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## \$40k LOSS EXPECTED

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

A business owner says he could be facing bankruptcy when a major highway is closed for up to a month to replace a 49-year-old bridge.

Onetai Bridge, which is located on State Highway 26 between Pūriri and Hikutaia, has reached the end of its life. Work to replace it begins on January 28 and will involve lane closures for the first two weeks. The road will then be fully closed for up to four weeks from February 10.

The road will reopen when the new bridge deck is in place, although construction work will continue at the site.

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) said the full road closure was necessary due to the narrow width of both the road and the bridge itself.

Since SH26 is the only through-route on the eastern side of the Waihōu River, traffic will need to detour along the western side of the river.

Gary Banger, the owner of the Convenient Cow cafe in Hikutaia, said the road closure could be the end of his business, which was still struggling to recover from Covid-19.

"We're just not getting just one proper summer where we can just make money," he said.

"We're trying whatever we can to get by. But, a road closure... There's nothing I can do about it. How can I get people in when they have no ways to reach me?"

Gary estimated he would lose around \$40,000 worth of business if the road was closed for the full four weeks.

"I'm actually out of options. I got so much stuff sitting around that will just get expired because I've got no ways to sell them," he said.

"Me and my missus, as soon as we saw that, I said, I think we should get out of the business line, just go work for someone else. There's no point."

Gary said he was frustrated over the length of time the work was expected to take, and was also upset that he had not been consulted by the transport agency. "This shouldn't take four weeks, they should have enough resources," he said.

"I'm still waiting on NZTA to come and respond to me. I want the NZTA to come and just sit on the chair with me, and see how many people use this road.

"If they are not coming through over here, I got no point of staying open. Every time a local comes in, they say, don't worry, we will support you. [But] I can't expect them to spend \$1000 with me."

Graeme Wright, whose transport company is based in Pūriri, said he would also be affected by the closure.

"I'm pretty concerned about it. I've been in business here for 55 years and I've seen a heck of a lot of changes. I've never seen such drastic measures taken to shut a road for a month, a main road,

CONTINUED ON P2



Gary and Rachael Banger may face bankruptcy during the SH26 road closure. Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

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# Month-long closure concerns

CONTINUED FROM P1

to build a bridge across a drain, because that's virtually all it is," he said.

"A farmer could put a bridge across there in a day, and here they want a month to do the same thing."

Graeme's 23 trucks regularly travel to Tauranga to pick up loads, and he said the detour would add an extra 40 kilometers to the logbook for each trip.

"Originally when they went to do this they were talking about just putting a bypass through the farm next door, which is right beside the road... next thing we know we're hit with this road closure. They've had no consultation with us."

Hikutai School was also facing inconvenience, with three staff and around five children living on the opposite side of Onetai Bridge from the school.

Principal Wayne Whitney was working to find a solution to get everyone to school during the closure, but said he had been aware of the issue for some time.

"[NZTA] started that consultation process late last year, so we've had a good heads up about it," he said.

"We're thinking about carpooling if we have to drive around. There was talk of trying to get the kids to one side of the neighbouring road that links with the rail trail and then perhaps using our school van to try and pick them up from the other side and carry them to school that way... We're thinking about what we can do to manage it."

NZTA's acting regional manager of infra-



A map showing the site of the road closure and detour. SUPPLIED/NZTA

structure delivery Darryl Coalter said the agency was aiming to reopen the road as soon as possible.

"Construction works can be impacted by weather and other unforeseen issues... if everything goes as planned and the weather is favourable, it might be less than the four weeks," he said.

"Replacing bridges is always tricky and invariably involves some road closures, to ensure the work is done safely and efficiently - and within the available funding.

"Onetai is a very small bridge, with narrow road approaches. The project team considered a range of construction options and has developed an approach to get the work done as quickly as possible, using prefabricated bridge deck and other key components to speed construction.

"Given the constrained road environment, providing alternative access would have been extremely costly, taken considerable time and been less safe."

Darryl said the agency had done its best to ensure minimal disruption, saying businesses and schools were still accessible from either end of the road. He said there had been multiple letterdrops, emails and other consultation with the community near the work site throughout the project.

Coromandel MP Scott Simpson said he felt for the affected businesses, but understood the need for the closure.

"I can't help but feel sympathy for [Gary] and his business," Scott said.

"That said, the work is necessary. It's been planned for a long time, and I'm hopeful that NZTA will be able to complete the work earlier than the four weeks that they have indicated.

"We are fortunate to live in a community that does care, that is acknowledging of the tough times that many local businesses are suffering. And maybe this is a time now to actually show them a little bit of local support."



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Wed Jan 29		Thu Jan 30		Fri Jan 31		Sat Feb 1		Sun Feb 2		Mon Feb 3		Tue Feb 4	
Morning	1:38am 0.7	Morning	2:23am 0.5	Morning	3:06am 0.4	Morning	3:50am 0.3	Morning	4:34am 0.3	Morning	5:19am 0.3	Morning	12:04am 3.5
Afternoon	1:59pm 0.8	Afternoon	2:46pm 0.6	Afternoon	3:33pm 0.5	Afternoon	4:19pm 0.4	Afternoon	5:06pm 0.3	Afternoon	5:53pm 0.3	Afternoon	12:34pm 3.6
	8:00am 3.3		8:44am 3.4		9:28am 3.5		10:13am 3.6		10:58am 3.7		11:45am 3.7		6:08am 0.4
	8:11pm 3.2		9:00pm 3.3		9:47pm 3.4		10:32pm 3.5		11:18pm 3.6				6:41pm 0.4
Sunrise	6:30am 8:32pm	Sunrise	6:31am 8:31pm	Sunrise	6:32am 8:30pm	Sunrise	6:33am 8:29pm	Sunrise	6:34am 8:29pm	Sunrise	6:35am 8:28pm	Sunrise	6:36am 8:27pm
Best Fishing	Best At 12:39am 1:07pm	Best Fishing	Best At 1:35am 2:02pm	Best Fishing	Best At 2:28am 2:54pm	Best Fishing	Best At 3:19am 3:43pm	Best Fishing	Best At 4:08am 4:32pm	Best Fishing	Best At 4:56am 5:20pm	Best Fishing	Best At 5:45am 6:10pm
Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon	Moon	New Moon
Rise	5:29am	Rise	6:42am	Rise	7:55am	Rise	9:07am	Rise	10:18am	Rise	11:29am	Rise	12:41pm
Set	8:36pm	Set	9:11pm	Set	9:42pm	Set	10:09pm	Set	10:36pm	Set	11:02pm	Set	11:31pm

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

# Red crossings present ‘unnecessary risk’

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

After witnessing near-misses at the red courtesy crossings down Thames’ main drag, the local business association is calling on council to make the markings safer.

The crossings were installed across Mary and Pollen Sts in 2021 as part of pedestrian safety improvements for the former Create the Vibe public space. However, a Thames Business Association spokesperson said they’ve heard of near-misses occurring at the crossings since they were put in place.

“We decided a few weeks ago to try and monitor the situation and determine how many times people and cars nearly collided. It’s hard to quantify; however, I’d suggest that the majority of people using those crossings have no idea what a courtesy crossing is – either the pedestrian or the driver,” the spokesperson told *The Profile*.

“To be fair, most people don’t drive fast along Pollen St; however, when they do, and neither party knows how to behave in a courtesy crossing, you’re facing a potential risk of someone getting hurt. Our belief is that if it’s not a ‘regular’ looking crosswalk, it’s presenting an unnecessary risk.”

According to New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Ko-



Near misses at Thames’ red courtesy crossings have prompted a call to make them safer.

Photo: TERESA RAMSEY

tahi, courtesy crossings are intended to “facilitate eye contact between pedestrians and drivers, resulting in a mutually negotiated position over who goes first”.

Drivers were not required to stop at courtesy crossings; however the official New Zealand

road code recommended that drivers be courteous to pedestrians using or waiting to use a courtesy crossing.

To aid in avoiding confusion and making the road safer for both driver and pedestrian, the business association hoped to see the red stripes made safer.

“And if that means removing the red crossings, we hope [council] will do that,” the spokesperson said.

“Then the onus is on the pedestrians to proceed only when safe to do so.”

After monitoring the crossing, and witnessing near-misses, the

business association put in a service request to Thames-Coromandel District Council, forwarding that request to Thames ward councillors.

One of the councillors to respond was Martin Rodley, and he told *The Profile* the matter of the four courtesy crossings at the Mary and Pollen St intersection had been raised “a number of times” since they were first introduced.

“My main question would be whether it is safer to not have them at all and instead rely on pedestrians waiting for a suitable break in traffic - and also remembering that here in Thames we have the highest percentage of folk aged over 65,” he said.

“A common theme of the lots of feedback that I received about the Create the Vibe space, from both people who liked and didn’t like the space, was that at least it made crossing that intersection safer - especially Mary St between ANZ and Stirling Sports.”

Cr Rodley said he didn’t have any figures about accidents or near misses before or after the red stripes went in, but that he was aware of the business association’s request to council.

“Our roading team will look at that carefully as soon as they can,” he said.



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# Waikino basketballer shoots for the top

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

A Waikino basketballer is making history as he joins New Zealand's inaugural Whaikaha men's basketball team.

Twenty-year-old Todd Maitland was named vice-captain of the newly-formed team in September.

It is New Zealand's first men's team for high-functioning athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the players will be competing in Australia from January 28 to February 2 at the Ivor Burge Men's State Championships.

"There is no such thing as disability. There is ability within all disabilities," Todd said.

"My team in New Zealand all has the same attitude and we practice and play to achieve our dreams together."

Todd's mother, Tina, who is also the assistant coach, said the team had been four years in the making.

"It's been a massive road to get this up and running. And then trying to round up people in New Zealand is another hard thing... But there's so many people that are fantastic athletes," she said.

"We're pioneering history right now."

Todd said he was excited to be heading to the tournament, and although they were aiming



Todd Maitland is the vice-captain of New Zealand's first Waikaha basketball team.

Photo: ALICE PARMINTER

to place in the top three, he said what he was looking forward to most was playing.

"It doesn't really matter if you win or lose. It's just basketball, really," he said.

"[I'll] just keep going until my body's done."

Todd, who has autism, developmental delay syndrome and verbal dyspraxia, will be playing

centre at the championships. Despite also being blind in one eye, he's a skilled player.

Tina said the team had a number of strategies for working around his and the other players' needs.

"Todd had full eyesight until about May, 2017, when the optic nerve detached itself from sending the messages to the eye. We

noticed he went from being able to shoot three pointers outside the circle line to not being able to do that. So now he relies completely on getting up close and layups and charging in and stuff like that," she said.

"But we work around it. We know [his] good eye. We know the strong side of the court to go up on and not the weak side of

the court. So we play that to an advantage as well."

The team also uses a lot of visual aids such as whiteboards, Tina said, to help the players with developmental delays.

Like any other sports team though, it's training and camaraderie that has been key to bringing the players together.

"We've done a couple of big training things down in Wellington where everyone's come together, from Friday night through to Monday, just training," Tina said.

"And they cheer each other on. They're really supportive of each other... any negativity, we're quite happy to put people on the plane and send them home. We're very, very strict."

The team of 10 players and four management staff will spend a week in Ballarat, Victoria for the tournament, getting in some sightseeing along the way. And although life will return to normal once they return, Todd still has plenty to keep him busy, as he looks ahead to trials for next year's Virtus Asia-Oceania Games in Bangkok.

"I'm aiming for the World Games, I have so much more to offer yet and I want to put little old Waikino and New Zealand on the world map for basketball," Todd said.



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## THAMES 'CLUB OF CLUBS'

The leading item of *The Profile* dated 14 January (*Volunteers Unite*) expresses the need for volunteers for organisations in the area. But really, do we need a new organisation to assist existing other organisations to "organise" themselves? It looks like the target area Ms Wright and Ms Kendall will be aiming for is Thames itself. Surely the members of the varied societies - especially their committees - are capable of their own recruiting. As an example, what would the Historic Kopu Bridge Society have in common with (say) the Thames Small Gauge Railway Society? Besides, some of the target b/odies may already be eligible to become members of the Thames Business Association. If the two ladies propose to continue the process, it will be interesting to see the stated aim of the newly-formed organisation, as required and approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

Yours faithfully,

- Bernard J Bowen  
Thames



The Treasury in Thames is part of a proposed volunteering platform for some of Thames' heritage organisations, allowing volunteers to find roles of all kinds at one of the participating organisations. FILE PHOTO

## RESPONSE

The Coromandel Heritage Trust and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga - Thames School of Mines appreciates the opportunity to respond to Bernard Bowen's letter to the editor - "Thames Club of Clubs".

Points of clarification in response are: The Group dubbed "Thames Club of Clubs" by Mr Bowen is a co-operative made up of representatives of participating not-for-profit organisations which have put up their hands to contribute to the important task of campaigning successfully for a broad range of new volunteers for, initially, Thames; while at the same time empowering participating volunteers in self-management and finding ways to make the co-ordination and management of volunteers easier for each group. Active not-for-profit organisations know only too well the huge demands on their (usually volunteer) volunteer co-ordinator/s of campaigning for, recruiting, training and supporting, scheduling, arranging for upskilling and

retaining their organisation's volunteers. The self-selected group of participating organisations is piloting an online user-friendly volunteering platform - VolunteerLocal - which the group hopes will make rostering and management of volunteers easier for the volunteer coordinator/s of each participating organisations.

And at the same time, enabling participating volunteers to self-select for short- or long-term roles across the whole group of participating organisations. The group intends working closely with Volunteering Waikato and Community Waikato in the set up and development phases of the pilot. The group hopes that, should the pilot be successful, the shape of it, in a more complex and widely beneficial form than described here, can be shared throughout Hauraki-Coromandel not-for-profit organisations, along with the learnings of the pilot group.

Contrary to Mr Bowen's concern of yet another "club" which is "telling other clubs how to organise themselves", this kaupapa is a very current, co-operative, and collaborative initiative - not-for-profit organisations, often time poor, supporting one another in the critical role of recruiting and managing their volunteer staff.

In support of Mr Bowen's reasonable concerns about "yet another" Incorporated Society or Trust, the participating group of heritage and community organisations all have their own established legal entity, and it is the intention of the group to collaborate and share existing resources.

We appreciate your engagement in this important conversation and the chance to clarify our kaupapa.

Yours sincerely,  
- Jan Wright, The Coromandel Heritage Trust, and Kay Kendall, Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Thames School of Mines.

# Traffic stats 'encouraging'

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

Traffic numbers for December, 2024, are up compared to the same time last year, presenting "encouraging" results, the business association says.

In December, 396,157 vehicles travelled through Thames, with an average of 12,779 a day.

This was up more than 13,000 from the year before, when 383,139 travelled through the town.

This year, Thames' busiest day was December 20 [15,085], and its quietest was on Christmas [9252]. In 2023, the busiest day was December 22 with 15,118, while again Christmas Day presented low results, with just 7,874 cars passing through the town.

"We are finding that more people are travelling into and out of Thames and that is encouraging after a couple of challenging years which negatively impacted our traffic numbers - and of course impacted our businesses and the local economy," a Thames Business Association spokesperson told *The Profile*.

An Automatic Number Plate Recognition [ANPR] camera was installed in Thames in late 2020, and not only was it useful in tracking visitors to the town, it also assisted local police in identifying and locating stolen vehicles.

In December this year, there were 53 hits for stolen vehicles or number plates - more than double the number for the same time last year, which was 25.



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# Teens before the court for Thames offending

Two young people are before the courts following several incidents of dishonesty offending in Thames across the last three weeks.

About 7pm on January 21, Thames Police responded to reports of people breaking into cars.

With the assistance of a police dog unit from Hamilton, Police tracked and arrested two offenders nearby.

Subsequent enquiries revealed the offenders were also believed to have been involved in several other incidents since January 8.

This included the attempted unlawful taking of vehicles, the unlawful taking of vehicles, two burglaries, and an attempted burglary.

The 17-year-old and 18-year-old men were due to appear before the Hamilton Youth Court on January 22, on 11 charges related to the incidents.

Eastern Waikato area commander, inspector Mike Henwood, said the apprehension

came off the back of another recent arrest of two young people in Waihi, after they were reportedly attempting to break into motor vehicles in the early hours of January 21.

One young person, aged 14, was due to appear in the Waihi District Youth Court the same week. "Eastern Waikato Police have identified an increase in dishonesty offending within the wider area over the past few weeks, which is in line with what we typically see across summer months, and we have altered patrol patterns accordingly," inspector Henwood said.

"These arrests are a good step in curbing recent offending; however, we need your assistance to continue to effectively respond to the unlawful activity."

"If you witness any suspicious activity, please contact Police on 111 if it's happening now or via 105 either online or over the phone if it's after the fact."



Visitor numbers to Cathedral Cove peaked at more than 800 people on Boxing Day and January 2. Photo: SUPPLIED/DOC

# Visitors flock to Cathedral Cove

Hundreds of people a day are visiting Mautohe Cathedral Cove's famous beach following the reinstatement of walking access to the popular Coromandel Peninsula location.

In December, the Department of Conservation (DOC) reopened the main track after an extended closure due to damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, and concerns about visitor safety at a site with known risks.

Funding from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy delivered reinstatement of walking access through a temporary re-route of the damaged track.

DOC Hauraki Waikato Taranaki regional director

Tinaka Mearns said staff were pleased to see visitors enjoying the cove again.

"We have been manually recording the number of visitors on the Mautohe Cathedral Cove beach since 19 December, including Boxing Day and January 2 when visitor numbers peaked at more than 800 people."

"Visitor levels at Mautohe Cathedral Cove are returning to pre-Covid levels, which indicates high demand for the experience offered at this picturesque site," Tinaka said.

"The number of people enjoying the beach demonstrates the value of the investment in reinstating walking access - and the hard work of the staff, iwi, and

contractors whose efforts ensured we could open it for this summer."

Staff and ambassadors had been monitoring the site to ensure people had a great time and the place was well looked after, Tinaka said.

Meanwhile, DOC has implemented a new process to manage weather and landslide-related risk at Mautohe Cathedral Cove.

The Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) for natural hazard risk management at Mautohe Cathedral Cove establishes criteria for inspecting the site to manage public safety regarding landslide, rockfall, and treefall hazards.

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# Waihi band member missing after silent film



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

The most beautiful woman in filmdom – Clara Kimball Young – graced the screen at Wood's Picture Theatre in Paeroa on a Saturday night in late March 1917.

Forty-year-old miner John Sharman of Karangahake watched all five reels of her silent film *The Feast of Life*, a drama of love and lies set in Havana, Cuba.

After the film he spent some time with companions then was seen heading in the direction of his home at Scotchman's Gully around 11.30pm, perhaps with the musical score of the film, played by a pianist to accompany the film's action, echoing in his ears. Music was appreciated by John, who played the cornet in the Waihi Federal band.

He regularly entered competitions around the country. Band contests would liven up a town with the animated appearance of the competitor's colourful uniforms and the music was greeted warmly by the audiences. Thames Valley bands were often praised as being a credit to the district.



In 1912, John, while working in the Grand Junction mine at Waihi, had his left hand crushed by a falling piece of timber. The Waihi Federal Band was at the time preparing for a contest at Gisborne and it was feared John, one of Waihi's leading cornets, would be incapacitated. This would be a severe blow to the Waihi Federals as he was a solid player.

In Waihi the majority of the bandsmen were miners which presented unique challenges - as well as accidents there was a shifting population and the band was often comprised of newcomers. John did play at the Gisborne competition but was hampered by his injury - his performance lacked much of the brightness which was essential to the selection and he missed some of the notes of his cadenza.

John, who had been born in NSW, Australia, had worked as

a gardener at Waihi for several years before becoming a miner in the mid-1900s. In 1911 he married Sylvia Hill and they had two small children, now aged four and five.

He now worked at the Talisman mine and home was on the side of a cliff, behind the mining company's treatment plant. But now John seemed to have disappeared into the night.

It was not until miners were coming off night shift on Sunday morning that John was found. He had fallen around 100ft down a precipitous cliff and met an instant death. The road to the Sharman's house was narrow and very steep and the railings to the path leading to it were in a state of disrepair. It seemed John had missed his footing when almost home, and tumbled through the broken railings.

An inquest was held in the Miners' Union Hall, at Karangahake.

Dr Fraser stated that death was due to a fractured skull and the jury brought in a verdict in accordance with his statement. John's funeral was well attended. The Waihi Band played as the cortege passed through the street and accompanied it as far as Doherty's creek. Sadly for the band, which intended to go as far as Paeroa's Pukerimu cemetery, their vehicle broke down before reaching Karangahake.

Three months after John's death the Waihi Juvenile Company performed at Karangahake their bright and breezy revue *The Isle of Bong - Bong*, a musical comedy in two acts, the proceeds of which went to help the family of the late John Sharman. A real treat was guaranteed, and all who attended could rely on going home satisfied they had spent a useful and enjoyable evening.

**The Waihi Federal Band in 1912, with John Sharman, back row, second from left. John, a leading cornet player, didn't make it home after watching a silent film at Wood's Picture Theatre in Paeroa.**

Photo: SUPPLIED

## Chris' Quiz

Weekly quiz compiled by Chris Parmenter

1. An exhibit featuring which mysterious street artist and political activist was recently on display in Wellington?
2. Which famous figure did not release their own cryptocurrency in 2024? Caitlyn Jenner, Hailey Welch ('Hawk Tuah'), Oprah or Iggy Azalea?
3. Which species is believed to have arrived in Australia first - humans or dingoes?
4. True or false: all monkeys have tails.
5. In which New Zealand town is Emerson's Brewery based?
6. Times Square in New York is named after a) a mathematical equation, b) a newspaper or c) a meeting place with a large clock, allowing early New Yorkers to keep track of the time?
7. In the 1960s, the singer and performer David Jones chose to change his stage name to 'David Bowie' due to the success of Davy Jones from which band?
8. What is the capital city of Guinea Bissau?
9. Is 2025 a square number?
10. Outside of Hamilton City, where is Waikato's largest hospital by number of beds?



**ANSWERS:** 1. Banksy; 2. Oprah; 3. Humans (who introduced dingoes); 4. False. The Barbary macaque doesn't have a tail; 5. Dune; 6. b) A newspaper (New York Times); 7. The Monkees; 8. Bissau; 9. Yes - 45<sup>2</sup>; 2025 is the only year this century that is a perfect square; 10. Thames (52 beds).

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# Rural Life

## Dotterel chicks hatch after nest vandalism

By DAVIDDA HIKATANGATA

In the wake of nest vandalism a few weeks ago, the arrival of two new fluffy Waihi Beach residents has highlighted the importance of native wildlife protection, an environmental group says.

Two dotterel chicks successfully hatched last week between the Waihi Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and Brighton Reserve, following the vandalism of dotterel nests at Brighton Reserve on January 1.

Sustainable Waihi Beach environmental co-ordinator Pippa Coombes told *The Profile* people went in at night and took the eggs out of the nests and destroyed one of the nesting colonies.

It was frustrating when the dotterels could be on the verge of extinction, she said.

But it was only a really small minority of people who didn't respect the wildlife, and she wanted to give a huge shout out to the community who showed support.

However, there was another hazard for the young chicks to contend with.

While it takes five weeks for the chicks to fledge, the full five weeks is "fraught with danger", with dogs being the worst threat to the young birds on the beach,



Two dotterel chicks hatched at Waihi Beach last week.

Photo: SUPPLIED/DOT WATCH WAIHI BEACH

Pippa said.

Although there is a curfew for dogs at Waihi Beach between 9am and 7pm, it was important for the public to please keep dogs on leads near the chicks outside the curfew, she said.

"So we say as a rule of thumb, and DOC actually say, that safe space is between 20 and 50 metres from them. And always [have] dogs on leads until they're well away," she said.

"We're kind of just putting out

a plea to the public [to] keep your eyes peeled because these birds are on the beach."

It was a "needle in a haystack" for the Waihi Beach Dotterel watching volunteers, known as Dot Watch Waihi Beach, to

keep track of the birds once they hatched, Pippa said.

And they could potentially be anywhere along the beach.

"They can move up and down the beach, and we've known them to move about 7km before," she said.

Pippa said a few pairs hatched last year at Brighton Reserve and travelled up to the dog walking beach, which was around a 7km distance.

"So we're reliant on public information and sightings so we can keep an eye on them."

"Most of our community are behind us... we've got a huge community buy-in, absolutely huge," she said, and they aimed to get the message out to people who visited the beach that this was important.

Another nest of three eggs was almost ready to hatch in the same area, she said.

"So we might have five chicks running around."

**DETAILS: To help protect vulnerable birds, please report any sightings of the chicks to Facebook. For their safety and wellbeing, please stay 20 to 50 metres from them. To stay up to date with news of the Dotterel chicks, search for Sustainable Waihi Beach on Facebook. To enquire about volunteering with Dot Watch Waihi Beach & Surrounds, find the group on Facebook.**

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## Buffalo team Belgium-bound

Mercury Bay Museum manager Becc Cox is heading to Belgium to present a paper on underwater archaeology - and she needs help getting there.

Becc is part of the *HMS Buffalo* Re-examination Project.

She and teammates Kurt Bennett and Matthew Gainsford, both maritime archaeologists, began the project with a detailed archaeological survey of the downed ship in 2020 and 2021.

Since then, the project has grown, with many other community-focused projects also focusing on the ship.

The *HMS Buffalo* was a British naval ship which took shelter from a storm in Mercury Bay in June, 1840.

The "hurricane strength" storm scuttled the ship, and the wreckage still remains at what is now known as Buffalo Beach. It is submerged in three metres of water, around 50 metres offshore.

The re-examination project required 12 volunteer divers, and resulted in a detailed digital model of the wreck.

The project has won multiple awards: among them the New Zealand Archaeological Association's Public Archaeology Award in 2022; the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology's Public Archaeology Award in 2023; and the Best Paper at AIMA Conference 2024, titled *HMS Buffalo: Connections, collections and community*.

The team has now been invited to present a paper at the International Congress of Underwater Archaeology to be held at Oostend, Belgium in October.

The team will be presenting in the session where the focus is on underwater cultural heritage-focused avocational archaeology and citizen science groups and the need for more of these groups.

"It's a great honor to be asked to present at this global conference and to



A painting representing the wreck of the *HMS Buffalo*. Photo: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS represent Mercury Bay on the world stage," Becc said. "The work we do here in the museum around the *HMS Buffalo* and our history is so rewarding and it is amazing to think we can share that with colleagues in the same archeological/museum fields.

"Through public interaction and education, we have seen a real ownership of the *HMS Buffalo* wreck by the community, and this grows more and more each time we are seen out there - whether it be on the land or on the boat over the wreck. We just love being a part of this amazing work, protecting and promoting our amazing heritage to the world."

With the cost of the trip estimated at \$12,000, the museum is fundraising with a raffle, to be followed later in the year by a quiz night and special museum event.

**DETAILS: \$10 raffle tickets available from Mercury Bay Museum, Whitianga isite Information Centre, Dive Zone & Smitty's Sports Bar and Grill. Prize one is two \$1600 dive courses; prize two is a Mercury Bay escape package including accommodation, food vouchers, entry to Lost Springs and a boat tour. Winners drawn February 9. Contact Becc at manager@mercurybaymuseum.co.nz for information.**

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrated carver's work on show in Coromandel

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

A "rare opportunity" to experience the work of one of New Zealand's most eminent carvers is being presented with *Uri Tangata – Succeeding Generations*, part of this year's Connect Four show in Coromandel town.

The art and pottery showcase will include carvings [whakairo] by the late Dr Pakaariki "Paki" Harrison, pictured right, who received the Queen's Service Order in 2000 for community service.

Event organiser Darren Risby said Paki was named a living icon by the Arts Foundation of New

Zealand in 2005 before he died three years later.

He oversaw the building of 10 carved whareniui, including the meeting house in Harataunga Kennedy Bay. His carvings, a ceremonial cloak [korowai] by his wife Hinemoa Harrison, and art [toi] by their children Kelly and Fred will feature at Connect Four, along with paintings by Elisabeth Carter and Julie Dann, and pottery by Murray Rainey.

The Harrison's exhibition space will also feature pou whakairo, which are ancestors' full-size traditional house style carvings, a treasure box [waka huia], ornamental

wall panels [tukutuku], paddles [hoe] and weaving [raranga].

Mr Risby said contemporary works included a carved surfboard [papa eke ngaru], called *Te Uira – The Lightning*.

"It creates great mana for our community to show Paki's work," he told *The Profile*.

"It means everyone can appreciate it – locally and from further afield, especially with so many visitors here for the summer."

Paki's daughter Kelly Harrison said *Uri Tangata* was "all about celebrating our whanau's weaving and carving, incorporating past, present and future generations".

"It's about sharing our Māori and cultural heritage," she said.

Meanwhile, Wyuna Bay potter Murray Rainey said this year, he's been working with brighter colours, and will have everything from mugs to Greek-inspired vases and jugs on show.

Julie Dann and Elisabeth Carter also said visitors can expect a "fresh palette," as seen in their works, during Connect Four.

"Murray, Julie, and Elisabeth are returning after a successful exhibition last year with exciting new work to share, and it's great that pieces by members of Paki's whanau will also be on show," Mr



Risby said. "It promises to be a memorable occasion."

**DETAILS:** *The Connect Four exhibition is on at Hauraki House Gallery in Kapanga Road, Coromandel, from February 12-23. It's open from 10am-4pm daily. Entry is free.*

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**Mufasa: The Lion King** (118 mins) PG. Mufasa: The Lion King enlists Rafiki to relay the legend of the unlikely rise of the beloved king of the Pride Lands, introducing an orphaned cub called Mufasa.

**We Live in Time** (108 mins) M. An up-and-coming chef and a recent divorcee find their lives forever changed when a chance encounter brings them together, in a decade-spanning, deeply moving romance.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



Painter David Stone will be exhibiting his work at Thames Art Gallery next month.

## February artist inspired by Coro coastline

The first of the February featured artists at Thames Art Gallery is David Stone, who will be exhibiting his paintings at the Southern end of the gallery.

David studied painting at the Whitecliff School of Art in Parnell, Auckland, graduating with a diploma in 1987. Since then, his style has evolved as he has followed trends and various colour schemes and he is now producing a bold, clear and detailed style which appeals to many people. His work has featured on calendars, been hung in offices and homes and been popular with tourists who wanted a reminder of their visit to our beautiful country.

Coromandel has been a major source of inspiration for David. The Thames Coast, in particular, has helped him develop his powers of inspiration and produce paintings which are quite unique in their proportion and detail. The Eastern side of the peninsula has inspired the sweeping views looking towards islands in the distance, with features of the natural landscape in the foreground. David's ability to observe nature, in all its forms, is also evident in his paintings of still life. He has produced some fine examples of birds, flowers and boats. With all his work, David spends a lot of time to produce the desired effect.

Meanwhile, Gary Nevin will be showcasing his pottery and sculptural works at the Northern end of the gallery throughout February.

Gary is currently focussing his creative energies on producing jugs of all shapes and sizes which he has mainly turned out on his old Bernard Leach kick wheel.

In the past, Gary has often hand built similar items using the coil method, but found being back on the wheel to be very satisfying and rewarding. He said he had a lot of fun and challenges making the larger



Potter Gary Nevin. Photos: SUPPLIED

jugs, some in two or three pieces but made to look like only one.

Although Gary has a well used, tried-and-true kiln, it will not reach the dizzying temperatures heights of 1250-1300 degrees Celsius required to produce more durable wear, so he has utilised help from his neighbour and others to obtain the desired effect.


His kiln can reach temperatures of 1150 degrees and is ideal for earthenware items such as bowls, cups, and other sculptures he is known for. Gary is currently building a gas fired soda kiln that will reach higher temperatures, but a few set-backs didn't see it completed in time for this exhibition.

He hopes to have it completed and producing in the not too distant future. As well as jugs, Gary will be exhibiting his "Lanky Ladies" and "Bathing Beauties" along with other unique and interesting pieces.

**DETAILS:** *Thames Art Gallery, 604 Tararu Rd, Thames, open every day 10am to 4pm.*

**Thames Art Gallery**  
604 Tararu Road, Thames Coast  
[www.thamesartgallery.co.nz](http://www.thamesartgallery.co.nz)

February Featured Artists



**DAVID STONE**

David has developed his unique style over many years. He is inspired by the landscapes and vistas of the Coromandel Peninsula



**GARY NEVIN**

Gary has recently revisited creating on his trusty "kick wheel" to produce a range of pottery jugs to be included in this exhibition

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## SUDOKU

185

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

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

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MEDIUM

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HARD

185

HARD

MEDIUM

EASY

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## JUMBO CROSSWORD

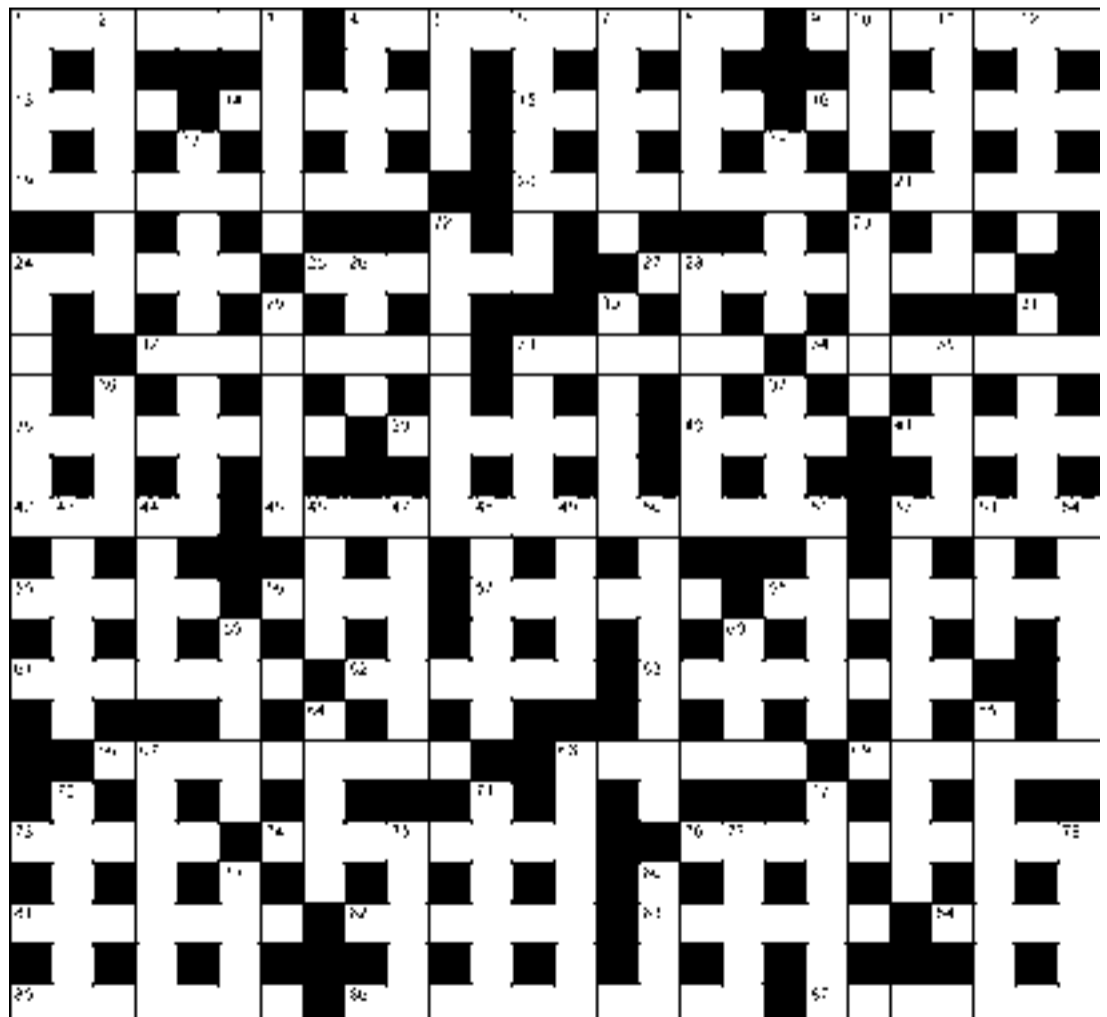
205

**ACROSS**

- 1 Pivotal, critical (7)
- 4 Uninterrupted (10)
- 9 Argue over petty things (7)
- 13 Surprise attack (4)
- 14 Time to come (6)
- 15 Regained consciousness (4,2)
- 16 Obsolete (7)
- 19 Stretchiness (10)
- 20 Put into (8)
- 21 Bottomless pit (5)
- 24 Oppressively solemn (6)
- 25 Gracefully thin (6)
- 27 Functioning with the least waste (9)
- 32 Precise (8)
- 33 Reached maximum (6)
- 34 Obtain (7)
- 38 Most fortunate (8)
- 39 Spiritualist (6)
- 40 Brief satirical sketch (4)
- 41 Allocated share (5)
- 42 Clergyman (5)
- 45 Money obtained dishonestly (3-6,5)
- 52 In reserve (5)
- 55 Animal life (5)
- 56 Body's covering (4)
- 57 Nullify (6)
- 58 Buy (8)
- 61 Sleek dog (7)
- 62 Dairy product (6)
- 63 Praised enthusiastically (8)
- 66 Schedule (9)

- 68 Day nursery (6)
  - 69 Lend a hand (6)
  - 73 Heartbeat (5)
  - 74 Bomb fragments (8)
  - 76 Ending (10)
  - 81 Double (7)
  - 82 Surpassingly good (6)
  - 83 Semitic language (6)
  - 84 Cure (4)
  - 85 Played for time (7)
  - 86 Village (10)
  - 87 Abbreviate (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Arc (5)
  - 2 Angry protesting (2,2,4)
  - 3 Inaugurate (6)
  - 4 Add up (5)
  - 5 Require (4)
  - 6 Slope (7)
  - 7 Greatest possible degree (6)
  - 8 Express audibly (5)
  - 10 Second-hand (4)
  - 11 American whisky (7)
  - 12 Flying swarming insect (6)
  - 17 Pull (10)
  - 18 Danger (5)
  - 22 Second self (5,3)
  - 23 Female dog (5)
  - 24 Thin varnish (7)
  - 26 Calf meat (4)
  - 28 Small plant with fragrant flowers (7)
  - 29 Breakfast food (6)
  - 30 Large edible fish (6)

- 31 Scribe (6)
- 33 Tip (5)
- 35 Seize power illegally (5)
- 36 Religious image (4)
- 37 Communicate silently (4)
- 43 Disinterest (6)
- 44 Confess to (3,2)
- 46 Water body (4)
- 47 Checked fabric (7)
- 48 Sore to touch (6)
- 49 Bird of prey (5)
- 50 Amassed (8)
- 51 Sudden wind storm (6)
- 52 Victorious (10)
- 53 On holiday (4)
- 54 Graceful and stylish (7)
- 59 Fence of bushes (5)
- 60 Engrave with acid (4)
- 64 Turning machine (5)
- 65 Embrocation (8)
- 67 Relaxing (7)
- 68 Gun bore size (7)
- 70 Beat through cleverness (6)
- 71 Purpose (6)
- 72 Right of entry (6)
- 75 Severe (5)
- 77 Circular flight (5)
- 78 Synthetic yarn (5)
- 79 Adhesive (4)
- 80 Foot cover (4)



**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Awash, 4 Appalled, 9 Doodle, 14 Adorn, 15 Like a dose of salts, 17 Tyres, 18 Set, 19 Olympus, 20 Asparagus, 21 Script, 24 Suspended, 25 Shears, 26 Fidget, 29 Playthings, 31 Owe, 32 Govern, 33 High, 35 All, 37 Thai, 39 Abandoned, 40 Spectator, 41 Yobbo, 42 Exceeded, 47 Stupidly, 51 Adieu, 55 Liberates, 56 Peninsula, 58 Sign, 59 End, 60 Earl, 61 Archer, 62 Ash, 63 Geriatrics, 66 Cattle, 67 Plague, 69 Obstacles, 72 Faulty, 73 Pirouette, 75 Obvious, 77 Spa, 80 Incur, 81 Lead a charmed life, 82 Erect, 83 Bolted, 84 Strolled, 85 Foils.

DOWN: 2 Whirlpool, 3 Steam, 5 Past, 6 Aroused, 7 Lost and found, 8 Delta, 9 Dispute, 10 Oath, 11 Lyrics, 12 Hoist, 13 Instant, 14 Aspirin, 16 Deutschland, 22 Hernia, 23 Proviso, 24 Skyline, 25 Steady, 27 Glinted, 28 Urgent, 30 Suds, 32 Globe, 34 Hardy, 36 Stop, 38 Hex, 42 Ellie, 43 Cabaret, 44 Earn, 45 Extort, 46 Liner, 48 Unavailable, 49 Insures, 50 Leg, 51 Asphalt, 52 Update, 53 In the open air, 54 Snag, 57 Unreal, 64 Colourful, 65 Plaudit, 66 Cluster, 68 Grilled, 70 Satchel, 71 Stucco, 72 Fated, 74 Opals, 76 Igloo, 78 Fret, 79 Tree.

# Gardening

## Hottest month of the year

February can be one of the hottest, driest months in the year. Keep watering the garden where possible and as long as there are no council restrictions. It's a very busy harvest time and important that the plants and fruit trees are kept well-watered and given a handful of general fertilizer around the base for good production.

Keep planting late summer seedlings of lettuce and fresh herbs. If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse you can continue planting tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers and peppers. Harvest vegetables as soon as they are ready to encourage successive crops, especially cucumbers and courgettes. A good watering plan can be a game changer to the length of time your vegetable crops continue. Watering generously every four days instead of short, shallow watering daily is advised during water restrictions. Just remember not to water in the heat of the day.

It is the time to start harvesting your rock melon crop if you planted one. Mine has been a very slow starter and doesn't look anywhere near harvesting. I have my fingers crossed.

Once crops finish remove the old plants and start preparing the soil for the winter crops, which can be planted as soon as the weather starts to cool a little. In empty gardens, replenish the soil and dig in blood and bone and sheep pellets.

You can start planting beans, beetroot, leeks, mesculun, lettuce seedlings and Bok Choy or Tatsoi (Baby



Dahlias put on a stunning display.

File Photo: PIXABAY

Bok Choy) which grows well as the weather starts to cool.

Sprinkle some slug bait around new seedlings to protect them.

Continue to harvest mid-season pip and stone fruit crops, blueberries, raspberries, grapes and plums. Once nectarines, peaches and plums have finished fruiting, prune to shape and remove any dead or diseased branches. Keep picking roses, dahlias, sweet pea, gladiolus, carnations, sunflowers just to name a few to keep the plants flowering. It is such a colourful and bountiful time in the garden, a pleasure to behold. For one person who never liked dahlias, I am now very happy to have a few in my garden. They put on a stunning display. You might like to add some general fertiliser to the garden just to keep

plants looking and feeling good. The healthier the garden, the less chance for pests.

Bulbs will start to appear in garden centres during the month, these are best planted once the soil cools. In warmer areas, place bulbs in the fridge for 4 – 6 weeks before planting. Bulbs can be planted from late February through to late autumn. Planting continuously through these months will ensure a continuous flowering season. Lovely to have that colour through the cooler months.

Summer can be very hard on the lawn if you are not able to water frequently. Use weed and feed which will provide essential nutrients to give the lawn a pick me up. Don't be tempted to cut the lawn too short.

- Supplied by Ngatea Garden Circle

# The first kilometre

## OPINION

By MICHAEL WILKES



The alarm goes off. Get my feet on the ground - that's my first goal of the day. Complete that, and

the rest will follow. It's such a simple thing, but it makes a huge difference.

The sun hasn't risen yet, but the birds are in full song, calling me to join them in greeting the morning.

I'm still shaking off my groggy stupor, but with my feet on the ground, the next step is getting my shoes on and heading out the door for the trail.

I set my watch, start running, and for the first hundred metres, everything feels good.

Motivation is high, pace is steady. But suddenly, my lungs are screaming, my legs are burning, my stride is a joke, and my resolve starts to fade.

Without fail, my internal "advisor" chimes in: "What am I doing? Maybe today should be a shorter run. This is too hard!"

Yet, every single time, something happens by the time I hit the first kilometre.

My breathing steadies, my stride finds its rhythm, and my muscles stop yelling at me. Suddenly, I'm good to go. The run even becomes enjoyable.

For the past six months, I've

been on a fitness buzz. But it's not just about the exercise.

It's about the consistency and the motivation it gives me for the rest of the day.

Start the day right, and the rest will follow.

And every run, I keep coming back to that first kilometre. It's such a reflection of life.

Whether we're starting a new job, moving to a new place, or taking on a new discipline, that first "kilometre" is often the hardest.

It's the starting phase where everything feels uncomfortable and we're tempted to quit. But if we can just push through that initial discomfort, things get easier.

We find our stride. We keep moving forward.

The truth is, most quitting happens in the first kilometre.

So whatever new challenge you're facing this season, remember - there's light on the horizon.

Push through the discomfort, and soon, this new challenge will become your new normal. And who knows? It might even become something you enjoy.

*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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<b>February 2025 Moon Planting Calendar</b>						1 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	2 Non planting Day
3 Non planting Day	4 Non planting Day	5 Plant above ground crops	6 Plant above ground crops	7 Non planting Day	8 Non planting Day	9 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	
10 Plant above ground Crops. Liquid Feed	11 Non planting Day	12 Non planting Day	13 Full Moon	14 Non planting Day	15 Non planting Day	16 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	
17 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	18 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	19 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	20 Plant root crops. Liquid Feed	21 Non planting Day	22 Non planting Day	23 Non planting Day	
24 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	25 Plant root crops, trees and shrubs	26 Non planting Day	27 Non planting Day	28 New Moon	Calendar Supplied by Gilmer Farms		

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Hunts Home Kills' Mike Wright says barbecue cuts are "booming". File Photo

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## Thames Croquet Club shines during January competitions

### CROQUET

When the agapanthus and sun are out, the tide's full, and there's a whisper of a sea breeze, there is no prettier place to play croquet than at the Beach Rd courts in Thames.

On January 15, the sun did shine, and pairs came from as far north as Orewa, as south as Matamata, as west as Claudelands, and as east as Katikati - and in between from Te Aroha, Morrinsville, Paeroa, Waihi, Howick and Thames.

In the first division, the Thames club home pair of Hilary Taylor and Felix O'Carroll won all five of their games, with the clinching match going to the 13th hoop with a 7/6 result. Howick pair Prem Soundra and Mattie Clarkson were runners-up. They enjoyed their day so much, they declared they'd be back for the next tournament at Thames on February 1. Afterwards, they wrote to tour-

namment manager Dennis Karl and said: "It was an absolute pleasure spending time with you and your associates. We greatly appreciated the excellent hospitality from the Thames Croquet organisers. Everything was so well arranged, and your warm welcome made it truly memorable".

Club president Sheryl McConnell said it was "very nice to receive compliments".

"I do feel we have a great club with members who pitch in and work together well when called on," she said.

In the second division, Howick again featured.

In their last game, Faye and Graham Loughlan beat locals Sheryl McConnell and Lyn Robertson in another tiebreaker 7/6 making the Howick pair runners-up behind second division winners Mac Miller and Chris Clarke from Paeroa.

The day finished up with a big spread of home-baking for afternoon tea and presen-

tation of prize monies by the sponsor Specsavers.

**DETAILS:** If you want to see some excellent croquet, or get a feel for what the game is about, visit 101 Beach Rd on February 12 and watch a few games. Or, for a hands-on experience, turn up on any Saturday afternoon at 12.45pm - during daylight savings, Wednesday evenings at 4.45pm. The club provides mallets, all you have to do is wear sensible shoes and a smile.

- Supplied by Thames Croquet Club



Second Division winners Mac Miller and Chris Clarke, left, with sponsor Specsavers' John Kwak and tournament manager Dennis Karl. RIGHT: First division winners Felix O'Carroll and Hilary Taylor.



## CALL THE EXPERTS - Continued

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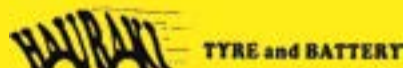
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Baker St, Waihi

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Whyteline are seeking a qualified mechanic to join our busy motorcycle workshop.  
Full-time, permanent, Monday to Friday role.  
Send a copy of your CV to marketing@whyteline.co.nz or call 07 862 8783 to learn more.  
**WHYTELINE**

**Public Notices**

**Hauraki District Council Meetings - February 2025**



Pursuant to Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, public notice is hereby given that the following meetings will be held during the month of February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Hauraki House, 1 William Street, Paeroa unless otherwise stated.

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 3 February 2025, 9:00am (if required)

**Planning Committee**  
Monday, 10 February 2025, 9:00am (if required)

**Adaptive Planning and Emergency Management Committee**  
Monday, 10 February 2025, 1:00pm

**Reconvened Hearing - Commissioners Hearing Committee - Proposed Plan Change 6: Extension of Martha Mineral Zone**

Tuesday 11 February 2025, 10:00am  
St James Presbyterian Hall  
76 Moresby Ave, Waihi

**Community Partnerships Committee**  
Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 9:00am

**Taramaire Drainage District Committee**  
Thursday, 13 February 2025, 9:30am  
Paeroa Office

**Western Plains Drainage District Committee**  
Thursday, 13 February 2025, 10:30am  
Paeroa Office

**Eastern Plains Drainage District Committee**  
Thursday, 13 February 2025, 1:00pm  
Paeroa Office

**Paeroa Rural Drainage District Committee**  
Friday, 14 February 2025, 10:00am  
Paeroa Office

**Regulatory Hearings Committee**  
Monday, 17 February 2025, 9:00am (if required)

**Audit and Risk Committee**  
Tuesday, 18 February 2025, 9:00am

**Finance Committee**  
Monday, 24 February 2025, 10:00am

**Citizenship Ceremony**  
Wednesday, 26 February 2025, 8:30am

**Council**  
Wednesday, 26 February 2025, 9:30am  
D A Speirs  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council



**Situation Vacant**

**Staff Required for Gull Thames Service Station**  
Staff required for Night Shifts (full time/Part time) positions available at Gull Thames, Suitable customer service experience must be mature and have good communication skills.  
Please contact the Manager ph. 078688362 or email cx01839@xtra.co.nz or drop your CV in.  
GULL & Rockgas Thames  
208 Pollen Street  
Thames 3500

**PAPER DELIVERIES**

Although we endeavour to deliver our paper to everyone, sometimes we just cannot achieve this. If you are one of the few who did not receive your weekly paper, please note they are available here:  
NGATEA - Ngatea 4 Square, HDC Council Offices, Ngatea Post Shop, Z Petrol Station, Ngatea Purple Dairy  
PAEROA - Moores Caltex, Countdown, HDC Council offices, Takenote, Paeroa 4 Square, Paeroa Information Hub  
WAIHI - Maybelle Superette, New World, Toyworld/Takenote, 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  
KEREPEHI: Kerepehi Dairy

**Appeal for witnesses after serious crash**

Waikato Police are appealing for witnesses after a serious crash near Te Kauwhata on January 23. The single vehicle crash occurred at the intersection of Waerenga Rd and Belcher Rd, and was reported to Police at 6.35pm. The driver was the sole occupant of the car and was transported to hospital in a serious condition. "We would like to hear from anyone who saw a black Holden Colorado travelling east on Waerenga Rd from the Te Kauwhata township at around 6.30pm," Northwestern Waikato road policing supervisor Sergeant Steven Jones said. "Anyone with information could provide valuable assistance to the crash in-

vestigation." If you can help, please update Police online or call 105, using file number 250123/2824. "Police would also like to thank members of the public who provided assistance to the injured driver before emergency services arrived," Sergeant Jones said. "We know that these incidents can be very upsetting for members of the public who are first on the scene. "We want to ensure that anyone who needs support knows they can contact Police to get assistance in accessing support services, including Victim Support."

**Chabeel Day celebration**

The Thames Indian Community held its second annual Chabeel Day on December 26. The event commemorates the shaheedi or martyrdom of Char Sahibzade, the fifth guru in Sikhism. "The event received overwhelming support from local Indian families and businesses, which greatly contributed to its success," Jaspreet Kaur said. "The day was enriched by an inspiring performance from the Akal Khalsa Sikh martial arts group (Gatka) from Auckland, which captivated the audience and showcased Sikh heritage and valour. The event drew a large and engaged audience, creating a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere." At the event, members of the Indian community shared free Indian food, fruits and pizzas with the community, along with Chabeel, a traditional drink made with water or milk and rose syrup. "We also shared valuable information about the shaheedi of Chaar Sahibzaade (martyrdom and sacrifice of four young sons of Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji), ensuring the attendees left with a deeper understanding of their supreme sacrifice and legacy." The event was attended by Kaumatua Koro Ngapo and his son, Tane Ngapo, who offered a blessing, as well as Thames Coromandel Mayor Len Salt, councillors and Thames community board members. "The event was a resounding success, marked by strong community support, cultural pride, passing on stories and values to the next generation and shared learning," Jaspreet said. "It truly was a memorable day that brought the community together in a spirit of unity and reflection."



The annual event included captivating performances. Photos: SUPPLIED





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bayleys.co.nz/2180759

4,047<sub>sqm</sub> 1

**Auction (will not be sold prior)** 11am, Sun 16 Feb 2025  
On Site

**View** 10-10.30am Sun 2 Feb

**Glenn Tanner** 027 486 2399

glenn.tanner@bayleys.co.nz

**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

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bayleys.co.nz/26300008

7,812<sub>sqm</sub> 4 2

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Tue 18 Feb 2025

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 10-10.45am Sun 2 Feb

**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83

karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Seth Roe** 027 320 6937

seth.roe@bayleys.co.nz

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**Karl Davis** 0508 83 83 83  
karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Connor Davis**  
connor.davis@bayleysngatea.co.nz

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84.8 ha

**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 27 Feb 2025  
96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

**View** 11am-12pm Fri 7 Feb  
**Karl Davis** 027 496 4633 karl.davis@bayleys.co.nz

**Sam Aislabie** 027 429 5410  
sam.aislabie@bayleys.co.nz

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# Men's netball 'standing on own merits'

**NETBALL**

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

As a competitive netballer, Michelle Tupper would practise against men's teams, but over the years, she watched how the male iteration of the sport came into its own.

Michelle was witness to just how far men's netball has developed in New Zealand when she travelled with the A team to the Merlion Netball Cup in Singapore.

Held in December last year, Michelle said the tournament - the Men's Nations Series - aimed to develop the talent of male players and expose the sport around the world.

"Our team had only two trainings together before taking the court in the tournament," she said.

"Being self-funded means opportunities to get together prior to the tour for trainings and camps is just too expensive for the players and management."

Despite this, the NZA men's team had some "amazing moments on court," beating Hong Kong and Singapore.

Also competing was an England U25 team; an Australia U21 team; and Fiji - whose "great Polynesian flair" saw them winning the competition, with New Zealand finishing in fourth place.

Michelle's experience includes playing, coaching, and managing across ladies, mixed and men's netball.

After representing her home



Thames High teacher Michelle Tupper, front, was the team manager for the Men's NZA team in Singapore. Photo: SUPPLIED

country of South Africa, she travelled to New Zealand in 2000 on a five-month contract to play for the Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic.

After the season ended, she was encouraged to stay and play for Waikato in the National Provisional tournament [NPC] - which they won.

She played competitively until 2018; however, after suffering a knee injury, she said she needed

to look more seriously at coaching and managing.

She was introduced to the men's sport when a friend invited her to help out as a coach of the Tāmaki Makaurau mixed team.

"I loved coaching the men," she said. "You can be direct, call it like it is, and they are physically and tactically brilliant in a traditionally women's sport."

"I have done heaps of rep, club,

and school coaching over the years, but loved the challenge of the men's game. I enjoyed thinking of how to extend the players to fit their abilities, thinking, and willingness to play the game we love."

Michelle said that when she was a player, her teams used to practise against men's squads, and while there had been a male competition in New Zealand for four decades, it



Michelle Tupper in action, right.

had only started to stand up "on its own merits" in recent years.

"[It's] developing into a version that I think will grow bigger than the women's game in future," she said. "It is dynamic, fast, innovative, and physical. A great watch."

Michelle said attending the world series as team manager - sometimes doing the team's laundry until 2 o'clock in the morning - allowed her to find "so much joy" in being part of a player's growth.

She teaches at Thames High School and coached the Senior A team in 2024, and said many male students had expressed their desire to play netball, too.

Her next mission is to continue her coaching pathway with Netball New Zealand and "to seek out and grab any opportunities to learn, coach, and grow".

"I would also love to see more financial investment in the men's game, so in the future we can be more competitive and truly showcase our talent more accurately."



The advertisement features a grid of images: a building under construction with scaffolding, a modern grey metal shed with a 'KIWISPAN' logo, a white garage with a 'SKYLINE BUILDINGS' sign, a blue metal shed, various garage door models, and a 'Garador' logo. The background is a solid blue color.

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