their completed dentures.

Meanwhile, a second mobile oral health initiative, Niho Ora ki Hauraki, in collaboration with Dental Planet, has provided fully-funded treatment to more than 350 people in Hauraki.

Niho Ora ki Hauraki will be operating out of Kaiāua during the January school holidays and then again in Manaia during the April school holidays.

DETAILS: Expressions of interest are open for both initiatives, with applications accessible via Te Tara o Te Whai's website or Facebook.



The Niho Kēhua ki Hauraki team, from left: Dr Terrence Reid, programme manager Michelle Paekau-Neho, and Dr Hyrum Martin.

Photo: SUPPLIED

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Without hope, the future looks bleak

OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



I've got this old 4x4 that I used to love.

I'd spend hours dreaming about upgrades and planning where I'd take it next.

But over the past six months, it's been nothing but a headache. It keeps bursting water pipes - one after another.

I was told it might be the old, perished hoses, but now I'm nearly out of hoses to replace.

Maybe it's the thermostat. Maybe it's the water pump. Time will tell.

What's interesting is how my feelings toward the vehicle have shifted.

As the problems continue, the excitement I once had is fading. It's wearing me down, and I've even started thinking about selling it for next to nothing.

Yet, if I fix it and make it reliable again, it's worth \$7000 to \$10000 - a significant value.

That whole situation got me thinking about hope.

A mate of mine offsets his in-

come by buying vehicles with minor issues, fixing them, and selling them for a solid profit.

But here's the thing: he's so generous he often sells them super cheap just to help others.

What he sees in those vehicles is their potential, not their problems.

He knows their value, even when others have given up on them.

When we lose hope, it's easy to lose sight of something's true worth.

We start thinking it's easier to throw it away, whether it's a

vehicle, a job, a relationship, or even a dream.

Without hope, the future looks bleak, and what once mattered feels disposable.

This made me reflect on how I approach life. It's crucial to look to the future with hope - to see my family, my work, and my challenges through a lens of possibility and potential.

Hope allows us to hold on to the value of what we have now, even when times are tough.

So, if you're in a dark place right now, take a moment before giving up on things that

matter.

When the cloud lifts and you regain hope, you might rediscover the value of what you hold dear. Sometimes, it's not the thing that needs fixing - it's how we see it.

Hope changes everything.

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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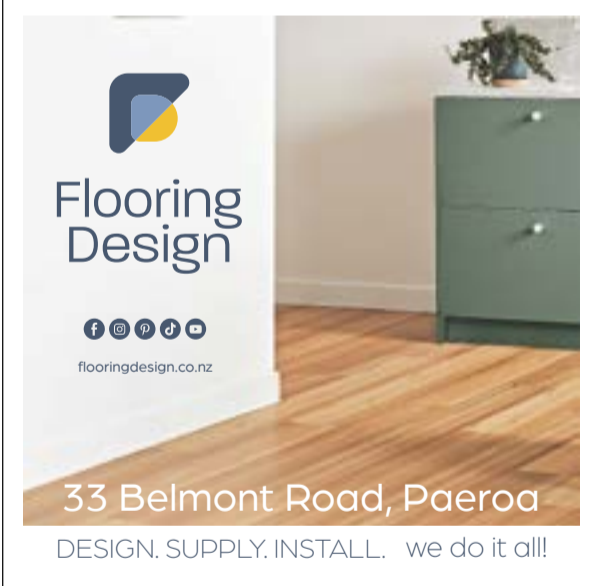
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Happy harmonies

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

Miller Avenue School in Paeroa was filled with the dulcet tones of a dozen harps on December 6, as students received a visit from Thames musician Anna Dunwoodie.

The seasoned harpist has been visiting schools across Hauraki and the Coromandel Peninsula with instruments in tow, to give students a chance to hear, see and even play the stringed instrument.

At Miller Ave, the sessions began with students lying on the floor, eyes closed, as they were treated to a performance of the instrument.

They were invited to think about how the music made them feel, and following a short discussion, every student had the chance to try out a harp for themselves.

"It's neat to see how involved the teachers get on a one-to-one level with a lot of the kids who are tinkering and just finding bits and pieces out," Anna said.

"Sometimes your most chal-

lenging child can be the one who totally gets lost in the music and really engages. There was one in there today... he did not want to let the harp go."

The interactive workshops were funded through the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel District Councils through their Creative Communities funding scheme, which supports projects that create opportunities for communities to engage in local arts activities.

Anna said the harp was an ideal first instrument to engage children with music.

"It's got a good novelty value. I don't think we've seen many, if any, kids who don't want to be involved at all. There's a few who'll take a while to let down whatever that barrier it is," she said.

"And I think there's no wrong notes, there's no discord, we never say you've done it wrong because it doesn't matter how they play it, they can get a nice sound out of it."



Students embrace the music-making opportunity at a recent harp workshop.

Photos: ALICE PARMINTER



Top family movies to watch over the summer school holidays

POP CULTURE



By ALI KOIA-HAMLING, Paeroa College student

As we head into the summer holidays, parents will be looking for great films to take the whole whānau

to go and enjoy, as well as films they can go to by themselves. This holiday, there's a bit of everything to enjoy, so today we look at some exciting movie titles to watch.

Mufasa: The Lion King

This holiday, *Mufasa: The Lion King* roars into cinemas. This is a spinoff

of the 2019 live action remake of the hit, classic Disney film *The Lion King*. *Mufasa: The Lion King* serves as an origin story about how Mufusa and Scar grew apart, to eventually hate each other. The movie also features brand new songs written by Grammy nominated composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also wrote the hit songs from films such as *Moana* and *Encanto*. The film, directed by Academy-award winning director Barry Jenkins, has a star studded cast, including Beyonce, Donald Glover, and John Kani returning as Rafiki. Overall, the film is a must-see for families, and perfect for all ages.

Sonic The Hedgehog 3

What better way to enjoy the holi-

days than going to see a little blue hedgehog? *Sonic The Hedgehog 3* is the third installment in the highly successful *Sonic* film series, based on the hit video games. Released on boxing day, *Sonic 3* sees Ben Schwartz return as the lovable voice of Sonic, alongside Idris Elba, who voices Knuckles. Keanu Reeves also joins the cast as Shadow. The *Sonic* films are light-hearted family fun, with lots of laughs for the whole family.

Paddington In Peru

Paddington returns to the big screen this month. Though Paul King, who directed the first two *Paddington* films is not returning, the visuals look to still promise a great entertaining film for the whole family. *Paddington*

In Peru is a perfect film for families to go and enjoy on the big screen these holidays!

Moana 2

The 2016 film *Moana* performed extremely well, going on to be nominated for an Oscar. Now, Dwayne Johnson is back for the sequel. The music will be in the trustworthy hands of Mark Macina, who also worked on the first film. *Moana 2* has been doing extremely well at the box office, having been out for more than a month now, but that doesn't mean its too late to see it! After watching *Moana 2*, I can proudly say the film delivers gorgeous visuals and is a great treat for families all across the country to go see.

Wicked

Ever heard of the musical *Wicked*? *Wicked* is the highest grossing musical of all time which follows Elphaba, a green witch that first appeared in *The Wizard Of Oz* movie and Glinda, a pink popular girl from Oz who become close friends. The movie, adapted from the Broadway musical, delivers much of the same catchy tunes and costumes. Pop megastar Ariana Grande is hilarious in the film, starring as the pink Glinda while Tony, Emmy and Grammy winner Cynthia Erivo stars as the wicked witch, Elphaba. Musical fans, *Wicked* fans and families alike will all be in for a treat when it comes to *Wicked*.

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Spontaneous Combustion: Songs for Barry Brickell + Pluck (72mins + 22mins) E.
 A celebration of Barry Brickell's legacy and Driving Creek Railway, a productive pottery, railway, native bird sanctuary, and hub for artists. Preceded by 'Pluck' by Thames film-makers Kirsty Griffin and Vivienne Kernick. Facing a battle with cancer, Jean Neshausen is on a mission to weave her last Korowai, a final gift to her daughter. Includes beautiful footage from two trips to the Chathams. The korowai takes almost two years to complete.

Moana 2 (100 mins) PG. After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana must journey to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure.

Paddington in Peru (106 mins) PG. Follow Paddington and the Brown family as they visit Aunt Lucy in Peru, but a mystery sends them to the Amazon rainforest and up Peruvian mountains.

Lee (117 mins) M. The story of photographer Elizabeth 'Lee' Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for Vogue magazine during World War II. Includes a photo of Miller herself posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub.

Wicked (160 mins) PG. The story of how a green-skinned woman framed by the Wizard of Oz becomes the Wicked Witch of the West; feature film based on the Broadway musical.

Anora (139 mins) R16. Anora, a sex worker from Brooklyn, gets her chance at a Cinderella story when she meets and marries the son of an oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairytale is threatened as the parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled.

Conclave (120 mins) M. Follows Cardinal Lomeli as he oversees the group of Cardinals responsible for selecting a new Church leader while trying to uncover a secret from the late Pontiff.

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HARD

183

HARD

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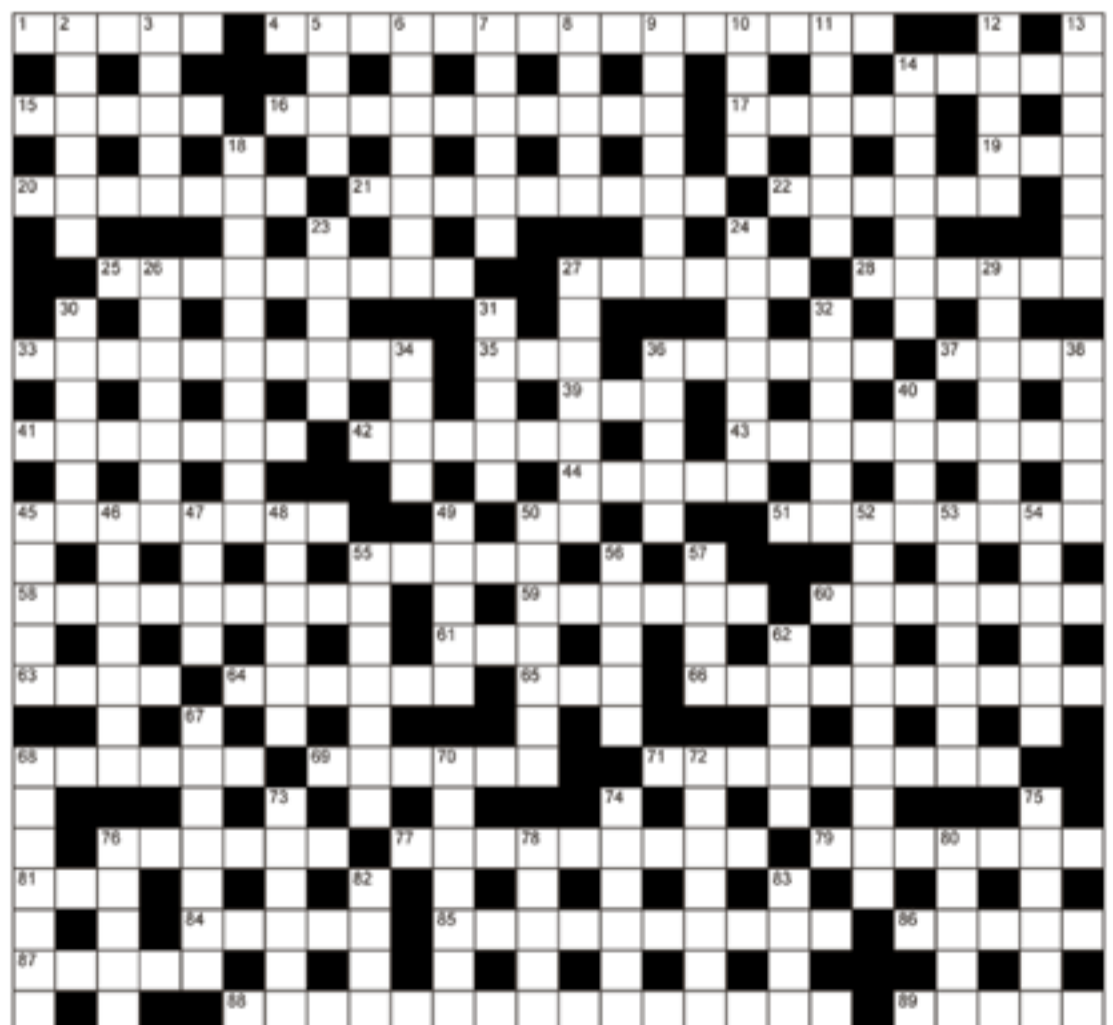
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203

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rigid (5)
 - 4 Abandon someone in need (5,2,3,5)
 - 14 Ointment (5)
 - 15 Witty (5)
 - 16 Tremblings (10)
 - 17 Vote into power (5)
 - 19 Conifer tree (3)
 - 20 Book (7)
 - 21 Saw (9)
 - 22 Pressing (6)
 - 25 Determine mathematically (9)
 - 27 Courage, spirit (6)
 - 28 Cheap and ostentatious (6)
 - 33 Dismantles (5,5)
 - 35 Spoil (3)
 - 36 Harmony (6)
 - 37 Stage accessory (4)
 - 39 Young bear (3)
 - 41 Contempt, scorn (7)
 - 42 Fancy cake (6)
 - 43 Gradually (2,7)
 - 44 Communication device (5)
 - 45 Trend (8)
 - 50 Next to (2)
 - 51 Blood feud (8)
 - 55 Tied tennis score (5)
 - 58 Chew (9)
 - 59 Natural skill (6)
 - 60 Tumescant (7)
 - 61 Unrefined (3)
 - 63 Speaker's platform (4)
 - 64 Edible leafstalk (6)
 - 65 Subside (3)
 - 66 Financial ruin (10)
 - 68 Havoc (6)
 - 69 Toxin (6)
 - 71 Widened (9)
 - 76 Sponge-like (6)
 - 77 Additional fee (9)
 - 79 Apprentice (7)
 - 81 Neither; and not (3)
 - 84 Dog breed (5)
 - 85 Ordinance (10)
 - 86 Fortuitous (5)
 - 87 Messenger (5)
 - 88 Your secret is safe with me (2,4,3,6)
 - 89 Glint (5)
 - DOWN**
 - 2 Castle wall tower (6)
 - 3 Bogus (5)
 - 5 Departure (4)
 - 6 Court's decision (7)
 - 7 Purpose (6)
 - 8 Utensils (5)
 - 9 Least difficult (7)
 - 10 Second-hand (4)
 - 11 Stone fruit (6)
 - 12 Up in the air (5)
 - 13 Rumour (7)
 - 14 Church tower and spire (7)
 - 18 The act of removing all the contents from (10)
 - 23 Unblock (5)
 - 24 Sugar pill (7)
 - 26 Altered (7)
 - 27 Quicksilver (7)
 - 29 Viper (7)
 - 30 Ill will (6)
 - 31 Drive forward (5)
 - 32 Small bed (6)
 - 34 Rip (4)
 - 36 Home (5)
 - 38 Italian dish (5)
 - 40 Matured (4)
 - 45 Meek (5)
 - 46 Saintly (anag)(7)
 - 47 Boy's name (4)
 - 48 Mountain hut (6)
 - 49 Indian dish (5)
 - 50 Middle from two points (7)
 - 52 Very last opportunity (3,2,5)
 - 53 Oval (7)
 - 54 Ditch (6)
 - 55 Evolve (7)
 - 56 Card suit (5)
 - 57 Ignore (4)
 - 62 Relation (2-3)
 - 67 Confidentiality (7)
 - 68 Wander aimlessly (7)
 - 70 Writhes (7)
 - 72 Sailing event (7)
 - 73 Prey (6)
 - 74 Leaps over (6)
 - 75 Undermine (6)
 - 76 Provide evidence for (5)
 - 78 Tobacco roll (5)
 - 80 Choppy (5)
 - 82 Pacific country (4)
 - 83 Manage (4)



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Dried, 4 Reverses, 9 Afraid, 14 Sieve, 15 Like a bull at a gate, 17 Limit, 18 Map, 19 Pep talk, 20 Sidelines, 21 Sturdy, 24 Labyrinth, 25 Absorb, 26 Global, 29 Flight deck, 31 Tee, 32 Saturn, 33 Calf, 35 Nap, 37 Core, 39 Overruled, 40 Liberated, 41 Alone, 42 Persists, 47 Beheaded, 51 Dross, 55 Procedure, 56 Projector, 58 Jeer, 59 Bar, 60 Rate, 61 Sentry, 62 Oak, 63 Successful, 66 Piracy, 67 Combat, 69 Headlamps, 72 Jalopy, 73 Scrapbook, 75 Curtain, 77 Ire, 80 Error, 81 More often than not, 82 Noted, 83 Aliens, 84 Westerns, 85 Feast.

DOWN: 2 Raise hell, 3 Elect, 5 Eels, 6 Elation, 7 Space shuttle, 8 Swami, 9 Ageless, 10 Rile, 11 Inmate, 12 Jemmy, 13 Helpful, 14 Sterile, 16 Bellbottoms, 22 Frieze, 23 Brittle, 24 Legless, 25 Agenda, 27 Boasted, 28 Treble, 30 Kirk, 32 Spoof, 34 Faded, 36 Urge, 38 Ode, 42 Piper, 43 Rooster, 44 Ibox, 45 Toupee, 46 Hobby, 48 Horse's mouth, 49 Adjusts, 50 Eve, 51 Destroy, 52 Sprout, 53 Cook the books, 54 Lens, 57 Tickle, 64 Unanimous, 65 Scolded, 66 Patient, 68 Becomes, 70 Apostle, 71 Spiral, 72 Jetty, 74 Arrow, 76 Tinge, 78 Free, 79 Anon.

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End of year roar for Waihi Lions Club success

Members of the Waihi Lions Club gathered to celebrate a “busy and successful year” on the evening of December 17.

Club member David Parish said it was a “bit of a do with a difference”, with the Gunner’s Room venue at the Waihi RSA set up as a cowshed.

Milkmaid Liz Lye and her trusty assistant Leanne Hollis did a fantastic job of transforming the room into something special, he said.

At one point in the evening, Clarabelle the cow entered to deliver small gifts to everyone, he said.

The evening also included musical entertainment with a concert of beautiful songs sung by classically-trained Kortnee Brooks, who recently moved to the area, and was accompanied by Waihi College music teacher Edwin Randell.

“She was given a standing ovation.”

One thing was clear - socialising was something the Waihi Lions valued. It was an important part of club activity, David said.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: President Duncan Smeaton with Dave Hanney disguised as Clarabelle the cow. Waihi Lions celebrate with food and friends. Kortnee Brooks, left, sings for the crowd accompanied by Edwin Randell on the keyboard.

Photos: SUPPLIED



But something the club did best was serve and support the community.

The club gave considerable financial support to a number of local charities and organisations across 2024, David said.

This includes: Hetherington House, A Friends Place, scholarships for Waihi College stu-

dents and a donation to Camp Quality, which is a week-long summer holiday camp for children living with cancer.

The club also made a substantial donation for vital maintenance work at the Cancer Society Lions Lodge in Hamilton, and donations to the St Vincent de Paul and

Waihi Salvation Army Christmas Appeals, he said.

“This list is by no means exhaustive and amounts to a sum in excess of \$29,000,” he said.

The club is currently on hiatus in activities before members of the club set up the Waihi Memorial Hall for a two-day market during Auck-

land Anniversary weekend, followed by time to unwind on Anniversary Monday at the club’s annual barbecue at the Waitawheta Camp, he said.

DETAILS: Waihi Lions Eclectic Market at Waihi Memorial Hall, January 24-25, 9am to 2pm. To stay up to date, follow Lions Club of Waihi on Facebook.

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The Valley Profile

CLASSIFIEDS - Deadline 12noon Monday

SPORTS REPORTS

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

Death Notice

JOHNSTON, Glennis (formerly Aitcheson):
Peacefully on the 4th January 2025. Devoted wife of the late Trevor and Max. Loving Mum of Michelle and the late Wayne. Cherished Nana of Danielle and Paige, and Great-gran of Sienna and Olivia, Kyran and Caitlin, Ryder and Cove, and treasured friend of Neil. A celebration of Glennis' life was held at The Grahamstown Chapel, Thames on Friday 10th January, followed by private cremation.

TWENTYMANS

Garage Sale

Saturday 18th of January
Kohunui St, Ngatea
Don Robinson Engineering Storage
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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 period of closure.
D A Speirs
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Situations Vacant

Church Office Reception
Thames Union Parish - St James Church.
Part-time position, possibly job-shared, helping to keep our Parish Office running.
Position to start mid-February.
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Whyteline are seeking a qualified mechanic to join our busy motorcycle workshop.
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Send a copy of your CV to marketing@whyteline.co.nz or call 07 862 8783 to learn more.

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We have a vacancy for a paper runner in Waihi. Immediate Start...
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Thames Football Club calls for players

Thames FC Men are preparing for an exciting 2025 season and are seeking dedicated players to join our squad.
The new season will begin with a muster event for the Men on January 21 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Rhodes Park, Thames. This event offers prospective players the chance to meet the team and participate in a kick-around, followed by drinks and a barbecue.
The club aims to gain promotion from the Waikato Senior Men's Division 2, building on the momentum of a fourth-place finish last year. For those who prefer a more relaxed playing environment, the club also hopes to establish a social team in a lower division, should there be sufficient interest.
The typical schedule includes weekly Saturday afternoon matches, both home and away, running from April to August.
Structured midweek training sessions are held under the floodlights at Rhodes Park with an emphasis on enjoyment and skill

development. After games, players have the opportunity to unwind with social events that feature food and drinks at the local pub.
Weekly match reports and photos are shared on the club's Facebook page and local newspaper, highlighting the team's activities and results. In addition to welcoming new players, Thames FC is seeking sponsorship from local businesses. Packages include a range of options, such as a main shirt sponsor, signage displays, social media promotion, and more. Supporting Thames FC provides a valuable platform for businesses to promote themselves and help a local sports team. Businesses interested in sponsorship should contact the club via email at info@thamesfc.co.nz.
We are looking forward to a successful 2025 season and are excited about the journey ahead, both on and off the pitch.
- Jonathan Coles

LETTERS

Send your letters to the editor: editor@valleyprofile.co.nz or 2 Queen St, Paeroa, 3600. Letters must include your full name and address, be 250 words or less and may be edited, abridged or rejected at the editor's discretion.

I would be disappointed to think that your lead article (Valley Profile January 7) with its very downbeat headline would cause people to think that community halls are no longer relevant or indeed no longer valued as a community facility.
The photo, right, was taken this morning (10th January) of the hall in the Kauaeranga Valley, ready for a wedding on Saturday. This is not an atypical scene in our valley. The Kauaeranga Hall is very much alive. In the past 12 months there have been 95 bookings reported including yoga (weekly), Pilates and art classes (weekly), music concerts (monthly), social gatherings for valley residents (e.g. potluck dinners, games nights, etc.), numerous community meetings (including environmental, educational, horticultural meetings), along with weddings, memorial services, birthday celebrations, kids' parties - the list goes on. Tom Nicholson is the chair of the Hall Society (an incorporated society), and presides over a committee of valley volunteers, who meet quarterly to govern the activities and maintenance of the hall.
The hall and land are owned by the local residents of the valley. Funds are derived from hall hire fees, a small but meaningful



The Kauaeranga Valley Hall. SUPPLIED community grant from TCDC, and from the annual Kauaeranga Valley Fair, the next of which is being held on Saturday 5th April. Put this date in your diary. There is no sun setting in the Kauaeranga Valley; it is a beacon of community commitment and engagement.
- Peter Revell, Kauaeranga Valley

HEADLINE
The Valley Profile stands by its front page headline, Sun sets on rural halls as it correctly reflected the lead story, which was a report about two community halls being closed at Patetonga and Kopuarahi. The balanced report also included information about Hauraki halls at Waitakaruru and Turua being revitalised by those communities.
- Teresa Ramsey, editor

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Valley U19 rugby named Tama Ora champs

RUGBY

The Thames Valley U19 rugby team has been crowned the 2024 Northern Regions Tama Ora Champions for the first time.

Earlier last year, two muster sessions were held, with around 75 boys showcasing their skills.

From this group, a selection of 38 players was chosen and invited to a rugby alignment day at Ngatea Rugby and Sports Club.

During this day, head coach Pieter Aucamp introduced the coaching and management staff and outlined the expectations and processes for the provincial campaign.

The boys then took to the field for a session focused on team-building, defensive, and attacking systems.

Following this, the group was reduced to the final squad of 27 players.

Aucamp said the large initial group was selected with continuity in mind.

The idea was to give younger players valuable experience, preparing them to take on leadership roles in 2025.

The Thames Valley U19 team went undefeated throughout the competition, culminating in a thrilling match in the



The Thames Valley U19 rugby team is named 2024 Northern Regions Tama Ora Champions.

Photo: SUPPLIED

Northern Regions Tama Ora competition.

During the final, Thames Valley triumphed over Waikato Harlequins 27-24, with fly-half Max Baker (10) securing the win with a crucial penalty conversion in the closing minutes of the game, crowning Thames

Valley team as the overall champions.

Aucamp attributed the team's success to a strong team culture, emphasizing the importance of being good people both on and off the field, player buy-in, and smart play.

He praised his assistant

coaches, Keegan Harris and Matt Impey, for their roles in instilling the team culture and high standards expected throughout the season.

Aucamp also acknowledged his management team, Chris Spilsbury and Zack Conroy, for their professionalism and com-

mitment to maintaining high standards.

"This year has been a successful one, not just because we won the competition, but because we've also ensured that about half the team will be eligible to compete again in 2025," Aucamp said.








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